

Monster Theatre Bio

MONSTER THEATRE is committed to presenting history and myths in an exciting new package for today's audiences.

The name **Monster Theatre** was inspired by something said by Keith Johnstone (improv guru, founder of Loose Moose Theatre and inventor of Theatresports). He was directing a student playing Iago in a scene from Othello and was explaining the difference between playing him as a Demon and as a Monster. He said, "Iago is a Demon. Demons are smooth and attractive on the outside, but evil and twisted on the inside. While Monsters are strange and twisted on the outside, but they always have a good and pure heart." This is the sort of theatre we strive to create.

The Monsters started touring across the country in 2000 with their outdoor kids show **FairyTale: The Choose Your Own Adventure Play**. Their second show, **THE CANADA SHOW: The Complete History of Canada in One Hour** was originally created as another street show and premiered in Calgary as the Monday night slot for Shakespeare in the Park. Since then it has toured across Canada at least twice, played at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre, won numerous awards including the illustrious 'Just For Laughs' Comedy Festival Frankie Award for Best Comedy, and has been adapted into a two-act version and a one-hour TV special with S&S Productions.

In 2003 the Monsters lived in a cabin in the woods for 3 months and researched and wrote **THE BIG ROCK SHOW: The Complete History of The World in One Hour**. In the spring of 2004 the Monsters expanded their horizons and produced a gory/funny five actor madcap version of Macbeth directed and adapted by Rebecca Northan called **THE MACBETH SHOW: Shakespeare Without the Boring Stuff** to critical praise in Toronto. Summer 2004 Monster Theatre co-artistic directors Ryan Gladstone and Bruce Horak created their tribute to the Canadian Fringe Circuit **FRINGE SHOW: A Love Story**. For fringe 2005 the Monsters will tour **Confessions of a Class Clown**, the first Monster Theatre production without the word 'show' in the title.

Monster theatre is in the process of becoming a non-profit organization. Originally based in Calgary, the Monsters have since spread their Monstrousness all over Canada.

OUR PEOPLE

Founder and co-Artistic Director of Monster Theatre, **RYAN GLADSTONE** has co-written, produced and acted in all the Monster shows. A graduate of the University of Calgary, and a 10 year veteran of Calgary's world famous Loose Moose Theatre he is currently working as a writer, director, actor, educational consultant, mask maker/performer and improviser in Toronto.

Co-Artistic Director **BRUCE HORAK** has co-written, produced and starred in all Monster productions since THE CANADA SHOW, which is pretty much all of them. Bruce also is an award winning theatre for young people playwright. Hailing from Calgary, where he attended Mount Royal College, he is currently living in Toronto when not on tour. Bruce's first solo album is available wherever you see the Monsters live. Samplings are available by just clicking on his name above.