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WINTERS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



A message from The Master

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Dear Winters Alumni,

As you may remember from your university days, March is one of the most challenging months of the school year. The end of the term is approaching like an incoming rocket. Essays and assignments are due, plans for next year are being prepared, all the performance programs have shows and concerts, intramural sports teams are in play-off mode, and graduating students are wondering what post-university life will hold for them.

Here in the Master's Office, the year has been a busy one, as we have organized or co-sponsored events such as Lunches with the Dean, dance workshops, life-drawing classes, World Cafés, a

Devised Theatre Workshop, and much more. We even have planned a stress-busting afternoon where students can meet and interact with a number of unusual animals such as a lemur and a kangaroo. All the animals are ethically sourced and conscientiously cared for by a very highly-regarded company.

The Absinthe Pub continues to form one of the centres of College life, surviving when all of the other student-owned pubs on campus have folded. Come by for a visit and marvel at how despite incredible changes to the University over the last few years, some things would still be recognizable to you.

The College has been very lucky to have a particularly well-organized and competent Winters College Council this year, and the members have been very successful at keeping the Winters spirit healthy and vibrant.

The year 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of Winters College, and we are planning to celebrate this during the whole 2017-2018 academic year, with special events and commemorations. There is a committee looking at ways to do this, so if you have any thoughts to contribute, or if you would like to be considered for the committee, please let me know.

I wish you all the best for the spring (yes, it will come!).
 Do drop us a line to let us know what you're up to.



school of the
 arts, media,
 performance
 & design

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▶▶▶ Message from WCAN: Niko Markakis

Hello fellow Winters Alumni,

My name is Nikolaos Markakis and I am the current Winters College Alumni Network President. I would like to start off by thanking all those who have been able to come out to our events. Without you, we would be nothing. To those who have not been able to come out yet, don't worry, we have some exciting things coming your way. As of right now we do not have any planned events but keep your eyes open for our next Alumni Pub Night!

Some more exciting news is that we now have a Facebook group and a LinkedIn page. So if you want to keep in touch through social media you can find us below:

LinkedIn: Winters College Alumni Network (York University)

Facebook: York University Winters College Alumni Network

If there is anything you need or want to share with your Alumni Network, please do not hesitate to email me at markakisniko@gmail.com.

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday and have a prosperous new year.

Nikolaos Markakis



▶▶▶ Message from WCC: Angelica Grospe



Winters College is a vibrant and diverse community. Having been around since 1967, we've had 50 years to strive for the best; to work toward creating safe spaces and enriching events in which constituents can be themselves and create new and lasting memories. The Winters community is filled with creative and extraordinary individuals who love to come together and enrich each other's lives through innovation, inspiration, and friendship.

To give a bit of insight into what the Winter term looks like in our community, make sure to keep up with Winters College Council on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat. It is through these media that we advertise the multitude of events we host each week and month! Some of our monthly events include Acoustic Night, Karaoke Night, Pub Night, and Spoken Word Night. Some of our weekly events include intramural sports, ranging from futsal to intertube water polo, basketball to curling, and so much more. We are also working toward creating more events that cater to first year students, students who live in residence, and commuter students. However, we have two large events this semester that are legendary within the community. The first up is our annual Montréal Trip, which we had over Reading Week from the 23rd to the 26th of February. The second annual event we run is the end of the year Formal, held in early April on the 2nd. More details about all these events and more are always coming, and be sure you follow us to make sure you don't miss out!

Jessie Whyte, Director of Social/Cultural Affairs

Alum Profile: Viki Pazzano ◀◀◀



I can't believe it's been five years since I graduated from York! I have some very fond memories from my days on campus. I was a commuter throughout the whole experience and sometimes miss those days where getting the day started or ended involved listening to my favourite tunes through my ipod (many naps were had on that GO bus..) and forgetting that ipod could ruin my day! Well, now I drive to work everyday at a middle school close to my home. I teach French, drama and dance and general music to kids. Working with pre-teens there's definitely never a dull moment. Having my degree concentrated on French Studies and Fine Arts helped me find a teaching gig right after

teacher's college (which I graduated from in 2013). I was part of Vanier College Cabaret Company for two years while at York and miss being a part of musical theatre. I've had the chance to vocal coach the students at my school in two productions, Hairspray Jr. and Annie Jr, for which I also ran audio. I'm looking forward to using my summers to get back into doing musical theatre myself and fulfill the performer side of me that can get a little restless if she's kept inside too long.



Alum Profile: Sonya Delwaide ◀◀◀

I graduated with a BFA Honor in dance in 1981 and while at York, I had the opportunity to work with Grant Strate (the founder of the BFA dance program) and an amazing list of guest artists: Peggy Baker, Douglas Dunn, Ulysse Dove, Douglas Nielsen, Barry Smith etc..

My training at York really prepared me for my future as a dancer, choreographer and teacher. I joined Mills College dance faculty (the oldest dance program in US) in 2003 and was Chair for 5 years. During that period, I rebuilt the dance department (I was the only faculty left in 2006) and created a theater studies minor and a major in collaboration with American Conservatory Theater (in San Francisco). So for the past 3 years, we are now the Dance and Theater Studies Department.

I was the first choreographer invited to work with AXIS Dance Company (mix-ability dance company) and since then, AXIS gained an international reputation (other choreographers who created for AXIS are Bill T Jones and Stephen Petronio).

Not sure why I just decided to forward you my information but maybe it is because I am beginning my early retirement at Mills and it's making me look back!?!?!?

▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Josh Heuman

I completed my Honours BA in Visual Arts, focused on Art History (June 1996) at York University, and immediately rolled into a Master's degree in Art History (June 1999), focused on American abstract expressionist painter Barnett Newman, also at York University. I took classes with so many wonderful professors... especially Guy Métraux, Ken Carpenter, Barbara Dodge, Brian Grosskurth, and Karen Stanworth in Art History; Douglas Freake in Humanities; and, Rob Bowman in Music.

As my career goal was to work at an art museum, ideally focused on modern and/or contemporary art, I spent a lot of time volunteering at numerous museums... Ontario Puppet Centre, Art Gallery of York University, Royal Ontario Museum, Black Creek Pioneer Village... even spent three months, the summer between completing my BA and starting my MA, sorting through papers from David Mirvish's art gallery!

As I was approaching the end of my MA, I met Gary -- my partner and now husband -- who was living in Omaha, Nebraska. So I left Toronto. I worked one year as a bookseller and custom order coordinator at Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Then, my big break, I landed my first museum job: Visitor & Volunteer Services Coordinator (Feb 2000 to Aug 2003) at Joslyn Art Museum. I supervised eight front desk admissions desk staff and up to 500 volunteers, and also ended up at liaison with three fundraising affiliate groups and, despite having no formal training in web design, I was the webmaster for two years!

While Omaha is a (surprisingly) nice place, there was no opportunity for me to shift into museum education at Joslyn... so I found a short-lived position as Curator of Education (Aug 2003 to Jan 2005) at the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art at Utah State University in Logan, Utah before taking over as Curator of Education at the Salt Lake Art Center (Feb 2005 to June 2010) in Salt Lake City, Utah where I was in charge of all programming and, for an extended period, was in charge of all exhibitions, too!

I left that position, and took a few months to recover and seek a new challenge, accepting the role of Public Programs Coordinator / Participatory Program Specialist (Mar 2011 to Dec 2015) in the Department of Education at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston -- the fourth largest art museum in the United States! There, I focused on art-focused and cross-disciplinary programs, almost all with a participatory component and almost all generating revenue, for both small and large groups of adults.

About halfway through 2015, I realized my parents who are living (and aging) in Toronto would benefit if I lived closer and -- if you've been paying attention to American politics -- the situation in the USA was becoming less appealing to me and my husband. With good fortune, in January 2016, I joined the staff at The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery (www.thepowerplant.org) as Curator of Education & Public Programs, where I oversee a Visitor & Volunteer Services Coordinator, TD Curator of Education Fellow, Power Kids Family Programs Coordinator, Power Youth Coordinator, and a team of Gallery Attendants. The Power Plant presents 8 to 10 exhibitions per year, featuring artists from across Canada and around the globe. To help visitors explore these exhibitions deeper, my team and I develop and present dozens of tours, lectures, hands-on art-making workshops, and other programs.

Now that I'm back in Toronto, I hope to see current Winters College and other York University students, alumni, and faculty at The Power Plant! If anyone wants to get in touch, they are welcome to email me at jheuman@thepowerplant.org or call 416-973-4973.



Alum Profile: Andrew Cleveland ◀ ◀ ◀



I graduated from the production and design program in 2013. Before I even graduated I was lucky enough to be one of the students to intern and work in wardrobe with Canadian Stage on Shakespeare in High Park. While at Canadian Stage I made so many connections. The dresser who was dressing the shows at High Park happened to be the Head of Wardrobe for Opéra Atelier. So I was invited to join their company as a wardrobe assistant. Since joining Opéra Atelier I have built costumes for five of their productions including two that went on to tour Paris at the Royal Opéra House in Versailles. While working on my first show with them I met the Head of Wardrobe for Ross Petty Produc-

tions where I got to work on their production of *The Little Mermaid*. One of the cutters who was also a graduate from York was working on the show as well and she asked me to work with her on one of the shows she was designing. By then I had also joined IATSE 822 as a permit and got to do my job shadow with them at a work call for Disney's *Aladdin*. The following years I continued to work with Canadian Stage and Opéra Atelier as well as the Pan Am Games and started to get more dressing calls with 822. Since then I have worked on puppets for Disney's *The Lion King* (Shanghai, Disney Grand Theatre), as well as soft props for Disney's *Aladdin* (London/Sydney/US National Tour, Prince Edward Theatre/Capitol Theatre). As a dresser, I have worked on the Canadian production of *Kinky Boots* (Toronto, Royal Alexandra Theatre), the National Tours of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*



(Toronto, Ed Mirvish Theatre), and *Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Musical* (Toronto, Massey Hall), as well as Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's *Mary Poppins* (Hamilton, Irving Zucker Auditorium), and the Canadian premieres of *Lucio Silla* and *Alcina* (Toronto, Elgin Theatre).

I also still continue to design costumes in my spare time. I'm currently designing costumes for *Carrie: The Musical* at Hart House Theatre in Toronto which opens in January of 2017, as well as the musical *Spring Awakening* in the town of Aurora which opened this November. I have met

so many graduates from York since graduating and its always great to see a familiar face you know when you start a new show.

▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Michael Sparaga

My name is Michael Sparaga and I'm a former Fine Arts and Winters student.

I've written and produced several films since graduating from York's Film Program with an Honours BFA in 1996. Projects include the critically-acclaimed superhero film *Sidekick* (2005), an hour-long documentary about the Canadian film industry, *Maple Flavour Films* (2008), and the waiter rebellion comedy *Servitude* (2012), which was also the first film greenlit for production out of the Telefilm Canada Features Comedy Lab, a CFC Film Program in collaboration with Just For Laughs.



This past year I completed production on the documentary *The Missing Ingredient: What is the Recipe for Success?*, which also marks my debut as a feature director. The story follows a Manhattan restaurateur who, in a desperate bid to boost business at his struggling 20-year-old eatery, ruffled more than a few feathers when he made the bold decision to put up the iconic zebra wallpaper made world-famous by the Upper East Side dining institution Gino's. But my film goes beyond examining the fallout from this decision to ask some big questions. Specifically, what makes a restaurant an institution? And is it something that can be manufactured, or even copied?

Here is a link to the film's trailer: <https://youtu.be/7VaHA76jCJY>

The Missing Ingredient: What is the Recipe for Success? celebrated its world premiere last fall in front of a sold out crowd at the DOC NYC film festival. It has since gone on to screen in multiple festivals across North America including the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival and RiverRun International Film Festival. It was picked up for Canadian distribution by Blue Ice Docs who released the film in Toronto at the Hot Docs Cinema this past July. It's been a hit with audiences and critics alike. The *Globe and Mail* gave the film 3 out of 4 stars and *POV Magazine* raved that its "The 20 Feet from Stardom of foodie flicks." *Virgil Films* and *Entertainment* has picked up the movie for distribution in the US. It will be released on home video on October 11th.

I'm currently in production on my follow up feature documentary about fan activists who fight to save their favorite television shows, which is scheduled for completion in 2017.

Here is a photo of me on stage during the post-screening Q&A at the DOC NYC film festival. From L-R, Charles Devigne, Salvatore Doria, Michael Miele (documentary subjects), and Michael Sparaga (director).

Alum Profile: Pasha Patriki ◀◀◀

I was in Film and Video Production program. My experience at York was just great. It was my life for 4 years, a place where I came almost every day to laugh, cry, work, study and sometimes even sleep. As far as Winters college, I didn't live on campus but Winters was always there for me as a home base and a place where I could get support if I needed it.

I have to say that the first two years in the film program I somewhat still had (probably like most other students) a high school student mentality. I was coming to the classes and lectures because I had to, and I didn't quite have a plan of how all this knowledge I am acquiring would be used later in my career. Like most students in the film program, I wanted to "direct films", without actually understanding what a director means, and also refusing to acknowledge the fact that filmmaking is a team effort and there are many other crucial parts of the team that make creation of a motion picture project possible.



After the 2nd year I started working on film sets as a technician in grip and lighting departments. I was so thrilled with film set experience that I decided to take a couple of years off the studies and focus on getting practical experience. 3 years later I knew exactly what I wanted to do in film - to be a cinematographer, and I came back to finish my degree at York, now with a completely new mindset - I was hungry for what York's film program could give me.

Instead of focusing on a single thesis project, I handed in five projects - all focused on the craft of cinematography. Other students followed the example and the screening of our 4th year student films had to be spread over 3 days instead of the usual 1. After graduation, I continued to work - still as a lighting technician, but now also taking cinematographer jobs and building up my cinematography portfolio.

Today, 12 years since my graduation, I am a member of Canadian Society of Cinematographers - a professional association that distinguishes outstanding Cinematographers in Canada.

I also own and operate a boutique post production facility Red Square Motion, that works with independent productions. In 2015 I also founded 9 Light Entertainment, a company that develops, produces, finances and distributed feature films and series.

My advice for those who are studying right now is to believe in yourself and never give up. Some careers are more challenging than others, but in every person's professional path there are ups and downs. As long as you stay true to yourself, you will come out on top.

The learning never stops; York University is only the beginning. I acquire new skills and knowledge every day, sometimes at a pace much faster than any class at York.

One thing I learned from my experience at York is that there is no such thing as unnecessary knowledge or useless piece of information, ever!

▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Yvonne Ng

I was at York U many moons ago at the Dance Department (now renamed School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design) but I've found my way back this time to the grad programme in 2016.

www.princessproductions.ca

In the last couple of years, my stunning artistic collaborators and I have been working on two new creations, *In Search of the Holy Chop Suey* and *Zhong Xin* that I'm very excited and honoured to share with you and the Toronto community.

We opened for an intense short run from 24 to 26 November, 2016.

Here is our trailer for *Zhong Xin* with the incomparable Irvin Chow, Mairéad Fílgate and Luke Garwood

check this out: <https://vimeo.com/188434497>

Where or in what time space does identity reside? Ng asks "How does someone else's movement quality impact my own dancing self?" as she undertakes a pointed investigation for her solo, *In Search of the Holy Chop Suey*. In it, she ponders a life of creation and imitation in movement and mines influences from sources as varied as her mother, modern dance and kung fu legends, ordinary people, wild animals and more. Says Ng, "When I imitate, I also uncover something unique in myself. Each time I fail to become more like my mother (or my favourite kung fu hero Bruce Lee), I become more me." Silvie Varone designs the set for this expressive work.

In explaining the title, Ng says: "In the late seventies/early eighties, there was a TV series called *In Search of...* that focused on mysterious phenomena, e.g. Loch Ness, Holy Grail, Big Foot, etc. But they would never find the 'thing' that was the subject of the particular episode. Chop Suey is a dish that reportedly originated from migrant Chinese workers who lived in the U.S.A. in the 19th century.

DanceWorks Toronto's leading presenter of Canada's independent dance artists

Part of @harbourfrontcentre
NextSteps

DanceWorks presents
Yvonne Ng / tiger princess dance projects
World premiere of two new works

IN SEARCH OF THE HOLY CHOP SUEY & ZHONG XIN

In what location or time space does identity reside? Choreographer Yvonne Ng offers two haunting new investigations. Ng examines her own past, mining movement influences as varied as her mother and kungfu legend Bruce Lee, for the solo, *In Search of the Holy Chop Suey*. Then, for a companion piece, *Zhong Xin*, she extends her research in memory and presence to include three of Toronto's most compelling dancers. After many months of creating in isolation from each other, Mairéad Fílgate, Luke Garwood and Irvin Chow unite in a curious assembly.

Choreography by Yvonne Ng
Created with Irvin Chow, Mairéad Fílgate, Luke Garwood, Jehanna Barghett, Mark-Josée Charlier, Joe Pagnier, Marcella Rosato, Ann Schivvaz, Nick Sharing and Silvie Varone.

"Ng brings a sensibility and intelligence to... create moments that are visually and dramatically arresting."
- The Dance Current

November 24 – 26, 2016
8:00 p.m.
at Harbourfront Centre
Theatre
231 Queens Quay West

Box Office
phone 416.973.4000
online harbourfrontcentre.com/nextsteps/danceworks-7

Tickets: \$15 - \$42

Partners:

Photo by Irvin Chow, Mairéad Fílgate, Luke Garwood. Image Design by BFDigital

Alum Profile: Yvonne Ng ◀◀◀

When I was young, living in Asia, I wanted everything western. I knew about the dish and equated it to something Western/North American. The title is a comment on my belief that each of us has a deep desire to find meaning for our lives – even as that meaning eludes us and/or is not what it seems.”

Ng then extends the exploration to Zhong Xin (which translates to centre or core in Mandarin), her trio for three splendid dancers – Irvin Chow, Mairéad Filgate and Luke Garwood. After many months of creating in isolation from each other, the dancers and Ng unite, each harnessing different qualities and histories. In collaboration with composer, Nick Storrington and set designer, Joe Pagnan, Ng and her dancers propose an unknowable universe of possibilities – anchored by memory, identity and the body.

For the evening, multi-faceted award-winning artist Marie-Josée Chartier is the Outside Eye/Creative Facilitator, Johanna Bergfelt is the Rehearsal Director and Arun Srinivasan is the Lighting Designer.

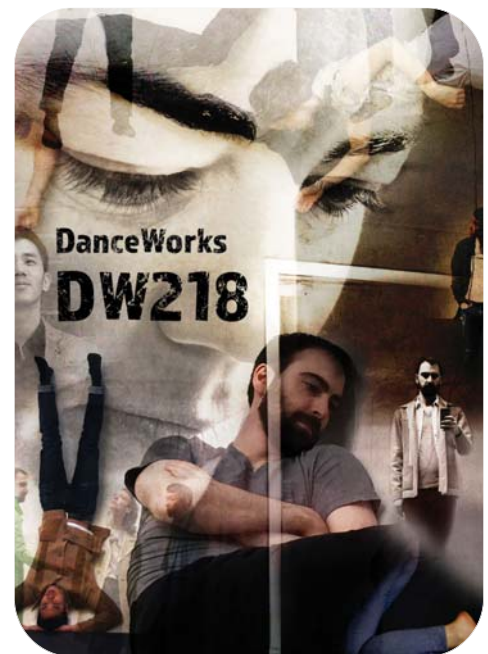
DanceWorks presents Toronto’s acclaimed tiger princess dance projects with a double bill of world premieres choreographed by artistic director Yvonne Ng

- her solo In Search of the Holy Chop Suey &

Zhong Xin, a trio for dancers Irvin Chow, Mairéad Filgate and Luke Garwood

Ran from Thursday, November 24 – Saturday, November 26 at 8pm

Part of Harbourfront Centre’s Next Steps at Harbourfront Centre Theatre (formerly Enwave Theatre)





▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Josh Cook



After recently applying for a recording production grant through Canada Council for the Arts, Josh is preparing to release his second full length album under the producer name Seizures Palace. With 18 tracks prepared, all that is needed are the final touches to get this album ready as both festival and record label applications. With the hopes that his grant will go to help cover the costs of mastering, Josh is reminded that nearly any aspect of the art that someone is working on can be covered, in part, by Canadian grants. Considering applying for an art grant? Don't hesitate, get the ball rolling now! *See Canada Council for the Arts and FACTOR

CONTACT US

Hello Alumni,

Are you looking for an old schoolmate or professor that used to be a part of Winters? If you are, provide us with their name and we will help you find them. Contact us at: wcmaster@yorku.ca

OR

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You can keep up to date with us by following us on Instagram and/or Twitter:

@winterscollege

ALUMNI PUB NIGHT

When...What?

Remember when life was easy? Your life revolved around doing your own thing and hanging out with friends. Okay, we studied hard. But, we also made memories to last us a lifetime – through new experiences, through new people. We were having the time of our lives and some of us didn't even realize it. All because we wanted to! A simpler time filled with "ALL DRINK!!!"

Come relive those memories with us. Because we all know that Thursday nights just haven't been the same without Winters. When was your last "ALL DRINK!!!"? If it has been too long to remember, you should come on out.