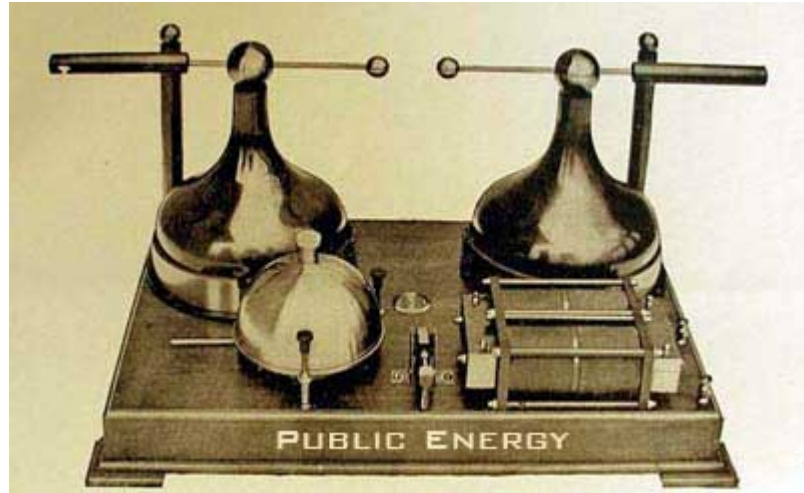


Public Energy presents
Alternating Currents
works in progress

The Market Hall
336 George St. N.
Sun. January 20, 2008
4 pm
Free



Dramaturge, n: a specialist in the techniques of dramatic composition and representation.

How do you make a play? Do you just sit down and write a script, or are there other ways to bring theatrical ideas to life? Public Energy is bringing in award-winning theatre director and performer Ker Wells to help answer some of these questions with our new program Alternating Currents. He'll spend a few days with four different local projects, all of them approaching theatre in ways that go beyond, behind, and even beneath the traditional sit-down-and-write-a-script approach. Theatre artists Dy Gallagher, Emily Glasspool, Patti Shaughnessy, Kate Story, and Esther Vincent, with collaborators, will brave a physical dramaturgical process and gain the tools to help them develop new works. Three weeks, four projects, one wild dramaturgical ride.

Ripple Effect (working title - formerly *Spin*)

Inspired by the parallels between quantum physics, popular psychology, and World War II submarine warfare, writer and director Esther Vincent worked with Ker and local dancers Ryan Kerr and Max Price to begin developing a work based on shifting physical relationships in space and psychological denial. Alternating Currents allowed the artists time to experiment physically with ideas, develop text, and stage a 15-minute section of the work.

Irish stew (working title)

Artists Dy Gallagher, Patti Shaughnessy, and Kate Story have been working since November 2006 to develop a new theatre work. The main characters are three first cousins; the setting is the aftermath of the wake of their maternal grandmother. Having developed backstory for the three main characters using their own family histories, sketched out backbone narrative material, and received some initial development funding from OAC's Theatre Creators' Reserve, they were in need of a director to help them shape their material. Alternating Currents allowed them to fully develop three scenes. The artists found the experience so positive that they are seeking funding to bring on Ker to help them develop the rest of the work.

Amakii Nagamwinong

Theatre artist and Centre for Indigenous Theatre graduate Patti Shaughnessy brought her work *Amakii Nagamwinong* to Alternating Currents, which had already seen three months of development with theatre artist Mark Christmann (through an internship program provided by CIT), developing a narrative she created based on an Ojibwe legend around love medicine. Working with Ker she further developed the script, explored the possibility of the work as a solo performance, developed characters, and began a physical exploration of the work. Themes include love, fear, the destruction of water beings, and the historical transition from traditional ways to Christianized ways of thinking. Patti has applied for further development funding for the piece, with Ker as director.

The Black Diamond

Director and writer Em Glasspool took part, in 2006, in a playwrighting workshop led by Tomson Highway (sponsored by O'Kaadenigan Wiingashk Collective, a collective of local multidisciplinary artists committed to inspire and develop performing arts activities in the area by inviting senior Indigenous artists to share their experiences and talents with local Anishnaabe communities). Inspired by the workshop and the playwrighting techniques of Highway, Glasspool went on to write a first draft of her own play *The Black Diamond*. Workshop funding from the OAC enabled a workshop process with a director and three actors.

Alternating Currents presented the opportunity for a second intensive workshop phase of the script, with actors Patti Shaughnessy, Kate Story, and Tim Walker, with the essential guidance of Ker as dramaturge. The work achieved during Alternating Currents helped ground the play in the physical and image-based creation process which initiated the text. The play was produced here in Peterborough in May 2008 through Glasspool's company Mysterious Entity.