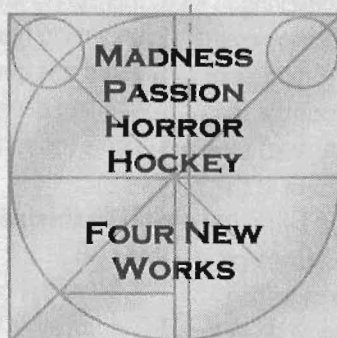




electroscope

electric company theatre society newsletter

november 2002 > vol 6 > issue 1



*Electric Company draws straws for
who's idea will form the next show -
Kim wins!!*

Tim Matheson; photo

Message from the Artistic Directors

Welcome to the Electric Company's seventh season! There's a well-known saying in the corporate world: 'Don't work harder; work smarter'. Well, we're not corporate types so we're just going to work harder! This season we're launching, among several exciting initiatives, a new model for play creation within our collective. Beginning as of this past summer, each member of Electric Company will spearhead a new project in development. Each of the four new works will be lead by its creator through the early stages of research, development, and writing. When the piece has begun to ripen it will be further enhanced by the collective process, which will carry it through workshops and into production. The first of these projects headed by Kim Collier has been ripening under the extended sunlight of the far north and

Linda Chirfen: photo



further aided by a boost of essential nutrients from travels overseas. Her site-specific horror will premiere this season in April – just in time for Halloween... if it were in April. Works lead by Jonathon, Kevin, and David will receive a workshop this spring and will appear in full form beginning next season. We're excited about this new model that will allow for ongoing development of thrilling new works for Vancouver.

Also this season:

- * Six day organizational review with Heather Redfern, Catalyst Theatre
- * Outreach and marketing excursion to the United Kingdom
- * Research at Capacoa Presenters Conference in Ottawa
- * Attendance at Cinars International Art Showcase in Montreal
- * Touring and management mentorship program with Marg Specht, Axis Theatre
- * Marketing and Development mentorship with Marcie Flom
- * Annual *Big Plug* fundraising Event February 28th 2003
- * *The Fall* April 5 – 27 presented by UBC
- * Produce and participate in *Progress Lab 03*
- * Retool and produce *Brilliant! The Blinding Enlightenment of Nikola Tesla* Vancouver July 2003
- Edinburgh August 2003

Four Jessies that Didn't Get Away



The end of every theatre season in Vancouver is capped by the festivity of the Jessie Richardson Awards. This year was the celebration of a banner year for small and emerging companies, and the creation of exciting new works that make Vancouver, as Alexandra Gill wrote in the *Globe and Mail*: "one of the most vibrant independent theatre scenes in the country". It was also Electric Company's most prolific season to date with two mainstage productions (*Flop* and *The One That Got Away*) happening back to back.

From the ten nominations we received, Electric Company won four prominent awards for the *The One That Got Away* in the Small Theatre category:

- * Outstanding Production: Electric Co, Norman Rothstein, Only Fanconi
- * Larry Lillo Award for Outstanding Direction: Kim Collier
- * Outstanding Costume Design: Kirsten McGhie & Marina Sijarto
- * Significant Artistic Achievement: Ensemble performance by The Widows (Jonathon Young, Courtney Dobbie, Judi Closkey, Allan Zinyk, and Jan Kudelka)

THE BIG ONE

Staged in the swimming pool complex at Vancouver's Jewish Community Centre, *The One That Got Away* was the realization of a huge and elaborate dream – a dream that began with an idea spawned by actor/playwright Kendra Fanconi and Brenda Leadley (Artistic Director of the Norman Rothstein Theatre) and carried upstream by director Kim Collier & the Electric Company team with the incredible talents of the cast, crew and designers



The Unsinkable Kendra Fanconi in TOTGA

Tim Matheson: photo

"The One That Got Away is more than good storytelling. It's a stunning theatrical experience that washes over the audience like a warm bath filled with bright shiny bubbles." Alexandra Gill - *The Globe and Mail*

"Both Kendra Fanconi's script and director Kim Collier's production contain passages of shimmering, watery beauty." Colin Thomas, *Georgia Straight*

"Row, row, row your butt down to the Chutzpah Festival to see this strange beauty for yourself, because no amount of description can convey the magic flowing through many of its moments" Peter Birnie, *Vancouver Sun*

"The One That Got Away has nautical miles of heart." Jo Ledingham, *The Vancouver Courier*

"An hour and 45 minutes of witty, polished performance seldom passes as entertainingly as this show from the extraordinarily inventive minds of this young company." *Jo Ledingham, The Vancouver Courier*

"Ultimately, I left the Cultch feeling I might be in some vibrantly artistic European city like Paris or Prague, not little old Vancouver" *Martin Millerchip, North Shore News*

"The quartet fashions gorgeous pictures that flash by like a slide show." *Tim Carlson, Vancouver Sun*

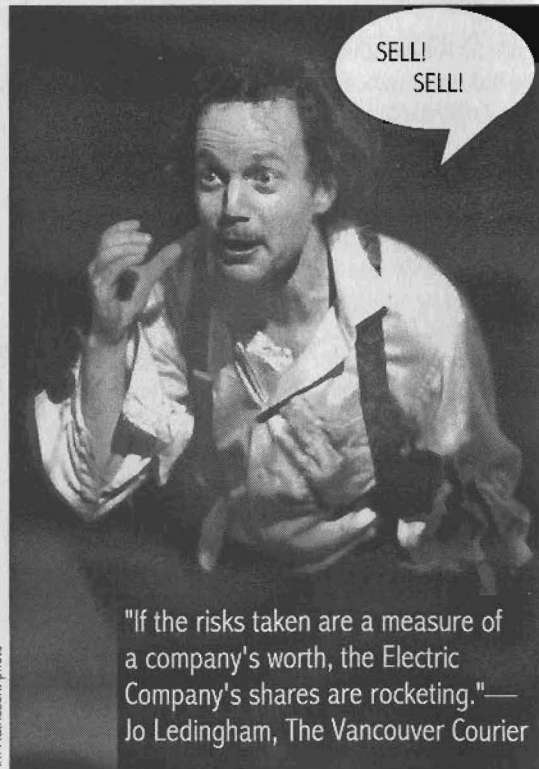
"Flop, which uses architecture as its central metaphor, collapses because of its own shoddy dramatic construction" *Colin Thomas - Georgia Straight*

"I have nightmares like that" *Jon's Dad - opening night*

flop? "At first glance it might appear sprawling, cluttered, and, yes, even a bit rickety. But make no mistake, beneath this sleeping tabby rests a hulking, rippling, tiger!" From *Flop* (Mr. Cooper dictates a press release over the phone from the crawl space on the 5th floor.)

Flop, our most successful show to date artistically speaking, was, artistically speaking an utter failure. Having missed the mark on several different levels, it hit home like never before. Equal parts sloppy, precise, meaningless, and profound, audiences were united in their diametrically opposed reactions to this production. Thank you to the inspired and talented team of artists who helped *Flop* soar so close to the burning heat of success!

Jessie Nominations: Outstanding Lighting Design: Adrian Muir, Outstanding Sound Design: The Electric Company



Tim Matheson: photo

Welcome Cindy!

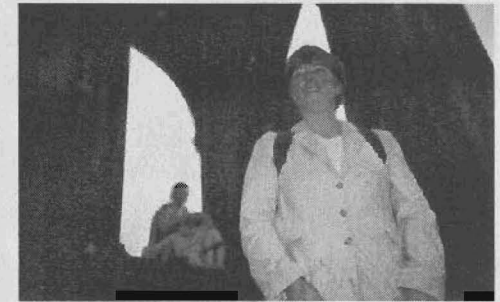
Our warmest welcome to Producing Manager Cynthia Reid.

Long time supporter and legendary former board member, Cindy Reid returns to the Electric Company theatre in the position of Producing Manager in order to aid the company in all areas including marketing and developing audiences both nationally and internationally.

In the past Cindy has worked as a consultant for the Canada Council's Art Bank, an account manager for Capital Publishers and Tyrell Press in Ottawa, and Sales & Marketing Administrator for the Bill Reid Studio Gallery in Vancouver.

She brings to the company her talents and experience as a coordinator, publicist, marketing director and agent. Her presence promises to aid the collective to meet the challenges of sustainable creation while continuing to play a leading role as artistic innovators and creators in the Vancouver and Canadian Theatre community. Cindy has unquenchable enthusiasm for the arts, a passion for the work of the Electric Company, and an in-depth knowledge of the company's body of work and artistic vision.

The Electric Company welcomes Cindy as the long-awaited new addition to the collective!



Tim Matheson: photo

Thank yous

Vancouver East Cultural Centre and Duncan Lowe for their ongoing support, advice and office space.

To our amazing Board of Directors! A heartfelt thank you to departing Board member Marietta Kozak and a big welcome to our new Board members: Teresa Conway, Linda Chinfen, Rory Gylander & Margo Venton.

Vancouver Playhouse for their generous in-kind support for last seasons productions. Julie and all the McGeer family for supplying the beautiful retreat cottage.

Funding bodies: The Canada Council, BC Arts Council, City of Vancouver, The Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation, The Vancouver Foundation, The Hamber Foundation, The Melusine Foundation

K.K. gets G.G.

TORONTO, NOV 12 — Kevin Kerr's *Unity 1918*, his first full-length solo play, has won him Canada's top literary prize, the Governor General's Award, for English language drama.

"I'm still reeling," he said after the ceremony. "The nomination alone was a bombshell."

The win means his play about what the flu pandemic that followed the First World War did to a small Saskatchewan town will now have a wider audience across the country.

Back in Vancouver, at the EC office, well-wishers poured in via phone calls, emails, and the door, hoping to shake the hand of one of the nicest guys in the province.

Alas, they were told, Kevin was in Toronto with Marita, sipping champagne and eating oysters on the half shell.

The entire theatre community of Vancouver is thrilled to death (or at least, plague) for Kevin and anxiously awaits his return on that slow train from Ottawa.

the big plug INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH

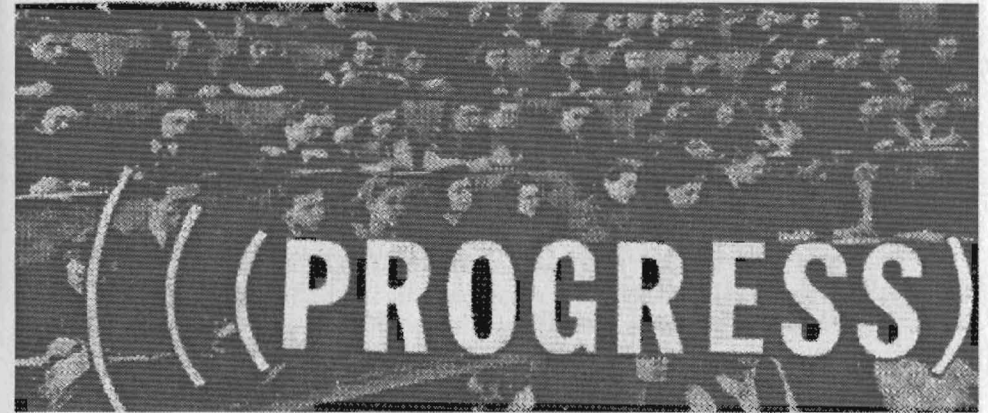
Shake off the winter blues and welcome in the future

A launch pad for Electric Company's newest production, and the "Finning Lands Gift": the new research and development space for the creative arts in Vancouver.

This gala evening promises a window into the Electric Company's latest production - *The Fall: A Horror, Horror, Horror*

Come and participate in the unveiling of this exciting new workplace for the Vancouver Arts Community.

February 28, 2003 in the warehouse



PROGRESS LAB '03 — a resource sharing seminar and workshop June 2003

Electric Company Theatre has spearheaded an intensive workshop that combines the cumulative skills and resources of some of the city's leading creation-based theatre companies and collaborative artists. The project is a joint initiative between Electric Company, Radix Theatre, NeWorld Theatre, Felix Culpa, and Boca Del Lupo. We determined that the development of our company (and ourselves as individual artists) could be inspired through a very exciting and dynamic cross-pollination within our own theatre community.

The workshop will be a five-day event with the goal of furthering the organizations' skills in creation methodology, management strategies and long range planning. It is our belief that by learning from each other we can reach new artistic heights and foster excitement and mutual encouragement among artists.

The workshop is predicated on the understanding that the collective and creation-based organizations of Vancouver are an extremely vital facet to the local theatre ecology. And that they share unique concerns, challenges, and methods of operation distinct from organizations that primarily produce in traditional venues, from the existing canon of theatre, and with a standard Artistic Director / General Manager management structure.

PROGRESS '03 brings together some of the most exciting and prolific creation based companies in an intensive resource sharing seminar that will form the foundation for annual workshops and symposiums in collective creation.

The workshop will be open to a limited number of observers who want to develop their creation work and company management. The lab will unfold with discussion components, presentations and practical components (simulated rehearsal situations and development work) If you are interested in auditing this workshop please contact the Electric Company. Limited space available.

madness

passion

horror

hockey

four new works in development by the electric company

THE FALL - A HORROR, HORROR, HORROR

by the Electric Company

April 2 through April 25, 2003



Electric Company's forthcoming harrowing night of theatre drawn from the existing genre of horror stories and mysticism that will thrill to the bones Vancouver audiences. A tactile, sensuous theatrical event that will immerse the audience into the production.

THE FALL is a site-specific mystery thriller that emerges from the landscape on which it is created. Staged in and around the abandoned structures on the Finning factory site, the story will be unearthed, combining the history of the location with the imagination of the Electric Company and associated artists Robert Gardiner, Patrick Pennefather, Adrian Muir, Christine Reimer, and Les Ford.

THE FALL will be created as a partnership with the University of British Columbia department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing. The project will provide educational opportunities through professional hands-on experience for emerging designers, technicians, stage management, and actors.

This production will be an inaugural project for the newly established "Finning Lands Gift" — a research and development space for the creative arts and applied sciences. Made possible by a bequeathing of land and buildings to four educational institutions (UBC, SFU, BCIT, and Emily Carr), this brand-new initiative will have at its heart a space where new works of all kinds could be developed by the convergence of interdisciplinary working groups. The long-range vision for this lab could propel the city and region to the forefront of the Arts in North America.

Don't miss THE FALL.. coming this spring.



The Palace Grande by Jonathon Young

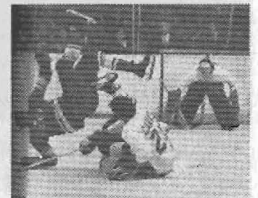
Poetic, darkly comic and vaudevillian The Palace Grande plays on the mysterious human condition of "cacoethes scribendi" - the incurable passion for writing.

In the spring of 1898 an eccentric British writer leaves London society for the Canadian wilderness in search of a story.

Possessed by the characters he creates, he pursues them relentlessly. What ensues is a strikingly dreamlike journey deep into the eerie vastness of the Yukon wilderness. A one man show written and performed by Jonathon Young with the Electric Company.

Hockey Night in Moscow - A Jock Rock-Opera by David Hudgins

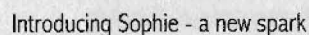
Dubbed "the Summit Series", the famous eight-game, titanic battle between the very best of the indomitable Russian and the swaggering Canadian hockey teams, was a turning point in Canada's identity. Now, HOCKEY NIGHT IN MOSCOW, a jock rock-opera combines the brash sounds of Soviet-realism with those of North American guitar-soaked popular music from 1972 to tell the spellbinding story as only music can. Under the relentless glare of two nations, the struggle for supremacy becomes a struggle for diplomacy on and off the ice.



Studies in Motion: The Hauntings of Eadweard Muybridge by Kevin Kerr

In 1885 at the University of Pennsylvania a man attempts to dissect motion into discrete units and reveal the secrets of linear time. In a compound at the University of Pennsylvania, surrounded by dozens of cameras, scores of nude models, domestic animals, and wild beasts, Mubridge accidentally pioneers the motion picture. His 'Animal Locomotion' photographs are the culmination of his life's work in photography — but behind his obsession to capture and contain the elements of motion are his disturbed memories of jealousy, betrayal, and murder.





The newest Electric Company creation is a collaboration by David and wife Julie. Revealed in midsummer, Sophie Carol Hudgins finds herself the second in a rare breed of EC descendants, beginning with Azra North Young. Sophie has her own website at www.hudgehog.com



Atop the stunning panoramic Tombstone Mountain Range, where the heart races with altitude and the head reels for oxygen, true love finds its voice". *Jon: "You wanna marry me? Kim: "Yeah, sure! Bonus!*



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POSTCARD FROM THE U.K.

Hello guys,

Now the hell are you all or more like it what is up with us. Well let me tell you Edinburgh is one insane place at festival time, the streets and cafes are littered with flyers and ads and at first it seemed impossible to find our way into this crazy festival thing. But we started seeing venues, talking to folks, and gathered loads of info on producers, venues, tech gear and what not. Eventually it became clear there are very few venues that appeal to us and meet our technical requirements. So we pursued the internationally programmed venue Aronza Nova (great gear), had a good meeting with The Tramway and Now in Glasgow as well as a quickie one with the Travemise in Edinburgh. Now I can say we have seen no castles, no galleries or tourist attractions, but we have seen 16 theatre/dance performances at the fringe, Edinburgh festival and in London and are getting a feel for the work being presented here. Okay, see you all soonmmmm and love you all muchly and thinking of you all muchly and yes it was a damn good idea we did this. Huge love to Jonathan and Aga. Love Kim

David, Jonathan, Kevin g'ten!!

Kim has just blasted off to a play called Dying Islands at the Traverse Theatre. It is sooooooooooooo beautiful here!! We are having an awesome, tiring, fascinating, bizarre, wonderful time. An amazing city... we've been meeting and greeting and touring the venues and seeing lots of theatre, not all good by any means... It's a real crap shoot as you can imagine. Our little room is lovely though small. Haven't had too much sleep yet, we're bring so tired! And we're doing lots of walking..... In fact, come to think of it, not nearly enough time has been spent at the pub... Can't wait until we are ALL here putting on some great work!

Gotta dash... so Cindy

Postcard from Dawson



Dear David and Cindy,

Kevin and I are currently doing some of the best work of our careers. A pity you and the rest of Vancouver will never see it! We have already nominated each other for several Jessies in several new categories including "Most Exaggerated Facial Expression", "Worst Sag", and for the "Corniest Physicality by an Actor in a Supporting Role". (I fear Kevin may have all three in the bag. Rats!) Anyhow, aside from entertaining tourists, hosting Karaoke, languishing at Bombay Peggy's, panning for gold, canoeing, hiking and sleeping-in exceptionally late, we have both been diligently working on new ideas for the company. Kerr has gotten all in a tizzy about some fellow named Muybridge who spent his life snapping photos of really mundane stuff - you know, walking, bending over, picking things up, etc. Whereas I'm going nuts for this new concept I've cooked up that may or may not include an abandoned dredge, a vaudeville house, a vast expanse of nothingness, and a frozen corpse. The great part is both shows are uneniably related to the cultural diversity of Vancouver! All is well. I'm off to another glorious performance, and oh yes Kim is here as well. She's sprawled out kind of half in bed and half on the floor. She's either reading or just kind of lying there. She looks quite happy and has been in that position since she got here. We love the Yukon!!

Love to the masses, Jonathon.

Postcard from Dawson:



Dear Remaining Electrolytes,

Jon and Kevin here eating fish and chips and drinking pints of Yukon Gold - that's some goooooood beer.

We've escaped Vancouver for the summer and are pursuing our first and greatest passion - cheesy vaudeville comedy in the sub-arctic. We've walked on the Yukon river while frozen, lost untold riches on the roulette wheel, received countless marriage proposals from can-can dancers and a couple from some gold miners too. We've learned that if you've traveled in a motor-home all the way from Pennsylvania there's a good chance you'll be giddy enough to laugh at near anything put before your eyes. We've learned that there is no ceiling on the price of fresh produce. We've learned that the Yukon is a fast flowing river, but not quite fast flowing enough when you're in a canoe 40 miles from town and you've got a show at 8:00. Later..

Donor Categories

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a spot on the mailing list, advanced notice of special events, readings, and future productions

volt \$41-99

above plus we kiss your feet

spark \$100-149

above plus we send you autographed pictures of the Electric Company

forked lightning \$150-250

above plus we call you periodically and make small talk

killer watt \$251-499

above plus we do a little dance around you and chant, "thank you, thank you, thank you"

thor: god of thunder \$500+

our board

Karen Berkhout.....PRESIDENT
Ailsa Brown.....VICE PRESIDENT
Mitch Anderson.....TREASURER
Margaret Tom-Wing..... SECRETARY
Teresa Conway..... AT LARGE
Rory Gylander..... AT LARGE
Margo Venton..... AT LARGE
Linda Chinfen..... AT LARGE

our members

A warm welcome to all members, new and old! If you would like to become a member/donor please fill out and mail the insert included in this newsletter.

our staff

Cynthia Reid
Producing Manager

Kim Collier
Co-Artistic & Managing Director

Kevin Kerr
Co-Artistic & Managing Director

David Hudgins
Co-Artistic Director

Jonathon Young
Co-Artistic Director

Adrian Muir
Associated Designer

Christine Reimer
Associated Designer

Linda Gorrie
Bookkeeper

our company

Electric Company is a four-person collective that has steadily carved a national reputation through the creation of original works of theatre since 1996. Kim Collier, David Hudgins, Kevin Kerr, and Jonathon Young met in theatre school, where their common respect for physical spectacle, adventurous narrative, technology and visual art inspired the creation of their first show and the company that followed.

Wrapped in layers of visual and physical imagery, our plays, at their core, speak to audiences of an accelerated culture at an exhilarating rate.

Our stories grow out of issues, themes, or narratives that appear on our collective radar and are fed through a process of intensive research and aesthetic critique. We tune in to stories of personal and social transformation. We are excited by the role of technology in people's lives; how the impulse of invention continues to flow against the resistance to change.

We strive to create theatre that is life-affirming, inspiring and provocative, and to promote theatre as an educative, cultural, and by all means fun, experience.

With a fresh approach to the use of space in our storytelling we transform venue into narrative. Challenging the established conventions of creating theatre and watching theatre, the Electric Company constantly experiments with its own formulae.

We believe in theatre that is accessible: financially and thematically. Audiences are always at the forefront of our work.



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