



The Power of Performance **Public Energy**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday November 9, 2016

***Myrmidon* wraps up a month-long celebration of regional art-making**

November 30th-December 3rd at 8:00pm & December 4th at 2:00pm
at The Theatre On King

"It's the spirit in which he [Bernie Martin] made work... He really seemed to embody this 'just do it' spirit that we don't get enough of." –Kate Story

Myrmidon is a poetic one-act play, performed at the Theatre on King November 30th to December 4th as a part of a month long festival, A Certain Place: The Bernie Martin Festival, celebrating the life and work of local multidisciplinary artist Bernie Martin, who passed away in 1995.

Originally presented at the Union Theatre in 1995, by Writers Workshop Theatre, *Myrmidon* is the story of one woman's magical, mystical and mettlesome journey down a river. Directed by Ryan Kerr and featuring local performers Kate Story and Curtis Driedger, with costume design by Martha Cockshutt, this seasoned group of artists crafts a powerful, eye-catching experience in the unique setting of The Theatre On King.

Based in part on the Grimm fairytale "The Magic Flounder," this one-act play depicts the struggle to live with integrity in a world where one is doomed to fail. "He wrote it knowing he had terminal cancer, and the piece is imbued with that," says Story. "It feels very universal, because he deals with fairytales and magic in a poetic language, and there's so much humour" she adds.

In *Myrmidon*, Story performs the central role: a fisherman who rows a dory on an endless river. Story shares her trials and tribulations with a fiddler who accompanies her along the way, performed by acclaimed violinist Curtis Driedger, who starred in the original 1995 production.

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“It’s kind of a teaching piece for me about how to live, how to be alive – how to notice what matters and not really get lost these miserable details,” says Story.

Myrmidon was last presented by Public Energy’s Emergency festival in 2015. Partnering with Peterborough performance company Fleshy Thud, and A Certain Place: The Bernie Martin Festival, Public Energy brings back *Myrmidon* to The Theatre on King this November. Rather than move the production to a larger venue Story explains the value of the intimate 40+ seat Theatre On King: “That small space was what was really magical about the production,” confesses Story.

When asked what inspired Story to co-create the festival in Martin’s name, alongside collaborator Ryan Kerr, she explains: “He had this real impact on this relatively tiny area and group of individuals and artists in lots of different mediums.” Martin was a painter, puppeteer, musician, songwriter and playwright, and the festival goes to great lengths to highlight the multi-disciplinary nature of his work. “It’s the spirit in which he made work, the sheer volume of the work he made, and the number of disciplines that impresses me, and also the fact that his work continues to speak to people,” says Story. He really seemed to embody this ‘just do it’ spirit that we don’t get enough of,” Story adds.

One of the themes of the festival and the subject of a panel talk on November 17th is the question of the myths and realities of regional art-making. Story talks about her fear that regional artists are often left out of our cultural histories in this country. She says: You know a lot of (regional) artists make work and don’t ever get much beyond a local milieu, and I think that’s just fine on one level, but on the other level kind of heartbreaking.”

Public Energy and Fleshy Thud are proud to present this unique performance at **The Theatre On King** for a **five day run November 30-December 3 at 8pm and December 4th at 2pm.**

Tickets for are available in advance for the December 1-4 performances from the Market Hall Box Office. Online at www.markethall.org or call 705-749-1146. Tickets are \$15 (a service charge will apply). For the November 30th performance tickets are pay-what-you-can.

Venue: The Theatre on King. 159 King Street. (Enter at rear of building off the parking lot.)

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Show Credits: **Playwright:** Bernie Martin, **Director:** Ryan Kerr, **Performer:** Kate Story, **Musician:** Curtis Driedger, **Costume and Set Design:** Martha Cockshutt.

For more information about A Certain Place: The Bernie Martin Festival please visit the Theatre On King website www.ttok.ca.

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Public Energy is a presenter and animator of contemporary dance, theatre, performance, and interdisciplinary work. Their work is dedicated to supporting the creation, touring, and presentation of innovative contemporary performance arts, and to developing audiences that are knowledgeable and passionate.

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