

Roots among the Rocks



A journey through faith, life
and irreverent discovery...

Roots: deep connections to people who anchor us and nurture us as we grow.

Rocks: our ancestors, our foundation, our challenges, our strength.

Producer's Note

What you are about to see and hear is your own story. Our story. Who is Church and does it matter? My hope is that you will be surprised, you will relate, you will wonder, you will laugh, cry, lament and rejoice. You may be offended or shocked. What I hope the church sees in this production is itself, and learns a bit about how to do that or be that better.

What you are about to see is thought provoking. What matters is not what you think, it is that you think. Is there an 'agenda'? Is there a specific message that the audience is 'supposed' to take away? No. The show, hopefully, invites us to enter more deeply who we are and what we're doing here anyway.

What you are about to see is youth ministry. Youth ministry is what happens when we give up enough of our own sense of power and comfort as 'adults' in the church and welcome young people into our midst, not as tokens but as truth tellers. Youth ministry happens when we walk alongside young people to tell them our stories and show them the metaphorical stars to guide their ships by. Youth ministry happens when we listen to their stories, and allow ourselves to be renewed, inspired and compassionate.

Youth ministry is when you do what you do alongside young people.

Allow yourself to be challenged and inspired. We are grateful for the opportunity to bring *Roots Among the Rocks* to you.
- Judy Steers

Directors' Note

Peter: When we got together to write this play, I kept wondering 'Should the Gospel be proclaimed to the Gentiles also?'

Jenny: What!? No you didn't! What about 'Who is God?' 'How do we live with integrity?' 'Will the Church hear new stories?'

Peter: Fine, I guess those topics are more relevant to our church context.

Jenny: Did any of the 70+ people we interviewed to build this play talk about Gentiles?

Peter: I suppose not. They talked about personal church experience. Journey. Discovery. Struggle. And we dutifully wrote it down.

Jenny: The people I spoke to talked about deep pain and deep joy, and some of them found the Church honouring that, and others didn't. But the stories were truthful, and under all of it was a desire to be heard.

Peter: In sharing our interviews with each other, so much came out, connections and disagreements, so many different views, surprises and realities.

Jenny: Getting the interviews up on our feet was exciting - remember that first day we shared our interviews? So many good quotes! Like 'If you have nothing to die for, you have nothing to live for', 'Maybe he fell down, and no one was there to pick him up', and 'God is in the silence'.

Peter: That feels like only a month ago...

Jenny: That was less than a month ago! At the beginning of May, none of us had met each other, not a word of our play had been written, we had no idea what was going to happen. And here we are, at the start of bringing this story, these stories, all across Canada.

Peter: This wonderful cast made it happen. And check out for their rap!

Jenny: Enjoy.

- Jenny Salisbury & Peter Reinhardt

Roots among the Rocks

Written and Performed by

~

Melissa Glover
Karyn Guenther
Magdalena Jennings
Carolyn Pugh
John-Daniel Steele

Roots Among the Rocks

- I. Sunday Morning
- II. Identity Crises
- III. Resilience and Grace
- IV. Confessions and Absolution
- V. Finding Home

*The performance runs approximately 75 minutes
There is no intermission*

Company

~

Director & Tour Director	Jenny Salisbury
Co-Director & Music Director	Peter Reinhardt
Producer	Judy Steers
Tour Manager	Beth Baskin



Sponsors



Westminster College

Roots Among the Rocks – Cast & Company

Melissa O’Leary Glover **Hometown – Prince George**

At the age of five Melissa became involved with the arts scene in PG in community theatre and quickly joined numerous dance, music, and speech arts festivals around BC. She is a proud graduate of Mount Royal in theatre arts-performance. While in school, she had the opportunity to work with professional directors within the arts community in Calgary. She was also honoured to perform on PG’s own professional stage in the musical *All Shook Up* this past fall. She recently directed and acted in *The Vagina Monologues* at UNBC. Other favourite credits include Sunstroke in *Spring Awakening*, Chick in *Crimes of the Heart*, and Simon Stimson in *Our Town*. She hopes to receive her Masters in directing and start her own theatre company down the road. She hopes to inspire and make a difference through her art.

Karyn Guenther **Hometown - Abbotsford**

Karyn is currently in the BFA Acting program at Trinity Western University. Some of her favourite roles consist of Rosalind in *As You Like It*, June Muldoon in *Anatomy of Gray*, and Grass Grass the Herb in *Mythification*. She also hosts *11:07*, Trinity’s Friday night comedy improv show. Karyn studied playwriting this past year with Canadian playwright Lucia Frangione. She enjoys writing and acting aspects the most about theatre and she packs her days with projects such as 24 Hour Theatre and extra writing projects with fellow students.

Magdalena Jennings **Hometown - Vankleek Hill and Halifax**

Magdalena grew up on a hobby farm in Eastern Ontario. She currently studies philosophy and German at the University of King's College in Halifax. She loves music and sings in four choirs and one band in Halifax. She is interested in youth ministry, having just completed a term as assistant warden at King's College Chapel, and served as a part of Youth Forum at the 40th General Council of the United Church of Canada in 2009. Magdalena very much enjoyed being involved in Jumblies' Theatre production *Oy Di Velt Vet Vern Yinger* in 2008, which included a week-long children's work commune reenactment. She is interested in community art and local food.

Carolyn Pugh **Hometown - Guelph**

Carolyn is a student at the University of Guelph and will be starting her third year in September. She is majoring in mathematics and minoring in computers. Carolyn went through the Acting in the Community program at John F. Ross C.V.I. where she appeared in several plays. These included *Step on a Crack* which reached the SEARS Drama Festival Provincial Showcase in 2008 and *New Canadian Kid* which toured South Western Ontario and was performed at the Blyth Festival in October 2008. She is the Head Server of her home parish and is active in youth ministry in the Diocese of Niagara.

John-Daniel Steele **Hometown - Victoria**

John-Daniel is currently working in Edmonton, Alberta. In Victoria, he was an active member of his church choir and a enthusiastic participant of his church's dramatic productions. Favourite credits include: *Check Out that Star*, *The Tale of the Three Trees*, and *100% Chance of Rain*. These experiences, combined with Kaleidoscope theatre, being a camp counsellor and a youth group leader inspire his work with *Roots Among the Rocks*. He is looking forward to pursuing an education in the arts that will combine music, drama and writing.

Roots Among the Rocks – Cast & Company

Peter Reinhardt **Hometown – Vancouver**

Armed with a BFA in Music from Simon Fraser University, Peter writes music for musicals, choirs, and his own solo projects, encompassing an abundance of aspects, from lyrics to sound engineering to piano performance. Around Metro Vancouver, he can be found working in residential renovation however, which affords him the leisure to follow his passion to create. Additionally, he has much experience with youth ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada, having been involved with national and synodical youth committees, congregational youth leadership, and camp and retreat activities. An upcoming highlight is the Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth Gathering, in London in August, where Peter will be part of the drama team. He really gets a kick out of learning, teaching, performing and creating.

Jenny Salisbury **Hometown - Toronto**

Jenny is a director and playwright living in downtown Toronto. Her favourite directing credits include *The Bard's Betrayal* (Smashin' Bat Theatre), *The Last 5 Years* (Footpath Productions) *Enoch Arden in the Hope Shelter* (European Premier - Footpath Productions), Assistant director for *The Tempest* (CanStage Dream in High Park). She holds an MA in directing from Kings College London and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, England, and is a graduate of the joint theatre program from Sheridan College and the University of Toronto. She is also a professional youth minister in the diocese of Toronto, and has worked with youth at the parish, diocesan and national level. She is experienced in engaging faith communities with theatre practices, and continues to write, teach, lecture and perform.

Judy Steers **Hometown - Guelph**

Judy works year-round in a ¾ time position for Huron University College and ¼ time as Coordinator of Youth Initiatives for the Anglican Church of Canada. In these two roles, she is intimately acquainted with the realities of youth ministry and the Anglican Church across the country, leading-edge academic scholarship and with the structures and support networks of the Anglican Church. She is an experienced educator whose work involves engaging young people with theology and praxis. She has been the director of Ask & Imagine since the program began in 1999, and has worked for the National church since 2006. From her 'past lives', she also brings professional music and theatrical performance and production experience.

Roots Among the Rocks is grateful for the contribution from:

Sarah Clarke, Bill Cliff, Bill Danaher, Heather Ervin, Dennis and Dini Hayes, Helen Manfield, Tammy McBane, Carin Lowerson, Lauren Rockburn, Peter van Wart, Peter Wall, Ask & Imagine May 2010, all of our hosts from coast to coast, the 70+ people who offered their stories to us.

Roots Among the Rocks - Church is What We Got!

Rap Lyrics stay tuned for the end of the performance...

John-Daniel

The spirituality of the church is community, to worship and to praise Him in the safety of its unity,
I find it a pity that it is ruined by hypocrisy, can't you see this pettiness is making a mockery
Of the things we believe. You know you're causin a hindrance!
Don't mean to upheave, but you're perpetuating ignorance -
I don't want to leave, but I'm tired of your arrogance.
I may be naïve, but I don't understand intolerance.
I ain't talkin about doin away with tradition, I'm just steppin up to say: "I gots a proposition!"
Gimme a moment of your time and lay down your ammunition, talk about for everyone a way to have
admission to the One Catholic Church
You're welcome to come in. Won't leave you in the lurch, 'cause hell, we all sin!
So come and search together and forgive what has been
It's time as one to rejoice in the glory that is Him!

Carolyn Pugh

I like the way my local church does communion, people from all backgrounds, a cultural infusion
All one in God, tune into the reunion, of the Body of Christ, no confusion, no exclusion from the table.
A priest goes down to serve those who are unable
To get to the front, just shows that
Even though we come and go, it's one body
There can't be no requirement; it sounds like shoddy theology
The common cup is not a commodity, There ain't no stupid church club for winners of the lottery
You don't need to hold property, There ain't no million-dollar fee
Jesus said: "Everybody come and get a piece of me!"
Despite all the fight, who's who, and what's right
There's still some merit, I declare it, we want everyone to share it
All one in God, tune into the reunion, of the body of Christ, The Holy Communion.

Melissa Glover

I'm here to unleash all this pent up frustration, it's about the troubles with our current situation.
You'll wanna listen, 'cause it affects the whole nation,
In order to fix em, we need determination.
It's time to take a look at the rigid authority -
I'm tired of feeling like the damn minority.
This feeling of ever-present constant conformity
Can't you sense unnecessary rigidity?
Is this the true basis of Christianity?
'Cause all I see is vanity, insanity, tyranny -
I think we have lost our sense of humanity
Do you think Jesus would be proud of this calamity?
I'm shocked there's something left of this institution.
We searchin in wrong places for confession and absolution.
Enough of this abomination!
We need reconciliation and creation of Christian collaboration!

Karyn Guenther

I feel restricted about how my worship is predicated
People gotta get away from how it's depicted.
I'm comin from the church of the Mennonite!
Even though we're pacifists, it doesn't mean we never fight.
Despite your attempts to bring the Word in skirts:
With no wrestling or questions, I'd rather just quit!
Which is a temptation I sometimes get,
But I've stayed for so long and I'm strugglin with it.
There's a disconnect between worship and sexuality -
Why would I deny my identity in reality?
I'm livin a duality if I try and separate
Myself from my worship and the way I create.
I want to bring the truth in a way that relates to
The human experience and the human state.
I anticipate a lot of people gettin irate
But I gotta tell my personal truth and play it straight!

Magdalena Jennings

If your church is draining and you feel like you'll drown
Let me take it, and shake it up, and break it down...
So, I got a tutorial about the church as corporeal
Living, sleeping, eating, breathing - not just some memorial!
The church needs a skeleton It needs a backbone,
We need a rhythm of prayer comin from back home.
Something to ground us so that we can fly.
And when we've found this we can start to try
And flesh it out with intellectual stimulation
A dialectic, a real communication. We need room for skeptical, honest interpretation
For formation of a movement towards nurturing creation
Within ourselves, and in our habitats. We are artisans and farmers, all wearin different hats
We intend to be intentional community so we can be
Hearts and hands working for the good of all humanity

Peter Reinhardt

This ain't the last time I'm gonna take a moment to remind ya
To wake up the church, shake it up and leave behind ya
The break up with which we find ya, there ain't no way to rewind ya back to the beginning
Yo, it's time to go, Take up your cross over the line, Ya know
We can't make up for loss, Don't let them blind ya show,
the world loves, shape up, don't hide your light, ya glow
We don't go with the flow because they say so Hell no! We makin church with building blocks like Lego
We diggin in the toolbox up to the elbow Roots Among the Rocks brings the shocks,
Between the opportunity that knocks, we startin talks with our fellow,
Because the church is where we gather together So we really have it forever,
so it exists whether or not we have a dedicated spot
It's right here, right now, Church is what we got!

“Tolle Lege” (Take up and Read)

St. Augustine (354-430) was one of the great figures of the early Church, and a source of inspiration for one of the scenes in *Roots Among the Rocks*. The story of his conversion to Christ is told in his *Confessions*, in which he describes how God used a single verse from the epistle to the Romans to suddenly convert him. He went on to serve the Church as an illustrious teacher and bishop in the African city of Hippo.

“But when a profound reflection had, from the secret depths of my soul, drawn together and heaped up all my misery before the sight of my heart, there arose a mighty storm, accompanied by as mighty a shower of tears. ...I flung myself down, how, I know not, under a certain fig-tree, giving free course to my tears, and the streams of mine eyes gushed out, an acceptable sacrifice unto Thee. And, not indeed in these words, yet to this effect, spake I much unto Thee, - “But Thou, O Lord, how long?” How long, Lord? Wilt Thou be angry for ever? Oh, remember not against us former iniquities;” for I felt that I was enthralled by them. I sent up these sorrowful cries, - “How long, how long? Tomorrow, and tomorrow? Why not now? Why is there not this hour an end to my uncleanness?” I was saying these things and weeping in the most bitter contrition of my heart, when, lo, I heard the voice as of a boy or girl, I know not which, coming from a neighbouring house, chanting, and oft repeating, “Take up and read; take up and read.” Immediately my countenance was changed, and I began most earnestly to consider whether it was usual for children in any kind of game to sing such words; nor could I remember ever to have heard the like. So, restraining the torrent of my tears, I rose up, interpreting it no other way than as a command to me from Heaven to open the book, and to read the first chapter I should light upon...I grasped, opened, and in silence read that paragraph on which my eyes first fell, - “Not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying; but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” No further would I read, nor did I need; for instantly, as the sentence ended, - by a light, as it were, of security infused into my heart - all the gloom of doubt vanished away.”

1. Text from *“The Confessions of St Augustine”* (Book 8, Chapter 12) translated from the Latin by J.G. Pilkington, in *A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church* edited by Philip Schaff, Series I, Vol. I (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1882).

Help Get

Roots among the Rocks

From Coast to Coast!

We are on a wild adventure this summer, bringing our show to communities from St. John’s, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia! In every host city we have friends opening up their homes, cabins, camps, and parishes for us. But we need your help. If you liked the show, and want to support what we are doing, please think about donating to *Roots Among the Rocks*.

\$50 donation gives a tank of gas for the trip

\$100 donation gives a night on the road, in between destinations

Roots Among the Rocks can provide a charitable receipt for every gift over \$10.

Please make cheques out to Huron University College who are providing financial administration for this project