

Many thanks to our season sponsors

J.P. Bickell Foundation

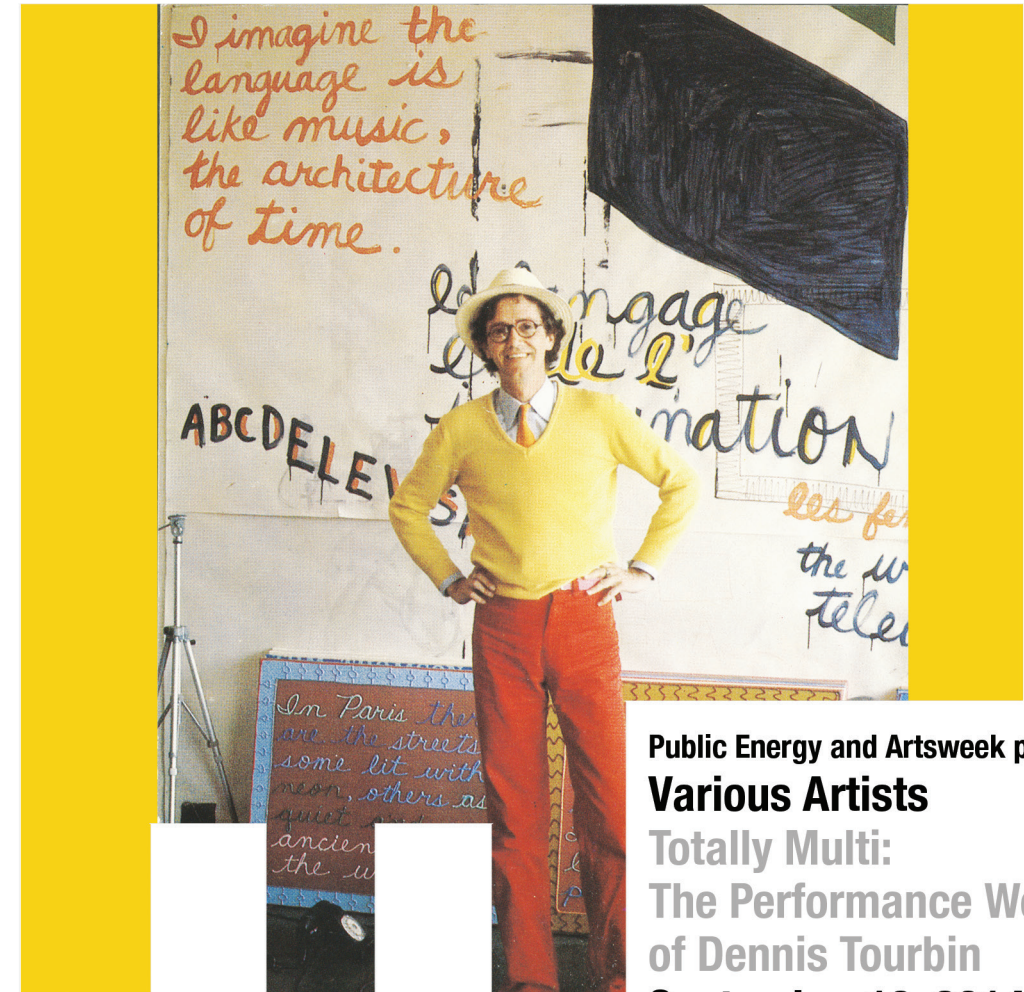
artbox.ca
websites | social media | mobile apps



The LINK
ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • LIFESTYLE



CHRISTENSEN FINE ART
GALLERY FRAMING RESTORATION



Public Energy and Artsweek present
Various Artists
Totally Multi:
The Performance World
of Dennis Tourbin
September 13, 2014
Market Hall, Peterborough
publicenergy.ca

Totally Multi

The Port Dalhousie Stories, Chapter 1, by Dennis Tourbin
Toronto, Coach House Press, 1987
read by Bill Kimball

Oh, Mr. Nixon, You Never Saw Such Missiles by Ian McLachlan
read by Ian McLachlan with Michael Morse, bass

Bay St., Ottawa by Dennis Tourbin
from *In Hitler’s Window*, Ottawa, The Tellem Press, 1991
read by Ian McLachlan with Michael Morse, bass

True Love 2:06 by Dennis Tourbin
unpublished, circa 1980
performed by Kate Story

SiriusB by Kate Story

Pamela Danforth by Dennis Tourbin
from *Walking Out of Life*, Audio-Book, Ottawa, ABCDELEVISION, 1985
performed by Ryan Kerr with the CeeDees

Phase One by Ryan Kerr

Teenagers On A Joy Ride Straight to Hell by Reverend Ken and Washboard Hank

A Visit From the Reverend Bobby Angel on his 2014 Miracle Crusade
from *Gimme That Prime Time Religion* by Robert Winslow

Dennis Tourbin: A Portrait by Victor Coleman
read by Bob Nasmith

What I Know About History by Dennis Tourbin
Ottawa, ABCDELEVISION, 1997
read by Elizabeth Chitty

intermission – 15 minutes

PUBLIC ENERGY

is an animator of contemporary dance, theatre, performance and interdisciplinary work. Since 1994 we have presented a mainstage series of artists drawn from across Canada, commissioned new work in concert with other Canadian presenters on the CanDance Network, and supported the development of the local dance, theatre and performance community by presenting area artists, arranging specialized classes and workshops, and hosting numerous educational activities

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Chisholm (Chair), Charmaine Eddy (Treasurer), Sarah Gencey (Secretary), Mark Seasons, Reem Yasswi, Bill Kimball

SUPPORTERS

Geothermal (\$1000+)

Barbara Chisholm & Thomas Miller, Charmaine Eddy & Norm Slater, Sarah Gencey & Rob Wilkes, Martha & Richard Whatley

Hydrogen (\$500+)

Jim Angel, Simone Georges & Peter Bialogrecki, Laurie Thomson

Wind (\$100+)

Jim Abel, Cath Adele, Fred Begg, Deborah & Michael Berrill, Shirl Delarue & Joanne Brown, Nadine Changfoot, Julia & Philip Cockshutt, Curtis Driedger & Barbara Ratz, Margaret Cockshutt, Patricia Dixon, Gordon & Adele Finney, Jim and Isabel Henniger, Joan Kimball, Jonothan Fiddler, Rob Fortin & Susan Newman, Rosemary Ganley, Julia Harrison, Jo Hayward-Haines, Veronica Hollinger, Janet House, Sarah Lawson & Jagger Smith, Carol Love, Louis & Judith MacLellan, Tom McHugh & Cathy Flindall, Porf. E.M. Orsten, Catherine Owens, Patricia Quinn, Doug & Sigrid Rishor, Jyoti Sapra-Shannon, Joy Simmonds & Colin MacAdam, Alan & Linda Slavin, Rob Steinman, Jane Stewart, Ravi-Inder Soligo, John Wadland

Solar (\$25+)

Mary Lynn Anderson, Karen August, Bethune St. Brain Trust, Liliana & Mitch Brownstein, Paul Clifford, Susan Cooper, Julie & Kirk Dillon, Janice Fortune, John & Joan Higginson, Sheena Howard, Catherine Jeffery, Rachel Lang, Brittany Lehmann-Bender, Janet McLeod, David Morrison, Dorothy Mulders-Langlois, Randy Read, Celeste Scopelites, Katherine Orgill & Bruce Scott, Wendy Trusler, Charlie & Jane Werger, D.M. & Eleanor Wyslouzil, Anonymous

STAFF

Artistic Producer	Bill Kimball
General Manager	Tara Lember
Development Director	Simone Georges
Bookkeeper	Susan Newman
Video Services	PowerHouse Digital Video
Technical Director	Ryan Kerr

What to know what’s next? Contact us at admin@publicenergy.ca, and we’ll send you the news.

www.publicenergy.ca



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO



Peterborough
City of

FUELLED BY PUBLIC ENERGY:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS

Are you an early-to-mid-career performing artist
with a need for professional development?

Can you share your skills with the public
through offering a workshop or class?

If the answer is YES to both, consider applying to
Public Energy's Professional Development Support program.

PE will award a number of professional development grants
ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500.
Deadline: September 29, 2014

Visit publicenergy.ca

Call for Proposals Emergency #21

Public Energy's Festival of New Dance & Performance
by Peterborough-area artists March 26-29, 2015

Have you got an original performance
work you'd like to debut?

Dance, Performance Art, Physical Theatre,
Multi-Disciplinary Performance,
you name it.

Submissions deadline: November 17, 2014 at midnight
By mail: PO Box 2319, Peterborough, K9H 7Y8
By email: admin@publicenergy.ca



Free The Flamingos by David Ramsden
introduction by Dennis Tourbin from *Peterborough After Dark: The Best of Multicab*, videotape, 1981

Joe Stable's Slide Show
from *Peterborough After Dark: The Best of Multicab*, videotape, 1981

Michael Camp – *A Remembrance*

Walking Out of Life
from *Walking Out of Life*, Audio-Book, Ottawa, ABCDELEVISION, 1985
performed by The Art Tarts with the CeeDees

Amsterdam, Apocalypse Again by Dennis Tourbin
Peterborough, Ordinary Press, 1982
read by Catherine Jenkins

In Conversation with A Swinging Canadian Couple Vacationing in Florida, by Dennis Tourbin
from *Walking Out of Life*, Audio-Book, Ottawa, ABCDELEVISION, 1985
performed by The CeeDees with Marion Lewis as Cathy, Bob Nasmith as Barry,
Ron Gaskin as the interviewer

The Girl with Straw Blonde Hair by Ward Maxwell

Another Comma from *A Poem in Four Parts* by Dennis Tourbin
from *Walking Out of Life*, Audio-Book, Ottawa, ABCDELEVISION, 1985
performed by Michael Dennis and Ward Maxwell

Brussels (First Vision) for Mike Dennis by Dennis Tourbin
from *In Hitler's Window*, Ottawa, The Tellem Press, 1991.
read by Michael Dennis

Poem as Soundscape by Christine Nicholson and Sue Nelson
Three sections from *What I Know About History* by Dennis Tourbin, Ottawa, ABCDELEVISION, 1997
chair by Tobey C. Anderson, from the *Silken Twine Series*, 2013
painting by Dennis Tourbin, 1988

The Port Dalhousie Stories, Chapter 11, by Dennis Tourbin
Toronto, Coach House Press, 1987
read by Michael Dennis

Dance to ScratchMouth

Totally Multi: The Performance World of Dennis Tourbin

Totally Multi takes its name from the phrase Dennis would use to describe the most exciting event you could possibly go to. How great was that show Dennis? “Billy there was video and performance art and holograms and a band and it was so totally multi you wouldn’t have believed it not for a minute!!” That’s the spirit we hope will infuse this event.

Totally Multi is happening in conjunction with The Language of Visual Poetry, an exhibition of Dennis Tourbin’s work curated by Marcie Bronson and organized by Rodman Hall Art Centre/Brock University. The exhibit runs September 12 to November 2 at Artspace, together with Goodnight Irene: Dennis Tourbin on TV, a selection of Tourbin’s videotapes curated by Su Ditta. A debt of gratitude is owed to the Art Gallery of Peterborough which, together with Artspace, made the commitment early on to bring this exhibit to Peterborough; without their initiative, Public Energy would not have mounted this event. Also a huge thank-you to Nadia Laham, the keeper of Dennis’s flame, without whose eager cooperation and support we could not have produced Totally Multi.

It is worth noting that 3 institutions Dennis had affiliations with are having anniversaries in 2014: Artspace and the AGP are turning 40 and the building we are in tonight, the Market Hall, opened as an arts centre 30 years ago on November 9, with some of the same performances you see here tonight. Public Energy turns a modest 20 on November 17; while PE did not host a Tourbin show before he passed away, we like to think we are making up for lost time. Lost time. Lost. Time. Sounds like something Dennis might have said.

- Bill Kimball

For Totally Multi: Producer: Bill Kimball. Stage manager: Esther Vincent. Technical crew: Don White, Dave Bird, Angus MacDonald. Many thanks to Steve Rose and PowerHouse Digital for help rescuing old videotape and chronicling our events.

Coming up from Public Energy



elsewhere
the latest work from Heidi Strauss and her company, adelheid, features some of Canada’s best dancers - Danielle Baskerville, Miriah Brennan, Luke Garwood, Molly Johnson, Brendan Wyatt. Supported by a creation residency with Public Energy, elsewhere takes inspiration from the anthropological concept of ‘affect’ – our human capacity to affect, and be affected. In *elsewhere*, everyone is simultaneously together and alone; the reeling bodies are guided by a collection of experiences, leaving behind a sensory imprint of all that is changing, vital and fleeting.

WORKSHOP WITH HEIDI STRAUSS AND JEREMY MIMNAGH: FROM LENS TO SCREEN
A one day filmmaking intensive for artists, performers and filmmakers interested in collaborative filmmaking. October 11, 2014. Register admin@publicenergy.ca

BOTH SHOWS:
TICKETS: \$22 / \$15 students, underwaged / \$5 high school students
PRE-SHOW CHAT 7pm in the lobby.
POST-SHOW RECEPTION meet the artists in the lobby following the show.



eidolon
noun 1. an idealized person or thing. 2. a specter or phantom.

Bill James’ newest work is inspired by important relationships he has had throughout his life with those who have passed away. While it is his first full-length solo work, it can also be seen as a series of duets with conjured spirits and a duet with composer David Grenon, who creates both live music and architectural soundscapes. Also collaborating on the project is director Ruth Madoc-Jones, whose insightful work across disciplines has made her one of the most in-demand directors in the country.

Sue Nelson is a Peterborough maker of art and music, mother, thinker, peasant, seeker. Enjoyed late night walks and talks with Dennis about all of the above and more. He encouraged me to continue my quest for truth through art.

Christine Nicholson resides in legendary Port Dalhousie with Wingy where she writes, blogs, breathes, and plays the occasional guitar riff. Dennis’s encouraging artistic spirit has been with Christine since the Poetry Box project in 1979 through to his reading at NAC in 1997... and beyond.

David Ramsden is a musician, singer, actor and writer, whose greatest success was the concert series”Quiet, Please! There’s A Lady On Stage”. He met Dennis the same way everyone else did - in a bar.

In 1973 **Ken Ramsden** was an arts student when he found Dennis Tourbin carrying paintings into an art exhibition. Ken offered his help and a friendship was born. When Ken sang some songs written by himself and Washboard Hank at an Artspace event back in the Water Street days, Dennis liked them, said they were “fabulous” and encouraged them to do more. That was how it started for Ken and Hank. A couple of years later Ken and Washboard Hank began touring as street musicians, parodying televangelism as Reverend Ken and the Lost Followers. Dennis, aka ‘Twister’, was their occasional guest drummer.

ScratchMouth is the union of two bands integral to the Peter Robinson College/Peterborough music scene in the late 1970’s and early ‘80’s: Scratch and the Word Of Mouth Band. Five women from these two bands re-united this past August to play Trent University’s 50th reunion. Scratch was together for two decades in various incarnations, but always with **Sue Nelson** (vocals) at the helm. Rock-steady **Cindy Moser** (bass guitar) played in Scratch’s original line-up as well as W.O.M.B’s post-Trent manifestation in Toronto. In 1980, **Patti Blouin** (drums) **Jocelyn Grills** (lead guitar) and **Christine Nicholson** (rhythm guitar) won a talent show performing in a band called ‘Terry (McEvoy) & The Tights.’ With two other women (Lee Shropshire and Cindy Jamieson), the girlz moved on to form W.O.M.B., playing many distinguished venues, including the now extinct Kingston Prison for Women. The rest, as they say, is herstory. ScratchMouth is thrilled to play this evening in homage to ‘Twister’ who was always an encouraging, supportive voice back in the day.

Kate Story is a Peterborough-based novelist, short story writer, theatre writer, and dance-theatre performer with an addiction to collaboration. She never met Dennis and she sure wishes she could have.

Robert Winslow founded 4th Line Theatre in 1992. Beginning in the late 1970s, Robert worked in the local alternative theatre scene with such companies as The Magic Circus, Otonabee Theatre Co-op, City Stage and Rehearsal in Progress. In 1988 he founded an improvisational theatre company at the Market Hall (when it housed Artspace) called East City Productions, in which Dennis Tourbin performed occasionally. More importantly, Dennis was one of a group of artists who greatly encouraged Robert in his early performing and writing days. Without Dennis’s incredible support it is questionable whether Robert would have continued in theatre, first as an original member of the Union Theatre collective and then with 4th Line.

Dennis Tourbin: A Portrait

by Victor Coleman (2014)

Deny the hour of his birth with many fine and fiery Italian wines, with which we celebrated Every thought of this connexion rendered with a man of lower rank and origin obscure. Nearer though the capital was situated, both were buried in studies they strove to shun. Not a little time occupied my thoughts, but that is entirely forgotten proof of what I have been: Insignificant pictures of a common day, as in an interregnum, appear as spiritual powers as I Streamed thither from far and near, in order for people to share in the splendour of his lives. Truth, far as it is from that dissoluteness or unseemly principles, is by this course of conduct. Overwhelmed with repentance, their hearts would soften as they granted his last request to Understand their state of mind, those chosen men who enjoyed dreams, as well as you Remember every circumstance, and yet what did it signify? That they all dreamed soon after Birth? Even these songs are mere words and delusions, the most intricate constellations of orb- it. Inspired as they were by intercourse, proclaimed in the entrancing spiritual tones of Magi. Never had his feelings been so purely excited, his life an unending issue of the brightest sun.

Dennis Tourbin: A Portrait is a double acrostic. Dennis’s name is spelled out by the first and last letter of every line

Biographies

Born in 1946 and raised in St. Catharines, Ontario, **Dennis Tourbin** was a poet and self-taught artist. A pioneer of interdisciplinary practice in Canada, Dennis Tourbin produced a distinctive body of work integrating the written word with painting, drawing, video, and performance in an exploration of language and meaning. Conscious of how the immediacy of film and television changed the way we see, Tourbin viewed the printed word as an endangered species and sought to give it a new visual form, working in what he described as “the area between painting and literature.” His most well-known series of paintings, made in the 1990s, address the October Crisis of 1970 - a topic Tourbin explored intermittently from 1970 to 1997. His work has been widely exhibited in solo and group exhibitions throughout Canada and in Europe, and is held in major Canadian institutions including the National Gallery of Canada. He published numerous books of poetry and novels, including *The Port Dalhousie Stories* (Coach House Press, 1987), a chronicle of growing up in St. Catharines in the 1960s. A fervent arts activist, Tourbin played a vital role in artist-run culture in Ontario as a founding member of Niagara Artists’ Co-op (now Niagara Artists Centre) in St. Catharines (1969), a founding member of Artspace in Peterborough (1974), Spokesperson for Canadian Artists Representation Ontario (1977-79), and Director of Gallery 101 in Ottawa (1986-87). Tourbin died in 1998 at the age of 51.

Allie (Fawn) Hearn was part of the underground Art Tart collective in her younger years, which shot to regional fame as a result of their Svengali and biggest fan, Dennis Tourbin. Despite her best efforts, Fawn has never managed to recapture the rush of those heady days.

Catherine Jenkins, a Peterborough native now living in Toronto, is a widely published writer of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and is just finishing her PhD in Communication and Culture. She met Dennis Tourbin when she was nine and he became her creative mentor, publishing her first work, when she was 12, in Parachute and The Poetry Box.

Bill Kimball has been working behind the scenes in the Peterborough performing arts world since 1980. Dennis gave him his first chance to see the great wide world of Canadian theatre when he asked him to manage and produce his tour to the Fifth Edmonton Fringe festival in 1986.

Ryan Kerr is the artistic director of Fleshy Thud and the Theatre On King. He has been creating theatre and dance in Peterborough since 1993. He is currently working on his first work of creative non-fiction, Phase One.

Media performance artist **Marion (aka Marien)Lewis** is a pioneer of artist-run culture in Canada (A Space, VideoCabaret, the Hummer Sisters and more). She met Dennis while helping to start CAR, Canadian Artists Representation, an organization for which Dennis worked tirelessly, using his gifts to communicate with a joyous heart while rallying artists and bureaucrats alike into action, thus creating the legacy we have today: exhibition fees paid to artists.

Ward Maxwell’s writing can be read at wardmaxwell.com, which sheds a light on the newest work and the past work of his fellow Peterborough Poets, of which Dennis was a leading light. “Dennis was a friend, an inspiration, and showed me every imaginable kindness. I was fortunate to perform with Dennis several times and each time was great. You could not go wrong with Dennis on stage — he was, and always will be, the Twister!”

Ian McLachlan is a Trent University professor and was the head of Peter Robinson College at Trent in the late 1970s when he turned the college into a vital part of the Peterborough arts scene, hosting exhibitions and events by many Peterborough artists, not least among them Dennis Tourbin. “I remember going to Montreal with Dennis in November 1976 to check out the sites of the FLQ crisis; we went to a Chicago-Habs game at the Forum, a first for both of us, but Dennis found the actual game “too unreal” and ended up watching most of it on TV in the bar.”

Bob Nasmith, a St Catharines boy and professional actor, worked with Dennis on his first painted play, The Writing of the Painting of Martha, at Theatre Passe Muraille in 1976. Older than Dennis, he nevertheless spent a lot of time fishing with the young Tourbin, which continued sporadically until his passing...silver bass at Port Dalhousie and Niagara, trout on Baxter Creek, pickerel in the Kawarthas, wall and performance art in Ottawa.....not a bad combination of the things we love....never shared a girlfriend, though.

The Art Tarts are Fawn (Alison Hearn), Erela (Martha Cockshutt) and Christ (Kristy Eldredge). They are best known for their anti-performances ‘Feminist Symphony’, from the revue ‘Journey to the Centre of the Psyche’ by Kristy Eldredge (1980), and ‘Walking Out of Life’ by Dennis Tourbin (1981).

Michael Camp was involved in the local theatre scene when he became friends with Dennis in the late 1970s. Michael loved everything Dennis painted, and Dennis liked Michael’s acting, and together with the - unclassifiable - Bill Kimball, they developed a multi-media performing arts program at Artspace in the early 1980s called City Stage. Michael left after one year and became a CBC producer, forever inspired by Dennis’s strange and enchanting method of getting unexpected and thoroughly enlightening things to happen.

Curtis Driedger, along with **Douglas Cameron**, founded new wave band the **CeeDees** in 1979, and found an early and ardent supporter in Dennis Tourbin, who wasted no time including the group in some of his performance work. Without this input and encouragement from Dennis, the CeeDees might have been just another bar band.

Elizabeth Chitty is an interdisciplinary artist whose work is currently showing in two exhibitions. One is at Rodman Hall in St. Catharines which famously refused to show Dennis Tourbin’s toilet piece in 1970. The other is at Art Gallery of York University, which includes a video document of her performance Demo Model, which was part of a series of video performances in 1978 called Teleperformance. Dennis also performed in Teleperformance. A St. Catharines native and resident, she first met Dennis at an ANNPAC meeting in about 1976.

Martha Cockshutt has been working at working at working in the arts since 1980. “Beef with Vegetable and / garlic – Erella / Chicken Vegetable – Fawn / Chicken Gumbo – Jodo / The hope is in the / creative act. / Rough notes.” from *Postscript to Time on TV*, part of *An Incomplete History of Canadian Art or Art According to Gossip* by Dennis Tourbin.

Michael Dennis is a poet from Peterborough who has published twenty-something books. “I met Dennis in the late 70s and was on the board of directors of Artspace with Dennis and David and Bill when Artspace moved from Hunter Street to the Market Hall. Later on in Ottawa we were both on the board for Gallery 101. Dennis was the best man at my wedding. How do you like me now?”

Kristy Eldredge is a writer living in NYC whose humour has appeared in McSweeney’s, The Rumpus, and The Morning News, as well as The Arthur and The Kawartha Sun in Peterborough, back when she was pursuing a degree at Trent University and writing comedy and satirical sketches for her artistic friends to perform. She says “Dennis was a great drinking partner, a natty dresser, and a free spirit back before that term became cliché.”

A presenter and producer, **Ron Gaskin** aka Rough Idea, has been showcasing jazz and other creative music from a local, national, and international roster of composers, players, and performers since the 1970s. He says Dennis saved his life when he rescued him from a vat of Cap’n Crunch cereal in East City.