



**YOUNG  
PEOPLE'S  
THEATRE**



John teaches drama class from YPT's Mainstage - converted into a live-stream studio.

SEASON PRESENTING SPONSOR



# IMPACT REPORT

2020.21 SEASON

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

On behalf of everyone at YPT, we are proud to share the Annual Impact Report for our 2020.21 season.

Through this last year, our activities changed drastically... as we know yours did as well.

As a supporter of YPT, you may wonder what we could possibly be up to considering the fact that we were unable to gather in person. You may be surprised. In fact – we surprised ourselves! But theatre people don't quit in the face of a challenge. They get inventive.

Your support has allowed us to continue to develop outstanding theatre and excellent educational programming for young people – as you'll see in this report. We know this has been a difficult time for children, but we are happy to stay connected to them and give them the space to express themselves. And, we couldn't have launched all these innovations without our donors.

This is truly a time of transition for Young People's Theatre. In addition to our programming, YPT was able to commence our *Room for Imagination* expansion project, to create Canada's largest state-of-the-art theatre complex for young people. With our ever-expanding education initiatives, community programs and Drama School, we will continue to thrive in new and renovated spaces that are fully accessible for the more than 150,000 young people we serve annually.

Our very best wishes and our continued thanks to you.

Nancy J. Webster | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Herbie Barnes | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## FAREWELL ALLEN!

After 19 successful seasons as Artistic Director at YPT, [Allen MacInnis stepped down](#) at the end of the 2020.21 season. He is the longest-serving AD in the theatre's 55-year-history. YPT celebrates his legacy with the Allen MacInnis Legacy Campaign - part of our [Room for Imagination expansion project](#) – and the naming of an educational space in Allen's honour. We are thrilled to share that the Legacy Campaign raised over \$105,000! These generous donations not only honour Allen's work, but also his vision for YPT – to have a positive and lasting impact on the social, emotional and intellectual development of children through theatre.

Learn more about the Legacy Campaign



## WELCOME HERBIE!

In March 2021 we were thrilled to announce the appointment of Herbie Barnes as Artistic Director. Mr. Barnes is an accomplished playwright, performer, director and arts educator whose 30-year-career spans stages across North America. He was among the generation of young Indigenous artists in the 1990s breaking down barriers to forge professional careers in Canadian theatre. Herbie began his tenure at YPT in October 2021.

“

*The purest form of theatre is theatre for young people. TYA has led the charge in BIPOC casting and hiring. It has led the charge in LGBTQ2S and BIPOC education and understanding. And it is often the first to help dramatize and contextualize events in a rapidly changing and complex world.*

Herbie Barnes

”



Learn more about Herbie

# THEATRE

68 artists employed

20 new plays in development

27,169 video views

How the Bear Lost Its Tail, told by Anishinaabemowin educator Barbara Nolan, introduced YPT's new [Storytellers Series](#) featuring oral storytelling traditions across cultures.



## New Play Development Workshops



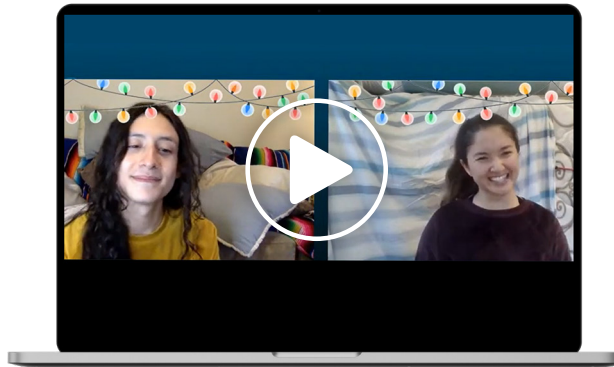
Spring Break kicked off with the fantastical online adventure [Interstellar Journey](#) - reinvigorating live performance in a digital galaxy with augmented reality!



[SensoryBox](#) explored the electric connection between our senses and the imagination in a brand new tactile experience for families at home.

*The Best Friend Blanket Fort Show blew me away... These difficult questions of identity and how to describe them are handled with such delicacy, respect, and tenderness. - [The Slotkin Letter](#)*

Gabe Maharjan and Cynthia Jimenez-Hicks in *The Best Friend Blanket Fort Show* - part of YPT's [Right Here, Write Now](#) online play festival.



YPT celebrated the holidays with the (sold out!) [Play in a Box](#) - a special limited edition package filled to the brim with everything families need to create a play!

Play in a Box was featured in *The New York Times* and as a **Top 10 pick** in *CBC's* holiday gift guide!

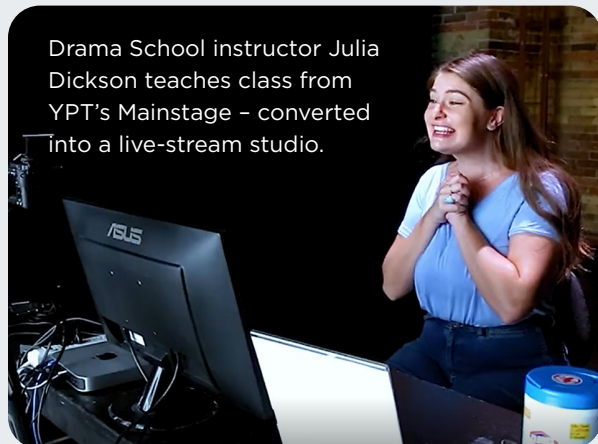
*"The Play in a Box I bought over the holidays was a HUGE success. Thank you so much for that opportunity!"*

Mandy Wintin

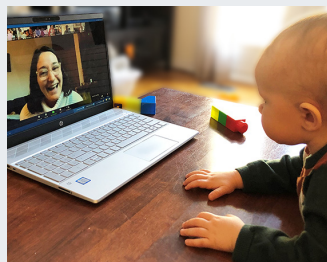


# DRAMA SCHOOL

In the summer of 2020, the **Drama School** discovered that online classes can be just as fun, active, engaging and deeply satisfying as the in-person version. We were thrilled to find kids laughing and playful, focused and enthusiastic, improvising and collaborating in our virtual classes and camps.



“My child had no drama experience before, but she really enjoys the class. So far this is the virtual class that gives the **BEST ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE**. I appreciate the effort you put in this class. Looking forward to seeing more exciting classes!” PARENT



Drama School Coordinator, Emily Langer taught weekly Toddler Online Drama Time to toddlers aged 12-24 months.



Online Drama School participants (JK to Grade 12)

“I signed my daughter up for the JK-Grade 1 online class and I can hear her jumping around and giggling downstairs. She was SO excited this morning. She loves dancing and performing and so this was right up her alley. Even though it's 30 minutes it gives Mommy and Daddy a nice little break ;)” PARENT

“I had AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE doing the classes and I would like to do them again!”

Jaimee S., STUDENT

# EDUCATION & PARTICIPATION

## Children, Youth, and Performance Conference

More than **300 ATTENDEES** and presenters from **22 COUNTRIES** participated in the YPT and York University virtual CYP conference.

**122** school and community workshops

**9** plays written by students

**2,591** workshop participants

**184** student playwrights

**354** students from 13 schools participated in the Arts Impact program

**45** volunteers

**2** virtual student playwriting festivals

**4,500** volunteer hours

CW: Paul Sun-Hyung Lee, Jennifer Villaverde, Anand Rajaram and Amy Matysio participate in St. Martin de Porres' Student Playwriting Festival.



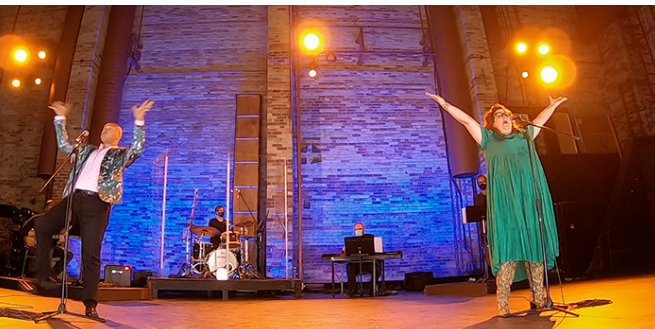
# ROOM FOR IMAGINATION

During our 55th season, YPT launched the \$13.5 million [Room for Imagination expansion campaign](#). With the purchase of a fully accessible, multi-use building at 161 Frederick Street, only steps away from its historic Front Street East theatre, YPT will expand its footprint with 12,000 additional square feet. The theatre company's 123-year-old Heritage building is also undergoing extensive renovations.

*With this ambitious project, YPT will now anchor the corner of Front and Frederick streets in downtown Toronto with two buildings united in vision, creating Canada's largest state-of-the-art theatre complex for young people.*



LEARN MORE



## IMAGINARIUM GALA

In April, YPT hosted [Imaginarium: An At-Home Picnic-Palooza](#) – our first virtual gala! This family-centered event included a special picnic box delivered straight to each guest's door, while they tuned in to a virtual event full of fun and special guests! Thank you to everyone who supported our incredible Picnic-Palooza this year!

**102** Imaginarium Gala Picnics

**180** NEW Donors



CW from top left:

Thom Allison and Sharron Matthews.

Picnic boxes by Grazing Platters in the 6ix.

Sharon (of Sharon, Lois and Bram) performs "Skinnamarink" with her family.

YPT's Leslie McCue and Lindy Kinoshameg demonstrate the Potato Dance.

*"I would like to thank you and the entire YPT staff who are working so hard through all the challenges to creatively engage young people during this difficult and challenging time."* Maya, GRANDMOTHER

*"In such strange times, we appreciate that you are still helping us provide authentic drama experiences for our students."*

Christina, DRAMA TEACHER, BEVERLY GLEN JPS



Be part of the future of Young People's Theatre – your support empowers us to continue creating relevant and enriching programming that speaks to the lives of young people.



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[youngpeoplestheatre.org](http://youngpeoplestheatre.org)

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