

November 6, 2014



Concrete Theatre announces Staff Changes for the 2014-2015 season

Concrete Theatre is pleased to announce some major staffing changes at the company for our 25th Anniversary Season.

First up, Caroline Howarth will be stepping down as Artistic Co-Director to Artistic Associate, with current Artistic Co-Director Mieko Ouchi stepping up as sole Artistic Director of the company.

A co-founder of Concrete, Mieko has been with the organization for its entire 25 year history, and is thrilled to have the support of the board in her new role as sole AD.

"It has been amazing to look back and reflect on my growth as an artist with Concrete Theatre beginning as a 19 year old drama student to my current position today. It is equally amazing to see how the company has evolved and the exciting places we still have to go. I feel privileged to be taking the helm of the company in our 25th Season and look forward to continuing to collaborate with our amazing staff and the exceptional professional artists we work with to bring challenging new plays to our youngest audiences."

For Caroline Howarth, also a co-founder of the company, the decision to move to Artistic Associate is a bittersweet one. While she will miss working day to day at Concrete, this change accommodates her new position at Concordia University College of Alberta, where she is now Chair of Fine Arts as well as Professor in the Drama Program. Congratulations to her on this fantastic achievement. Concrete Theatre looks forward to continuing our symbiotic relationship with Concordia, who have been huge supporters of Concrete's educational work in the past.

Mary-Ellen Perley, who previously worked for Concrete as the Sales and Booking Coordinator stepped in as Interim General Manager this spring. We are pleased to announce that she is now confirmed as our full time General Manager. Mary-Ellen brings a wealth of experience to the company. Before her time at Concrete, she was the General Manager of Theatre Prospero and she currently serves on the boards of the FreeWill Players, Shadow Theatre, Walterdale Theatre and as VP for the Alberta Drama Festival Association. She is also Past President of the board of Theatre Alberta.

Finally, in Mary-Ellen's place, Cat Walsh will be taking on the Sales and Booking Coordinator position. An accomplished Edmonton playwright, whose new play *The Laws of Thermodynamics*, a Theatre Yes Production which will premiere at Workshop West this season, Cat brings experience from the independent theatre community as well as from her previous positions at the Winspear and NAIT.

Mieko, Mary-Ellen, Caroline and Cat look forward to celebrating 25 years of great theatre with an exciting season of diverse, provocative and engaging performances for young people.