

Bringing together on and offline works that playfully and performatively explore the iconography and fan culture surrounding the “League of Legendary Ladies”, *Sheroes* has over the course of nearly a year, been a hub for a myriad of Canadian and international contemporary artists featuring frenetic assemblages of performance art, music, GIF and GIF-based video art, DIY projects and various activities. *Sheroes* reinterprets and remixes the mythic woman-power that pervades digital and actual cultures.

Curated by [Rea McNamara](#), *Virtual Season* is the central closing event of the monthly art event series [Sheroes](#) which has packed local venues such as NACO Gallery and the [Beaver](#) through 2011-2012.

On July 29 join us in two venues in Toronto’s Kensington Market for an all-day & night festival in the vein of the Ancient Greek theatre festivals or the All Saint Days. Featuring a stellar line-up of local bands and performers as well as international artists, *Virtual Season* will be a manifestation of the themes *Sheroes* has thus far explored in their monthly event series.

Here, the *Sheroes* will be presented in the deified roles bestowed upon them by themselves and their fandoms — shedding light on the so-called otherliness of these pop-culture goddesses by having all their voices heard at once, while also shipping their cults of woman-worship.

Co-presented by

[SHEROES](#) + [Whippersnapper](#)

CAP speaks out about mis-representation of Jane-Finch neighbourhood

Jul 13, 2012 by Deborah Comments closed

Jane-Finch artists represent their own community in powerful ways

As faculty, students, and collaborators of the Community Arts Practice (CAP) program at York University, we add our voices to other York groups who decry the outrageous misrepresentation of the Jane-Finch community in the March 28 *Excalibur* editorial by Michael Sholars. Such stereotyping only fuels the historic schism between the university and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Through collaborative projects with local groups, we have witnessed the tremendous commitment and talent of local artists who have taken on the challenge of representing their own community, constantly countering mainstream media’s stigmatization of the area. These are some of the inspiring examples:

- The wonderful new **West Side Arts Hub (WSAH)**, a network of artists in the Jane-Finch neighbourhood, located on the ground floor of the York Woods library, provides a base for local artists to address their own issues in their own voices and images; WSAH, directed by Andrea Boucaud, has generously offered space for collaborative events and organized meetings with artists to collectively develop projects of mutual interest with us. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weKp6pwcfdQ>)
- **jane-finch.com** is an award-winning website created in 2004 by local journalist and filmmaker, Paul Nguyen, to counter negative stereotypes of the neighbourhood, and kept alive by artists like Sabrina (Butterfly) Gopaul resident/journalist of Jane and Finch community; easily the most creative and lively community website in Canada, it documents all aspects of community life, history, visual arts, music and performance, and political action; it is required reading for CAP students and should be for all York administrators, faculty and students. (<http://www.jane-finch.com>)
- **Nomanzland** involves young artists in creating dramatic representations of the realities of daily life in the neighbourhood; their dynamic participatory theatre performances on campus have engaged York students in exploring racism and violence, and their latest production, *Known to Police*, was featured at the Young Peoples Theatre June 15-17. (<http://nomanzland.com>)
- The **BeLovEd** (Be Engaged, Love Yourself, Educate Others) Movement has mobilized the community around issues of violence and has educated hundreds of local high school students in annual conferences addressing gender violence through arts-based activities; York students could learn to better address issues of gender violence on campus if such a movement were to extend to include the university community. (<http://www.toronto.ca/nan/newsandstories/belovedcrowd.htm>)
- **UpFront Theatre Foundation**, directed by York MES grad Masani Montague, offers space and collaborative events at a Keele/Finch studio, out of which the annual *Sistafest* and *Rastafest* festivals are organizing, drawing up to 30,000 to local cultural events in the summer. (<http://upfrontt.com>)
- The activism of **Jane Finch Action Against Poverty** was honoured earlier this year in a photo exhibit by local photographer Errol Young, held in the *ZigZag* Gallery of the Faculty of Environmental Studies, with 30 members bused to join the celebration; the powerful exhibit could be shared in other sites on campus.

(<http://jfaap.wordpress.com>)

- Acclaimed local spoken word artist, **The M.A.D. Poet** (aka Melissa A. Dean), has collaborated with Allyson Adley at the AGYU as a curator of an exhibit, “Finding Hidden Beauty in the Hood,” which counters negative stereotypes and highlights local creativity; as the first recipient of the