



MIXED
COMPANY
THEATRE

40 years

2024-25 Season



Mixed Company Theatre

Engage. Educate. Empower.

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mixedcompanytheatre.com

CHARITABLE REGISTRATION # 11903 1870 RR0001

Photo by Aaron D'souza

2024-25

Season Activities

In the 2024 – 2025 season Mixed Company Theatre continues to deliver our engaging, empowering, and educational programming in communities, schools and workplaces. We have returned to in-person performances while also offering our innovative Virtual Forum Theatre (VFT) program options for greater accessibility and rural access.

Forum Theatre (FT) is an interactive, participatory approach that involves the audience in developing real-time strategies for dealing with social issues. In an MCT production, a story representing an issue is created, rehearsed and performed. The story is then presented again—only this second time, audience members can intervene in the story, as “spect-actors,” to create a positive alternative ending. A trained FT facilitator (called the Joker) prepares and encourages participants to replace the actors on stage and to change the story in a constructive way.

Through the difficulties of the pandemic, MCT has become masterful in adapting to change and we are well positioned to continue operations despite what unexpected challenges come our way. This season we have several exciting projects with strong community partners as we shift our focus back from surviving to thriving and celebrate our impressive 40-year history catalyzing change through Forum Theatre (FT).



Sept–Nov 2024

ON Indigenous Land

Youth Anti-Indigenous Racism Project

24 Virtual Forum Theatre Workshops ● **1 In-Person Reading**
80 Youth Participants

Starting September 2024, in partnership with CultureLink, MCT will deliver a series of 24 virtual workshops with diverse youth in Toronto as part of the ON Indigenous Land project. This project brings together youth to foster cross cultural understanding.

After the youth participants engage in a series of training and education workshops with Indigenous elders and the Centre for Indigenous Research, MCT will facilitate interactive, engaging Forum Theatre workshops with them, in four groups of twenty youth.

Through this process, the youth will explore anti-Indigenous racism through interactive FT games, exercises and discussions. Our expert facilitators cultivate a safe, non-hierarchical environment where our participants feel empowered to share their perspectives, ask questions, and learn from each other.

Through this process we will develop an FT script highlighting the universal challenges that Indigenous people face in our communities. The final stage of this project is a staged reading where the youth will hear their scripts read and have the opportunity to offer feedback.

MCT plans to create a school tour of this Forum Theatre production furthering education surrounding anti-Indigenous racism with youth across Toronto.

The flyer is for the 'ON Indigenous Land' project. At the top left is the CultureLink logo. To the right are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter, with the handle @CultureLinkTO. The title 'ON Indigenous Land' is in large yellow letters. Below it is a photo of a diverse group of young people smiling. Text on the flyer includes: 'Tap into your hidden gifts with teachings from Indigenous Elders and facilitators!', 'A 15-week program for racialized youth ages 16-30 in Toronto!', 'Workshops will include: Storytelling, Holistic Wellness and Self-Care, Indigenous Awareness and Current Issues, Anti-Racism Training, Genuine Allyship', 'Free Registration!', 'Includes \$100 honorarium and certificate upon full completion', and 'For more information, contact Isabella at ibatista@culturelink.ca'. There is a QR code labeled 'Scan to Register' and a small turtle illustration at the bottom right. At the very bottom, it says 'Funded by the Government of Canada / Financé par le gouvernement du Canada' and the Canada wordmark.

Photo: Participant Recruitment Flyer – ON Indigenous Land

Through 2024-2025

Harvest Justice

Migrant Worker Project

Migrant Worker Exercise ● **Research** ● **Script Development**

In partnership with The Collaborative Network to End Exploitation (CNEE), Mixed Company Theatre is developing a Forum Theatre Presentation focused on the challenges Migrant Workers face in Ontario.

Phase 1 | Summer and Fall 2024: Mixed Company Theatre representatives have participated in the CNEE’s Migrant Worker Exercise to gain a deeper understanding of the typical challenges a Migrant Worker experiences in travelling to Canada, and the exploitation and oppression they face daily in the workplace upon arrival. Through Summer and Fall 2024, our playwright will participate in interviews with Migrant Workers and conduct supplementary research to develop a Forum Theatre script to catalyze positive change in the lives and working conditions of Migrant Workers. This script will be presented in a community reading for feedback culminating in a final script.

Phase 2 | Summer and Fall 2025: The Forum Theatre play “Harvest Justice” will be performed at a three-day harvest festival at the University of Guelph.

Phase 3 | Winter and Spring 2026: “Harvest Justice” will have a theatrical run in Toronto followed by community and school tours throughout Ontario’s farmlands including Leamington, Guelph, and the Niagara regions.



Photo: Still from the [CNEE’s video about Migrant Workers](#)

2025

"I Carry with Me"

3 Week Theatrical Run ● March 2025

3 Week Community Tour ● 15 Performances ● Spring 2025



Photo: Social media post for "I Carry with Me".

Developed in 2023, our Forum Theatre play "I Carry with Me" explores the intersection of race and privilege in our culture. In winter and spring 2025, this production will move from a virtual form to in-person for performances in a theatre, and in various community-engaged spaces in the GTA. "I Carry with Me" features three scenarios depicting tension around race in public spaces, in the workplace, and within the home.

To accompany this powerful play, a song, "Freedom Off Our Backs", was written and recorded.



[Click here to listen to the powerful original song "Freedom Off Our Backs"](#)

2025

"I Carry with Me" – for Youth

10 Forum Theatre Workshops ● **Script Development**
1 Staged Reading

Inspired by "I Carry with Me", Mixed Company Theatre will work with community partners to develop a Forum Theatre Presentation exploring the intersection of race and privilege through a youth lens. Teachers who attended "I Carry with Me" noted a specific need for this type of programming for students in schools. After this development period MCT will tour to GTA high schools in the fall and winter of 2025.



Photo: Production photo by Sean Rees from Arts Orillia's Theatre & Cross Creativity youth project in partnership with MCT.

Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

Lightning Forum Theatre in Schools

Social Justice, Equity and Mental Health

We continue to offer fully customized interactive Lightning Forum Theatre (LFT) presentations to schools. LFTs are micro-Forum Theatre Presentations created in a short amount of time to directly address challenges faced by students in schools. Some recent LFT topics include bullying, mental health, anxiety, consent, empowerment, homophobia, and healthy lifestyles. This effective process allows students to explore challenging topics while "Rehearsing for Reality" in a safe, facilitated space.

Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

Forum Theatre Workshops in Schools

Social Justice, Equity, Mental Health, and Theatre for Change



Photo: MCT Artistic Director Simon Malbogat introduces Theatre for Change to a high school drama class

Our sought after school workshops will continue through the 2024 – 2025 school year. We present workshops to catalyze understanding and positive change on mental health and social justice topics. We also offer workshops designed to teach aspects of the Forum Theatre format and how it can be used for social change.

As Canada’s first official Centre for Forum Theatre, we are thrilled with the addition of Forum Theatre, Theatre of the Oppressed, and Theatre for Change to high school drama curriculums. We are extending our outreach to educators and school communities to support their teaching through our FT workshops.

Thank You!

MCT remains dedicated to working with equity-deserving groups and communities to share the stories, experiences and challenges they face while inspiring the greater community to take action and usher in impactful change.

MCT welcomes you to join us in continuing this important undertaking. Together we will continue to deliver relevant 'theatre for social change' programs across the GTA and Ontario.

Thank you for taking the time to review our activities. If you would like to support our 2024-25 season, please contact me by email at stevie@mixedcompanytheatre.com.

Sincerely,



Stevie Baker

General Manager
Mixed Company Theatre



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