



The University of Winnipeg Department of Theatre & Film presents

TRUTH RECONFIGURED

March 23 – 26, 2022

Ensemble

Noah Boonov

Gennevieve Bourdeau

Kathleen Harland

Zanifa Rasool

Sarah Struthers

Director Claire Borody

Lighting Design Adam Parboosingh

Scenic Design..... Aaron Frost

All the video content used in the performance is the work of the Honours Devised Theatre Class.

Poster Design by Gennevieve Bourdeau and Sarah Struthers.

Cut and pasted by hand, digitally edited by Rylen C.S.

Running Time: approximately 85 minutes; no intermission.

We invite you to stay for a talk-back session immediately following each performance.

Warning: Mature Content

Production Staff

Sound/Projection/Lighting Operator..... Zambia Pankratz
PR Crew Gennevieve Bourdeau, Sarah Struthers
Video Floor Director..... Tori Popp
Video Operators Samantha Desiree, Liam Dutiaume, Katie Hoppa
House Management David Lange, Anna Verbytska
Set & Paint Crew Abigail Cerdon, Darlene Dela Cruz, Nurchen Lama,
Sadie Lowenthal, Alba Sawatsky, Carolin Schroeder,
Bennette Villones, Derick Vinsky, Joshua Warsylewicz
Lighting Crew Ademide Ade-Ogunade, Stanlee Arches, Dhruv Bahri,
Samuel Benson, Grace Lindblom, Aaron Simard,
Rohit Srinath, Mikayla West, Eric Zarecki, Li Zhu

Acknowledgements

The company would like to thank
Marsha Knight and Ben Robinson Hoppa
for their generous contribution to this project.

For the University of Winnipeg

Department Chair..... Christopher Brauer
Production Co-ordinator Allison Loat
Assistant to the Production Co-ordinator..... Colin Wiens
Master Carpenter/Production Instructor Aaron Frost
Assistant to the Master Carpenter Khaeler Bautista
Production Instructor Randy Harder

Director's Note:

“Although the voices on the other side may be loud, it is a powerful thing to have the facts.”

Lee McIntyre

We live in a complicated time. Since March of 2020 life as we knew it changed, and changed and changed again. Isolated from the everyday lives that we – as citizens of the world – once took for granted, we became witnesses to atrocities embedded in our socio-political system that could no longer be avoided. It has been a time, not only to re-think and reconfigure and reset our views of what kind of world we want to live in, but to take a stand personally and to demand action from those in power. In doing so we need to examine our own personal truths and what drives them.

Concepts such as “post-truth”, “alt-fact” and “fake news” did not exist a decade ago but currently have very real ramifications on every-day life. Social media has sped up the transmission of vague and unproven information. What is to be done? Do we throw our hands in the air and concede that this is simply how the world is now? I, for one, don't believe so.

Themes and ideas for Devise Theatre ensemble shows generally emerge from my experiences and reflections in the time between developing shows every two years. The past two years have seen travel and project work frozen and interaction with the world at large limited to screens of various sizes. A global pandemic of unprecedented proportions. Race riots protesting blatant disregard for human life. Evidence supporting the genocide that Indigenous communities have known for decades. Communities divided by positions on science. Conspiracy theories. Irreversible damage to our eco-systems that were reported as early as the late 1970's. Most recently, the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. It has been a lot to take in. Processing the information can often be overwhelming and distressing.

Truth Reconfigured is a collaborative effort with the goal of contributing to the conversations in the world: mainly to ask questions rather than provide answers. The creative process began with formal research on climate change, racism, conspiracy theory and other current developments in the world and that research served as a foundation from which to develop performance material. The performance logic is not a linear story but rather a kind of dreamscape – a collage of interactions with and responses to the prominent questions of the times – rather than a representation of the real world.

This is a performance for its time not only thematically but because of the tenacity and endurance that was required to complete this project. Collectively the company has endured a Covid hospitalization, serious illness, physical injury and Mother Nature blitzing us with snow storms that made just getting to rehearsal a major hurdle. Yet the company prevailed. If the cliché “what does not kill you makes you stronger” is indeed true then this is a group of young people on their way to affecting important change in the world.

The tenacity and sheer will to move forward has been so inspiring. It has been a joy and a privilege to witness each member of the company blossom as an artist, a human being and an activist. The company has emerged as a professional unit equipped to work through issues arising in collaboration and developing original material. They are a highly intelligent, creative, thoughtful, curious, and committed group of performers and they are very funny. This performance is a celebration of their achievements over the course of the year and a triumph over the difficulties experienced in the past two months. It was a remarkable year with a remarkable group of people. I wish them well as they set out on their next great adventure. I will miss them.

Claire Borody