

# Gibraltar Point Artist-in-Residence Program

Toronto Artscape recently launched a new Artist-in-Residence program at the Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts on Toronto Island. Eighteen artists working in a variety of disciplines, from across Canada and abroad, were selected to participate in a pilot project which took place over two 30 day terms from August to October.

The Residency ignited their creative energies and contributed to their professional development in a variety of ways. By providing an opportunity for artists to be part of a creative community and to profit from an exchange of ideas, experiences and expertise, the residency experience had a profound impact on participants.

## Here is what some of them had to say:



"Gibraltar Point is a special and necessary privilege and those who have already experienced this are an anointed few. I only hope that there will be many, many more artists from all quarters of our social spectrum who will have this opportunity in the future."

— **Ashok Mathur, Writer, Calgary, AB**

"Free from the usual distractions and commitments, I was able to work in a very focused and productive manner. The supportive structure and atmosphere of the Centre enabled us to accomplish far more in a single week than I ever would have imagined."

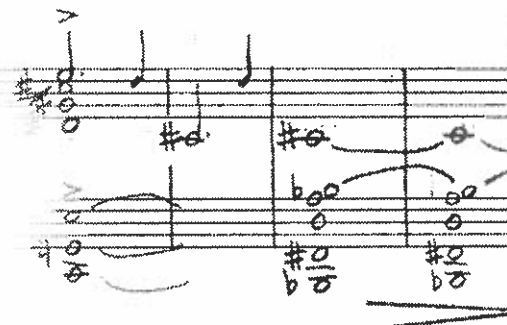
— **Gina Gibney, Director, Gina Gibney Dance Co., New York**

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"I feel I have made life long friends as a result of this experience, as well as germinated the seeds for new collaborations within my own discipline. I have pushed the envelope, on how I perceive myself in relation to the greater arts community. I entered this residency with minimal expectations and leave it more enriched, more focused, more experienced, more confident, with more opportunities."

— **Caroline O'Brien, Costume Designer, Toronto, ON**



"Coming from the world of deadlines as we all do, it was a great learning experience to realize that it isn't always and only about performance and producing, but about process. The residency opened my mind to the possibility of new creative opportunities. The things I have learned from the other artists have broadened my horizons in no small measure."

— **Michael Rawley, Playwright, Toronto, ON**

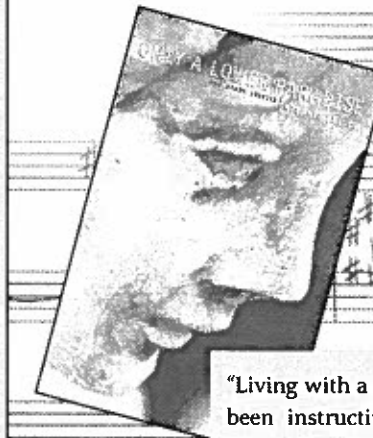


"This place releases your inhibitions. The time here allows you to take that next artistic leap when you're not sure if it will work out."

— **John Farah, Composer, Toronto, ON**

"The absence of an externally imposed structure was the very best part of the residency because it liberated me from the pressure of having to produce something tangible, and allowed me the freedom to just mostly think about my work. What was wonderful for me at Gibraltar Point was that I was more open to cross-disciplinary exchanges as I didn't feel so self-conscious about my own area of endeavor... the residency program allowed for the safe exploration of ideas."

— **Glynis Humphrey, Video Artist, Halifax, NS**



"Living with a group of artists from different disciplines has also been instructive, our mediums may be different but the challenges of creating, finding an audience, and getting paid are common to all of us. Writers often isolate themselves to work, which sometimes works and sometimes doesn't. It was good, this time, to be part of a community."

— **Michael Bryson, Writer, Toronto, ON**



"With the piece I am working on, the collaborative experiences and the environment so full of isolation and at the same time of abundance, I discovered many other options to approach the same piece. This program and the way it is designed helped me understand that there are infinite forms of creating language."

— **Gabriela Medina, Co-Artistic Director, La Manga Dance, Mexico City, Mexico**



"This is the beginning of a new branch on my tree. I have definitely made new links with the Toronto arts community. I have registered with a few Native arts agencies, I have met with other Native artists in this field who I otherwise would have not had the opportunity to meet."

— **Janet Marie Rogers, Writer and Visual Artist, Victoria, BC**



## Special Thanks to our Residency Partners

Toronto Artscape sends its warmest thanks to each of the organizations and artist run centres who participated in the pilot phase of the Gibraltar Point Residency Program. Your contribution to art and artists certainly makes a difference!

CARFAC Ontario • Canadian Association of Professional Dance Organizations • Canadian Music Centre • Gallery 44 • Mercer Union Playwrights Union of Canada • Professional Association of Canadian Theatre • The Centre for Indigenous Theatre Theatre Ontario • The Writers Union of Canada • YYZ Artists Outlet

Artscape sincerely appreciates the generous support it received from the Laidlaw Foundation and the Toronto Community Foundation for the Gibraltar Point Artist-in-Residence program.