

# THEATRE DIRECT

EXCEPTIONAL THEATRE FOR **YOUNG** PEOPLE

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## ***Theatre Direct to host two innovative interactive art experiences for Scotiabank Nuit Blanche 2011***

Innovative theatre for young audiences company **Theatre Direct** teams up with dynamic sound art and media artists For Scotiabank Nuit Blanche 2011 at the Artscape Wychwood Barns.

From Sunset to Sunrise, Theatre Direct's Wychwood Theatre and Christie Studio will be brimming with sound, image, design and intriguing ideas from cutting edge, experimental companies *New Adventures in Sound* and *Playground Studios*.

### **Night Light Travels by Ben Chaisson & Beth Kates** in the **Wychwood Theatre**

Award-winning media artists Ben Chaisson and Beth Kates of Playground Studios created ***Night Light Travels***. Looking at the night-time world through a child's eyes, the **Wychwood Theatre** will be transformed into lively interactive installation that takes the audience on a journey through the secret world children perceive when they get to stay up late. Filled with beautiful projections and delightful soundscapes, audiences can journey to the moon and beyond, and explore what goes bump in the night.

The installation uses sound, special effects, theatrical lighting, and striking large-scale projected images created by the artists, and including extensive 3D mapping. With the use of live cameras, participants will be able to interact with, and become a part of the constantly shifting projections. Hidden triggers activated by the audience make comets, meteors, and mysterious objects appear around the room. With everyone playing together, the room becomes a beautiful dreamscape, evolving as people move through the space.

Artist Ben Chaisson says this about the project: *"Creating a space that evokes the emotion and nostalgia for what it felt like as a child when one was allowed to stay up past their bed-time, **Night Light Travels** allows both children and adults to explore the secrets of this special nighttime world."*

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### **Audio Graffiti by Zack Settel and Mike Wozniowski (Montreal)** in **The Christie Studio**,

Audio Graffiti, a multi-person sound/music installation, explores novel modes of interaction with sound and space. Set in an indoor space in front of a long wall, several mobile users may "tag" the wall with vocal or instrumental sounds. As a user moves about the wall, he/she experiences a changing sonic perspective or mixture of the wall's sounds.

**Zack Settel Co-Creator**, studied at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts, Valencia, USA) with **Leonard Stein** and **Morton Subotnick** towards a BFA in music composition, and **Mel Powell** towards a MFA in composition. He composes concert pieces, musical theater, dance and for the media (film, video and television). He has lived in Paris (France) since the fall of 1986. He entered IRCAM initially as a Fulbright grantee and, afterwards, with a grant from the French government. He has been musical assistant at IRCAM until 1995. He now works in the

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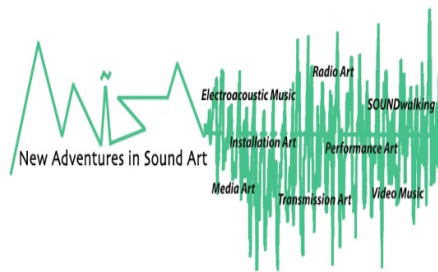
area of computer music, working with companies such as Yamaha, Avid and Nagra-Lysis, and for other composers such as **Luciano Berio** and **Vinko Globokar**.

**Mike Wozniowski Co-Creator** is a designer and developer of interactive software for the arts, with a focus on mixed reality technologies. As a freelance researcher, he maintains collaborations with several cutting edge institutions, and many creative minds who desire to push the boundaries of human-machine interaction.

## About Theatre Direct

[www.theatredirect.ca](http://www.theatredirect.ca)

Theatre Direct is one of the country's leading professional theatres dedicated to young audiences. Now in its 35th year, the award-winning company's productions tour locally, nationally and internationally. In 2009, Theatre Direct opened the doors to two new creation/education and performance venues in the Wychwood Barns where it engages a diverse community of families and over 30 local schools.



## About New Adventures in Sound

[www.naisa.ca](http://www.naisa.ca)

**New Adventures in Sound Art** is a non-profit organization that produces performances and installations spanning the entire spectrum of electroacoustic and experimental sound art. Through workshops, lectures, and demonstrations that teach a new perception of sound, New Adventures in Sound Art offers the opportunity to educate artists and audiences

both locally and abroad and expose them to the entire spectrum of innovative sound art and sound technologies, including work in a variety of artistic disciplines.

**PLAYGROUND  
STUDIOS**

## About Playground Studios

[www.playgroundstudios.org](http://www.playgroundstudios.org)

Toronto-based artists **Beth Kates** and **Ben Chaisson** are celebrated as leaders in the field of integrated design for the stage, with over 100 productions created between them. In 2010, NOW Magazine named them Toronto's hottest "design power couple". **Beth Kates** specializes in delivering complete production concepts where set, costumes, and props, are fully integrated with lighting, and projections. **Ben Chaisson** is an inventive sound, projection, and motion graphics designer who is renown for having set the standard for the seamless blending of moving image into a performance. Their body of work includes their installation *The ToyBox* (recipient of the 2011 Award of Technical Merit from the Canadian Institute of Theatre Technology), theatrical productions *Bigger Than Jesus*, *The Highest Step in the World*, *YICHUD (Seclusion)*, *Spin*, and *Dark Star Requiem*, as well as designs for various bands including *The ElastoCitizens*.

For more information on Scotiabank Nuit Blanche visit [www.scotiabanknuitblanche.ca](http://www.scotiabanknuitblanche.ca)

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