

LOUISE RUSSO

W.A.V.E.

Working Against Violence Everyday

Empowering Youth!

WEDNESDAY

May 11 2011



Interactive! Electric! Inspiring! Empowering!

Speakers / Performers



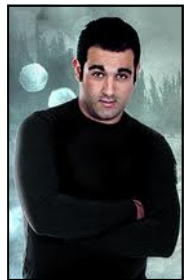
Rick Campanelli (our returning emcee) – spent nearly 10 years with the "nation's music station" and became one of MuchMusic most popular VJs. Building on his strong rapport with viewers, he made the leap in 2005 from MuchMusic to Global's Entertainment Tonight Canada. He is one of the country's most recognized faces in entertainment reporting, and a favourite with celebrities and fans alike.

Diane Dupuy – President and Founder of the internationally renowned Famous **PEOPLE** Players, a Toronto-based theatre group that employs performers who are developmentally-challenged, uses her story to demonstrate what can happen when you **Dare to Dream**. She talks about her vision and the misconception people have about dreamers, namely, that they may have imagination but their ideas are difficult or impractical. With a mountain of obstacles stacked against her, Diane persevered and through blind determination she made her dreams come true, in turn triggering the realization of thousands of achievements by the other Players. "Through one dream, a thousand dreams unfold".



LaToya Rodney – is a motivational speaker and former gang member and now shares her story. LaToya knows first-hand the dangerous path some youth may follow and only after the shooting of two of her brothers did she see that she needed to make a change. A mother who now works on a career in music, she is a role model for kids who want to break the cycle of violence.

Mixed Company Theatre – is nationally recognized and Ontario's premier Forum Theatre company that brings an innovative approach to examining difficult issues, including family relations, peer pressure, sexual health, racism, homelessness, addiction, and violence. For 27 year, Mixed Company has created socially relevant and interactive drama as a tool for positive change. By using theatre as an educational tool, Mixed Company stimulates critical thinking and engages students in active problem-solving.



Mark DeMontis – is an energetic and entertaining speaker who engages audiences with his personal and heartfelt story of overcoming adversity with sheer determination and unwavering focus on his goals. He was not able to fulfill his life's dream of playing in the NHL when he was declared legally blind at the age of 17. Visual impairment did not diminish his passion for hockey or life and at the age of 21 he founded Courage Canada that focuses on 'Learn to Skate Programs' in communities across Canada. *Youth that are visually impaired* are given the opportunity to learn the basics of hockey, are provided with a long lasting character building experience and shown that anything is possible.

Blake McGrath – the Mississauga bred and talented entertainer, dancer, songwriter tells his story how too much fame, too fast, as one of the top 6 contestants on 2005's So You Think You Can Dance, led him down a troubled road he learned to overcome. At the age of twenty-one, McGrath had already danced with stars such as Madonna, Britney Spears, Ashanti, Destiny's Child, P!nk, Craig David, and Jewel. He is now one of the sought after Judges and Choreographers on CTV's So You Think Dance Canada.

