Collective Disruption Biographies

Susan Applewhaite – Actor
Susan is an actor, musician, and theatre creator. Favourite theatre credits include: Amadeus, Trip to Bountiful, A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, Steeletown, Downtown. Susan is thrilled to be working with Julia and this talented group on this new piece about dementia, which is so challenging and so important.

Lindsay Anne Black – Set and Costume Design
Lindsay Anne has designed sets and costumes for theatre and dance of all sizes, from independent to commercial, both scripted and devised. She has regularly led workshops in high schools as well as at Canadian Stage, Tarragon Theatre, and the Sears Drama Festival. Two of her costumes have been on display at the Design Exchange. She was the recipient of the 2007 Pauline McGibbon Award, and five Dora Award nominations, though never a bride.

Sherry L. Dupuis, Ph.D. – Researcher
Sherry is a Professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies and the Co-Principal Investigator of the Partnerships in Dementia Care Alliance at the University of Waterloo. Informed by over 30 years of professional and research experience working with persons with dementia and their care partners, Sherry’s research program uses participatory approaches as a means of promoting culture change in dementia care and ensuring the voices of persons with dementia and their care partners are actively included in research, education, and practice. She explores the possibilities of arts-based research and alternative representations of research results in shifting images and understandings of dementia and actions in dementia care.

Julia Gray – Playwright and Director
Julia is a Toronto-based theatre director, playwright, and choreographer with a particular interest in creating new, collaboratively-developed theatre in applied settings. She has collaborated with health researchers on several plays based on health research, including After the Crash: a play about brain injury and Seeing the Forest about patient safety, co-written with Dr. Gail Mitchell. She has also worked with Canadian Stage Company, Mirvish Productions, Tarragon Theatre, Young People’s Theatre, The Charlottetown Festival as well as many independent theatre companies. Julia is pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Toronto.

Mark Huisman – Actor
Selected credits: The Things we do for Love (Odyssey Theatre), A Christmas Carol 2009-2014 (Humber River Shakespeare), The Financier (Odyssey Theatre), Do Not Disturb and Fair Play (Theatre Collingwood), Pierrot and the Moon (Metaphysical Theatre), The Hobbit (The Grand Theatre), Kissing Swinburne (Lady Trevelyan’s Circle), A Guy Named Joe, Scapin, The Wedding and The Illusion (Odyssey Theatre), Silly Old Men and Survive the Great Outdoors (Theatre Beyond Words), August in the Underworld (Marchlight Films). Mark’s selected film and T.V. credits include: Mayday (Cineflix), GPS Love (Moxie Productions), Dangerous Persuasions (Raw TV and eOne) Flashpoint (Pink Sky Ent./ Avamar Ent.), Trapped (Cineflix), The Magic Flute (Sullivan Entertainment), The Third Miracle (Franchise) and White Lies (CBC). Upcoming: August in the Underworld (Marchlight Films).
**Christine Jonas-Simpson, Ph.D. – Researcher**

Christine is an Associate Professor of Nursing at York University, the Director/Chair of the York-UHN Nursing Academy and the Director of the Dotsa Bitove Wellness Academy for persons living with dementia. She has conducted arts-based research since 1997 through music, drama, paintings, and documentary film. Her program of research focuses on how humans live, transform, and grow with loss and grief in their lives. Christine has partnered in care and research with persons and families living with dementia for 30 years. She is thrilled to be part of the movement that is shifting the discourse and culture of dementia care from tragedy and isolation to possibility and relationships through the use of narrative and arts-based methods. Christine lives with her husband, sons, and a very active puppy in Toronto.

**Lori Nancy Kalamanski – Actor**

Lori Nancy is grateful to be a part of this production. It has been a powerful, touching and educational experience for her and has enlightened her relationships with family members living with dementia. She is humbled to use her skills as an actor, singer and theatre creator to explore this important topic with audiences. As an artist, she has performed internationally in theatre, voice-over, film & tv, and will next be appearing in the audience-interactive play, Dance Marathon (bluemouth inc., UK and Germany tour). She is also looking forward to touring Canadian folk festivals and agricultural fairs this year as a member of the super cool kids band: Sing Along Tim and The Pacifiers – with fellow cast member, Tim Machin.

**Pia Kontos, Ph.D. – Researcher**

Pia is a Senior Scientist at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute-University Health Network and Associate Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Central to her program of research is the transformation of the culture of dementia care so it is more humanistic and quality enhancing for individuals living with dementia, their families, and health care practitioners. She draws significantly on the arts for their emotive and expressive nature, specifically music, dance, and improvisational drama to enrich the lives of individuals living with dementia. Research-based drama and film are also drawn upon as novel approaches to affecting both personal and social change.

**Elizabeth McDermott - Stage Manager**

Based out of Toronto, stage management is a career change for Elizabeth after many years with the City of Toronto. Theatre credits include: A City, Divisadero (Necessary Angel), Comfort (Red Snow Collective), Shakespeare in Love, The Hypochondriac, The Sound of Music, The Taming of the Shrew, Love’s Labour’s Lost, As You Like It, King of Thieves (Stratford Festival), Bella: The Colour of Love (HGJTC) Anne of Green Gables The Musical, Canada Rocks! (Charlottetown Festival), Othello, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Twelfth Night, All’s Well That Ends Well, (St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival), The Road to Paradise, Night (Human Cargo), The Barber of Seville (Soulpepper), Night of the Living Dead Live (Nictophobia), Falling: A Wake (Blyth Festival), Old Man and The River, Red Kite Project, Binti’s Journey, Head à Tête (Theatre Direct), Danny, King of the Basement (Roseneath Theatre), Yellowman (Nightwood Theatre/Obsidian Theatre), Late, Black Medea (Obsidian Theatre), Foto (The Orange Company).
**Tim Machin – Actor, Musical Director and Composer**

Tim is an actor/musician/writer. He has worked in the UK, Europe and Canada. Highlights from the UK and Europe include weekly rep in Frinton and Sheringham, a UK tour with the Reduced Shakespeare Company, and European tours with TNT Theatre. In Canada he has worked at Chemainus Festival Theatre and Caravan Farm Theatre in BC, Catalyst Theatre in Alberta and on tour across Canada. In Ontario he spent three seasons with Driftwood Theatre and bits and pieces elsewhere including work for Theatre Direct. With his band, Sing Along Tim and the Pacifiers he has played at various folk festivals and fairs across Ontario including the Mariposa Folk Festival and the Montreal Folk Festival.

**Mary Ellen MacLean – Actor**

Mary Ellen works across the country performing, directing, and teaching theatre. She studied with master teacher Tony Montanaro at the renowned Celebration Barn Theatre in Maine, USA. She was a founding member of the Halifax physical theatre ensemble, Jest in Time, with whom she toured worldwide with for 20 years, as well as starring in three national CBC television specials with the company. Her one-woman play, Frankie, toured across Canada and aired on Bravo TV. Some TV/film credits include: Hatching, Matching and Dispatching, Wilby Wonderful, Wound-Up, Made in Canada, Liocracy, and Shattered City. Nova Scotia Merritt Theatre Awards: Twenty Years of Theatre Excellence (Jest in Time); Best Production (Trip-Jest); nominations for Best New Play (Frankie), and Best Actress (Trip, Frankie). She recently performed in Emily's Piano at YPT and in Castor and Sylvia at Summerworks 2015 and is developing a new play entitled Lower and Slower Please: the ins and outs of hearing loss.

**Gregory McLaughlin - Stage Manager**

Gregory is an emerging Stage Manager who splits his time between Ontario and the Maritimes. Stage Manager: Oleanna (Matchstick Theatre); All for Love, Pith! (Windsor Theatre); Willy Wonka (Garnet & Gold Musical Theatre Society). Apprentice Stage Manager: Breath of Kings Rebellion & Redemption (Stratford Festival); Bombay Black (Factory Theatre); Our Eliza, By the Dark of the Moon, Making Contact, Diligent River Daughter (Ships’ Company Theatre). Film/TV: This Hour Has 22 Minutes.

**Gail J. Mitchell, Ph.D. – Researcher**

Gail is a Professor of Nursing at York University. Her research interests include arts-based methodologies for creating and translating knowledge. She has worked with persons and families living with memory loss for more than 30 years and believes society can help diminish the suffering of those living with dementia by changing the attitudes, images, and understandings of what it is like to live with dementia. She is also innovating and investigating technologies for e-learning, education, and networking.

**Aynsley Moorhouse, MFA, MSW – Dramaturge / Assistant Director**

Aynsley is a Toronto-based artist and a social worker at the Alzheimer Society of Toronto. Aynsley specializes in dementia and the arts, and her particular interest lies in how creative engagement can lead to personal growth, meaningful interactions, and social change. Aynsley has presented her work in university classrooms, hospitals, academic conferences, arts festivals and on CBC Radio, challenging assumptions about aging and dementia.
Claire Frances Muir – Actor
Selected credits: The Merry Wives of Windsor (Humber River Shakespeare), Asylum by the Lake (Manic Prod.), A Christmas Carol 2008 - 2014 (Humber River Shakespeare), Kissing Swinburne (LTC), Bungsu and the Big Snake (Odyssey Theatre), Survive the Great Outdoors (Theatre Beyond Words), Peter Pan (The Grand Theatre), Cinderella (Port Hope Festival Theatre), Sylvia (Trihal Productions and Festival Antigonish), The Miracle Worker, Sylvia (Theatre North West), A Guide to Mourning (Great Canadian Theatre Company), Serious, Reefer Madness The Musical (B.A. Productions), Oliver Twist, The Stone Angel (Alberta Theatre Projects), Cruel Tears, Romeo & Juliet, Nicholas Nickleby, Mirror Game (The Globe Theatre), A Christmas Carol, Cyrano de Bergerac (Theatre Calgary). Upcoming: August in the Underworld (Marchlight Films).

Robin Munro – Stage Manager/Production Coordinator
Robin is originally from Nova Scotia and has been living in Toronto for the past four years. Recent credits include (as stage manager): The Tempest, The Turn of the Screw (Two Planks and a Passion Theatre), True (Criminal Theatre), The Charge of the Expormidable Moose (One Little Goat Theatre); (as apprentice): Much Ado About Nothing, Waiting Room, An Enemy of the People, The Valley (Tarragon Theatre), Sultans of the Street (YPT), New Jerusalem (Harold Green Jewish Theatre), Crazy for You (Theatre by the Bay) and Stockholm (Seventh Stage Theatre).

Mark Prince – Co-Creator
Mark is a graduate of the Teaching and Training Program at George Brown College, is TESL Canada certified, and holds an honours degree in Theatre from the University of Windsor in Ontario. He trained as a member of the Acting Company and Young Company at the Stratford Festival of Canada for two seasons where he studied with some of Canada’s top voice and text coaches. In Europe, Mark performed with Munich-based TNT Theatre Britain, a movement and music-integrated theatre company that produces English theatre in dozens of countries spanning four continents. Mark is also an educator, and, as such, is motivated by theatre’s great potential as a provocative teaching tool. He is a founding member of Ruckus Ensemble, a theatre company dedicated to producing After the Crash: a play about brain injury, which helps to raise awareness about the traumatic brain injury experience. Mark was instrumental in developing the character of Clay for Cracked.

Alan Sapp – Actor
Alan has lived and worked in Kitchener since moving to Canada with his family in 1992. He received his training, education and did his early theatre work in the States. Alan was a member of the ensemble of Theatre & Company and a founding member of Lost & Found Theatre, both in Kitchener, where he performed, directed and ran a training program for students. He just finished directing "The Wizard of Oz" at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, where he also teaches grade 10/11 drama. In 2009, Alan joined the team that created "The Last Fifteen Seconds" presented by MT Space. He originated the role of Moustapha Akkad, the filmmaker and producer who was killed in a suicide bombing in 2004. Alan has also worked with Odyssey Theatre in Ottawa. Some favourite roles: Donald Jackson in "Three in the Back, Two in the Head", Henry II in "The Lion in Winter", Vanya in "Uncle Vanya", Pozzo in "Waiting for Godot", Caliban in "The Tempest" and Godfrey in "Queen Milli of Galt", a role he originated. Alan is happy and excited to be a part of the "Cracked" team!
David Talbot – Actor

David is honoured to contribute to the conversation about dementia in this unique forum. His exposure to dementia came first with the diagnosis of a beloved family member and then through professional work as a standardized patient at The Reitman Centre for Alzheimer’s Support and Training at Mt Sinai Hospital, helping care givers develop strategies for supporting a family member with dementia. As an actor, David has worked in theatres across the country and on numerous film and television projects. David would like to dedicate his performance to his Dad. He carries him with him always.