

# worldstage

© Harbourfront centre



## Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland (Newfoundland)

### *AFTERIMAGE*

Enwave Theatre  
231 Queens Quay West  
April 16-18 & 21-25, 8:00 p.m.; April 26, 2:00 p.m.  
\$30

Box office: 416-973-4000  
[www.harbourfrontcentre.com/worldstage](http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/worldstage)

For media inquiries: Cary Mignault | t + 416-973-4655  
[cmignault@harbourfrontcentre.com](mailto:cmignault@harbourfrontcentre.com)

## Table of Contents:

1. Production Notes and Overview .....	3
2. Company History .....	3
3. Biography .....	4
4. Performance History .....	6

## **Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland – *AfterImage***

### **Production Notes and Overview**

---

Set in the Newfoundland mining town of Buchans, *AfterImage* revolves around a family created and devastated by an accidental electrocution and unexpected adoption.

The key thematic elements in *AfterImage* are conductivity in electricity, and connectivity in families. In this production the eight-person-cast act as a musical chorus and operate the set as a musical instrument and a lighting instrument.

Using the members' combined expertise, *AfterImage* is a seamless unified production that experiments with music, lighting, set design, choreography and directing.

Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland has been developing a mathematically based choreography and directing system in order to produce very specific movement and sound instances on stage, like symphonic music but created with an actor's speaking voice, natural movement, technical elements and blocking. They call this device Kaleidography. It involves the pre-rehearsal charting of instances of stage. This charting, depending upon the show in question, and the nature of the instances being charted (i.e. text, blocking, or gesture) can be accomplished in many forms including, but not limited to, music notation, flow charts, grid diagrams, and music bar and beat breakdowns.

The set, designed by Shawn Kerwin, is composed of a structure made with hundreds of lines of wire and a floor made of conductive sheet copper. The overhead wires are charged with Positive DC current, and the floor is charged with Negative DC current. The lighting is created by utilizing halogen lights mounted on copper poles. The actor touches the tip of the pole to a wire and the bottom of the pole to the floor and becomes 'electric' by completing the circuit between the positive and negative forces.

Composer Jonathan Monro's musical score is used as the timing device for the physical score. Jonathan has designed a new instrument for the production that integrates guitar and piano wire in a harp like form that plays chameleon with the live DC current wires running the width of the stage.

### **Company History**

---

Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland is big edgy theatre from the edge of a big country.

The company was formed in St. John's Newfoundland in 1995. In the past twelve years the company has emerged as one of English Canada's most daring and innovative companies. The company marks the creative collaboration of

director/designer Jillian Keiley and playwright/actor Robert Chafe. Their work has played across the country and beyond to high acclaim, and in 2004 garnered Keiley the Siminovitch Prize in Theatre, Canada's largest arts award.

Artistic Fraud's award-winning creative and administrative teams specialize in large scale chorus based work, utilizing original music scores as a meter system to which all other stage action and text is synchronized; the result; a living, kaleidoscopic, musical stage where spectacle meets story.

Since their inception, the company has been developing a system of directing and performance called Kaleidography. Kaleidography involves the pre-rehearsal charting of instances on stage. This charting, depending upon the show in question and the nature of the instances being charted (i.e. text, blocking, or gesture) can be accomplished in many forms including music notation, flow charts, grid diagrams, and music bar and beat breakdowns. Each show presents unique opportunities and challenges for Kaleidography, and as a result this charting has to be as flexible in its written form as it is inflexible in its stage appearance.

Dedicated to developing and producing innovative and original work, Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland is at the helm of enhancing the reputation of Newfoundland artists across Canada and around the globe.

## **Biography**

---

### **Jillian Keiley - Artistic Director**

Jillian is the Artistic Director of Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland, winner of the Canada Council's John Hirsch Prize, the NLAC Emerging Artist Award, Calgary's 2006 Betty Mitchell Award for Directing and the 2004 Siminovitch Prize in Theatre.

Selected Artistic Fraud productions include *In Your Dreams Freud*, *Under Wraps: A Spoke Opera*, *The Cheat*, *Burial Practices*, *Belly Up*, *Fear of Flight*, *The Chekhov Variations* and *Emile's Dream*.

In 2002/2003 Jillian directed *Jack Five Oh for Sheila's Brush*, and *Tempting Providence* for Theatre Newfoundland Labrador (TNL), both of which continue to tour to national and international venues and festivals.

In 2006, Jillian staged the *Ann and Seamus Children's Opera* for Shallaway Youth Chorus, which toured to points in central Canada and the US, Ireland and Denmark.

Last October she directed *Orpheus* for Cork Opera works in Ireland. She is the director of *Tilt* with Teatro Sotteraneo in Florence, Italy, *Sailor Boy* with Ghost

River and The Old Trout Puppet Workshop in Calgary, Dr. Faustus with Queens University, and Metamorphoses with York University in Toronto.

This spring she produced and directed Fear of Flight for Artistic Fraud, which features a full a cappella score by Jonathan Monro. Jillian is the instructor for Chorus and Ensemble at The National Theatre School of Canada. She lives in St. John's, Newfoundland.

### **Robert Chafe – Artistic Associate**

Robert Chafe is an actor and playwright whose work has been seen across Canada, the UK, and Australia. He is the author of fifteen stage scripts and co-author of another ten. He frequently collaborates with director Jillian Keiley; Emptygirl, and Under Wraps: A Spoke Opera.

He has won numerous Newfoundland and Labrador Arts and Letters awards, and in 1999 the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council named him Emerging Artist of the Year.

Two of his plays (Tempting Providence and Butler's Marsh) were published in 2004 by Playwrights Canada Press and subsequently shortlisted for the Governor General's Award for Drama.

Tempting Providence, directed by Keiley and produced by Theatre Newfoundland Labrador, is entering its seventh year of touring, and has been nominated for two Betty Mitchell Awards (Calgary) and a Dora (Toronto). His stage adaptation of Michael Crummey's short story After Image premieres this spring at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto.

He has been a guest instructor at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, and The National Theatre School of Canada. He is currently working on a film adaptation of Tempting Providence, and his first novel. He is Artistic Associate and playwright for Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland.

### **Jonathan Monro**

Born and raised in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Jonathan started his career as a concept pianist and at the age of 16 was a feature soloist at Carnegie Hall. As an actor, he has been featured in over fifty professional productions for film, radio, television, and stage, including two shows on Broadway. He now lives in Toronto.

### **Michael Crummey**

Michael Crummey is a Canadian poet and writer who was born in Buchans, Newfoundland and Labrador. He began to write poetry while studying at Memorial University in St. John's, where he received a B.A. in English. He completed a M.A. at Queen's University but dropped out of the Ph.D. program to pursue his writing career.

Crummey won the Memorial University's Gregory J. Power Poetry Contest in 1986. In 1994, he became the first winner of the Bronwen Wallace Memorial Award for young unpublished writers, and his first volume of poetry, *Arguments with Gravity* (1996), won the Writer's Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award for Poetry. *Hard Light* (1998), his second collection, was nominated for the Milton Acorn People's Poetry Award in 1999. The publication of a collection of short stories, *Flesh and Blood*, and Crummey's nomination for the Journey Prize took place in 1998.

*River Thieves* (2001), Crummey's debut novel, became a Canadian bestseller, winning the Thomas Head Raddall Award, the Winterset Award for Excellence in Newfoundland Writing, and the Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Choice Award. It was also short listed for the Giller Prize, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, the Books in Canada First Novel Award, and the IMPAC Award. His second novel, *The Wreckage* (2005), has been long listed for the 2007 IMPAC Award.

Crummey's writing often draws on the history and landscape of Newfoundland and Labrador. The poems and prose in *Hard Light* are inspired by the stories of his father and other relatives, and the short stories in *Flesh and Blood* take place in the fictional mining community of Black Rock, which strongly resembles Buchans. Crummey's novels in particular can be described as historical fiction. *River Thieves* details the contact and conflict between European settlers and the last of the Beothuk in the early 19th century, including the capture of Demasduwit. *The Wreckage* tells the story of young Newfoundland soldier Wish Fury and his beloved Sadie Parsons during and after World War II.

## **Performance History**

---

### **Past Productions:**

1996 - *The Cheat*

1997 - *Under Wraps: A Spoke Opera*

1998 - *Midsummer's Blacklight Dream*

2000 – *SIGNALS*

2001 - Development and presentation of Michael Crummey's book of poetry *Hard Light* as a stage production.

2001 - *Emoticons*

2002 - *Icycle*

2002 - *The Chekhov Variations* at the 2002 Sound Symposium

2002 - *Tempting Providence*

2003 – *BellyUp*

2003 - *Salvage - The Story of a House* by Michael Crummey.

2003 - *Bully*

2003 - *Burial Practices of the Early European Settlers through to Today*

*Jesus Christ Superstar*

2005 - *Fear of Flight*