

# Food=Need

A Community Performance and Celebration presented by  
*WIAprojects* with the Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Community & Health Centre.



## Food=Need Free Public Events:

- Tues. Oct. 30, 4-6pm:** Margaret Dragu performance/presentation, Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, University of Toronto Scarborough. Contact: Trisha Lamie: lamie@utsc.utoronto.ca
- Wed. Oct. 31, 1-3:30pm:** Margaret Dragu performing as Nuestra Senora del Pan in *RISING*, in Early Years Centre, DPNCHC.
- Wed. Oct. 31, 3:30-4:30pm:** Conversation with Margaret Dragu facilitated by Toronto Community Arts Curator/Co-ordinator Cath Campbell with Liz Rucker (Arts4All) & Chrissy Poitras (SparkBox Studio), Early Years Centre, DPNCHC.
- Thur. Nov. 1, 2-5pm:** claude wittmann performs at Dufferin Grove Park
- Thur. Nov. 1, 5-6pm:** Community Display & Reception at DPNCHC.
- Thur. Nov. 1, 6-8pm:** Performance by Chrissy Poitras with actions or installations by claude wittmann, *ARTIFACTS* and Margaret Dragu, Sanctuary, DPNCHC. Group conversation and closing action facilitated by Liz Rucker & Arts4All at 7.30pm.

### Locations:

Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, University of Toronto Scarborough  
(Directions: <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~advancement/find/>)

DPNCHC (Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Community & Health Centre)  
1900 Davenport Road (west of Dufferin St.) Toronto (<http://dpnchc.ca/>)

Dufferin Grove Park (south of Bloor on Dufferin St.)  
Toronto (<http://dufferinpark.ca/home/wiki/wiki.php>)

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## Performances and Artists:

Food is a basic human need. It shapes desires and obsessions and yields many kinds of enjoyment and pain. One can explore food from diverse perspectives, seeing it both as an object produced and consumed and also as a symbol of our human relations. The diversity of what we eat (and don't eat) and of how food is produced and shared shapes cultures, communities, and nations. At the changing of the year at Samhain, we acknowledge mortality and remember our ancestors. It is a time when the veil is thin between this world and that of the next. We trick them in costume and through play. We celebrate and honour them with tradition and story. Food is an essential part of this time. Food=Need intends to animate fruitful discussion, generate creative ideas, and build solidarity among cultural producers and facilitators across communities using performance – and food.

### RISING (Margaret Dragu):

RISING, with Dragu as Nuestra Señora del Pan, is a durational performance and installation employing time, yeast, sugar, flour, water, oil, fire and sweat. It is a celebration of food and the domestic. Margaret will be making bread as a subversive act. Margaret's fishing village and the surrounding farmland have been under constant attack by real estate developers and urban sprawl. Dragu activates, in storytelling and in action, struggle, remembrance, celebration and loss.



### Pomegranate (Chrissy Portraes):

"As a young girl, I would sit down with my father with two bowls and a pomegranate. As we chatted, he would carefully take apart the pomegranate placing the peel in one bowl and the seeds in another. We would then eat the seeds just as slowly. As a young adult I maintain this tradition. I find it hard to eat this fruit with any other individual as they do not seem to care for the meticulous way I need to eat it. I wonder about my relationship with this tradition and with this fruit." Pomegranate speaks to memory, ritual and reenactment.

### Arts4All (Liz Rucker):

Arts4All, founded by Jumbies Theatre in 2001, provides a playground for artistic expression for people living in the Davenport Perth neighbourhood. As an independent project, it is now in its 12th Year! Arts4All creates large-scale collaborative theatre productions based on the stories and artworks created by community members.

the chicken arrives around 2:30pm  
(Claude Wittmann):

"This piece is curious about what happens when, on the day of the dead", a fire, a garden, a chicken, chicken meat and a grave-digging human being meet and meet with you."



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*WIAprojects* would like to thank Liz Rucker & Arts4All, Marcelo Castro, Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Community & Health Centre (DPNCHC), Tamarind Eco Art Project, Centre for Women's Studies in Education (CWSE), Theatre & Performance Studies at the University of Toronto-Scarborough, Kevin Wright & Scott Dutrisac at the Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, Shannon Cochrane & FADO Performance Inc., 7a\*11d, Dufferin Grove Park Staff, the many volunteers and community and cultural workers who assisted with this project and the Toronto Arts Council for much appreciated funding support.

*WIAprojects'* Food=Need project facilitators include: Pam Patterson, Leena Raudvee, Trisha Lamie, Liz Rucker, Michelle Ramalho, Nicole Cajucum, Mahid Hassani, Lydia Charak, Francisco Fernando Granados and Jay Smith.

*WIAprojects* is a multi-faceted feminist arts-informed research, mentoring and practice program housed at the Centre for Women's Studies in Education (CWSE), Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto.

## ARTIFACTS

(Pam Patterson & Leena Raudvee):

ARTIFACTS' Food=Need performance will evolve from the long-time-collaborative duo's responses to the UTSC, DPNCHC and Dufferin Grove performances. They will generate personal and specific images and actions that speak to disability, endurance, persistence, patience, and collaboration exploring community, collective action, and identity.



### Catherine Campbell:

Cath Campbell, formally trained in theatre and visual art, works with performance, storytelling and community engagement. She was the artist facilitator for the Toronto Neighbourhood Centres (TNC) "What Does Your Neighbourhood Centre Mean to You?" project and most recently was artist-in-residence at University Settlement, curating a large project for their 100th Year anniversary. She is presently the artist-in-residence for Greenest City working on a project that explores food, community gardening and art making.

