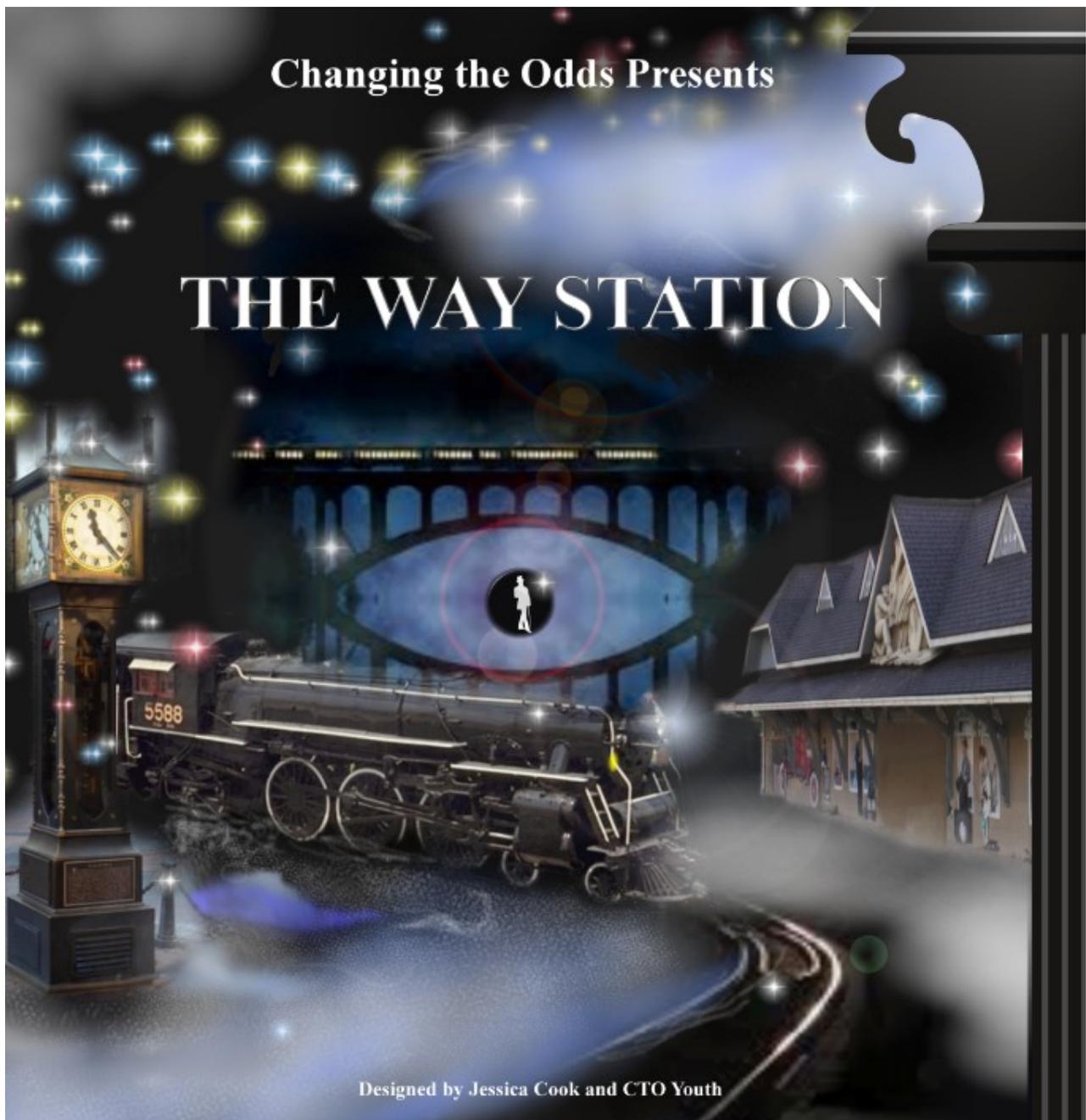




Monday July 6 – Friday August 14, 2015



The Way Station Cast

Chanelle Atkinson
Justus Elliott
Raya Gillis
Morgan Hodgkins
Brianna Oliver
Anjenee Payne
Ivan Trombley

Kyla Bradwell
Taryn Elliott
Matt Goddard
Michael Lucas
Justus Osborne
Isaac Renaud
Van Truong

Autumn Doe
Jade Ganney
Cameron Grieve
Omowonudla(Gift)Obatusa
Halo Parent
Ella Theriault

Message about the Play:

In an everyday place, extraordinary things can happen.
Little heroic moments can be seen,
that is, if you take the time to notice them.

“The Way Station”:

Together the students, leaders, and guest artists collaborated to write and direct this collective creation. The play is a collection of styles, set in a world that welcomes song, dance, clown, and free expression. The stories are fictionalized, but are based on real life concerns and struggles presented by the youth over our six weeks together. In sharing this piece, the youth hope to inspire others to make a positive change and remind us all that we can overcome insurmountable odds if we stick together. As an ensemble we would like to thank all of our CTO supporters. Without you, our summer adventure would not be possible. We thank you, and hope you enjoy the show!

Break a Legend Team!

Meaghen Quinn, Creative Coordinator

Plot: Train Station. The time is now. The characters arrive at the station and discover that all the trains have been delayed. They begin to unload their stories, helping each other find a new 'way' to face their fears and share their voices.

Crew

Original Script: Meaghen Quinn, Justin Caruana, Haley McTaggart, Joseph Tuccitto, Ivan Trombley, the Cast

Original Song(top of show): Halo Parent

Directorial Team: Meaghen Quinn, Joseph Tuccitto, Haley Mctaggart

Acting Coaches: The CTO Leaders and Ivan Trombley (junior leader)

Guest Drummer: Teajai Travis

Choreography/Dance: Louise Paquette, Haley McTaggart, Ashley Baez, Justin Caruana & Youth

Lighting Technical Support: Samantha Di Fazio

Stage Manager: Ashley Baez

Preshow Slide Show: Haley McTaggart and Van Truong

Lobby Decorations: Brianna Oliver

*Please note: The one-act presentation will be immediately followed by a talkback with cast and drama leaders.
A reception with light refreshments will follow.*

***Changing the Odds is presented by Windsor Endowment for the Arts (WEA)
and
The School of Dramatic Art, University of Windsor (SODA) in partnership with
The Odette School of Business and local service agencies.***

Carolyn Rourke, Project Lead for WEA; President, WEA

WEA sincerely thanks the School of Dramatic Art for their inspired and successful delivery of a third *Changing the Odds: Community Transformation Through the Arts*. The summer program brought growth and confidence to youth who are living with challenging circumstances making fundamentally positive changes in their lives. It also allowed the student leaders and all participants the joy of new experiences in their own lives. WEA thanks everyone whose financial and voluntary assistance promoted this program, allowing the arts and creativity to foster strength and support survival in young people.

Tina Pugliese, Project Lead for SODA; Director, SODA

BRAVO! to this year's youth and creative team. This is the third year that the School of Dramatic Art has hosted and delivered the CHANGING THE ODDS summer youth program. Each year the program evolves into something surprising and brilliant. As you can imagine, there are many people involved in making CTO a success and I am grateful to the commitment and dedication of the creative team and support staff as well as the contributions of several guest artists from the Windsor-Essex region. CTO would not be possible without the generous funding from the Windsor Endowment for the Arts (WEA). Through their generosity, we have been able to give our youth a rich artistic experience with exceptional mentorship and above all, friendship. This evening, we bring you *'The Way Station'*, a collective creation that captures the narratives of the group showcasing their talents and creative expression. I hope you enjoy the show and join us in celebrating our CTO 2015 youth.

Changing the Odds Program Staff

Creative Coordinator: Meaghen Quinn

Senior Drama Leader: Joseph Tuccitto

Drama Leaders: Justin Caruana, Haley McTaggart, Ashley Baez

Junior Leader: Ivan Trombley

Administration, Meal planning and Procurement: Jessica Lori Riley

Enactus(Business Students) Mentors: Srushti Thaker and Dharitri Shah

Program Recruitment and Agency Liaison: Charlotte LeFrank

Research and Program Evaluation: Tina Pugliese and **Giovanna** Roma

Support: Tina Pugliese and Diana Mady Kelly

CTO Steering Committee

Carolyn Rourke

Tina Pugliese

Diana Mady Kelly

Gail Murray

Claudia McArthur

Charlotte LeFrank

CTO Partners

Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society, Charlotte LeFrank
Sandwich Teen Action Group (STAG), John Elliot
(2013/14)

Windsor Women Working With

Immigrant Women (2013), Cassandra Richardson

The Bloomfield House (2015)

The Downtown Music Initiatives (2015)

We take this opportunity to thank our guest speakers, workshop leaders and guest artists:

Stephen Brennan, Social Worker, support consultant to CTO

In my role as support to the CTO staff, I saw the opportunity to teach, serve and learn by assisting them to help the "edges" of different worlds touch, ever so briefly - all elements of my life mission. Add to this the opportunity to engage with the participants during their program, I find myself left enriched and eager to see what opportunities are yet to explore around openings created. Thank you!

Jessica Rachel Cook, designed the poster with the Youth. Jessica is a multi-media/computer graphic artist who works in combination with traditional fine arts, photography and contemporary mediums to create promotional and marketing materials for online, print, film & television. She has worked on projects with such companies as The University of Windsor, Kickstand Entertainment, Mach2Films, NAFTC Studio, Peerless Productions, The Dot Film Company and Magic Door Films. Words of advice to the Youth: You are number one in your life. Believe in yourself. Visualize what you want and always work towards your goals.

Melissia Miner: Musician and Director of Downtown Music Initiative

This year was my first year as a music instructor for the youth at Changing the Odds. What struck me the most was the theme of resiliency, which was evident among everyone I worked with. As the program director of the Downtown Music Initiative I have the privilege of facilitating a place where students can study music and be loaned an instrument with no cost. The DMI pooled together some instruments and resources so that CTO students can be involved in music training; and I invite the CTO youth to continue on with this training year-round at the DMI. I am thankful for working more intensely with those who committed to solos and those who came to try out new instruments. It was my pleasure to help navigate the process of creating an identity and a story through music.
"You. Are. Loved."

Louise Paquette, Dance Artist and Educator

I am grateful to be a part of this project and have the opportunity to share my love of dance with such talented young artists.

Chris Reid, Social Worker University of Windsor, Manager Campus Community Garden

I'm always happy when groups like Changing the Odds are able to make use of the Community Garden. The arts have the power to connect us with our true selves. I look forward to hearing of the discoveries that the youth have made about themselves as they have gone through the CTO experience

Chris Rabideau, Social Justice Artist and Activist, Artistic Director of Arts Collective Theatre (ACT)

Activism is at the core of our human condition. Never stop believing in the power of change. Let's make a difference by ACTing together.

Teajai Travis, Drummer (The Bloomfield House)

Having gained a wealth of practical experience working as an artist and producer, my motivation is now to share what I've learned with others. I believe we all have so much to learn from each other and I'm thankful for the people I've met and the lessons I've learned.

Notes from the Changing the Odds Team

Meaghen Quinn, Creative Coordinator

Walking through the Jackman, during camp hours, I was blessed with the sounds of laughter, singing, drum beats, violin strings, and poetic text. Not every day was easy, but we never gave up on each other or on the creative process. We have continued to form partnerships with community organizations that will keep these youth connected and supported. It is our hope that the seeds we plant during the summer will continue to grow throughout the year and the teachings will continue to serve us all for the rest of our lives. Thank you to all of our supporters for your faith and generosity, to the leaders and guest artists for your dedication, and to the Youth for inspiring us all with your stories of strength, courage, and hope. "You are enough, just trust and believe!!!"

Joseph Tuccitto, Senior Drama Leader

I have been fortunate enough to have been a part of Changing The Odds since day one and with each passing year the experience becomes more rewarding. This arts program is so much more than advertised and at the conclusion of year three I can honestly say that there is nowhere else I would rather spend my summer. I want to thank the youth for their hard work on this journey and for inspiring the narrative with their stories and insights. CTO is always an uphill climb filled with obstacles and this year has been no exception. However, the trials that we have faced together have only served to sweeten the taste of this, our triumph. I hope that you all enjoy the show!

"Live your Dream"

Justin S Caruana, Drama Leader

I took on the job with CTO to better assess my readiness for Teacher's college this September. This past six weeks has better prepared me for the next chapter of my life. I have learned so much about working with a team, helping others at various stages in life, and how to brighten up a room with positive energy. "people will forget what you said, but people will never forget how you made them feel."(M. Angelou)

Haley Kathleen McTaggart, Drama Leader

This program encourages youth to share their stories, overcome obstacles, to be creative and grow as artists; this is the type of work I want to be doing for the rest of my professional career. This summer I had the pleasure of knowing and witnessing the growth of each and every camper. To the youth, I wish you all the best of luck, and encourage all of you to continue to be creative in as many ways as possible. "Stand to your work and be wise."

Ashley Baez, Drama Leader

Changing The Odds nurtures and encourages our youth to explore and understand themselves and the world around them through creative means. Each and everyone one of our youth has inspired me and reminded me of why the arts has and always will be my safety net. I am so proud of all of you for your commitment, trust, and love for one another. I wish you all joy and fulfillment as you continue to rise up through your passions. "Do what you love, and love what you do"

Samantha Di Fazio, Drama Mentor, Lightening Designer

CTO is a great summer program that allows the students the chance to tell their story through the use of drama and is a great opportunity to explore the world of theatre. "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

Srushti Thaker, Enactus Windsor -Business Mentor

Being a part of CTO has been one of the most eye opening experiences I have had.

"Be you, bravely."

Donors and Sponsors for Changing the Odds 2013-2015

We would like to thank the following sponsors, whose generosity made this pilot program possible:



Windsor Endowment for the Arts thanks the P & L Odette Foundation for their generosity and belief in this important community project. Their donation has provided WEA with the necessary core funding to lay the groundwork for Changing the Odds.

Special thanks to The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation (in memory of Morris D. Baker) and The Chandisherry Foundation for their generous support, and to the following individuals or businesses:

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Shirley Williams: Visual Artist
Generator Design of Canada: CTO Logo

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Sam's Pizzeria and Cantina
Giovanni Caboto Club

The Victoria Tavern
El-Mayor Restaurant

The CTO Program Hosts

School of Dramatic Art, University of Windsor

Special Thanks

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