

GEORGE BROWN THEATRE

A Stage of Endless Possibilities

George Brown at the Young Centre

In the three years since it opened its doors, the Young Centre for the Performing Arts has become a centre of artistic, cultural and social activity in Toronto's Distillery Historic District. In addition to the activities of founding partners George Brown College and Soulpepper Theatre Company, the Young Centre has produced its own programming, played host to performing arts companies (Nightwood Theatre, One Yellow Rabbit, Company Theatre, Pleiades Theatre, Modern Time Stage Company, Toronto Masque Theatre, Gina Lori Riley Dance Enterprises), corporate functions (Read Jones Christofferson Ltd., Urbacon, Amex Bank of Canada, Marquis Entertainment, Ogilvy and Mather), and such community events as the Charmion King Celebration, Artsbuild Ontario, The Walrus Foundation, Luminato and the Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club.

As for George Brown Theatre, we have taken advantage of this beautiful new facility to augment the educational opportunities for students, staff and the community. In the Fall of 2007 George Brown collaborated with the Theatre Museum of Canada to host artists from The Canadian Players' 1961 *Arctic*

King Lear. GBC Theatre History Professor Alex Fallis moderated a panel discussion with director David Gardner, cast members Judith Coates and Rex Southgate, and author Keith Garebian whose book *William Hutt: A Theatre Portrait* includes a chapter on Mr. Hutt's performance as King Lear. Incidentally, the library at the Young Centre, where students find a quiet moment to read and work, is the William Hutt Library.

Through the generosity of donors to the Theatre's Education and Enhancement Fund, Jason Byrne was brought over from Ireland to direct the first showcase production of the 2007/2008: *The Madwomen of Chailot*. Prior to one of the performances the audience was treated to a cross-



Top: Ireland's Jason Byrne and GBC President Anne Sado.

Bottom: VP Eugene Harrigan does the 40th Anniversary cake cutting honours as Alex Dault looks on.



Director Diana Leblanc and third year student Caitlin Hutt in rehearsal for *The Way of the World*.



From left: PEN Canada Writer-in-Exile Emma Beltran, GBC President Anne Sado, PEN Canada Administrator Caitlin Smith, GBC Professor Maurizio Dodaro, Dean Maureen Loweth, Wendy Bray of the GBC Foundation and Todd Hammond.

George Brown Theatre Education and Enhancement Fund

This fund was created through the generosity of individuals within our community and supports invaluable educational initiatives such as:

- Unique opportunities for collaboration with world-renowned theatre directors on boldly interpreted classics and original works
- Cross-cultural workshops led by international artists
- Exchange program with other national and international training institutes
- The development of new works in partnership with leading theatre companies

Our Thanks

We would like to express our gratitude to all of our George Brown theatre friends who have made contributions to our Theatre program. Your gifts will directly sustain our Student Scholarship Endowment Fund, Annual Production Fund and our Educational Enhancement Fund. Your support is crucial to preserve the variety of experiences that educate, enrich and transform the lives of our creative young students.

cultural exchange as Artistic Director James Simon chatted with Mr. Byrne about his approach to the play, the process he employed with the cast and his previous work with Ireland's world famous Abbey Theatre.

In November GBC celebrated its 40th anniversary with a simultaneous cake-cutting ceremony at each of the College's campuses. Vice President and Joint Venture Board member Eugene Harrigan did the cake-cutting honours at the Young Centre.

In December hundreds of Metro school children came to the Young Centre for George Brown's production of *Tales from the Arabian Nights*. As part of the College's 40th Anniversary celebration, students from Nelson Mandela Park Public School were treated to a complimentary performance of the show. Also in December, first year theatre students brought their music class into the Atrium and holiday songs from around the world echoed throughout the building.



Tales of the Arabian Nights' cast members welcome students from Nelson Mandela Park Public School to the Young Centre.

George Brown's fashion students attended a performance of *The Way of the World* in February and chatted with the production's designer Michael Gianfrancesco. We also hosted an opening night tribute to Mr. Joseph Shaw, the George Brown Theatre's School's founding Artistic Director, who passed away earlier this year.

In the spring, the Theatre hosted a special event with PEN Canada before a matinee performance of *Blood Wedding*. Moderator and GBC Professor Maurizio Dodaro spoke about *Blood Wedding* playwright Federico García Lora, PEN Writer-in-Exile Emma Beltran of Mexico read some of her poetry, and director Todd Hammond introduced the production.

Some of the other terrific opportunities George Brown students have had this past year include post performance talk-backs with Soulpepper cast members; a chat with Denise Clarke of One Yellow Rabbit about her company's unique approach in developing new work; and a talk with founding members of Soulpepper about the struggles, triumphs, and reality of starting a company.

The Young Centre has enriched and enlivened the experience for George Brown Theatre students. They are surrounded daily by working artists – actors, dancers, musicians, designers, technicians, administrators – who take great pride in their craft and possess a genuine interest in our students; they serve as informal mentors. What a gift!

If you are in search of a venue for your event, consider the beautiful Young Centre for the Performing Arts. With four performance spaces (ranging from 60 to 425 seats), studios, classrooms, and an atrium with a café, the Young Centre is ideal for theatrical and dance productions, musical recitals, lectures and readings, press conferences, corporate launches or meetings, parties and weddings. For more information contact the administrator at 416.866.8666 x417 or info@youngcentre.ca



Top: Music Professor J. Rigzin Tute conducts first year students' holiday singing in the Atrium.

Bottom: GBC students view production photos from the Canadian Players' 1961 production of *King Lear*.



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GEORGE BROWN THEATRE 2008/2009 SEASON OF PLAYS

SOUTH OF CHINA (Toronto Premiere)

By Raymond Storey

Directed by James Simon

November 5-15, 2008

I'M SO MUNSCH

Based on the stories of Robert Munsch

Directed by David Storch

November 26 – December 6, 2008

LAIUS

By Ned Dickens

Directed by Eda Holmes

February 4 – 14, 2009

A Spring Repertory Season

April 7 – 18, 2009

THE RELAPSE

By John Vanbrugh

Directed by Todd Hammond

THE BAKER'S WIFE

Book by Joseph Stein

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Based on the film "La Femme de Boulangier"

by Marcel Pagnol and Jean Giono

Directed by Allen MacInnis

Musical Direction J. Rigzin Tute

TICKETS

Box Office 416 866-8666

Young Centre for the Performing Arts

55 Mill Street, Building 49 (at the corner of Mill and Cherry Streets)

Online orders at: www.youngcentre.ca

Adults: \$15.00

Seniors: \$10.00

Students: \$6.00

Rush tickets available for all performances – CASH ONLY

Evening performances begin at 7:30 pm and Saturday

matinees at 1:30 pm, except I'M SO MUNSCH which

begins at 1:00 pm.

Save 20% with season's passes. Call the box office for more information.

Groups of 10 or more contact please call 416 866-8666 ext.401

I'M SO MUNSCH

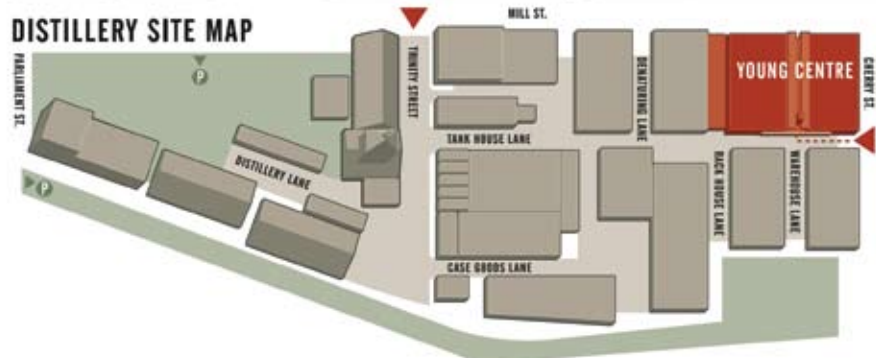
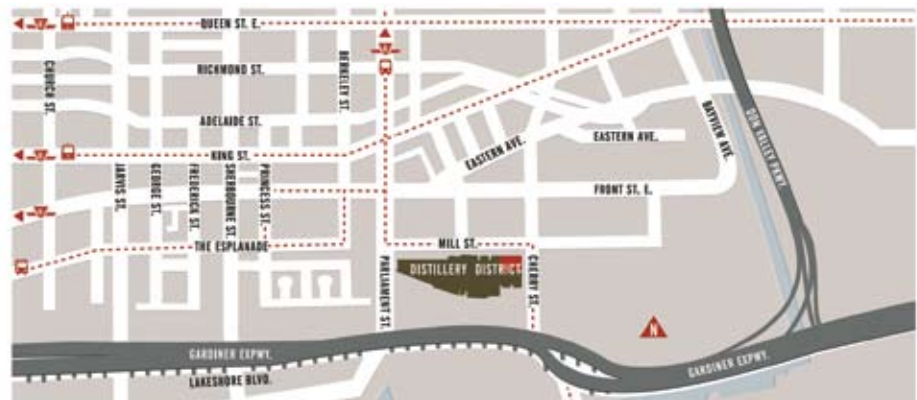
Weekday school group shows Nov. 26-28 and Dec. 1-5

Please book through George Brown Theatre School 416 415-5000 x2167

Performances at 10:30 am and 1:00 pm

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AREA MAP



3 THEATRE BURSARY AWARDS 2008

- 1. Hannah Miller (with J. Riggin Tute)
The Edna Khubyar Acting Award
- 2. Claire Burns
(with Jeannette Lambermont Morey)
The Timshel Challenge Bursary Award
- 3. Jan-Michael Weir (with Luigi Ferrera)
The Thomas White Memorial Bursary
- 4. Jamie McRoberts
(with Cindy Block)
The Second City Encouragement Award
- 5. Lindsay Francisco
(with Art Pickering and Cindy Block)
The George Brown Seniors' Association
Fellowship Bursary
- 6. Alex Paxton-Beesley
(with James Simon)
The John Bannerman Memorial Bursary



4 HELP US TAKE CENTRE STAGE

Yes, I want to support George Brown Theatre, School of Performing Arts and enclose a donation in the amount of \$ _____

"The reason students come to George Brown Theatre School is simple: we offer the best conservatory training available, providing the finest training and skills required by a working actor."
James Simon,
Artistic Director

Name _____
 Address _____
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Payment Options

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 visa MasterCard American Express
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 Expiry date _____
 Registered Charitable Organization
 BN # 11923 4748 RR0001

All donors will receive a tax receipt and be acknowledged in our programme.

* Please make cheques payable to: "George Brown College Foundation" George Brown College Foundation Room 563E – St. James Campus, 200 King Street East, Toronto, ON M5A 3W8



Keith Barker as Brutus in *Death of a Chief*.

[Victoria Adilman](#) has a featured role in the new musical *Dirty Dancing* at Royal Alexandra Theatre.

[Aviva Armour-Ostroff](#) produced another edition of Lab Cab at the Factory Theatre with performances and/or writing by grads [Aviva](#), [Athena Lamarre](#), [Christopher Sawchyn](#), [Camille Stubel](#), [Julie Tepperman](#), [Jayne Walling](#) and [Aaron Willis](#).

[Keith Barker](#) and [Falen Johnson](#) appeared in the National Arts Centre / Native Earth Performing Arts production of *Death of a Chief*, co-directed by GBC guest instructor C. Kennedy MacKinnon. Keith was also made an Artistic Associate of the Company.

[Rebecca Benson](#) directed Edward Bond's *Restoration* for her MFA directing thesis at the University of Ottawa.

[Shanda Bezic](#) put her training to use as the host of GBTV - George Brown's online webcasts that help students navigate through the challenges of transitioning from high school to College, or returning to school in later life.

Former classmates [Steve Blaxall](#) and [Dylan Taylor](#) are acting together in *Sit On It*, a theatrical experiment that

combines the spontaneity of live theatre and style of classic network television. Dylan also had a role in the feature film *The Incredible Hulk* with Edward Norton.

Recent grads [Ryan Bondy](#) and [Seann Murray](#) were tapped to appear in Soulpepper Theatre's production of *Ring Round the Moon* (with fellow GBer [Patricia Fagan](#)) directed by Joseph Ziegler.

[Kristian Bruun](#) and [Andrea Irwin](#) are slashing up a good time as cast members of *Evil Dead: The Musical* at the Diesel Playhouse.

[Ben Carlson](#) scaled the Mount Everest of acting challenges when he played Hamlet this past season at the Stratford Festival. The Toronto Star's Richard Ouzounian wrote: "I am willing to bet you couldn't find a better Shakespearean performance in all of North America – maybe in all the English-speaking world – than that of Ben Carlson." Ben also played Tranio in *The Taming of the Shrew* and First Lord Dumaine in *All's Well That Ends Well*. Also at the Stratford Festival this season were: [Evan Buliung](#) (Petruccio in *Shrew* and Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*); [Ron Kennell](#) (Reynaldo in *Hamlet*, Tailor in *Shrew*, and appeared in *All's Well*); [Andre Sills](#) (Abraham in *R & J*, Marcade in *Love's Labour's Lost*, and Centurion in *Caesar and Cleopatra*).

[Noa May Dorn](#) appeared in *Where the Wild Things Are: A Manifesto* for Buddies in Bad Times' Rhubarb Festival. Then, she & former classmate [Wade Bogert-O'Brien](#) were members of the inaugural Citadel/Banff Centre Professional Theatre Program. They spent seven weeks in Banff studying with professionals before appearing at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton.

[Brett Christopher](#) directed four GB grads ([Alison Deon](#), [Bridget Norris](#), [Tim Walker](#) & [Jan-Michael Weir](#)) in Theatre-By-The-Bay's *Shakespeare's Youth*. In the fall he returns to Montreal to star in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at the Saidye Bronfman Theatre.

[Ben Clost](#) earned a Dora nomination as Best Actor for his work in *My Fellow Creatures* for Absit Omen Theatre/Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. In spring 2009 he'll appear in *Gay4pay* at Buddies.



TV Ontario's Ryan Field. Photo by Jared Purdy.

Patrick Conner was in Theatre Rusticle's haunting *April 14, 1912* at Harbourfront.

After graduating from George Brown, **Matthew Dailey** received his BFA in Dance from Ryerson University and is now a member of the Dusan Tynek Dance Theatre in New York City. He also performs for Rindlfeisch, Tricia Brouk and the Palissimo Dance Theatre.

Rebecca Davey & **Marie-Claire Marcotte** developed a show based on characters they created at George Brown during Character Mask class. *Xippie Says: LOL* will be produced in 2009 at the Globe Theatre in Regina.

Matt Davis made his directorial debut with Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* for Bottle Tree Productions.

Pragna Desai earned a Dora nomination for her work in *Canada Steel*.

Dora-award winning actress **Sarah Dodd** was in *The Fall* at Tarragon Theatre, *The Age of Arousal* for Nightwood Theatre and the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company's production of *The Sisters Rosenweig* at the Jane Mallett Theatre.

Ryan Field can be seen everyday as one of the hosts of TVO Kids' after-school programming.

Brendan Gall earned two Dora Award nominations for his writing - Best New Play (general theatre division) for *Alias Godot*, and Best New Play independent division for *A Quiet Place*. *Alias Godot's* mainstage production at the Tarragon Theatre featured GBer **Geoffrey Pounsett**. Geoffrey received a Dora Award Nomination for his direction of Brendan's *A Quiet Place*.

Claire Jenkins was in *Essay/The Russian Play* at Factory Theatre (with fellow GBer **Aaron Willis**) and released another fanciful CD (*Crow's Nest/ Nid de Pie*) which is available at www.clairejenkins.com

Eli Ham appeared in *Dead Ahead* at the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People.

Jennifer Harding has been a headlining entertainer for Celebrity Cruise Lines for the past eighteen months.

Marie Jones wrote a piece for *The Sonnet Show* to benefit the Humber River Shakespeare Company in which she played Maria in *Twelfth Night* (recent grad **Jan-Michael Weir** played Malvolio). In the fall she and former classmates **Rick Jongejan**, **Hannah Miller** and **Craig Pike** tackle Judith Thompson's gritty *The Crackwalker* at Theatre Passe Muraille.

Cathy McKim wrote and performed *Being Cecil Graham* for the New Ideas Festival and remounted it for the Cabbagetown Theatre Company's Slaw Festival.

Claudette Mink was a series regular on the first season of Global TV's *The Guard* and earned a Leo nomination (Vancouver's TV and Film Awards) for her work.

Recent grads **Alex Paxton-Beesley** and **Laura Schutt** appeared in *The Woman in White* (directed

by GB guest instructor Gina Wilkinson) at Theatre Aquarius. Alex will also appear in Company Theatre's production of *Festen* (directed by Jason Byrne) in the fall.

Aaron Poole was named Best Actor in a Feature Film at the ACTRA awards for his riveting performance in Ed Gass-Donnelly's *This Beautiful City*.

Rebecca Purvis is the first Theatre School grad to take advantage of the articulation agreement between GBC and the University of Windsor. Rebecca will complete her BA in two years (rather than four).

Jamie Spilchuk had a principal role in the TV movie *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* with Dermot Mulroney and Emily Watson.

After recent television appearances on *Doomstown*, *Cow Belles* and *Blue Murder*, **Ordena Stephens-Thompson** landed a lead role on the hit Global TV series *'da Kink in My Hair*, based on Trey Anthony's popular stage play.

Lezlie Wade earned a Dora Award nomination for her direction of *A Man of No Importance* at the Berkeley Street Theatre with GBers **Christopher Darroch** and **Megan Powell** in the cast.



Ordena Stephens-Thompson (left) as Novelette in *'da Kink in My Hair*. Photo courtesy of Canwest Global.

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INTERESTED IN ACTOR TRAINING?

George Brown College offers a three-year professional actor training program and a one-year program called Introduction to Performing Arts Careers.

Theatre Arts Diploma (3 years)

A career-oriented, actor-training program in the heart of English Canada's performing arts industry. We provide our students with the skills they need to work as professional actors in theatre, television and film. Admission each September is by audition. Auditions are held in the spring.

Introduction to Performing Arts Careers (IPAC)

(One-year certificate with an option to do an additional year in General Arts and Science and receive a diploma) A survey of career possibilities in the performing arts' field and an introduction to professional actor-training. Provides students with a unique opportunity to assess their capabilities and interests as they relate to Canada's entertainment industry.

George Brown Theatre is a school in the Faculty of Business, Arts and Design at George Brown College. Dean Maureen Loweth, Director Luigi Ferrara, Chair Marilyn McNeil-Morin.



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