



Flying in the Dark: A Blind Woman's Story

Created and Told by Kim Kilpatrick

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FLYING IN THE DARK: A BLIND WOMAN'S STORY

Created and Told by Kim Kilpatrick

World Première Tour

Peterborough: November 18; Wakefield: November 19; Perth: November 26

For full venue and ticket information please see below

Kim Kilpatrick was born blind. She lives in what those of us who are sighted might think of as a “dark” and limiting place. We might, but we would be wrong. As a storyteller — working with the simplicity and immediate connection that is the power of her art form — Kim invites her audiences into the scope and richness of her world.

With humour, wit, a deeply felt sense of the ridiculous and considerable courage, Kim guides her listeners through the particular experiences of a fiercely independent blind child negotiating the triumph and tragedy that are, in fact, a part of everyone's growing up – the good friends and the bad, the teachers (some of whom are true helpers others who are weights to be borne). She shares her boundless enthusiasm for acquiring the skills she needs to be self-sufficient. She chronicles the process of becoming an adult with new potentials opening and new complexities revealed.

There are so many things she has done: earned a degree, won medals at the Para-Olympics, been a music therapist, a disability advocate. So, is there darkness? Yes, but it comes mainly from others: from those who patronize her; who will not accept her competence; who are ever-ready to come forth with the next painful undermining assault. And Kim is always so visible. Entering a room with her guide dog, she causes all heads to turn.

Kim has created *Flying in the Dark* as a deep, funny, gentle adventure. Through her show, she brings her audiences an evening of insight and exquisite entertainment. Listeners will leave full of memories that may send them flying as well.

An active member of Ottawa Storytellers, Kim appears regularly at that group's annual series of concerts at the Fourth Stage of the National Arts Centre. She has also been a featured teller at a number of Canada's major storytelling festivals. *Flying in the Dark. A Blind Woman's Story* is her first full length solo show – one which 2 women productions is honoured to be bringing to the public.

Flying in the Dark is the opener for 2wp's second remarkable season of performance storytelling for adults. In February, 2wp celebrates 200 years since the publication of one of Europe's seminal collections of folk tales in *The Brothers Grimm: Two Hundred Years and Counting* with teller Dale Jarvis and musician Delf Maria Hohmann (both coming all the way from Newfoundland.) April brings a story from the Viking world – one that has influenced artists from Wagner to Tolkien. Catch *Dragon's Gold: A Sword Re-forged, A Ring Accursed* with tellers Jan Andrews, Jennifer Cayley and Katherine Grier. The grand finale is a collaboration with Ottawa Storytellers in a day-long telling of Homer's *Odyssey* at the Fourth Stage of the NAC in June.

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2 women productions. Storytelling. For adults. www.2wp.ca. “We should count ourselves lucky that Jan and Jennifer are working in our area. It's another feather in our cultural caps.”

Contact: Jennifer Cayley 2.women productions@gmail.com
288 Theresa Lane, Lanark ON K0G 1K0
613-256-0353

www.2wp.ca



Flying in the Dark: A Blind Woman's story

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venue and ticket information

Peterborough, November 18

Market Hall Theatre, 140 Charlotte Street
www.markethall.org
all shows start at 7:30pm
Tickets \$18.00/advance; \$20.00 at the door
Box Office: www.markethall.org
or call (705) 749-1146



Wakefield, November 19

Café Molo, 1 Ch Valley
all shows start at 7:30pm
Tickets \$18.00
Box Office
advance online: www.theatrewakefield.ca

Perth, November 26

Full Circle Theatre, 26 Craig St.
<http://www.barndoorproductions.ca>
all shows start at 7:30pm
Tickets \$18.00/advance; \$20.00 at the door
Box Office: Tickets Please, 39 Foster Street
(613) 485-6434, www.ticketsplease.ca



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Kim Kilpatrick

Weaving words into stories has been important to Kim ever since she can remember. Officially, she has been telling stories as a professional for the past ten years. Born blind, she uses her art to burst the barriers erected against herself and others with disabilities. She is no polemicist, however, but rather a storyteller who uses her wit and exuberance to demonstrate the palpable joys of her life. She has been a featured performer in a number of Canadian storytelling festivals and appears regularly with the Ottawa Storytellers at the National Arts Centre Fourth Stage. Flying in the Dark represents her first full-length solo production – a splendid opportunity for a world premier tour!

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2 women productions

Based in Lanark, Ontario, founded in 2009, 2 women productions is dedicated to advancing and nurturing the art of storytelling for adult audiences, particularly in performance settings. Initially, the core of the company's work will be to tour three fine shows on an annual basis in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec; current communities reached are: Peterborough, Perth, and Wakefield.

2 women productions also welcome invitations for house concerts, performances and workshops in venues across the land. The commitment is to storytelling at its very best. Material may be contemporary, personal, literary or traditional; it may be thought provoking, funny, deeply moving, raw. Whatever the genre or mood, exquisite crafting stands supreme. Impacts will leave audiences eager for more.

Vision

2wp believes that storytelling for adults has come of age and stands positioned to assume a fully-contributing place in Canadian cultural life. While continuing to work on the mounting of seasons in an increasing number of locations, the organization will also look towards promoting the shows it has already presented on a wider basis across the land. 2wp founders, Jan Andrews and Jennifer Cayley, are committed to creating opportunities for broader development. In this context, they ensure that 2wp collaborates with national and local organizations for the initiation and implementation of forward-thinking change; they provide professional development opportunities through master classes, individual coaching and intensives; they share information required to strengthen administrative expertise. Jan and Jennifer consider that 2wp is an organization whose time is right and anticipate that it will have much to contribute over many years. They are working towards the fulfillment of a persistent dream: that cultural presenters across the land will come to afford major recognition to storytelling as an art form; that such presenters will include storytelling shows in their own regular seasons and independently mount performances in locations large and small.

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the 2 women

Jan Andrews

Widely-recognized as a storyteller who touches her audiences with the depth and power of her work, Jan has traveled extensively, telling stories at festivals and in concerts across Canada, in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. A committed member of the Canadian storytelling community, she was the first president of Storytellers of Canada-Conteurs du Canada and founded the organization's StorySave project. She also served as Artistic Director of two long-running Ottawa storytelling series (one at the Fourth Stage of the National Arts Centre). Previous collaborations with Jennifer include founding an arts education organization and producing and performing complete tellings of The Iliad, The Odyssey and The Mahabharata. Jan tells everything from folktales to literary stories, from epic to personal tales. She is also the author of classic books for young people. Always a groundbreaker, she was the first Storyteller/Writer in Residence at the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture at the University of Manitoba.

A wealth of other information about her is to be found at: www.janandrews.ca

Jennifer Cayley

Jennifer has been telling stories professionally for nearly two decades. Career highlights include: performing at the Talk Story Festival in Hawaii; appearing at the Fringe at the Annual Conference of the National Storytelling Network in St. Louis; touring The Book of Spells to Wales and Ontario; making regular appearances at the Ottawa StoryTellers National Arts Centre series; collaborating with Jan in producing epic pieces. Jennifer believes passionately that stories are important to all of us as we struggle to understand the shape and meaning of our lives. Her aim is always to make the profoundly simple contact between teller, story and listener richly alive. She is dedicated to bringing traditional stories to young people and works in schools settings through Prologue to the Performing Arts (www.prologue.org), MASC (www.masconline.ca) and the Ontario Arts Council's Artists in Education Program. Building on her years as an award winning arts administrator at MASC, she is currently developing a career that seeks to use the power of traditional stories to facilitate organizational change.

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