



***PUSH!*** REAL ATHLETES.  
REAL STORIES.  
REAL THEATRE.





A **TANGLED ART + DISABILITY** PRODUCTION PRESENTED BY  
**PANAMANIA** PRESENTED BY **CIBC** AND IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**PING CHONG + COMPANY**. WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO **RYERSON**  
**UNIVERSITY** FOR THEIR SUPPORT.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

We are proud to have partnered with Ping Chong + Company and the PANAMANIA arts and culture festival to bring you this outstanding piece of theatre that showcases Canadian Paraspport athletics. By weaving together a history of Paraspport competition, personal histories, disability rights, triumphs, challenges, and record-breaking victories with video and a live musical score, *PUSH!* delivers a crescendo that rivals the intensity of any sporting event of the summer. Although they share in their passion, commitment and excellence, *PUSH!* shows us that each athlete's journey is unique. We are pleased that this show reaches the highest accessibility standard, by offering ASL interpretation, captioning, and live audio description.

For the past 14 years, Tangled Art + Disability has been contributing to Disability Arts in Canada by exhibiting the best that this art scene has to offer. Including *PUSH!* in this arts and culture festival that showcases diverse cultures and artistic excellence, announces that Disability Arts has a significant role in the Pan American cultural landscape. This piece honours a diversity of disability experiences, which is what Tangled does best.

*PUSH!* launches what is sure to be a phenomenal year for Tangled. Enjoy the show and we hope to see you again soon!



Eliza Chandler, Artistic Director

# ABOUT TANGLED

**Tangled Art + Disability** is a registered charitable organization dedicated to the advancement of artists with disabilities and to enhancing access to arts and culture for all. Founded in 2003 as Abilities Arts Festival, Tangled has produced 12 multidisciplinary arts festivals employing local and international disability-identified artists, while engaging new and returning artists and audiences with our year-round programming.

## STAFF

ELIZA CHANDLER • ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
CARA EASTCOTT • PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
KATIE MCMILLAN • DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS  
JEREMIAH BACH • EVENT PRODUCER  
LINDSAY FISHER • GRAPHIC DESIGN & COMMUNICATIONS  
CHELSEA MOHLER • ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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Tangled Art + Disability  
is a registered charitable  
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Ryerson University is pleased and honored to support the Tangled Art + Disability production of **PUSH! Real Athletes. Real Stories. Real Theatre.**

As a leader in disability research, education, arts and culture, Ryerson has a reputation for breaking new ground and challenging the status quo. We launched the first disability studies degree in Canada, and a few months ago we were honoured to accept the Helen Keller Award from the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons for our commitment to disability education. We are excited about supporting tonight's performance and helping to bring this important show to life.

At Ryerson we believe in learning by doing, so I'm delighted that our students have had a unique opportunity to learn through this production. We hosted the show's rehearsals on our campus, and students in our Disability Studies program have had the chance to meet and ask questions of the show's artists and athletes.

On behalf of the Ryerson community I want to thank everyone who has made this production possible. We share in celebrating these extraordinary stories.



Sheldon Levy  
President and Vice Chancellor

# PING CHONG + COMPANY & UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS

Ping Chong + Company produces theatrical works addressing the important cultural and civic issues of our times, striving to reach the widest audiences with the greatest level of artistic innovation and social integrity. The company was founded in 1975 by leading theatrical innovator Ping Chong with a mission to create works of theater and art that explore the intersections of race, culture, history, art, media and technology in the modern world.

Today, Ping Chong + Company produces original works by a close-knit ensemble of affiliated artists, under the artistic leadership of Ping Chong. As a leader in the field of both international collaboration, and in arts and community-based practice, the company has created over 100 productions by Ping Chong and his collaborators, which have been presented at theaters, festivals, and cultural centers around the world. Productions range from intimate oral history projects to grand scale cinematic multidisciplinary productions featuring puppets, performers, and full music and projection scores. The art reveals beauty, precision, and a commitment to social justice.

For more information about Ping Chong + Company, visit: [www.pingchong.org](http://www.pingchong.org).



# ABOUT THIS PERFORMANCE

PUSH! Real athletes. Real stories. Real theatre is part of an ongoing series of community-specific oral history theater works known as the Undesirable Elements series. Begun in 1992 by Ping Chong + Company, each production is made in a specific community, with local participants testifying to their real lives and experiences. The script is based on interviews with the participants who then share their own true stories in the final production.

Since 1992, over 50 productions have been made across the United States and abroad. Recent productions have explored themes as far ranging as the disability experience, Native American identity, the experiences of refugees in the U.S., and the experiences of survivors sexual abuse. Ping Chong + Company has created documentaries, toolkits, and training workshops and arts education programs for communities who wish to use the arts to address social justice issues in their own work.





# Playing a lead role in accessibility

**Inclusion is centre stage at Ryerson.**

As an advocate for accessibility, Kimberlee Collins is allied with disabled people to change the story line of disability. A recent grad of the School of Disability Studies at Ryerson University, Kimberlee writes for her program's blog and organizes various events for students. She also worked with faculty members to complete an overview of programs in Canada to help keep the curriculum at Ryerson current and relevant for future students.

Ryerson is the recipient of this year's Helen Keller Award and is the first Canadian university to offer an activist Disability Studies program that provides a strong social analysis.

We are also a proud supporter of PUSH! Real Athletes. Real Stories.  
Real Theatre.



# PUSH! REAL ATHLETES. REAL STORIES. REAL THEATRE.

DIRECTED BY PING CHONG\*

WRITTEN BY PING CHONG AND SARA ZATZ

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PERFORMERS:

SARAI DEMERS

JENNA LAMBERT

VICTORIA NOLAN

PAUL ROSEN

MARTHA SANDOVAL GUSTAFSON

JODY SCHLOSS

POEM BY JODY SCHLOSS

ORIGINAL SCORE: LUIS ORBEGOSO

MEDIA DESIGN: MURRAY SIPLE

LIGHTING DESIGN: SIMON ROSSITER

SOUND DESIGN: JASON BROWNING

STAGE MANAGEMENT: TANYA GREVE\*

APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGEMENT: ANDREANE CHRISTIANSEN

MEDIA CONSULTING: KAITLIN HICKEY

ASL INTERPRETATION: AMANDA HYDE & SAGE WILLOW

SURTITLES TM\* PRODUCER: GUNTA DREIFELDS

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: WANDA FITZGERALD

ACCESSIBILITY CONSULTING: DI BENNETT

ACCENT 1000 PROVIDED BY AROGA TECHNOLOGIES

ACCENT MOUNT PROVIDED BY IDEAS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

MANAGING DIRECTOR, PING CHONG + COMPANY: BRUCE ALLARDICE

PUBLICITY: ROCK-IT PROMOTIONS

PERFORMERS' ASSISTANT: NICOLE MEEHAN

SPECIAL THANKS: RINA FRATICELLI, DON SHIPLEY, BILL JOHNSON, CHRIS SCHOLEY, LORRAINE HOPKINS, IRIS NEMANI, VICTORIA LITTLER, HEATHER LARGY AND THE YOUNG CENTRE STAFF

SURTITLES TM INVENTED AT THE CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY UNDER THE HELM OF LOTFI MANSOURI AND INTRODUCED WORLDWIDE ON JANUARY 21, 1983 WITH R. STRAUSS' OPERA ELEKTRA.

\* APPEAR WITH THE PERMISSION OF CANADIAN ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION.

PUSH! is a Tangled Art + Disability production, developed in association with Ping Chong + Company and with support from Ryerson University presented by PANAMANIA presented by CIBC

# CAST



**Sara(i) Demers** is a competitive downhill skier with Alpine Ontario Para Race Team and has competed nationally at the Canada Games. She is a congenital above knee amputee. Sara(i) is a strong disability rights advocate, the President of the Disabled Sailing Association of Ontario, and the VISA coordinator at Addus (enabling adults with developmental disabilities through community integration).



**Jenna Lambert** became the first woman with a disability to swim across Lake Ontario – at age 15. Unable to use her legs due to cerebral palsy, Lambert completed the 32-hour marathon swim using only her arms. In 2009, Lambert completed an ultra triathlon that took 47 hours; she became first person with a disability to complete the event. Lambert competed for Canada at the 2011 Guadalajara Parapan Am Games.



**Victoria Nolan** was named to the Canadian National Adaptive Rowing Team in 2007 and began travelling the world, winning medals, breaking records and within a year was competing at the Summer Paralympics in Beijing. Nicknamed “The Metronome” Nolan and her rowing crew won gold at the World Rowing Championships in New Zealand in 2010. Victoria is an inspirational speaker and has published her autobiography “Beyond Vision: The Story of a Blind Rower”.



**Paul Rosen** mastered the game of Sledge Hockey and made the Canadian National Sledge Hockey Team within one year of having his leg amputated. A year later he became the oldest rookie in the history of the game playing for Team Canada at the 2002 Salt Lake City Paralympics. Since retirement in 2010, Paul has developed a passion for motivational speaking and become the voice of sledge hockey for both CBC and TSN.



**Martha Sandoval-Gustafson** has competed in four decades of Paralympics, nine International Events and three Parapan Am Games and has represented both Canada and Mexico, her birthplace. A multi-talented athlete, Gustafson holds gold, silver and bronze medals in Athletics for shot put, discus and track. She has 21 Paralympic medals, 19 International medals and 17 Parapan Am medals. She holds the Canadian F-52 Records for shot put and discus. She also competed at an elite level in rugby and swimming and is competing in wheelchair curling in the winter. She thanks her family, friends and her children for their support.



**Jody Schloss** is a grade 1A competitor, and gained recognition as a disabled athlete in her late 30's. Jody lost the ability to walk and talk when she sustained a brain injury in a car accident that left her in a 3-month long coma. After years of physical rehabilitation and regaining her independence, Jody has since become a full-time competitor and made her Paralympic debut in London, 2012.

# CREATIVE TEAM



**Ping Chong (Director/Co-writer)** is an internationally acclaimed theatre director, playwright, video and installation artist. He is a seminal figure in the interdisciplinary theater community and pioneer in the use of media in theater. His works are united by a

commitment to artistic beauty and social integrity, bringing his unique theatrical vision to bear on major historical issues of our times, and the ever-shifting role of the outsider in society. In 1975, he formed Ping Chong + Company, which has since brought over 100 productions to major festivals and theatres around the world including: The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music, La MaMa E.T.C, Spoleto USA Festival, Vienna Festival, RomaEuropa Festival, Lille European Capital of Culture, Tokyo International Arts Festival, Singapore Festival of the Arts, and many others. In 1992, he created the first work in the Undesirable Elements series of community-engaged oral history projects. There have now been over 50 productions in the series.

Upcoming projects include *Collidescope: Further Adventures in Pre- and Post-Racial America*, exploring the complex history of racial violence in the United States, and *Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity*, both touring in 2015-2016.

Ping Chong + Company received support for PUSH as a participant in the Global Connections-IN the LAB program, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the professional not-for-profit American theatre.



**Sara Zatz (co-writer)** is the Associate Director of Ping Chong + Company. Since 2002, she has overseen the Undesirable Elements series, working with a wide range of partner organizations, from regional theaters to community-based arts organizations. She has had the honor of interviewing hundreds of individuals from around the world, served as co-author with Ping Chong on over a dozen productions, and has overseen the creation of an in-school arts education program and training institute. She is the writer and director of *Secret Survivors*, focused on the experiences of survivors of child sexual abuse and the co-creator of *Say My Name, Say My Name: Stories of LGBTQ Youth of New Orleans*, featuring transgender youth of color fighting criminalization. She has led workshops on community-engaged theatre at universities, training institutes, and conferences around the United States.



**Luis Orbegoso (Composer/performer)** is a renowned percussionist, arranger and producer. He has shared the stage with Stevie Wonder, Changuito, Ray de la Paz, Henry Fiol, and Nelly Furtado, among others. Orbegoso directs three bands in Toronto including *Moda Eterna*. Luis is a highly sought after teacher, and has worked with students and professionals at universities, schools and festivals across Canada and in Germany, Colombia and Peru. He has also been a record producer and arranger for *Lady Son & Articulo Veinte*; *Ventura Brothers* feat. Jerry Gonzalez, and many more.



**Murray Siple (Media Creation)** attended Emily Carr College University for film and video and moved to Whistler to pioneer action sports filmmaking. In 1996 his career at Whistler was cut short by a motor vehicle accident that rendered him as a quadriplegic. Living in North Vancouver led Murray to find homeless-men who collected bottles and rode shopping carts down the steep streets of North Vancouver. His documentary, *Carts of Darkness*, is one of the top documentary films of all-time for the National Film Board of Canada. Recently Murray completed a solo round-the-world trip in his wheelchair and returned to Whistler to make the short films *Black Cocaine* and *Turn Them Black*.



**Simon Rossiter (Lighting Design)** is a Toronto-based lighting designer. He has had the pleasure of creating more than one hundred original designs, including works for Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie, Factory Theatre, Sudbury Theatre Centre, théâtre français de Toronto, Theatre New Brunswick, Toronto Dance Theatre, and a diversity of independent artists. Simon has received five Dora nominations for outstanding lighting design, winning the award twice, and is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.





**Tanya Greve (Stage Manager)** has been a professional stage manager for over twenty years. Since becoming a mom, Tanya now spends much of her time passing on her love of stage management to the students of the

Theatre Production Program at Humber College and playing princess with her fantastic five year old, Amelia. Tanya would also like to thank her amazing husband Richard who gets to put up with her when she tries to juggle theatre and family.



**Andreane Christiansen (Apprentice Stage Manager)** is entering her final year in the Performance Production program at Ryerson University. This summer she spent 5 weeks at The Banff Centre as a dance stage management practicum.

Past stage management experience includes Gash! in the 2014 Summerworks Festival and The Assassination of Robert Ford: Dirty Little Coward at the Toronto Fringe/Best of Toronto Fringe 2014.

**Jason 'JB' Browning (Sound Design)** Recent Production Credits as Sound Designer: For Soulpepper Theatre: "Spoon River" (2014 and 2015 Runs) 2014 and 2015 Concert Series Programming "Frankly Sinatra" (Presented at the Capitol Theatre, Port Hope ON) Selected other Projects: "Frankie and Johnny In The Clair De Lune" (Akupa Theatre), "Into The Woods" (Toronto Youth Theatre), "King Lear" (Hart House Theatre) OTHER: Graduate of the Ryerson University Technical Production Programme, graduate of the OIART Recording Engineering program.

# ACCESSIBILITY

It is our goal to represent the highest standards of accessibility at all Tangled events. Tonight's performance features barrier-free seating, on site attendant care, captioning, ASL interpretation, and audio description. Service animals welcome.



Tangled is making a substantial contribution to the arts through our inclusive programming and by fostering innovative accessible arts practices. At Tangled, we incorporate accessibility concerns from the beginning of a project, encouraging artists and partner organizations to consider approaches to access that integrate aesthetics into every stage the process. We are committed to investigating how accessible practices can enhance artistic experiences and increase who has access to the arts as well as to sharing these practices with the larger arts community.

**Imagine** an art gallery with both local and national scope dedicated to showcasing the work of Canada's most accomplished and exciting artists with disabilities.

**Imagine** this gallery in Toronto's vibrant downtown, at the very centre of the iconic arts and culture hub of 401 Richmond.

**Imagine** a gallery equipped with state of the art technology making art accessible to ALL artists and art lovers.

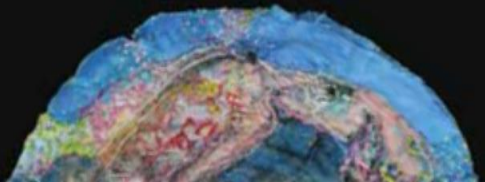
**Imagine** launching this gallery with a major exhibit by Canada's most acclaimed disability artist, Persimmon Blackbridge, in concert with Canada's first national conference on disability arts and culture.

# Imagine

## TANGLED ART GALLERY

**Imagine...YOU** could make it happen.

We are currently seeking donors, partners and sponsors to support the founding of Canada's first national disability art gallery. Slated for opening in April 2016, TAG (Tangled Art Gallery) will be a fully accessible gallery space in downtown Toronto.



# COMING UP AT TANGLED!

**DECEMBER 3 2015**

Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement: A film screening in honour of International Day for People with Disabilities. Part of TIFF's Higher Learning Series.

**APRIL 2016**

Constructed Identities: An exhibit by Canadian artist Persimmon Blackbridge

**APRIL 28-30 2016**

Crippling the Arts Symposium: A national conference on disability arts and aesthetics

**MAY 2016**

Tangled Kids Fest! Two days of exciting performances and workshops with B-Boy Luca "Lazylegz" Patuelli

**JUNE 2016**

Tangled on Tour: London, Ottawa, Thunder Bay  
A touring festival of DISABILITY ARTS presentations, community engagement, and professional development workshops.



# SUPPORT FOR PUSH!



Tangled Art + Disability would like to acknowledge the following organisations for their year-round support



STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER™





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