

## TEXT

The prose poems of Arthur Rimbaud (1854-1891) collected as *Illuminations* (1872-1874), written while the author was still in his teens, are the jumping-off point for this performance.

Many thanks to Wyatt Mason for permission to adapt his translations of the following poems: "After the Flood," "Dawn," "Departure," "War," "Democracy," "Mystic," "Workers," "Childhood," "Metropolitan," "Sideshow," "City," "Youth," "Movement" and "Genius" (from *Rimbaud Complete*, Modern Library 2002). Thanks to other translators of the *Illuminations*, especially John Ashberry, for lending us a few lines.

All other spoken text is by the company.

## SONGS

An extra special thanks to Jennifer Castle for letting us sing "Nature," "Down River," and "Sailing Away," from her album *Pink City* (2014).

"Stamping Ground," "What's the Most Exciting Thing," and "All is Loneliness" are by Moondog, from *Moondog* (1969) and *Moondog 2* (1970)

"Mourning Tears" is by Jean Ritchie, from *The Most Dulcimer* (1984)

"Le temps des cerises" is by Jean Baptiste Clément and Antoine Renard (1868)

## CHI-MIIGWETCH/谢谢/MERCI/THANK YOU:

The students of DRST 1200, Theatre Glendon work studies, Jennifer Heywood, Duncan Appleton, kith&kin, Great Small Works, Yung Chang, Bee Pallomina, and Leo Levine for their help, inspiration and support.

GLENDON DRAMA STUDIES PRESENTS

# ILLUMINATIONS

A COLLECTIVE CREATION BY DRST 3955: APPROACHES TO THEATRE

INSPIRED BY POEMS BY ARTHUR RIMBAUD

DIRECTED BY GABRIEL LEVINE AND ANNIE KATSURA ROLLINS

7:00PM MARCH 1-3 2018

THEATRE GLENDON  
2275 BAYVIEW AVE.

## A NOTE ON THE PERFORMANCE

“It’s after the end of the world. Don’t you know that yet?” —Sun Ra

These are trying times. Floods, planetary civil war, whole populations turned into refugees, ecological collapse, resurgent fascism, mass distraction... Sometimes it feels easier to imagine the end of the world than to envision meaningful change. And yet a spirit of activism is alive and animating new movements. Can we find hope in these dark times? Are there any shards of light that might illuminate our way?

Our age, as the artist William Kentridge reminds us, is one of flickering shadows. Half our days and nights are spent inside a version of Plato’s Cave run by tech conglomerates. We scroll through cute cat photos alongside the latest parade of outrages and disasters. What if, as Kentridge suggests, the answer is not to step outside the cave into the blinding sun of truth, but to go deeper into the world of shadows and to see what they have to offer? Can shadows illuminate a pathway through a dark new reality?

Rimbaud wrote the prose poems collected in *Illuminations* in the early 1870s, after war between France and Prussia had ravaged cities and countryside. He had wandered through Paris during the workers’ movement of the Commune, before it was put down by the French army, who slaughtered 20,000 civilians during the *semaine sanglante*, the “bloody week.” Those were dark times, too. Yet Rimbaud, like many of his century, still had a visionary faith in science and progress. Can we find a faith for the faithless, a hope that might help us confront our many ongoing catastrophes?

In this show, we treat the *Illuminations* as an image-score for theatrical sounds and visions. Rimbaud’s poems are a procession of miniatures, distorted mirrors of his reality: of colonial power, war, refugees, urban inequality, and longing for a different world. We translate these miniatures for you in miniature forms, including shadow puppetry, tabletop object-theatre and “toy theatre” (*théâtre de papier*). With these humble means, we hope to offer an alternative to the glossy high-tech visions that saturate our waking and dreaming lives.

If there is any real illumination here tonight, it’s a result of a group of young theatre-makers working as a collective: The Gaslight Menagerie Theatre Company. They’ve come together after the great flood, after the catastrophe, to enlighten and entertain you. They’ve picked up some fragments of the vanished world—poems, songs, sounds, stories—to offer a bit of shared pleasure, laughter, and a warning. We hope that you enjoy the show!

—Gabriel Levine

## STARRING

### THE GASLIGHT MENAGERIE THEATRE COMPANY

Melissa Bento  
Emily Bradley  
Hazel Garde  
Jirah Greaves  
Phil Grozdanovski  
Delphine Guet-McCreight  
Allison Holden  
Olivia Kamphorst  
Valeriya Kapralava  
Rebecca Kazdan  
Mariana Kirkwood-Lazazzera  
Nicholas Mackenzie  
Jean-Nico Masson  
Bobo Mo  
Spencer Mykes  
Aaron Neale  
Jamie Salloum  
Vincenzo Sansone  
Caitlyn Smith  
Megan St-Pierre  
Jordan Stal  
Julia Tarsitano  
Bailey Thompson  
Jordan Tzouhas  
Rikki van Goozen  
Meghan Williams

Technical Coordinator: Duncan Appleton

Technician: Lisa Van Oorschot

Drama Studies Program Coordinator: Jennifer Heywood