



Tuesday, May 10, 2011

25+ YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

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*A DIVISION OF
Maple Leaf Theatre for
Social Responsibility*

*REGISTERED CHARITABLE NUMBER
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Dear: Regional Municipality of York, Community and Health Services Department,
Healthy Living Division Team,

Wendy Kirkos, Manager, Secondary School Services
Pat Chiappetta, Public Health Nurse, Secondary School Services
Sarah Jiao, Public Health Nurse, Elementary School Services
Zemeen Kabani, Public Health Nurse, Injury and Substance Misuse Prevention
Tina Russo, Public Health Nurse, Injury and Substance Misuse Prevention

It is my distinct pleasure to be writing to you to advise that **The Regional Municipality of York, Community and Health Services Department, Healthy Living Division** has been selected to receive the **2011 Shooting Star Award** by MCT's **2011 Awards Selection Committee**.

The Shooting Star Award is presented to a Mixed Company Theatre partner from the community, government, or business sectors with a proven commitment to Forum Theatre initiatives and a demonstrated long-term and embedded passion for educating, engaging, and empowering its stakeholders through all its actions.

In partnering with Mixed Company Theatre, the **York Region Community and Health Services** team has demonstrated a commitment to embracing new methods of educating and engaging youth about health issues.

Initiatives York Region Community and Health Services team contributed to include:

- Funded 30 York Region school performances of MCT's Healthy Living show, Project ACT during the 2010/2011 Educational Tour season

Project ACT is an interactive forum theatre presentation developed in consultation with youth and community partners and sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport, Healthy Communities Fund. Focusing on physical activity, healthy eating, and substance misuse prevention, Project ACT helps students in grades 7-9 recognize and overcome the blocks, excuses, barriers and deflections that can prevent them for leading active, healthy lives.

- Assigned facilitators for each school performance of Project ACT.

Facilitators actively participated and furnished appropriate and timely community and health services information and resources to youth during and after the forum segment of each school performance. (Forum = the after play interactive audience engagement and discussion portion)

- Generously shared experience, knowledge, and resources integral to the Research & Development portion of MCT's annual community initiative.

Funded by the City of Toronto and in partnership with School Action Teams (formerly Empowered Student Partnerships - ESP), MCT's 2011 community initiative project was dubbed the "The Compass Project." This project joins MCT artists and youth who have experience with substance use to develop an original, interactive and issue-based play over a three week creative intensive period. The resulting play, "Tree Amigas" spotlights the teen world today where confusion and impaired judgment takes hold of youth who want to "fit in." Experimentation with substance use can result, often inviting consequences that cannot be erased or resolved.

engage • educate • empower



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This year, there were **six (6) Candidates put forward as Shooting Star Award hopefuls**. This list was reduced to **three (3) finalists** by MCT Associate Artists and staff. Finalist applications were next put in front of the 2011 Awards Selection Committee to deliberate and select the **2011 Shooting Star Award Recipient**.

Committee Members are as follows (in alphabetical order)

- The Hon. Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.
- Sergeant Antonio Forchione, TAVIS, Toronto Police Service
- Mr. Craig Kielburger, Founder of Free the Children
- Ms. Catherine Maunsel, formerly with Ontario's Community Safety and Correctional Services
- Councillor Joe Mihevc, City of Toronto

The **2011 Shooting Star Award** will be presented at Mixed Company Theatre's **2nd Annual STARS Awards Gala**. We would be both honoured and delighted to have you attend the Awards Gala to receive your **2011 Shooting Star Award in person**. If there are other individuals at **York Region Community and Health Services** who would also like to be present to receive the award on behalf of your organization, we would ask you to extend an invitation to them as well.

Please RSVP to this invitation and include:

- Names of individuals who will be attending **MCT's 2011 - 2nd Annual STARS Awards Gala**
- A brief description of your Organization (1-2 sentences including the official / correct organization name) -to be read out during the Awards ceremony.
 - Note: MCT would be pleased to invite all members in your party to the podium to receive your much deserved award. In your RSVP, please indicate the name or names of those in your party who will be receiving the award.

Gala Day Notes:

- Upon arrival, Award recipients will be asked to report to the Gala Registration area.
- Venue Location and Schedule:

WHERE: Lower Ossington Theatre, 100 Ossington Avenue, Toronto, ON M6J 2Z4
WHEN: Friday, May 13, 2011 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

We look forward to seeing you on Friday, May 13th!

Maureen Verboom

Outreach & Communications
Coordinator

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