

The RMT News April 2009



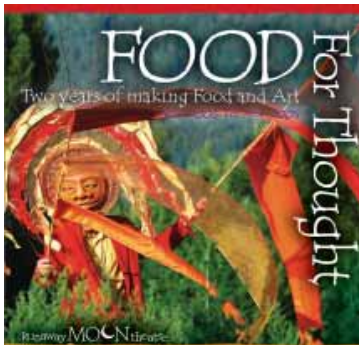
WHAT'S COMING UP

- **Apr 4 - Food For Thought booklet launch at Mimi's**
- **Apr 17 to May 10 - The Labyrinth festival**
- **June 14 - Peony Tea**

Booklet Launch April 4th

To commemorate our two year Food Project, we have produced a 30 page booklet, Food for Thought.

Join us at our book launch at **Mimi's Tea House** on **Saturday April 4th from 4-6pm**. Sample pages & more info on Page 4!



BE A PART OF THE SHOW

Ever wondered what a labyrinth looks like from the inside? Runaway Moon invites you to lose your way as part of the cast for The Labyrinth where we will retell this classic myth through song, puppet, and mask. The only requirement is a desire to play. And a ball of yarn. Performances May 9 and 10. Rehearsals Sunday April 19 & 26, May 3 and evenings May 4 -8th.

NEW SHOW: The Labyrinth - April 17 to May 10

All the romance, tragedy and scope of Greek heroes and monsters will be coming to life in a very special Runaway Moon

Theatre "festival" set to run April 17-May 10 at Curly Willow Farm in Grindrod. Every weekend, audiences will experience a new "take" on the journey of the hero Theseus and his battle with the fearsome Minotaur in the labyrinth of Minos - each episode newly created that week in a different style.

The story remains the same each time. Theseus volunteers to be one of seven youths and seven maidens who are regularly given by his father Aegeus, king of Athens, as "tribute" to Minos, king of Crete. Theseus plans to end the custom by killing the monstrous Minotaur, to whom the fourteen are sacrificed. The Athenians sail to Crete where they are to be sent into the Labyrinth, an inescapable maze of corridors in which lives the terrible Minotaur - a creature that has the body of a man and the head of a bull. But the Gods smile on Theseus - Minos's daughter Ariadne falls in love with him, and gives him a ball of thread to mark his trail in and out of the Labyrinth and a sword with which to kill the Minotaur. Will Theseus succeed in defeating the monster and saving the Athenians? Will they return from the depths of the labyrinth? And what of Ariadne?

These questions will be answered each

weekend in a new way - through a romantic lens, or a comedic one, or with the perspective of a tragedy. The episodes are

directed by Varrick Grimes and feature well-known Runaway Moon performers Peter Hall, Sarah May Redmond, Tom Jones, Molly March, Jaci Metivier, Julie Ross and Murray MacDonald. And on the fourth weekend, the Epic Episode of the tale, the cast will be joined by community members who will participate in the creation of the episode as well as the performance of it (see box at bottom left).

Be sure to attend at least one of the weekend episodes, or better yet, buy a

pass that will allow you to attend three or four episodes at a great price. You'll see an ageless tale told in four different ways with mask, puppets, live music and all the colour and whimsy of a Runaway Moon Theatre production.



The Labyrinth Show Times

Romance Episode:

Fri Apr 17 at 8PM
Sat Apr 18 at 2PM & 8PM

Tragedy Episode:

Fri Apr 24 at 8PM
Sat Apr 25 at 2PM & 8PM

Comedy Episode:

Fri May 1 at 8PM
Sat May 2 at 2PM & 8PM

Epic Episode:

Sat May 9 at 8PM
Sunday May 10 at 2PM

WHAT WE DID

Greens - Spring 2008

Following with the idea that each vegetable is unique, each vegetable art workshop also took its own form. The project celebrating spring greens, a colander chandelier strung with green beads and glass was brought to both the Aboriginal Day gathering and the Canada Day celebration so that whoever stopped by could add their green inspiration to the growing project. Eric Kutschker took the colander and beads away and installed lights and, voila, the light transparency that embodies the first succulent greens of spring.

"Seeds" Spring Spectacle - May 11, 2008



A bare field magically birthing coloured ribbons. Wading through a spring-flooded creek. A skeleton dancing to the soft



sound of clay potato shakers. The weather miraculously refused to rain on the performance (although we did get wet before and after) and all

those who came were enchanted with the blossom children and busy farmers. Rene Hugo Sanchez, a Quechan musician from Peru, was our special guest artist who shared planting songs and dances from his village, and even brought traditional planting sticks and skirts. The audience got a chance to plant the kernels of truth that had been created the previous fall, and put corn seed into the ground that became the

sum-
mertime
setting
for our
Summer
Specta-
cle.





"A Lot On Your Plate" Spectacle - July 19, 2008

"A Lot on Your Plate" was the final installment of the full cycle of seasonal performances that began in September 2007 with "A Kernel of Truth Harvest Spectacle". Varrick Grimes directed and led the creation of this celebration of summer and local food. It opened with a live radio show featuring the Gardenairens, and showcased frolicking frogs and buzzing



mosquitoes, an open air market where vegetables hawked themselves, a puppet show about corn chips, and a circle celebration. Mysterious masked vegetables wandered through the crowd and Sun and Water danced together in the fading summer light. Everyone shared a snack made

from vegetables grown right on the farm.



Onion - Fall 2008

Phillip Tidd led the "Food for Thought" project's final workshop on the humble but indispensable onion. A small group met over two weekends in October and November to brainstorm, design and build a four foot illuminated papier mache onion. Uschi Eder provided lunches to the creative crew and the onion made its grand premiere at the Banquet exhibit. Thanks to Will and Aidan Sparks, Nina Dickins, Heather Edwards, Alison MacDonald, Gail Heinrich and Margaret Brandt.

Banquet Show at Enderby Museum - November 2008

The Food for Thought project wrapped up in November at the Enderby and District Museum with an exhibit of all the artwork produced during the two years of workshops and spectacles. Pieces included the large cob and kernels from the Harvest Spectacle in September 2007, vegetable masks created for the Summer Spectacle, as well as tablecloths, serviettes, clay potato shakers and an exquisite beaded apple tree. Museum curator Joan Cowan created a special historical exhibit about local settler food production and processing. And with the help of a large group of performers, Murray MacDonald took everyone who came to the opening reception through the seasons with excerpts from each of the spectacles. This wrap-up event was made truly special with the hanging and curatorial skills of Joanne Sale, Joan Cowan's support and yes-we-can attitude, the work of all the Museum volunteers at the reception, and the sponsorship of Enderby's McLeod Agencies.



"Turns out we've all been eating the wrong things...since the dawn of civilization!" [On the Atkins Diet] - Lewis Black

Weston Price's Finale Song

I marvel at the rapid improvement in the average lifespan, with fewer infectious diseases thanks to scientific improvements.

But even with these advancements here in 1929, dental disease, heart disease, cancer, and other sickness, are more prevalent today

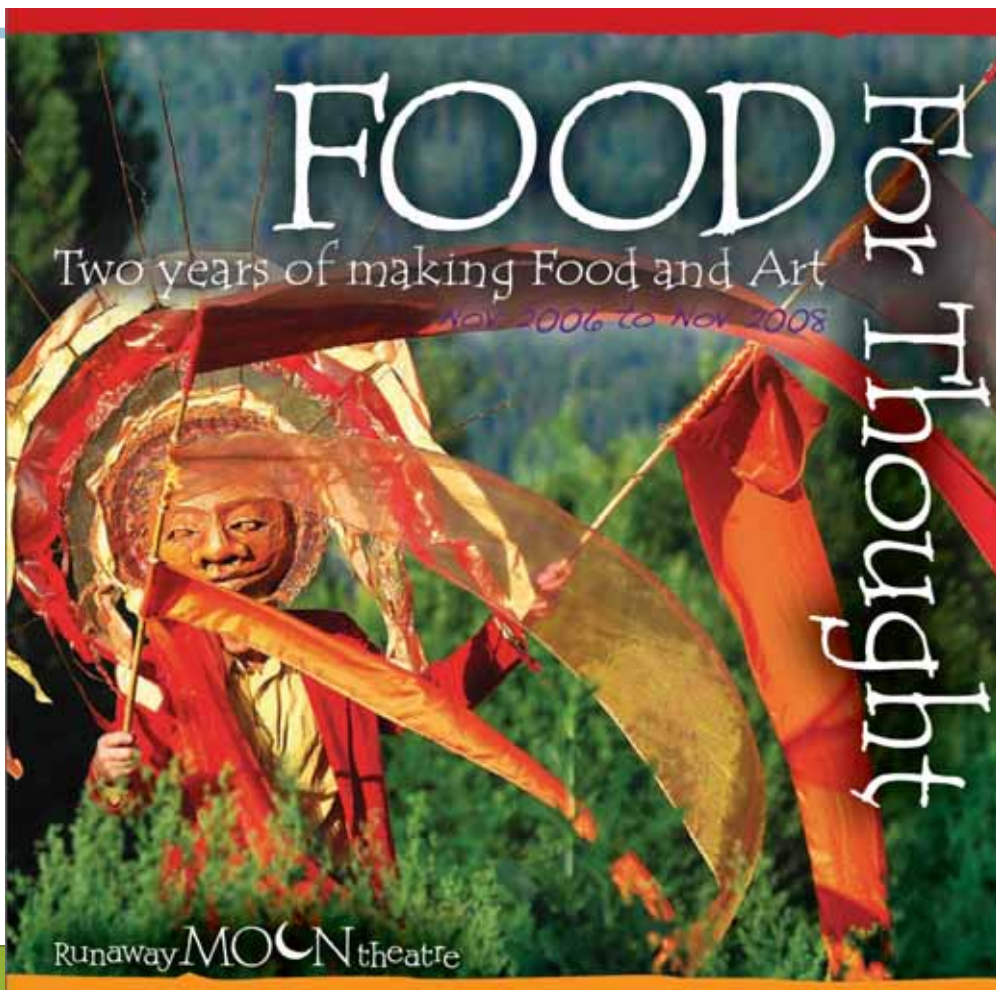
It's my belief that the cause of this is improper diet, We're changing the nature of food, and affecting our health.

Everything is "ecologically" interrelated, the sun, the Earth, the soil, the water, and our bodies.

With nutrition we're obtaining the energy and matter of the universe, And in this way all of material existence is connected.

So you can see, the food we are eating tonight, was a part of the sun and the rain but a few months ago.

(from "A Lot On Your Plate" show)



Two colander chandeliers hung with strings of beads & glass

Spring Greens

JUNE 15 & 18,
JULY 1, 2008



LEAD ARTIST: Eric Kutschker (with creative input from Kathryn Hanke)

WHERE/WHEN: June 15 & 18, 2008 and July 1, 2008 - Curly Willow Farm Peony Tea, Aboriginal Day gathering, Canada Day celebration & October 18-19, 2008 - Curly Willow Farm

HOLLYHOCK YEAST DRESSING

unbelievably delicious!

1/2 c. nutritional flake yeast (not brewer's yeast)
1/3 c. water
1/3 c. soy sauce
1/3 c. apple cider vinegar
2 tbsp crushed garlic
1 1/2 c. light oil

Combine the first 5 ingredients together in a bowl until well mixed. Add the oil in a slow, steady stream, whisking constantly. Keeps refrigerated for 2 weeks. Makes 2 1/2 cups.

These pictures are sample pages from **Food for Thought**, a glossy 30 page booklet to commemorate our two year Food Project.

Join us at our book launch on **Saturday April 4th from 4-6pm** at **Mimi's Tea House** (610 Cliff Ave in Enderby's downtown). Copies will be available at \$8 each, and while supplies last at the Enderby Museum and at our Theseus shows.

Special thanks to Colette St. Amour, Jaci Metivier, our chefs for their recipes and yummy food and our volunteer photographers. The results are stunning!

THANKS SO MUCH JACI - WELCOME DONLEA

2009 brings some changes to our staff situation. The position of General Manager, which Jaci Metivier has held for the past four years, has recently been dissolved, with some of those duties to be carried out by the newly created position of Office Administrator.

While we are saying goodbye to Jaci in her former position, we are happy that she will still be involved with Runaway Moon on a contractual basis, both as a performer, and in carrying on with publicity and promotion. Jaci has been a huge force in helping to bring Runaway Moon Theatre to its present level of success. She has collaborated with Cathy Stubington on every production, from funding applications to every detail involved in putting on first class puppet theatre and community events. From all of us on the Board - Dave, Michelle, Jean, Deb, Sue - a HUGE 'thank you' to Jaci for her tireless efforts and devotion to Runaway Moon, and best wishes for all she undertakes in the future.



Some of the masks from A Lot On Your Plate



Jaci leading yet another Runaway Moon parade entry—thanks Jaci!

We also welcome our new Office Administrator - Donlea McCombs. Donlea has been a vital participant in many of Runaway Moon's events over the past few years. You may have seen her in her role at 'front of house' and, more recently, as a masked performer in 'A Lot on Your Plate.' Donlea is a masseuse/herbalist, parent, and an

enthusiastic supporter of the arts. We're looking forward to having Donlea more closely involved with Runaway Moon, and to a long and successful working relationship in the years to come.

FINDING US

In Grindrod, turn off Highway 97A at SureCrop Feeds onto Tomkinson Rd. We're about 1 km down this dirt road, at the very end. The turnoff in Grindrod is 10 km north of the main traffic lights in Enderby and 3.7 km north of the intersection with Highway 97B to Salmon Arm. There will be signs during events.

Akonjo Update

Last June, a Grade Four class at Hillcrest School started an English/Dholuo dictionary. They drew pictures to accompany significant English words, and put them together in alphabetical order. Their pages went to Akonjo, where the children translated the words into Dholuo and drew their own pictures. Then the book was returned. We await the next installment, in which the Akonjo children will choose their own words and pictures, to be translated into English !

Some of the readers of this newsletter may have decorated fabric squares to be part of the partnership quilt. The squares are ready to be sewn together, and we may have found someone to do it! Look for the finished quilt at the Peony Tea in June!

New Water Project!

We are looking forward to a new community art project celebrating Water - the amazing substance that is part of us and of which we are a part along with every other living being. This project will involve dance and movement led by Kristi Setter and others well known to Runaway Moon. We are working on ideas for many other ways to connect to Water. Let us know if you are interested in participating, and please, share any sayings, songs, or stories about Water! "Pi en gima" means "Water is Life", in the Dholuo language of Akonjo Village, Kenya.



"One generation plants the trees - another gets the shade." - Chinese proverb

From the Board...

As I write this, 2008 is done, and I'm thinking back on another great year of Runaway Moon events. It never ceases to amaze me not only how many people will brave the elements to attend our events, but also how those elements, especially weather, can magically transform at just the right moment! I also love that Runaway Moon's spectacles so often invite audience participation, in an encouraging, non-threatening and enjoyable way. This is something to be celebrated, especially in our North American culture where audiences are mostly required just to sit and absorb.



In a year where we've heard increasingly about the 100 Mile Diet and how our food choices affect the environment, Runaway Moon's Food

for Thought project was very timely. Encompassing workshops in schools and community halls, where participants made masks, learned beading from a Spallumcheen elder, and made terracotta potatoes under the guidance of a potter, the project also included public events with as many as 75 volunteer performers acting and singing in celebration of locally grown food.

Runaway Moon Theatre's Board of Directors is comprised of people from many walks of life, who come together from a desire to be supportive of and help promote artistic endeavours. We're always looking for enthusiastic board members, so if you are interested and available please contact me through Donlea or Cathy. New members will be elected during our 2009 AGM, held in early September. Regular meetings are scheduled approximately four times annually.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who gave so much of their time, energy and enthusiasm to Runaway Moon projects during 2008. Thank you also to our loyal donors who have favoured us with financial gifts in 2008. Your support is always most welcome and will greatly enable our future projects. Let me also take this opportunity of extending thanks to my associates on the Board, who not only bring their ideas to board meetings and act as a sounding board for future projects, but who are also enthusiastically involved in Runaway Moon performances. We've had a lot of fun experiences together and we look forward to many more to come!

See you at the theatre!
Sue Vignola, Chairperson



Membership / Volunteering / Donations

I would like to volunteer for:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN/CITY & POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

- Concession Help
- Parking Guide
- Front of House
- Help driving guests & performers
- Production (Cleanup, Painting, Setup, Takedown, etc)
- Other _____

- Please register or renew my annual \$10 membership
- Please email me the newsletter (Adobe PDF) rather than by mail
- I would like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$____. Donations are greatly appreciated, and we will issue an official tax receipt for any donations over \$25.

Please make cheques payable to **Runaway Moon Theatre**.

WE THANK OUR FUNDERS



THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

As you know, the economy is hurting and arts funding is at risk. Most of our revenue comes from BC and Canadian government programs and private foundations. Tickets only pay for a small part of the cost of a show. Now more than ever, it is very important for our funders to see our great community support through memberships, financial donations and in-kind donations. And financial donations are tax deductible.

To help encourage you to join, we've made some changes to our membership:

- Members will receive discounts on their tickets to our shows.
- Memberships will now expire after our Annual General Meeting (AGM) held every September. Join now and your membership doesn't expire until September of 2010! Renew conveniently at our Peony Tea in June.

To join simply send in this page with your payment, or join at one of our events! Help support our community plays and our one of a kind professional theatre productions!

Runaway Moon Theatre

Box 230
130 Tomkinson Rd
Grindrod, BC V0E 1Y0
250-838-0883
runmoon@jetstream.net

Artistic Director
Cathy Stubington

Administrator
Donlea McCombs

OUR MISSION: "To create innovative puppet theatre and community arts experiences that engage the imagination and offer alternate perspectives."



Printing of our first colour newsletter has been kindly subsidized by The North Valley Echo in Enderby...thanks!

Runaway Moon Theatre Board

Chairperson Sue Vignola
Secretary Deb Humphries
Treasurer Dave Crozier
Directors Michelle Carriere
Jean Clark



Peony Tea - Mark your calendar!

The Peony Tea Party will take place Sunday, June 14, 2009 1-4 PM at the Curly Willow Organic Vegetable Farm in Grindrod, home of Runaway Moon Theatre and Puppet Museum.

It's finally getting easier to imagine that the growing season will be in full swing and luscious peony blooms will droop from their stems, but that's the joy of the seasons. Join us for great food, free drinks, entertainment, a silent auction of local goods and services and lots of good feeling and fun.

Runaway
MOON
theatre



WHAT'S COMING UP

(Much more info inside)

- **Apr 4 - Food For Thought booklet launch at Mimi's 4-6PM**
- **Apr 17 to May 10 - The Labyrinth festival**
- **June 14 - Peony Tea**

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT - BECOME A MEMBER

Help show our funders that we have great community support—become a member and be eligible for member discounts on tickets. Simply send in the back page of the newsletter with your payment, or join at one of our events!

Runaway
MOON
theatre

OUR MISSION: "To create innovative puppet theatre and community arts experiences that engage the imagination and offer alternate perspectives."

Box 230
130 Tomkinson Rd
Grindrod, BC V0E 1Y0
250-838-0883