



MIXED
COMPANY
THEATRE

40+ years

2025 SEASON REPORT

Mixed Company Theatre
Engage. Educate. Empower.

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Top and bottom photos by Ibrahim Ng. Middle photo by Contrast Productions.



mixedcompanytheatre.com

2025 SEASON REPORT

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

In 2025 Mixed Company Theatre has continued offering our innovative virtual and in-person artistic programming for communities.

Our virtual offerings continue to remove geographical barriers to communities accessing Forum Theatre as well as providing greater accessibility to both participants and audiences through closed captioning, and translation services. We have continued to explore the platform and find more ways to encourage engagement and participation through features like the chat, polls and animated reactions.

2025 has seen a fantastic return to in-person workshops and performances. We have been able to grow our partnerships with The Collaborative Network to End Exploitation through our migrant worker project, U of T through workshops and a larger school culture project this fall and we are building relationships with Queer community organizations for next season's projects. We continue to refine our partnership with the University of Manitoba and the Red River Metis community, made possible due to our hybrid capabilities, for a series of workshops and performances supporting scientific research on chronic pain.

We were thrilled, this year, to have two summer interns join our virtual office through the Canada Summer Jobs program. This was an excellent learning experience for our interns and increased staff capacity setting us up for further success for our 2025/2026 season. Our interns were able to provide valuable research to support our upcoming projects as well contribute to the building and implementation of a CRM system. This work has been incredibly important for making institutional knowledge easily accessible and for maintaining relationships with community partners.

We have continued to run our virtual office successfully keeping our administrative and operating costs down and have streamlined our record keeping through our new CRM system. Our Project Manager, Maranda Tippins, is continually improving our project management and tracking and implementing a variety of uses for the CRM.

We have welcomed two new board members to MCT in 2025 who bring diverse voices and experiences to our work along with experience in grant writing, fundraising, and social justice. They have been excellent, enthusiastic members and bring a new energy and level of engagement to the board.

We completed our 40th anniversary fundraiser and were able to share many moments from our 40 seasons through social media and the revival of our newsletter *Mixed Times*.

2025 has been an exhilarating year for the MCT team and associate artists and we have been thrilled to see our impact grow with newcomer communities. We are proud to report that Mixed Company Theatre continues to facilitate vital projects examining social justice, oppression and equity through a creative, interactive, theatrical lens with a variety of communities while growing our impact and expanding our programming.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

THE MCT YOUTH FORUM THEATRE INCUBATOR PROGRAM

Jan-Mar • 12 Community Workshops • 1 Performance • 153 Participants

In partnership with the Downtown Toronto YMCA, we held weekly Forum Theatre workshops with newcomer youth from January to March 2025. Here our participants explored the challenges they face as newcomers through interactive games while learning the fundamentals of Forum Theatre. Through this process participants also fostered connections with new friends and community members while developing their English, communication and collaboration skills. This highly successful pilot project culminated in a public performance where the youth participants performed the scenes they developed along with an original song.



Outcomes:

- ▶ Introduced newcomer youth to the art and methodology of Forum Theatre.
- ▶ Empowered youth to share their stories and build connections with other newcomer youth.
- ▶ Inspired a new generation of artists through education on theatre for change.
- ▶ Supported our participants in building skills in English, communication, and collaboration.
- ▶ Welcomed a full audience to experience the final presentation and build intergenerational understanding through Forum Theatre.



Photos by Contrast Productions.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

HARVEST JUSTICE: TWICE THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING

**Mar-Oct • 8 Community Workshops • 2 Script Readings • 1 Virtual Performance
8 In-Person Performances • 2 School Performances • 850 Participants**

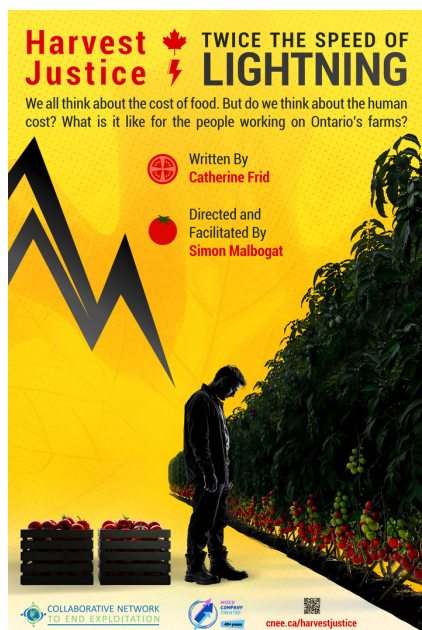
In partnership with the Collaborative Network to End Exploitation we continued the development of our migrant worker project. Officially titled *Harvest Justice: Twice the Speed of Lightning*, this project began with a series of virtual workshops with current migrant workers introduced to our organization by former migrant worker and activist Gabriel Allahdua.

Through this enlightening and powerful workshop series, Catherine Frid created the script for our new Forum Theatre play. After a feedback session with migrant workers and some re-writes, our script was presented by professional actors at a staged reading in Toronto at the Mary Ward Centre.



Photo by Ibrahim Ng.

Here we received feedback from our audience and engaged in an insightful, facilitated conversation about the migrant worker experience in Ontario. This incredibly successful evening supported the need for this production, and we look forward to a full Toronto run of *Harvest Justice: Twice the Speed of Lightning* at the Aki Studio in Toronto in early October 2025.



Outcomes:

- ▶ Created a new Forum Theatre play *Harvest Justice: Twice the Speed of Lightning*.
- ▶ Empowered migrant workers to share their experiences through a creative outlet, a rare opportunity for those working on Ontario's farms.
- ▶ Educated the audience at our reading about migrant workers, their contributions to Canadian life and inspired them to advocate for migrant worker rights.
- ▶ Engaged our community in the Forum Theatre process at our interactive staged reading.

ARTIST TRAINING

DEAF CULTURE CENTRE WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

June • 5 Workshops • 7 Participants

In June 2025, Artistic Director Simon Malbogot travelled to the Deaf Cultural Centre in New Brunswick to join their Deaf Arts Academy and teach the fundamentals of Forum Theatre and Theatre of the Oppressed. Here Simon spent a week facilitating intensive workshops with Deaf artists and arts workers.

Outcomes:

- ▶ Trained deaf artists in Forum Theatre and Theatre of the Oppressed methodologies.
- ▶ Adapted MCT's workshop exercises for Deaf participants.
- ▶ Learned how to work and create with Deaf artists as a hearing facilitator.

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

LIGHTNING FORUM THEATRE PRESENTATIONS

Through 2025 • 85 Students
Fostering Healthy Relationships and Communication

In 2025 our fully customized interactive Lightning Forum Theatre presentations have continued to be offered to schools. Here we create a fully customized Forum Theatre presentation that is focused on an issue facing the student population in a school. This gives students an opportunity to find new strategies and solutions to the issues they face while “rehearsing for reality” in a safe, facilitated space. This year’s LFTs were in-person, but we continue to offer our virtual LFT option for schools outside of the GTA or who require great accessibility options such as captions and language translation.



Outcomes:

We continue to receive feedback that students and teachers feel MCT expertly captures the nuances of student life in our LFTs creating a safe and bold space for students to be enthusiastic participants of our interactive, Forum Theatre programming. Catalyzing change through theatre in schools continues to contribute to a positive, informed and open-minded school culture.

POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMMING

FORUM THEATRE PRESENTATIONS

Through 2025

This year our Forum Theatre offerings in post-secondary schools have taken multiple forms. We created a custom Lighting Forum Theatre presentation for the University of Toronto (UofT) that was presented to students. Currently we are developing a large-scale FT project, in partnership with UofT for the fall. This project would see participants from the school's student, faculty and staff communities explore the topics of public discourse, respectful debate and communication and how to advocate for change safely, responsibly and effectively. This project will start with a series of FT workshops and continue through the script writing stage and performance.

Outcomes:

- ▶ Engagement of the post-secondary community in theatre for change as an exercise in education, personal growth and skills development.
- ▶ Development of a new Forum Theatre script about a topic relevant to all post-secondary institutions.
- ▶ Improvement of school community culture through creative dialogue.

WORKPLACE PROGRAMMING

WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKERS

Through 2025

Long time associate artist Heather Cherron von Atzigen facilitated an FT workshop with the YMCA's Youth Education Supports Program as part of their skills and professional development series. Here she engaged youth support workers in Forum Theatre exercises designed to help workers understand the challenges the youth they work with face, while also developing soft skills and learning how FT methods can be a useful tool to support young people.

Outcomes:

- ▶ Trained professional community leaders and support workers in Forum Theatre's benefits for their communities.
- ▶ Supported community support workers in their professional and skills development.
- ▶ Created new relationships with community workers and youth advocates.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC PLANNING - MCT OPERATIONS PROJECT

Through 2025

This year, Mixed Company Theatre worked with pro-bono consultants from Endeavour to create a new, three-year, strategic plan for the organization. Through months of sharing information, interviews and surveys MCT's staff team and Board contributed to the creation of a plan to improve our team's capacity, build new relationships with community organizations and expand our impact with equity-deserving groups. The plan has been presented to the strategic planning committee and after some revisions will be shared with the Board of Directors to build an implementation plan.

THANK YOU!

In 2025, MCT's work is provoking change with communities of urban youth, migrant workers, racialized groups, newcomers, associate artists and community support workers through school programming, community projects and productions, arts education, and community consultations. MCT remains dedicated to working with equity-deserving groups and communities to share the stories, experiences and challenges they face while inspiring people to take action and catalyze grassroots change to benefit our communities.

Thank you for taking the time to review our activities. If you would like to support our 2025-26 season, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at stevie@mixedcompanytheatre.com.

Sincerely,



Stevie Baker
General Manager, Mixed Company Theatre

ONGOING SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the organizations that have funded our operations in 2025!

FUNDED BY
THE CITY OF TORONTO

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The Catherine and Maxwell
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION

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**MIXED
COMPANY
THEATRE**

40+ years

*Mixed Company Theatre has been producing
innovative, socially relevant theatre since 1983.*