

TARRAGON

16/17
SEASON



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ANNABEL SOUTAR'S
THE WATERSHED
RESOURCES

THE BASICS

Tarragon Theatre

Tarragon Theatre's mission is to create, develop and produce new plays and to provide the conditions for new work to thrive. To that end, the theatre engages the best theatre artists and craftspeople to interpret new work; presents each new work with high quality production values; provides an administrative structure to support new work; develops marketing strategies to promote new work; and continually generates an audience for new work. (www.tarragontheatre.com)

Tarragon is located at 30 Bridgman Avenue in Toronto, Ontario, easily accessible from Dupont and Bathurst subway stations.

The Watershed Co-Producers

The Watershed is coming to Tarragon as a touring production co-produced by Crow's Theatre (Toronto) and PORTE PAROLE (Montreal).

Crow's Theatre

We seed projects and collaborations with artists and companies that are engaged in the examination of our culture's pivotal narratives in ways that are direct yet complex, entertaining and challenging; a process that happily and constantly leads us to reconsider, re-imagine and redefine the possibilities of the theatre and the world that we make.

PORTE PAROLE:

*At Porte Parole we restore dignity to human dialogue by insisting that it actively and artfully reflect diverse points of view. We do so by practicing a creative process called '**documentary theatre**' whereby stage artists record current event stories from myriad perspectives and then mediate those perspectives for an audience through the performance of a play.*

Documentary/Verbatim Theatre

Documentary theatre is theatre that is based on and documents 'real life' events.

Verbatim theatre is taken word for word from actual 'real life' conversations. It often contains dashes, ums, and natural pauses as to mimic genuine human conversation. Please see the Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Education website for more information and Verbatim Theatre activities:

<http://code.on.ca/resource/verbatim-theatre>

The ELA- Experimental Lakes Area

The Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) is an organization that conducts freshwater research to protect Canadian watersheds. After having its \$2 million a year federal funding cut by the Harper Government in 2012, the ELA has now been taken over by the IISD, the International Institute for Sustainable Development. In April of 2014, three agreements were signed between the IISD, the provincial government, and the federal government to guarantee future research for the ELA. In 2015, Justin Trudeau promised to restore the ELA with 1.5 Million a year in federal funding.

Research at IISD Experimental Lakes Area improves our understanding of human impacts on the environment, influences policy and environmental best practices, and supports public awareness. IISD-ELA's unique value to the scientific community is the ability to conduct research at the whole ecosystem level. (<https://www.iisd.org/ela/>)

The Federal Government and Scientists

In May of 2016, Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced that they were hiring 150 new scientists. As mentioned in a recent CBC news article (below), “the announcement marks a change of direction after years of criticism by the scientific community, which accused Ottawa of cutting more than 2,000 science jobs and closing research facilities”.

Please see the following two articles for further information:

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1063549>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/fisherie-oceans-department-hiring-research-scientists-1.3577115>

THE WATERSHED RESOURCE LIST

1. LAKE ONTARIO WATERKEEPER

Lake Ontario Waterkeeper is an organization that is dedicated to “creating a swimmable, drinkable, fishable future”.

- “Lake Ontario” Website Tab

<http://www.waterkeeper.ca/lake-ontario/>

This resource offers facts and the history of Lake Ontario charting the negative effects of human activity on the environment.

- Blog

<http://www.waterkeeper.ca/blog/>

This blog discusses current water-related issues and events.

- Interview with Ed Burtynsky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQ5u9L3i4Vw>

This is Lake Ontario Waterkeeper’s interview with photographer Ed Burtynsky. Ed Burtynsky is a renowned industrial landscape photographer and co-creator of the film Watermark. In this interview he speaks about his relationship with water as well as watersheds and the ELA.

- National Water Centre/ Swim Drink Fish Project

www.swimdrinkfish.ca

The National Water Centre is a project by Lake Ontario Waterkeeper that aims to “promote swimmable, drinkable, fishable water through community-building, information sharing, research, and leadership development”.

2. WATERMARK (2013 Documentary Film)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3106868/>

http://www.edwardburtynsky.com/site_contents/Films/Watermark_Film.html

The film, as summarized on [edwardburtynsky.com](http://www.edwardburtynsky.com):

Watermark is a feature documentary from multiple-award winning filmmakers Jennifer Baichwal and Nick de Pencier, and renowned photographer Edward Burtynsky, marking their second collaboration after Manufactured Landscapes in 2006. The film brings together diverse stories from around the globe about our relationship with water: how we are drawn to it, what we learn from it, how we use it and the consequences of that use. We see massive floating abalone farms off China's Fujian coast and the construction site of the biggest arch dam in the world – the Xiluodu, six times the size of the Hoover. We visit the barren desert delta where the mighty Colorado River no longer reaches the ocean, and the water-intensive leather tanneries of Dhaka. We witness how humans are drawn to water, from the U.S. Open of Surfing in Huntington Beach to the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad, where thirty million people gather for a sacred bath in the Ganges at the same time. We speak with scientists who drill ice cores two kilometers deep into the Greenland Ice Sheet, and explore the sublime pristine watershed of Northern British Columbia. Shot in stunning 5K ultra high-definition video and full of soaring aerial perspectives, this film shows water as a terraforming element, as well as the magnitude of our need and use. In Watermark, the viewer is immersed in a magnificent force of nature that we all too often take for granted- until it's gone.

3. TRCA- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

The TRCA is an organization that aims to build a greener, healthier and more sustainable urban Toronto (the 'living city').

- “Watershed Management” Website Tab

<https://trca.ca/conservation/watershed-management/>

This section of the website provides information about Toronto (and region) watersheds and allows users to locate which watershed they are in.

- “Drinking Water Source Protection” Website Tab

<https://trca.ca/conservation/drinking-water-source-protection/>

This part of the website provides information about protection plans for Toronto's source drinking water.

4. THE WALRUS

- “Troubled Waters” (Published by Walrus on July 1st, 2013, Volume 10 issue 6, page 32. Posted online in the Science section on June 10, 2013. Written by Peter Andrey Smith.)

<http://thewalrus.ca/troubled-waters/>

“The Experimental Lakes project has influenced environmental policy around the world. So why would the Harper government abandon it?”

- “The Last Great Water Fight” (Published by Walrus in October 10th, 2010, Volume 7 Issue 8, page 26. Posted online in the Environment section on September 12th 2012. Written by Chris Wood with artwork by Garth Lenz.)

<http://thewalrus.ca/the-last-great-water-fight/>

The battle for the northern headwaters of the Mackenzie River

- “The Last Great Water Fight”- Video Forum

<https://vimeo.com/21707703>

The Present and Future of the MacKenzie River Basin. The Walrus presented a special forum on the management of the Mackenzie River Basin in Yellowknife on January 18, 2011. The forum was moderated by Walrus contributor Chris Wood, author of the magazine's feature story "The Last Great Water Fight."

- “WATER”-Edward Burtynsky’s Visual Essay (Published by Walrus on December 18th, 2013 in the Visual Essay section. Written/photographed by Edward Burtynsky.)

<http://thewalrus.ca/water/>

“Our unquenchable thirst for the earth’s defining resource.”

- “Environment” Website Tab

<http://thewalrus.ca/category/environment/>

This part of the website has links to environment-related articles.

5. CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

- **(Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)- How Land and Water Are Linked (Video)**

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/science-and-innovation/agricultural-practices/water/watershed-protection/agriculture-and-water-quality/how-land-and-water-are-linked-video/?id=1401992196838>

This video demonstrates how land and water are related. It provides a good background for understanding water issues and how humans can affect natural water.

- **(Environment and Climate Change)- “Water”**

<https://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water>

This web page provides links to further resources to learn about water quality, Canada’s lakes, water technology, and climate change.

- Great Lakes- Website Tab

<https://www.ec.gc.ca/grandslacs-greatlakes/default.asp?lang=En&n=70283230-1>

This resource provides information about what is currently being done to protect and preserve the water in the Great Lakes.

6. **DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION- Climate Change and Water Impacts**

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/issues/climate-change/science/impacts/water-impacts/>

This web page explains how climate change affects water.

7. **THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA- Plan for the Environment**

<https://www.liberal.ca/files/2015/08/A-new-plan-for-Canadas-environment-and-economy.pdf>

This is Justin Trudeau’s plan to protect the environment and attempt to remedy the damage done by the Harper government.

8. **CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC- Watershed Protection Action Guide**

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/watersheds/map/?path=english/take-action>

This resource offers a 10-step guide to protect local watershed.

THE WATERSHED PRE SHOW ACTIVITY

This activity is courtesy of the Ontario Waterkeepers

<http://www.waterkeeper.ca/lake-ontario/>

Writing a WATERMARK story:

Ask your students to each share (or write down) a personal Watermark. A Watermark is a story that describes a powerful memory or connection to a water body. A Watermark is like a birthmark – each one is unique. It can be about a person, place, or time, and describes the student's relationship with water, or their most powerful water-associated memory.

Discussion Questions: Before seeing THE WATERSHED

What is your personal relationship with water? What does water mean to you?

1. What do you know about the current federal government and their approach to environmental issues and environmental scientists?
2. Have you ever seen a verbatim piece of theatre? What will it be like to hear the voices of 'real' people and their 'real' conversations?

Discussion Questions: After seeing THE WATERSHED

1. What was your favourite part of the play? Why?
2. Do you think this play was an effective way to learn about environmental science?
3. How did the design of the production (projections, set, etc.) contribute to the telling of this story?
4. Do you think that theatre is a good platform for discussing social issues and encouraging action?
5. How does theatre interact with the environment? What are ways that theatre could be made more environmentally friendly?
6. How can the tension between the Canadian economy and the environment be balanced?
7. Brainstorm some ways in which your school can cut down their carbon footprint and combat climate change.