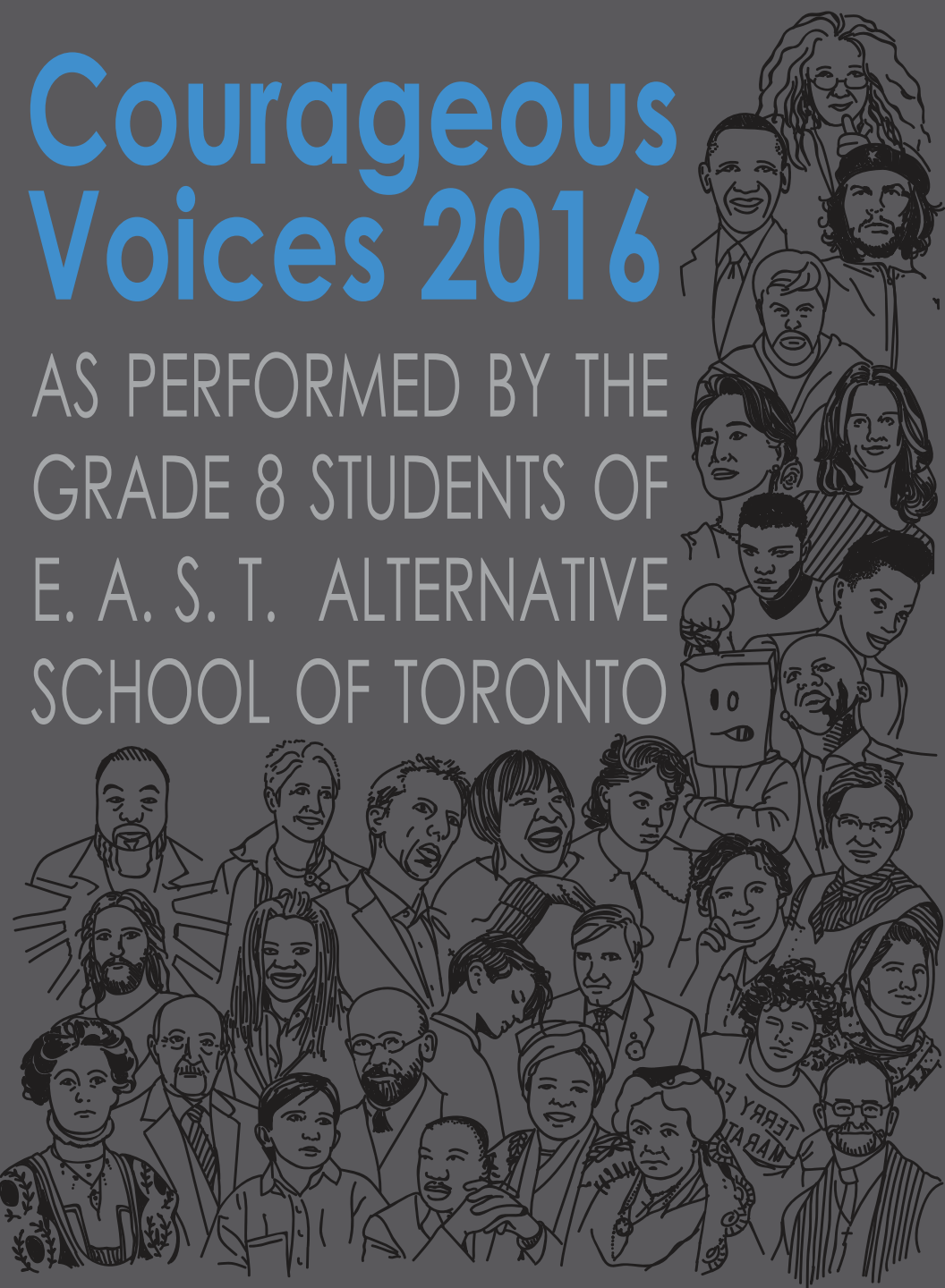


# Courageous Voices 2016

AS PERFORMED BY THE  
GRADE 8 STUDENTS OF  
E. A. S. T. ALTERNATIVE  
SCHOOL OF TORONTO





# The Process

The Courageous Voices project began with the grade 8 class at E.A.S.T. Alternative examining Joseph Campbell's "The Hero with a Thousand Faces". Each student chose an individual they were passionate about and argued that person's case as a hero/heroine. After the students successfully convinced their teachers and peers, they researched the life of the hero/heroines and developed a speech in that person's words.

The performance is based entirely on the words of the courageous people the students have chosen. Each student also created a larger-than-life portrait of their hero/heroine. The class combined their speeches, weaving together portraits of their hero, the dialogue, and music into a powerful production featuring some of the greatest words ever written, spoken or sung.

We hope these words inspire you as much as they have us.

## Notes From The Director

I am asked "Why do we study heroes and heroines? Why is this important?" My response is simple: all cultures have long passed on knowledge from generation to generation through storytelling and this is what Courageous Voices is all about. We are telling the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. By telling these stories we pass along their wisdom and teachings.

Education today is calling for transformative learning that inspires as it develops empathy. Courageous Voices is fundamentally about stepping into the shoes of another person, attempting to understand their feelings and perspectives, and using that understanding to guide our way.

-Lynn Heath



# God & Gaia



**DR. NAILA KELETA-MAE | Adelaide**

Poet, playwright, singer-songwriter, scholar, and lecturer in the Department of Drama and Speech Communication at the University of Waterloo.



**PAUL WATSON | Simon**

Canadian environmental activist and writer, co-founding Director of Greenpeace Foundation and founder of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, a direct action group whose focus is protecting marine wildlife.



**JULIA BUTTERFLY-HILL | Sienna**

American environmental activist who lived in a 1500-year-old California Redwood tree for 738 days to prevent Pacific Lumber Company loggers from cutting it down.



**REV. DR. BRENT HAWKES | Hannah**

Senior Pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto for 38 years. He has been at the forefront of ministry to the LGBT community in Toronto and has championed many human rights initiatives. Rev. Dr. Hawkes received the City of Toronto Award of Merit and a Global Citizen Award from the United Nations Toronto Association.



**JESUS CHRIST | Justin**

Religious leader, considered the incarnation of God by Christians around the world. His followers witnessed him performing miracles and he preached a new morality of love, gentleness, generosity and forgiveness.



**DR. WANGARI MAATHAI | Erica**

Kenyan political and environmental activist, winner of 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, and became a member of the Kenyan parliament with 98% of the votes. She was the first woman in East Africa to earn a doctorate degree and she launched the Green Belt Movement which planted more than 30 million trees in Kenya and provided about 30,000 women with new skills.



# Across The Lines



## **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. | Samuel**

American Baptist minister, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement who advanced civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience.



## **CHE GUEVARA | Giovanni**

Argentine Marxist revolutionary, physician, author, guerrilla leader, diplomat, military theorist, and a major figure of the Cuban Revolution.



## **BARACK OBAMA | Liam**

First African-American President of the USA, Obama brought in affordable health care for many Americans and takes controversial stances, such as supporting LGBT rights and gun control. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009.



## **TRACY CHAPMAN | Pauline**

An African-American singer-songwriter and a social activist championing human rights, she speaks up against poverty and social injustice.



## **MAVIS STAPLES | Angelica**

A gospel singer and performer with her family's band, The Staple Singers, and also a solo artist. She was at the forefront of the civil rights movement in the 1960's.



## **MUHAMMAD ALI | Lucas**

American former professional boxer, and considered the greatest heavyweight in the sport's history. He advocated for religious freedom, civil right and racial justice. He also refused to fight in the Vietnam War.



## **ROSA PARKS | Simon**

An African American civil rights activist who refused to give up her seat to a white passenger and move to the "coloured" section of a bus. She became an international icon of resistance to racial segregation in the United States.



# Let Me Be A Witness

This scene begins with four personal accounts by residential school survivors during the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.



**DIEM LAFORTUNE | Ezra**

A Toronto-based singer-songwriter, lawyer, photographer, cab driver, actor, fighter and activist. She was nominated for Canadian Aboriginal Songwriter of the Year by the Canadian Folk Music Awards.



**ROMÉO DALLAIRE | Maia**

Canadian humanitarian, author, public speaker, Rwandan retired senator and general. Served as Force Commander of UNAMIR, the United Nations peace-keeping force for Rwanda between 1993 and 1994, and attempted to stop the genocide.



**DR. JAMES ORBINSKI | Waverly**

Canadian physician and humanitarian activist, during the Rwandan Genocide. He was President of the International Council of Médecins Sans Frontières (aka Doctors Without Borders) at the time the organization received the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize.



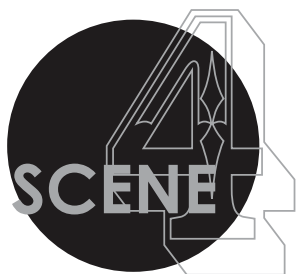
**SIMON WEISENTHAL | Lemuel**

Jewish Austrian Holocaust Survivor, Nazi hunter and author. After surviving 5 concentration camps, Simon Wiesenthal dedicated himself to Holocaust memory and education, including tracking down fugitive Nazi war criminals and co-founding the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna.



**BRYAN STEVENSON | Ann**

Founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a non-profit organization in Alabama. He is a law professor who advocates for prisoners, poor people, children, and minorities in the criminal justice system.



# Shaking The Foundation



## **AUNG SAN SUU KYI | Haley**

Burmese opposition politician and chairperson of the National League for Democracy, who lived under house arrest for almost 15 years. She finally won a parliamentary seat and was awarded the 1991 Nobel Prize for Peace.



## **JOAN BAEZ | Abbey**

An American folk singer, songwriter, musician, and activist who has been at the forefront of struggles for social justice around the world including civil rights, non-violence, opposing military spending, and championing free speech.



## **ELIZABETH CADY STANTON | Dawn**

American suffragette, social activist, abolitionist, editor, writer, and president of the National Woman Suffrage Association for 20 years. She was a leading figure of the early women's rights movement.



## **NELLIE McCLUNG | Abbey**

Canadian feminist, politician, author, and social activist and part of the "Famous Five" who launched the "Persons Case," contending that women should be considered persons under the law.



## **EMMELINE PANKHURST | Andrew**

Leading British suffragette, who played a militant role in helping to gain British women the right to vote. Pankhurst served many prison sentences for her activism where she staged hunger strikes for better conditions.



## **AI WEIWEI | Alexavier**

A contemporary Chinese artist and political activist, who is openly critical of the Chinese government's stance on democracy and human rights. He uses art to express his discoveries, advocacy, and opinions.



## **BANSKY | Kai**

English graffiti artist, political activist, film director, and painter whose works of political and social commentary can be seen on streets, walls, and bridges of cities throughout the world.



# Where Are All The Children ?



## **JANUSZ KORCZAK | Maya**

A Polish Jewish physician, writer, educator, and children's advocate. During the Nazi occupation of Poland, he chose to stay in the Warsaw ghetto helping children in his orphanage and refused many offers to leave. In 1942, the Germans deported Korczak and two hundred children from the orphanage to the Treblinka extermination camp.



## **MELBA BEALS | Sydney**

A journalist and member of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American students who were the first to integrate Central High in Little Rock, Arkansas. Later she wrote, [Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Desegregate Little Rock's Central High School](#) about her experiences.



## **MALALA YOUSAFZAI | Soleila**

Young Pakistani activist advocating for education for all children, especially girls. In 2012, at the age of 15, Malala survived an assassination attempt. At age 17, she became the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate.



## **IQBAL MASIH | Lawrence**

A child slave who escaped and joined the Bonded Labour Liberation Front of Pakistan to help stop child labour around the world, freeing over 3,000 enslaved Pakistani children.



## **SOPHIE SCHOLL | Diana**

A German student and anti-Nazi political activist, active within the White Rose non-violent resistance group in Nazi Germany. At age 21, she was executed for treason for distributing leaflets against the Nazi regime.



## **TERRY FOX | Anita**

A Canadian cancer research activist, who ran from St. John's, Newfoundland to Thunder Bay, Ontario to raise money for cancer research. To date, more than 700 million dollars have been raised in Terry's name and he continues to inspire people today.

# Many Thanks To

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