



pacific contact 2025

Agrimony - by Sophie Dow & Laura Reznick / Photo: Vitantonio Spinelli

bclive performance
network

empowering live
performance in BC



A mural by Musqueam weaver, artist and knowledge-keeper Debra Sparrow. Photo courtesy of CMHC-Granville Island.

Before the land we call Granville Island existed, this space was used by the three Host Nations, the **xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam)**, **Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish)** and **Səl̓íl̓wətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh)**. Granville Island was originally two sandbars in the middle of San'aq (what we now call False Creek), it was an important location for these Nations, as it provided an abundant food supply; when the tide went out, the fish, seaweed, and shellfish would get trapped between the bars; the perfect local food source.

BC Live last hosted Pacific Contact on Granville Island in 2020, 25 years ago, and we are thrilled to be back in the cultural capital of Vancouver. We are committed to the work of reconciliation and decolonization, and to building relationships based on sharing and reciprocity with Indigenous communities. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn from Indigenous peoples and to work towards a future of shared understanding, mutual respect, and cultural revitalization.



pacific contact 2025

Contents

Locations Map	4
Schedule at a Glance	5
Welcome to Pacific Contact	6
BC Live Board Members.....	8
BC Live Team	10
Workshop Leaders	11
Guest Performances.....	12
Schedule	15
Showcase Spotlight.....	20
Showcase 1 - Thursday Evening.....	21
Showcase 2 - Friday Morning.....	23
Showcase 2 - Friday Afternoon	24
Pitch & Performs (Short 5s) - Friday Afternoon	25
Showcase 3 - Friday Evening	29
Pop Up Dance	32
Pitch & Performs (Short 5s) - Saturday Morning	33
Showcase 4 - Saturday Afternoon	37
Closing Party	41
Contact List & Map	42
Acknowledgements	44
Milestones, Moves & In Memoriam.....	45
Funders & Sponsors	46

Pacific Contact Map



- ◆ **1 PERFORMANCE WORKS** 1218 Cartwright Street
- ◆ **2 WATERFRONT THEATRE** 1412 Cartwright Street
- ◆ **3 REVUE STAGE** 1601 Johnston Street
- ◆ **4 CAROUSEL THEATRE** 1411 Cartwright Street
- ◆ **5 OCEAN ARTWORKS PAVILION** 1531 Johnston Street
- ◆ **6 BALLET BC STUDIOS** 1286 Cartwright Street
- ◆ **7 GRANVILLE ISLAND PUBLIC MARKET** 1689 Johnston Street
- ◆ **8 OFF THE TRACKS ESPRESSO BAR & BISTRO** 1363 Rialto Alley
- ◆ **9 GRANVILLE ISLAND HOTEL** 1253 Johnston Street



Schedule at a Glance

THURSDAY OCTOBER 2

8:30 am	Conference Registration Performance Works
12:00 pm–2:00 pm	Workshop: Beyond Acknowledgement Performance Works
12:00 pm–2:00 pm	Workshop: Tour Marketing That Works: Practical Strategies for Artists, Agents & Presenters Carousel Theatre Studio A
12:00 pm–2:00 pm	Workshop: Being an Agent: No Gimmicks - Just Proven Best Practices Carousel Theatre Studio B/C
2:00 pm	Refreshment Break
2:15 pm–3:45 pm	Network Meeting: Agents/Managers Carousel Theatre Studio B/C
2:15 pm–3:45 pm	Network Meeting: Artists/Artistic Companies Carousel Theatre Studio A
2:15 pm–3:45 pm	Network Meeting: Venue Managers Meeting Performance Works
3:45 pm	Refreshment Break
4:00 pm–5:30 pm	C.A.R.E. Circle Talk with Marek Tyler of ASKO Performance Works
5:30 pm–7:00 pm	Get to Know You – Networking Reception Performance Works
7:00 pm–10:00 pm	Showcase 1 – Waterfront Theatre
10:00 pm–Midnight	Late Night Hospitality Performance Works

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3

8:00 am	Shuttle bus pick up at Sandman (8:00 am) on Davie & Quality Inn (8:15 am) to Performance Works
8:30 am	Conference Registration Performance Works
9:00 am–9:30 am	Git Hayetsk Dancers Ocean Artworks
9:45 am–10:45 am	Presenter Pecha Kuchas Revue Stage
11:00 am–12:00 pm	Showcase 2 – Family & Young Audiences Waterfront Theatre
12:00 pm–1:30 pm	Lunch (on your own)
12:00 pm–2:30 pm	Contact Room: Exhibitor load-in and set up Performance Works
1:30 pm–2:30 pm	Showcase 2 – Family & Young Audiences Waterfront Theatre
2:45 pm–4:00 pm	Pitch & Perform (Short 5s) Revue Stage
4:00 pm–5:30 pm	Contact Room Performance Works
5:30 pm–7:30 pm	Dine Arounds
7:30 pm–10:00 pm	Showcase 3 – Waterfront Theatre
10:00 pm–Midnight	Late Night Hospitality Waterfront Theatre Lobby

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4

8:00 am	Shuttle bus pick up at Sandman (8:00 am) on Davie & Quality Inn (8:15 am) to Performance Works
8:30 am	Conference Registration Performance Works
9:00 am–9:30 am	Spotlight Showcase: Ample Man Danse Ocean Artworks
9:45 am–10:45 am	Pitch & Perform (Short 5s) Revue Stage
11:00 am–12:00 pm	One-to-One Meetings Performance Works
12:00 pm–1:00 pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:00 pm–3:30 pm	Showcase 4 – Waterfront Theatre
3:30 pm	Pop Up Dance: Honey, I'm Home! Outside the Ballet BC Studios
3:30 pm–5:00 pm	Contact Room Performance Works
5:00 pm–5:30 pm	Contact Room Strike Performance Works
7:00 pm–12:30 am	Closing Dinner, Party & Awards Performance Works (7:00 pm Dinner, 8:00 pm Awards, 9:00 pm Queer as Funk, 11:00 pm DJ)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5

9:30 am–11:30 am	Block Booking Meeting Performance Works
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Welcome to Pacific Contact 2025



bclive performance network

Hello Granville Island!

It's a thrill to bring our conference back to this cultural hub for the first time in 25 years. I have fond memories of attending events here as a theatre student in the '80s—and the energy is still alive.

Since Pacific Contact in Kelowna, our staff and board have been connecting with members across the province. We've heard your challenges, celebrated your successes, and gained valuable insights into how BC Live can better support you.

We're proud to continue our partnership with CARE, and this year, we launched a new grant for reconciliation tied to National Indigenous Peoples' Day—part of our shared journey toward the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

From advocacy and funding programs to our directory, block booking, and the Illuminate series, we're advancing key priorities—thanks to the incredible work of our staff and Board of Directors.

Chairing BC Live remains a highlight of my 35 years in this industry. I'm grateful to serve, to learn from you all, and to keep growing together.

Welcome to Pacific Contact—connect, collaborate, and enjoy the ride!

Deborah Renz

Chair, BC Live Performance Network



 BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL |  BRITISH
COLUMBIA
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

On behalf of the BC Arts Council, welcome to Pacific Contact 2025!

It's great to see this year's gathering being held on Granville Island in Vancouver again after 25 years! The vibrant homelands of the x^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlílwətaʔ/Səlilwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh) are an exciting location for this live annual showcase.

Our thanks to the BC Live Performance Network for putting together this important event that allows connection and inspiration for over 300 presenters, artists and agents and more through over 40 Showcases.

Enjoy the event!

Dr. Sae-Hoon (Stan) Chung

Chair, BC Arts Council



On behalf of Premier David Eby and the Government of British Columbia, it's my pleasure to welcome everyone to Pacific Contact 2025 on beautiful Granville Island.

Events like Pacific Contact are vital to the health of our arts and culture sector. They spark new collaborations, help performers build careers, and connect communities through shared experiences. That's why we are proud to support Pacific Contact through the BC Arts Council.

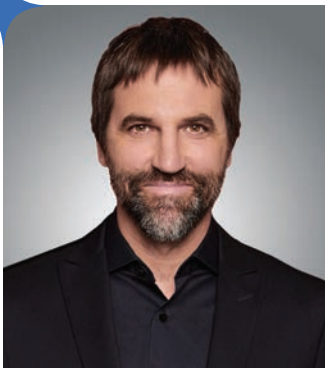
In British Columbia, we are privileged to have the highest number of working artists per capita than any other jurisdiction in Canada. We have also increased our investment in arts and culture over the past decade to support artists, arts and cultural activities and organizations. A strong arts and culture sector contributes to the economic and social prosperity of British Columbia, attracting visitors to our province and fostering investment in our communities.

Congratulations and thank you to the BC Live Performance Network, and to the presenters, artists, sponsors, and volunteers making Pacific Contact happen. Your presence continues to have a positive impact on our province's arts and culture sector, and I commend you for all you do to empower B.C.'s artists.

Sincerely,

Hon. Anne Kang

Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport



Canada is defined by the unique voices and perspectives of its many talented artists.

They tell our stories, strengthen our identity and unite us across vast distances and diverse cultures.

For this talent to flourish, there is immense effort and hard work that goes on behind the scenes. That is what makes Pacific Contact such a critical resource for British Columbia's arts scene. Over four days, performers are able to make lasting connections with arts presenters, which opens the door for culture to shine.

As Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages, I'm proud that our government supports this event. Thanks to everyone involved in this conference for your efforts in showcasing our dynamic performing arts.

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault

Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture

BC Live Board Members

Thank you to the BC Live Board of Directors for their dedicated service and unwavering commitment.



VANCOUVER & GULF ISLANDS – CHAIR

Deborah Renz, Sid Williams Theatre Society, Courtenay on the unceded, traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation.

Deborah Renz is the presenter and venue manager of the Sid Williams Theatre Society in Courtenay, BC. She worked as a publicist, box office/front of house manager, and volunteer with the Sid for many years before becoming the general manager in 2000. Deb serves on many community committees in Courtenay and has served on the BC Live Board of Directors. She holds a B.A. from York University and an M.A. from Simon Fraser University.



SOUTH WEST REGION – SECRETARY

Jessica Duran, Actsafe Safety Association, Vancouver on the unceded, traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔɬ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

With over 16 years of experience in governance within the non-profit sector, Jessica has a strong background in operational management. Her expertise spans financial oversight and organizational development. Since joining Actsafe, Jessica has played a key role in supporting the organization's mission to prevent workplace injuries in BC's arts and entertainment industries. As Manager of Operations, Finance and Marketing, she collaborates closely with internal teams to enhance operational efficiency and expand the reach of educational and awareness campaigns.



NORTH REGION - TREASURER

Lynnda McDougall (she/her), Bulkley Valley Concert Association, Smithers on the unceded, traditional territory of the Gidimt'en Clan and the Witsuwit'en people.

Lynnda is a Director on the Bulkley Valley Concert Association Board. Since 2012, she has held various executive positions and represented the BVCA to the Northern Presenters Group. Lynnda has lived on Witsuwit'en territory in the Bulkley Valley since 1971. For the last 20 years, she has worked at the Smithers Public Library. Prior to that, she was a logging contractor, bartender, secondary school teacher on-call, bookkeeper and financial manager. She attended New Brunswick Teachers' College. A passionate advocate for the performing arts, she hopes to shine a lens on the challenges of presenting in Northern and other small, remote and rural communities.



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Erin Kennedy, Vernon on the unceded, traditional territory of the Syilx/Okanagan people.

Erin Kennedy is a freelance programmer and coordinator based in the North Okanagan. She has been working in the performing arts industry for over 25 years and has been a presenter and BC Live member for the last 14 years. Erin is the founder of the North Okanagan Children's Festival. In 2022, she was awarded BC Live's Presenter of the Year Award.

Erin is currently programming live events for the Towne Theatre, Sundog Festival and Dance West Network, as well as working for the Canadian Association for the Performing Arts (CAPACOA) as their 2025 national conference coordinator.



SOUTH EAST REGION

Paul Hinrichs, Kaslo Jazz Etc. Summer Music Festival, Kaslo on the unceded, traditional territory of the Sinixt Arrow Lakes peoples.

Paul Hinrichs has always been a live music fan and spent his formative years touring. Paul started presenting live music concerts in Nelson, BC, in 2010, and by 2013, he founded On the Road Management and Productions to provide artist management to BC-based acts. In 2014, On the Road Management also began presenting shows from Cranbrook to Kelowna in various theatres. In 2015, Paul became Artistic Director of the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Summer Music Festival, and the following year, took over operations as Executive Director. Paul graduated from the Contemporary Music and Technology program at Selkirk College, is a juror for FACTOR, a judge for the JUNOS, and is also the mandolin player and songwriter in bluegrass-inspired band The Heavy Lighters.



FESTIVALS

David Gonella, Salmon Arm on the unceded, traditional territory Secwepemc people.

A MFA graduate of UBC's Film Department, David Gonella moved to Salmon Arm from East Vancouver in 2006 after working in the movie and music video industry as a writer, director and producer. Between film gigs, David served two years as the Guest Coordinator for the Vancouver International Film Festival. Upon his arrival in the Shuswap, David joined the Salmon Arm RootsandBlues Festival as its Volunteer Coordinator. After spending ten years with the annual music festival, David progressed through the organization and was promoted to Executive Director in the Fall of 2017. David believes that long-term organizational sustainability must include a deep and sincere connection to the Secwepemec community in the Shuswap region.



PRESENTER REPRESENTATIVE – VICE-CHAIR

Theresia Reid, Chilliwack Cultural Centre, Chilliwack on the unceded, traditional territory of the Stó:lō Coast Salish peoples.

Theresia has been working in professional theatre for over twenty years. She started her career as an Equity Stage Manager at Western Canada Theatre in Kamloops and then became the Resident Stage Manager for Sunshine Theatre in Kelowna, followed by Theatre North West in Prince George. While working in Kelowna, she was a Guest Relations Team Leader and Box Office Ticket Agent for the Vernon and District Performing Arts Centre. In 2010, Theresia moved to Chilliwack to start a new path as the Rentals Manager for the Chilliwack Cultural Centre, and then in 2022 became the Operations Manager.



ARTIST REPRESENTATIVE

Kym Gouchie, Prince George/ Lheidli T'enneh on the unceded ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh.

Kym Gouchie is from the Lheidli T'enneh (lay-tee ten-ay), also known as Prince George. She has been a part of the arts community for 20+ years as a practicing artist but also as an arts administrator, event planner, consultant, and cultural advisor. She is a gifted storyteller and an award-winning singer/songwriter. Kym embraces audiences while imparting messages of truth and hope. Kym Gouchie is a force!



ARTIST REPRESENTATIVE

Renae Morriveau, Vancouver on the unceded, traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səɬilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Renae is a Cree (nehiyaw iskwew ᑕᐢᐱᐢᐱᐢᐱᐢᐱᐢ) and Saulteaux woman (nahkawiskwêw ᐱᐢᐱᐢᐱᐢᐱᐢᐱᐢ) from the Treaty 1 Territory. She's been creating artistic works for most of her life, journeying across Canada and the globe in film, television, theatre, and music as a singer, actress, writer, director, and producer. She's honoured to work and creatively collaborate with a variety of theatre companies, film and television productions, and live musical events in Canada and beyond.



AGENT/MANAGER/CONSULTANT REPRESENTATIVE

Aaron Schubert, Paquin Artists Agency, Vancouver on the unceded, traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səɬilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Aaron Schubert is a Vancouver-based Booking Agent with Paquin Artists Agency. He has been with Paquin since 2006, with a short stint in between working as an Artist Manager, Concert Promoter/Talent Buyer, and Consultant. He began attending Pacific Contact in 2007 and was awarded the "Agent of the Year" award in 2008. Aaron books music, comedy and theatrical artists and shows across Canada and the US, primarily focusing on Western Canada. He currently works with artists such as The Debaters, Mary Walsh, PIQSIQ, Alex Cuba, Ombiigizi, Ibeyi, Ruby Singh and many more. He is also part of Paquin's Exhibition team, working on Immersive experiences such as Beyond Van Gogh and Beyond King Tut.



ARTISTIC COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE

Justine Murdy, Scrap Arts Music, Victoria on the unceded, traditional territory of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples.

Justine Murdy's experiences range from material culture enthusiast to artistic director, producer, writer, and designer (lighting, costume, marketing, and instruments). In 1998, Justine brought her world of design to Gregory Kozak's world of music. They established Scrap Arts Music to create "Sculptural Music from the Materials Around Us." Using recycled and salvaged materials of a harbour city amid a massive construction boom as "source" for the instruments, Scrap Arts Music explores concepts of "transformation" through materials, processes, design, movement and sound – while having a great time! Justine is thrilled to be a BC Live director.

BC Live Team

Miriam Manley, Executive Director (she/her) on the unceded, traditional territory of the Sinixt, the Ktunaxa, the Secwepmec and the Sylix.

Miriam's career spans performance and arts advocacy in the UK and Canada. She has programmed hundreds of shows and founded festivals and events in BC. Miriam has worked at various organizations, including government agencies and iconic arts institutions such as the National Theatre of Great Britain and the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. Banff Centre's policy of putting the artist first continues to inform and drive Miriam's work.

In her current role, Miriam is honoured to serve the performing arts community in British Columbia. She is committed to revitalizing BC Live, instigating new initiatives, and growing and developing existing programs. Miriam is also dedicated to advocating for artists, agents, and presenters at both the provincial and national levels.



Sheryl McGraw, Manager, Programs & Communications (she/her) a visitor on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe and the Attawandaron peoples.

Sheryl is a dynamic arts manager with over 30 years of experience driving creativity and innovation in the arts sector. Hailing from Stratford, Ontario, she has contributed her expertise to organizations such as the Creative City Network, the Centre for Expertise on Culture & Communities, 2010 Legacies Now/Arts, North Van Arts, and Arts BC. As the Manager of Programs and Communications at BC Live, Sheryl plays a pivotal role in delivering two key funding programs—Community Presenters Assistance and Into the Act—helping artists and communities bring their performances to stages across the province.



Petrice Brett, Block Booking Coordinator (she/her) on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the Coast Salish peoples – skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), sel'ílwtulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) nations.

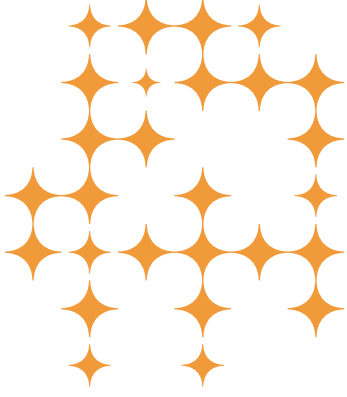
For over 25 years, Petrice has worked in what seems like every role in the arts. She has made a home for herself within comedy, spoken word, dance, theatre, and music worlds as a performer, stage manager, tour manager, volunteer coordinator, and production manager. She's been the VP of an entertainment booking agency, an event manager for various prestigious events, and everything in between! She is thrilled to be now working with BC Live as the Block Booking Coordinator and honoured to be given the opportunity to connect and collaborate with Presenters and Artists to bring more Art to the world.



Jenny Lee Craig, Festival Coordinator (she/her) on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the Coast Salish peoples – skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), sel'ílwtulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) nations.

Jenny Lee Craig (she/her) believes wholeheartedly in the power of the arts to bring people together and enrich communities large and small. She has several years of experience working in various aspects of management and production for many of the Lower Mainland's favourite events, including the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, the Vancouver International Film Festival, the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, Just For Laughs VANCOUVER Comedy Festival and many more. You can find her walking her dog, Valentina, singing with her community choir, or splashing around with her local synchronized swimming team in her spare time.





Workshop Leaders



**Briana Doyle – Tour Marketing That Works:
Practical Strategies for Artists, Agents & Presenters**

Briana Doyle is a marketing strategy consultant and founder of Troubadours & Vagabonds Productions. She works with touring artists, festivals, and presenters across Canada to build audience-centred marketing strategies. Based in Hudson, Quebec, she also co-produces small hall concerts, serves on the board of the Canadian Folk Music Awards, and is a bilingual singer-songwriter who brings an artist's perspective to her work.

troubadoursandvagabonds.com



**Danielle Lefebvre, President of AASPAA/
Danielle Lefebvre Artist & Concert Agency
Being an Agent: No Gimmicks - Just Proven Best Practices**

With a background that includes French horn studies in Quebec's conservatories, piano and teaching certificates, the founder and executive director of the Danielle Lefebvre Artist & Concert Agency brings a unique expertise and synergy to her organization. She received the 2014 Agent of the Year award from the BC Touring Council and was nominated for CAPACOA's Agent of the Year award in 2011. The Danielle Lefebvre Artist & Concert Agency works with artists and groups dedicated to jazz, classical and world music. With over more than 20 years of existence, the agency has built an excellent reputation in the industry. Danielle Lefebvre's agency enjoys a strong presence in Canada. It has also started to focus its market development efforts in Europe, Mexico and the U.S.

aaspaa.ca / agencedlefebvre.com



**Marek Tyler of ASKO
Beyond Acknowledgement**

Marek Tyler (nêhiyaw/Scottish) is deeply committed to his community, working as a community liaison, project manager, facilitator, radio host, and touring musician. He holds an MBA from Simon Fraser University. Marek's work showcases his cultural pride through cultural projects, radio, music, and performances. He has contributed to The Witness Blanket, project-managed The Spirit Pole for the North American Indigenous Games, and conducted community-based research for Indigenous non-profits. Currently, he is focused on documenting and sharing his family's cultural protocols through his project, ASKO.

askomusic.com

Guest Performances



ASKO

Sponsored by Mary Winspear Centre

Performing as part of the C.A.R.E. Circle Talk on Thursday, October 2 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm at Performance Works

ASKO is a teaching lodge that you enter into with hesitation and humility. It is an immersive experience in which, if you bring an open heart and an open mind, you will learn to listen in a different register and come out of the lodge with a different perspective than you entered. ASKO is a coming together –a meeting of emotional and intellectual knowledge, a meeting of the heartbeat and the sound of thought travelling through space. It is a place that teaches us how to listen to the energies and forces that continually create nêhiyawak worlds in spite of and despite the noise of colonialism.

It is a storied meeting place of the drum and the rattle.

Marek Tyler is nêhiyaw and Scottish/Irish, and while his name is on the project, ASKO is a gathering place of many collaborators and advisors. In some ways, Tyler is an oskâpêwis, listening deeply to the creative forces of his relatives. He follows the guidance of his câpân (great-great-grandfather), his mom, artist, educator and Knowledge Keeper, Linda Young of Onion Lake Cree Nation, his uncle Dale Awasis and advisor Diana Steinhauer. ASKO's community doesn't end here, though. ASKO includes the kinetics of pow-wow dancers following the heartbeat of the big drum and embraces the choreography of prairie chickens telling the stories of the grasslands. It is the voice of the wind and the songs of the bright blue sky.

Taking this all inside, Tyler responds with ASKO, a creative offering in the form of a soundscape echoing nêhiyaw life and ways of living. ASKO foregrounds these energies, inviting the listener into a rich gathering of the nêhiyaw creative practice across time and space, generations, and forms of life.

Tyler is best known as a touring musician from Treaty 6 (SK/AB - Canada), the drummer from the Polaris short-listed and Juno nominated indie band, nêhiyawak. Their debut release, *nipiy* (Arts and Crafts, 2018), is a thoughtful meditation on water. In some ways, ASKO is a deepening of *nipiy*. One of Tyler's advisors, Dale Awasis, explains that ASKO derives from the nêhiyaw foundational principle 'askôtowin,' which reflects the following action: we are taught to lead by following and weaving our existence into the web of creation we are a part of.

This is different from how drummers usually work in rock bands. And herein lies Tyler's transformation from drummer to beat worker. By following the movements, sounds and rhythm of the nêhiyaw lives of his kin Tyler engages in wayfinding, inspiring and compelling us to make, feel and dream beyond our present moment.

ASKO is meant to move the listener emotionally, spiritually and physically. It is meant to cross cultures and travel. The album is electronic-forward and the lead singer is percussion. You can hear the sounds of waves, wind and wings in these tracks alongside repurposed sounds like the bell of a residential school. The album doesn't feel heavy though, it was born out of the kinetics of dance and it will make the listener want to move.

Tyler presents us with the sonics of a continuous rebirth, the poetics of a continual unfolding and enfolding.

The result is breath.

The result is simply a gift.

Welcome/ tawâw

Written by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

Indigenous Performance by the Git Hayetsk Dancers

Sponsored by the Kay Meek Arts Centre

Performing on Friday, October 3 from 9:00 am to 9:30 am at Ocean ArtWorks on Granville Island, a stunning covered outdoor pavilion.

The Git Hayetsk Dancers are an internationally renowned dance group led in partnership by artist and carver Mike Dangeli (Nisga'a, Tsimshian, Tlingit, and Tsetsaut Nations) and Dr. Mique'l Dangeli (Tsimshian and Tlingit Nations), Assistant Professor of Indigenous Arts in the Department of Art History and Visual Studies at the University of Victoria.

Git Hayetsk means "people of the copper shield" in Sm'algyax, the language spoken by the Nisga'a, Tsimshian, and Gitksan Nations. The copper shield is the highest form of ceremonial wealth shared among their people as well as other First Nations along the Northwest Coast. Their dancers are bonded by their connections to the Sm'algyax speaking peoples with distinction in their family ties to the many other Nations in Northern British Columbia, the Yukon, and Southeast Alaska. Since 1999, they have shared their songs and dances at ceremonial and public events in urban and rural communities through Canada, the US, and abroad including Austria, Malaysia, Germany, and Japan.

The Git Hayetsk Dancers challenge themselves to learn and practice the artistry of dance, song composition, choreography, and regalia-making to the standards of wealth, power, and prestige embodied by the copper shield. With deep love and respect for their communities, they draw their strengths together to give life to the songs and dances of their ancestors as well as bring to life new ones that reflect their experiences as First Nations people today.

Githayetsk.com

Social media: **@GitHayetsk**

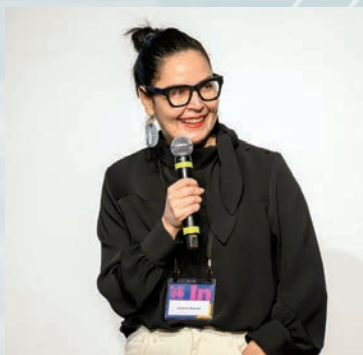
Facebook: **GitHayetskDancers**



PuSh Industry Series

January 27–February 1, 2026

MST Territories (Vancouver), Canada



**A space for seeing what's next—
and shaping what's possible.**

**A leading assembly
for the international
performing arts sector.**

Part platform, part assembly, the Industry Series brings together 240+ global performing arts professionals for six days of sector-specific exchange. Participate in curated discussions, peer networking, artist walks, and studio sharings. Experience visionary Canadian performance. Connect across disciplines, regions, and roles.

**Registration opens in
November.**

[PUSHFESTIVAL.CA/INDUSTRY](https://pushfestival.ca/industry)



2025 Schedule

THURSDAY OCTOBER 2

8:30 am

Conference Registration Performance Works

12:00 pm–2:00 pm

Workshop: Beyond Acknowledgement Performance Works

Hosted by Marek Tyler of ASKO

Led by nêhiyaw artist, facilitator, and ASKO creator Marek Tyler, *Beyond Acknowledgement* is an interactive workshop that explores the deeper responsibilities behind land acknowledgments. Participants will examine how these statements can shift from symbolic gestures to systemic actions aligned with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Through guided dialogue, personal storytelling, and insights from ASKO—a performance rooted in Indigenous futurism and relationality—Marek invites presenters, producers, and arts workers to reflect on their roles in building respectful relationships with Indigenous lands, communities, and knowledge systems. This workshop offers tools for authentic engagement and lasting transformation in the arts sector.

Sponsored by The Capitol Theatre

12:00 pm–2:00 pm

Workshop: Tour Marketing That Works: Practical Strategies for Artists, Agents & Presenters Carousel Theatre Studio A

Hosted by Briana Doyle

Whether you're an artist, agent, or presenter, strong marketing collaboration is key to a successful tour. This interactive workshop offers practical, scalable strategies for tour promotion—covering what marketing assets are essential, how to build an early buzz, and what actually helps move the needle on ticket sales. We'll also explore how artists, agents, and presenters can align efforts to make marketing easier, more efficient, and more effective for everyone involved.

Topics will include:

- What makes a promo kit effective (and what often gets overlooked)
- How to streamline marketing materials across a roster or season
- How to get better results from your Meta ads
- How artists, agents, and presenters can coordinate marketing to maximize reach
- Tips for presenters: what to request from artists
- Budget-friendly marketing strategies

12:00 pm–2:00 pm

Workshop: Being an Agent: No Gimmicks - Just Proven Best Practices

Carousel Theatre Studio B/C

Hosted by Danielle Lefebvre, Danielle Lefebvre Artist & Concert Agency

Being an agent is more than a job: it means spotting opportunities, building strong networks, and supporting talent with energy and conviction. But how can we thrive in this demanding role while staying true to ethics, creativity, and trust? To dive into this question, we invite you to join an interactive and friendly workshop where we'll explore together the best practices of the agent profession. Whether you're already working in the field or simply curious to learn more, this is the perfect opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and leave with fresh and inspiring insights.

Sponsored by ArtSpring

2:00 pm

REFRESHMENT BREAK

2:15 pm–3:45 pm

Network Meeting: Agents & Managers Carousel Theatre Studio B/C

Co-Hosted by Aaron Schubert, Agent/BC Live Board Member & Danielle Lefebvre, President, AASPAA Canada

Agents and managers are invited to connect with colleagues from across Canada, to network, discuss topics of interest, and share best practices.

Sponsored by AIM Booking Agency

- 2:15 pm–3:45 pm** **Network Meeting: Artists & Artistic Companies** Carousel Theatre Studio A
Co-hosted by Daune Campbell & Petrice Brett, Axis Theatre
 This meeting offers artists and artistic companies a chance to share ideas, discuss common challenges, offer support, ask questions, and explore potential collaborations.
Sponsored by Sandy Powlik, Music Wellness Personalized Coaching
- 2:15 pm–3:45 pm** **Network Meeting: Venue Managers** Performance Works
Hosted by Theresia Reid, Chilliwack Cultural Centre/BC Live Board Member
 This meeting for venue managers from BC and beyond is an opportunity to connect and engage in meaningful discussions about successes, challenges, and other key topics related to venue management and programming. Representatives from Actsafe Safety Association and Spektrix will share updates and be on hand to answer your questions.
Sponsored by Actsafe Safety Association
- 3:45 pm** **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
- 4:00 pm–5:30 pm** **C.A.R.E. Circle Talk ~ Stories of Resilience**
Hosted by Kym Gouchie, Indigenous Cultural Liaison/C.A.R.E. & BC Live Board Member
 BC Live is partnering with Canadian Artists for Reconciliation and Education (C.A.R.E.) to host a Circle Talk~Stories of Resilience. C.A.R.E. was created to educate its members and the general public on all matters of the truth regarding Indigenous and Settler history while nurturing acts of reconciliation. This Circle Talk features Marek Tyler of ASKO, who will share their powerful personal story. ASKO will also perform as part of this session, enriching the experience and creating a deeper connection for all.
Sponsored by Mary Winspear Centre
- 5:30 pm–7:00 pm** **Get to Know You – Networking Reception** Performance Works
Catering by Salishan Catering. Reception includes a no-host bar.
 Join us for the Get to Know You Networking Reception—a relaxed and welcoming opportunity to connect with artists, presenters, and industry professionals. Enjoy light refreshments and appetizers as you mingle with colleagues and lay the groundwork for meaningful collaboration throughout the conference.
Sponsored by The Port Theatre
- 7:00 pm–10:00 pm** **SHOWCASE 1 – Waterfront Theatre**
 (7:00 pm Welcome, 7:30 pm Showcase)
Welcome by Quelemia Sparrow, Musqueam Nation
Hosted by Tewanee Joseph, Squamish Nation
 Burnstick
 Ariane Racicot Jazz Trio
 Aurora Piano Trio
 Kyle McKearney
 Canefire
 Buzz Brass
 Aliya Kanani
Sponsored by Creekside Theatre
- 10:00 pm–Midnight** **Late Night Hospitality** Performance Works
 Connect with colleagues and unwind with a refreshment and light snack.
Sponsored by Ballet Jörgen



2025 Schedule FRIDAY OCTOBER 3

- 8:00 am** **Shuttle bus pick up**
at Sandman (8:00 am) on Davie & Quality Inn (8:15 am) to Performance Works
- 8:30 am** **Conference Registration** Performance Works
Refreshments sponsored by Surrey Civic Centres
- 9:00 am–9:30 am** **Guest performance: Git Hayetsk Dancers** Ocean Artworks
Sponsored by Kay Meek Arts Centre
- 9:45 am–10:45 am** **Presenter Pecha Kuchas** Revue Stage
We've invited presenters and festival organizers who bring Granville Island to life to share their stories and successes using the dynamic Pecha Kucha format—a fast-paced, visually-driven style that's all about showing more and saying less. Prepare for an energetic, captivating, and fun session where you'll discover the local events that make Granville Island such a vibrant cultural hub.
Hosted by Am Johal
Participants include:
Duncan Watts Grant, Vancouver Fringe Festival
Gabrielle Martin, PuSh International Festival
Heather Redfern, The Cultch
Jason Dupuis, New Works
Katharine Carol, Vancouver International Children's Festival
Ruhamah Buchanan, CMHC Granville Island and Bass Coast
Shelby Richardson, Community Arts Council of Prince George
Sponsored by the Chilliwack Cultural Centre
- 11:00 am–12:00 pm** **SHOWCASE 2 – Family & Young Audiences** Waterfront Theatre
Hosted by Dave Deveau
Ombres Folles – Pomelo
RAGMOP Theatre, Nayana Fielkov – Presto!
The Chimera Project Dance Theatre – Silly Billy
Sponsored by Evergreen Cultural Centre
- 12:00 pm–1:30 pm** **LUNCH** (on your own)
Granville Island Market features numerous vendors within its Public Market, offering a wide array of food options, along with a central food court area where you can eat and enjoy.
- 12:00 pm–2:30 pm** **Contact Room: Exhibitor load-in and set up** Performance Works
- 1:30 pm–2:30 pm** **SHOWCASE 2 – Family & Young Audiences** Waterfront Theatre
Hosted by Dave Deveau
Missy D
Ragamuffin Productions – Camp Goneaway
Yuki The Juggler – All the Way from Japan
Sponsored by Evergreen Cultural Centre
- 2:45 pm–4:00 pm** **Pitch & Perform (Short 5s)** Revue Stage
The 5-minute Pitch & Performs provide a fast-paced, captivating glimpse of performances and tour-ready shows. Artists and artist representatives will pitch or perform for 5 minutes, offering a fun and dynamic introduction designed to spark your interest and leave you eager to see more.
Hosted by Lucas Myers
JER
Sursaut Dance Company
Shirley Gnome
Holy Crow Arts – Keepers of the Salish Sea
Kristina Lao
Shaun Boothe & The Unauthorized Biography Series
Company 605 – lossy
Vidya Kotamraju – Maktub: Ashes to Alchemy
Foolish Operations – Baby Space Opera

- 4:00 pm–5:30 pm** **Contact Room** Performance Works
Refreshments sponsored by Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils
- 5:30 pm–7:30 pm** **Dine Arounds on Granville Island**
Get ready to embark on a culinary adventure! Delegates will be dining with colleagues at the restaurant of your choosing—a perfect chance to indulge in exceptional cuisine and engage in lively conversation.
Sign-ups are done prior to the conference and at registration. Each restaurant will have a host with a list of those who signed up. We have arranged for separate cheques with each restaurant for your convenience.
- 7:30 pm–10:00 pm** **SHOWCASE 3 – Waterfront Theatre**
Hosted by Nadine Tremblay
The Hello Darlins
Oh Pray Tell
Gravity Theatre – *Bangs, Bobs & Banter: Confessions of a Hairstylist!*
The McDades
Bria Rose N’ Thorns
Tenise Marie
El Balcón
Sophie Dow & Laura Reznick – *Agrimony*
Sponsored by Cowichan Performing Arts Centre
- 10:00 pm–Midnight** **Late Night Hospitality** Waterfront Theatre Lobby
Connect with colleagues and unwind with a refreshment and light snack.
Sponsored by Agence Station Bleue

2025 Schedule

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4



- 8:00 am** **Shuttle bus pick up**
at Sandman (8:00 am) on Davie & Quality Inn (8:15 am) to Performance Works
- 8:30 am** **Conference Registration** Performance Works
- 9:00 am–9:30 am** **Spotlight Showcase: Ample Man Danse** Ocean Artworks
Ample Man Danse has been creating and producing indoor and in situ choreographic works since 2012. In an approach that values citizen involvement, Simon Ampleman and his collaborators explore the “human effect” by multiplying creative exchanges with communities, in Quebec and internationally. Interactive and accessible, our artistic objects honour the talent of their creators and act as vectors of cultural and social development.
- 9:45 am–10:45 am** **Pitch & Perform (Short 5s)** Revue Stage
The 5-minute Pitch & Performs provide a fast-paced, captivating glimpse of performances and tour-ready shows. Artists and artist representatives will pitch or perform for 5 minutes, offering a fun and dynamic introduction designed to spark your interest and leave you eager to see more.
Hosted by Lucas Myers
Krystle Dos Santos – *A History of Motown*
Ne. Sans Opera & Dance – *Take This Waltz*
Farhad Khosravi Ensemble
CORPUS – *Mukashi, Mukashi (Once Upon a Time)*
Bel & Quinn
O.Dela Arts – *Maamawi (ĪLLΔ): Together Through The Fire*
Savage Society – *Feast House*
Patti Savard – *A Life in Transition*
Les Productions du 10 avril – *Albertine en cinq temps*
É.T.É – « *Sur ces eaux* »
The Leading Ladies

- 11:00 am–12:00 pm** **One-to-One Meetings** Performance Works
Hosted by Petrice Brett
 One-to-one meetings give you a dedicated opportunity to connect with artists, agents, managers, presenters, and programmers to build relationships and explore collaborations.
- Meetings take place in the Contact Room at the artist/agent's booth.
 - There are 6 meetings x 6 minutes long; a signal will indicate when it's time to move to your next meeting.
 - A map of the Contact Room is included in this guide and available at registration.
- 12:00 pm–1:00 pm** **LUNCH** (on your own)
 Granville Island Market features numerous vendors within its Public Market, offering a wide array of food options, along with a central food court area where you can eat and enjoy.
- 1:00 pm–3:30 pm** **SHOWCASE 4 – Waterfront Theatre**
Hosted by Akhil Jobanputra
Deantha Edmunds
Waleed Kush Afro Jazz
On The River – Houle, Sewepagaham, Dunn, Ground Zero Productions
Collage Trad
Stick&Bow
Anya Saugstad and Artists – Paper Mountains
Bageshree Vaze – Classical Roots, Global Rhythms
- 3:30 pm** **Pop Up Dance: Honey, I'm home!** Outside the Ballet BC Studios
 The performance will run for 7 minutes.
 Delegates will be treated to a performance by Ballet BC artists, Jacalyn Tatro & Eduardo Jimenez Cabrera, on their way to the Contact Room, following the afternoon showcase. This performance takes place inside the Ballet BC studios, next to Performance Works, with the audience watching from outside. It is part of New Works Dance's 2025 Pop Up Dances Festival, running September 19–21 on Granville Island.
Presented by New Works in partnership with Ballet BC
- 3:30 pm–5:00 pm** **Contact Room** Performance Works
- 5:00 pm–5:30 pm** **Contact Room Strike** Performance Works
- 7:00 pm–12:30 am** **Closing Dinner, Party & Awards** Performance Works
 (7:00 pm Dinner, 8:00 pm Awards, 9:00 pm Queer as Funk, 11:00 pm DJ)
 Catering by Tayybeh, a celebration of Syrian Cuisine. Tayybeh, an Arabic word means both "kind woman" and "delicious". A no host bar will be available.
Hosted by Suzette Amaya
 The Closing Dinner, Awards & Party promises an unforgettable night filled with celebration, inspiration, and connection. Join us as we honor the outstanding achievements within our sector and enjoy plenty of opportunities to network. Dance the night away to the electrifying sounds of **Queer as Funk** and a live **DJ**! This is a celebration you won't want to miss.
Sponsored by Dufflebag Theatre, Sandy Powlik, Music Wellness Personalized Coaching, Surrey Civic Theatres



2025 Schedule SUNDAY OCTOBER 5

- 9:30 am–11:30 am** **Block Booking Meeting** Performance Works
 (for presenter members only)
Hosted by Petrice Brett, Block Booking Coordinator
 Join Petrice Brett, BC Live's Block Booking Coordinator, for an in-person meeting to explore your interests for the upcoming performing arts seasons. Presenters will have the chance to pitch artists, discuss potential tours through the Arts Touring Connector, and review current touring opportunities available.
Sponsored by Creekside Theatre

SPOTLIGHT SHOWCASE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4

9:00 am to 9:30 am – Ocean Artworks

Ample Man Danse

A piano is sleeping in the middle of nowhere. That would be the end of the story if it weren't for a musician accompanied by two dancers ready for just about anything. A few notes played on the keyboard and the melodies start to flow, the bodies come to life, and a thrilling pas de deux begins—dance and music!

This light-hearted, poetic show plays with the possibilities in the meeting between two urban, contemporary dancers and a jazz pianist. The talented trio loves a challenge and constantly pushes itself to take its creativity to the next level. It's a joy to watch, and it immerses us in a world where music takes shape and movement becomes rhythm.

Dancers:

Simon Ampleman and Samuel Cyr

Pianist: Gabriel Vinuela-Pelletier (viñu-vinu)

Yaëlle Azoulay

Résonances, agence de spectacles

danse@agenceresonances.com

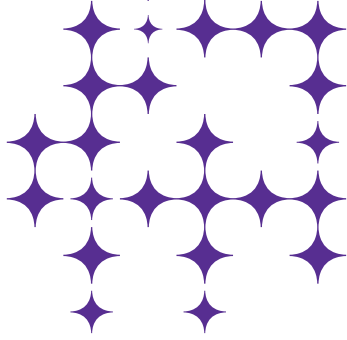
amplemandanse.com

Home base: Quebec



Photo: The Focalister - Élodie Legaul





Showcase 1

THURSDAY OCTOBER 2

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm – Waterfront Theatre

Hosted by Tewanee Joseph



Photo: Gabrielle Touchette

Burnstick

Built on emotion-stirring storytelling and unmistakable vocal harmonies accompanied by a century-old instrument, Burnstick, a JUNO-nominated husband and wife Folk duo, is intent on creating affecting music that inspires listeners to feel. The Manitoba-based Indigenous duo features Nadia and Jason Burnstick, esteemed independent artists who united over a decade ago to create deeply moving, cinematic Folk music using their trademark vocal pairing and Jason's mastery of the lap slide Weissenborn guitar. Five years after their nationally acclaimed debut album, "Kiyânaw," Burnstick unveils "Made of Sin", their remarkable and poignant sophomore album. Backed by their drummer, Daniel Roy, Nadia and Jason perform deeply resonant music that strikes a chord with audiences. With thought-provoking lyrics and engaging stories, they often leave listeners reflecting on their own experiences, feelings, and memories.

Debbie Peters

Maverick Cooperative
debbie@magnumom.ca
burnstick.com
Home base: Manitoba



Photo: Joe Cancilla

Ariane Racicot Jazz Trio

Ariane Racicot, pianist and composer, presents an all-new show with her trio, featuring original pieces from her second album, Dancing with Fire (2025). Her modern jazz is a fiery blend of passion, drive, and intensity that reflects the spirit of the Montreal-based pianist.

She has performed at major venues and festivals, including the Montréal International Jazz Festival, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, the Jazz Room in Waterloo, and Salle Bourgie in Montréal. Ariane Racicot and her trio have toured extensively in Ontario and Québec. This marks their first performance in British Columbia.

Marie-Catherine LaPointe

Boulev'Art Artist's Management
lapointe@boulevart.ca
arianeracicot.com
Home base: Quebec

Aurora Piano Trio

Expect to experience an exciting and diverse showcase by the Aurora Piano Trio. With Beethoven's youthful and exuberant Piano Trio No. 1, Op. 1 in E flat major, followed by music from Shostakovich's dramatic and deeply moving Piano Trio No. 2, to the virtuosity and brilliance of Mendelssohn's Piano Trio in D minor, this showcase will represent a program of classical music at its finest. The Aurora Piano Trio will take the audience on a musical journey filled with a myriad of emotions and performed at the highest calibre.

Yuel Yawney

yuelyawney@yahoo.com
facebook.com/p/Aurora-Piano-Trio
Home base: British Columbia





Kyle McKearney

Kyle McKearney is redefining Americana, weaving soulful storytelling with gritty, roots-inspired instrumentation into a genre-defying sound that makes him one of Canada's most captivating voices. His sophomore album, *A Traveller's Lament*, earned 11 awards, including the 2023 CCMA for Alternative Country Album of the Year. This pivotal release launched him onto stages with the likes of The Black Crowes, Lainey Wilson, and Darius Rucker, performing everywhere from intimate theatres to arenas and festivals across Canada, the USA, Europe, and the UK.

Now, with his third album *To The River* - co-produced with Russell Broom and mixed by Vance Powell - McKearney delivers his most powerful work to date. The collection explores themes of family, identity, surrender, and connection, blurring the lines between Americana, country, and rock.

Jeff Ojeda

Phase Management | jeff@phasemgmt.com

imkylemckearney.com

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Kevin Thom

CaneFire

CaneFire is a dynamic and fertile myriad of Caribbean traditions, jazz, and the original vision of founder, pianist, and composer Jeremy Ledbetter.

In recent years, CaneFire has taken its unique brand of Caribbean Latin Jazz from Newfoundland to the Yukon, to South America and the Caribbean. They have released two albums of original music, both of which have garnered rave reviews and seen time on radio charts in Canada and abroad.

Luisa González

Marilyn Gilbert Artists Management (MGAM) | luisa@mgam.com

canefire.ca

Home base: Ontario



Buzz Brass

The Buzz Brass ensemble invites you to rediscover the timeless works of George Gershwin, blending the rich tones of brass with the elegance of the piano to perform *Rhapsody in Blue*, *Summertime*, *Cuban Overture* and other great classics. With splendid and exclusive arrangements, six musicians pay tribute to one of America's most celebrated composers, capturing the brilliance and intensity of a full orchestra for an unforgettable experience!

Annick-Patricia Carriere

Agence Station Bleue | ap.carriere@stationbleue.com

buzzcuivres.com

Home base: Quebec



Photo: Monica Pronk

Aliya Kanani – *Where You FROM, From?*

Aliya, an award-winning Toronto-based comedian and Canadian Academy Award-nominated actress, captivates audiences globally with her vibrant personality and sharp wit. Her one-woman show, 'Where You FROM, From?', celebrated for its humour and deep engagement with themes of identity and belonging, has won accolades at Ottawa and Toronto Fringe Festivals. Aliya disarms audiences with her playful mischief, tackling complex topics like race, gender, and social labels with humour, sharing personal stories from her life as a nomad and debunking assumptions.

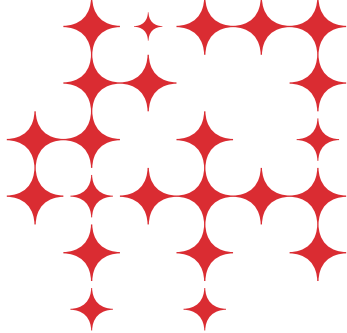
Currently touring North America and developing a new show in Australia, Aliya's performances invite laughter while fostering a connection to humanity. Notably nominated for her acting in 'Scarborough,' Aliya continues to expand her creative repertoire in film and television, maintaining a legacy of impactful entertainment.

Aliya Kanani

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aliyakanani.com

Home base: Ontario



Showcase 2

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2

11:00 am to 12:00 pm – Waterfront Theatre

Hosted by Dave Deveau



Photo: Jean-Michael Seminaro

Ombres Folles – *Pomelo*

An adaptation of “Pomelo est amoureux” by Ramona Bădescu and Benjamin Chaud (Albin Michel Jeunesse), by Ombres Folles, for ages three and up.

Pomelo is a tiny pink elephant, born under a dandelion, in a garden. With humour and sensitivity, Pomelo discovers the world around him before experiencing the shock of fall's arrival. And then... It's winter! Beyond his distress, Pomelo uses his ability to adapt with creativity. This wordless show unfolds to the rhythm of the ever-changing seasons. Through a playful use of puppets, shadows, live music and scents, Pomelo is an enchanting and enveloping experience.

Founded in 2005, Ombres Folles creates shows that spark the whimsical imagination of both young and old. The company explores the crossroads of puppetry arts while delving into our fears and taboos.

Maude Gareau

info@ombresfolles.ca

ombresfolles.ca

Home base: Quebec



RAGMOP Theatre, Nayana Fielkov – *Presto!*

Presto! The Great Lambrusco turns scarves into eggs! Coins appear from thin air, and a cupcake gets baked in a shoe! But what's really happening here? Can we believe everything we see? In this comedic unfolding, the audience finds out that illusions are not reality, and that to find true magic, we must slow down, observe, and listen.

Nayana Fielkov

nayanafielkov@gmail.com

nayanafielkov.ca

Home base: British Columbia



The Chimera Project Dance Theatre – *Silly Billy*

Silly Billy is about a buffalo that wants to become a unicorn. Billy, a rare white-buffalo unhappy with his uniqueness, embarks on a quest to find a magical unicorn with the hope of achieving his greatest dream and emulating this magnificent creature. Through adventures, obstacles, misunderstandings and mishaps, Billy discovers his own identity and self-worth, taking his place alongside the mythical Unicorn as the legendary great white buffalo of the plains. The performance includes classical ballet, traditional hoop-dancing, puppetry, and loads of shenanigans.

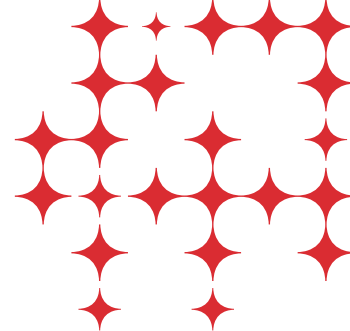
Silly Billy was created in 2021, with the input of celebrated elder Shirley Horn, directed by Malgorzata Nowacka-May and choreographed by esteemed hoop dance artist Arik Pipe and contemporary dance artist Amy Hampton. The show has reached over 10,000 young people across Ontario, Québec, and the Maritimes.

Malgorzata Nowacka-May

info@chimeraproject.org

chimeraproject.org

Home base: Ontario



Showcase 2

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm – Waterfront Theatre

Missy D

Missy D is a bilingual artist fusing hip-hop, R&B, soul, and jazz in her “Rap & Soul” genre. With roots in Rwanda, Côte d’Ivoire and Zimbabwe, she effortlessly flows in both French and English. Missy is known for her electrifying stage presence with a live band or DJ. In 2024, she was named Francophone Artist of the Year at WCMA. Her performances have been empowering, feel-good, and have connected with audiences of all ages. Missy D brings a dynamic, authentic, and unforgettable experience, guaranteed to get the whole family singing along.

Kim Thé

bookings@pebblestarartists.com

missydmusic.com

Home base: British Columbia



Ragamuffin Productions – *Camp Goneaway*

Margot and Evie are best friends. Every year, they look forward to returning to their beloved summer camp, “Camp Goneaway.” However, change is in the air. What once had been a haven of a camp has now become polluted and neglected. Evie has swapped her love of boy bands for environmental activism. Margot is desperate to stay in the past, when their summers were simpler.

When they hear a prophetic sea monster is hiding in their lake waters, Margot and Evie are determined to see the future. Will they stay friends despite their differences? Will a future exist for the next generation? For fans of *The Babysitter’s Club Mysteries* and *The Parent Trap*, this play explores eco-anxiety, friendship and climate change for the young at heart.

Ashley Chodat

chodatashley@gmail.com

ragamuffinproductions.ca

Home base: British Columbia

Winner of **BC Live “Pick of the Fringe Award”** at the 2024 Vancouver Fringe Festival



Photo: Chelsey Stuyt Photography

Yuki the Juggler – *All the Way from Japan*

Yuki the Juggler is an award-winning performer known for nearly two decades of dynamic, interactive shows that fuse freestyle dance, modern object manipulation, and traditional Japanese arts.

His show, ‘All the Way from Japan,’ is a high-energy juggling performance that blends humour, skill, and audience participation to create a captivating and unforgettable experience. Yuki shares the rich heritage of Edo Daikagura—a 400-year-old Japanese performance art—alongside cutting-edge juggling and playful comedy, connecting with crowds of all ages. Having travelled the world, he now brings his unique style to festivals, theatres, streets, and gatherings of all kinds.

Cause & Effect Circus

causeeffectcircus@gmail.com

causeeffectcircus.ca

yukithejuggler.com

Home base: British Columbia



Pitch & Performs (Short 5s)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3

2:45 pm to 4:00 pm – Revue Stage

Hosted by Lucas Myers



Photo: Ksenija Hotic

JER

JER is a Brazilian-Canadian multi-instrumentalist and music producer who blends Northeastern Brazilian rhythms with global sounds, immersive visuals, and electronic textures. Born in Bahia and based in Toronto, she creates live performances that bridge tradition and experimentation. Her style, dubbed psycho-tropical, fuses rooted Brazilian grooves, indie elements, and synth layers with poetic lyrics and real-time visual art. Inspired by the likes of Hermeto Pascoal, Joni Mitchell, Oscar Peterson, Sonic Youth, JER brings a raw yet refined energy to the stage. Her upcoming debut album, set for release in fall 2025, features collaborations with musicians connected to iconic Brazilian acts such as Nação Zumbi, BaianaSystem, and Gal Costa.

Whether performing solo or with a small ensemble, JER delivers emotionally rich, culturally grounded performances that move both body and spirit.

Luisa González

Marilyn Gilbert Artists Management (MGAM)

luisa@mgam.com

jersings.com

Home base: Ontario

Sursaut Dance Company

Founded in Sherbrooke in 1985, the Sursaut Dance Company is dedicated to the creation, production, and dissemination of dance works for young and family audiences. Joyful, poetic and touching, the company's productions witness to the maturity of a progressive and evolutionary artistic vision. Conscious of the intelligence, the openness, the great capacity to listen and see of young audiences, the company works with seriousness with the greatest respect for this audience. Sursaut's productions are presented from coast to coast in Canada.

The pitch will showcase the work of the Sursaut Danse Company, which has been creating choreographic works for young audiences for over 40 years, with a particular focus on its latest creation, Marmalade Spring.

Pierre-Alexandre PG

diffusion@sursaut.ca

sursaut.ca

Home base: Quebec

Shirley Gnome

Shirley Gnome is a Juno-nominated comedian, songwriter and vocalist based out of Vancouver, BC/Montreal. She is celebrated for performing folk, rock, pop, and country with satirical subject matter and stunning vocals. Her witty, hilarious lyrics tackle topics both silly and provocative, captivating audiences with playful and biting content. Gnome has earned rave reviews and accolades in five countries. She's performed at major festivals like The Melbourne International Comedy Festival, The Philadelphia Folk Festival, JFL Vancouver, The Winnipeg Comedy Festival and more. Gnome has been featured on CBC Radio's The Debaters, CBC Gem, and Sirius XM.

In 2021, her album Decoxification earned a Juno Award nomination. Her latest album, Live Bare & Natural, was released in March 2025, with an accompanying full-length comedy special.

Shirley Gnome

heartchoke.arts@gmail.com

shirleygnome.com

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Luke Bentley



Holy Crow Arts – *Keepers of the Salish Sea*

Holy Crow Arts Society was founded by Justin Neal, a member of the Squamish Nation, for the creation and production of theatrical plays, community-engaged projects, creative collaboration projects and commissions, all with a particular focus on Indigenous and Coast Salish artistic expression and stories that seek to uplift contemporary society. Holy Crow was created out of a desire to address the dearth of contemporary and honest Indigenous characters on stage. They present unique, artistically challenging, and genre-defying work.

Keepers of the Salish Sea is about finding that path we all seek, a search for meaning in life, to discover answers to existential questions. A probing, searching, hilarious tale infusing Coast Salish traditions — inspired by a phenomenal cultural practice thousands of years old, nearly erased by colonization — with the pressing environmental and social issues of our day.

Justin Neal

Holy Crow Arts

justin@holycrowarts.com

holycrowarts.com

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Lindsey Blane

Kristina Lao

Kristina Lao is a multi-disciplinary, multi-racial, cinematic folk-pop artist with velvety vocals and contemplative lyrics. Audiences can expect a poetic blend of mellifluous melodies over finger-picking acoustic guitar, interspersed with short tales that mirror the internal musings of today's times.

A seasoned touring professional from Hong Kong with theatre roots who has lived across the world, her light-hearted banter juxtaposes thought-filled music, dancing between songs with real-time observations collected from moments, hours and days before. A skilled raconteur, she transcends geography to contemplate candidly about life, lessons and love, inviting audiences to participate in a collective soundtrack.

Cindy Au Yeung

cindy@kristinalao.com

kristinalao.com

Home base: British Columbia



Shaun Boothe & The Unauthorized Biography Series

Shaun Boothe is an award-winning hip hop artist who is redefining what it means to inspire. On stage, he combines creativity, authenticity, and compelling storytelling to deliver an unforgettable experience.

Combining biographical hip-hop songs and documentary-style music videos, Shaun Boothe & The Unauthorized Biography Series is an explosive and motivational musical presentation. It awakens the greatness that lives within us all and celebrates some of the world's greatest cultural icons like Terry Fox, Serena Williams, Bob Marley, Malala Yousafzai and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Michelle Cockburn

EduStage Agency

michelle@edustage.ca

shaunboothe.com

Home base - Nova Scotia

Company 605 – *lossy*

lossy is about an inability to take it all with us.

These are bodies at a loss, gathering together in a stream of movement. A state of recovery, seeking and sifting, grasping for an anchor. These are the bodies that were left behind, haunted by the ghostly traces of lost futures—a nostalgia for a world that never happened. It is at once real and science fiction, digital and embodied.

Lossy is a warped ritual of transcendence. It is a carefree conjuring of a shiny new future “us” and a collective grieving for what the future may no longer hold, once we finally arrive.

Francesca Piscopo

Eponymous

francesca@company605.ca

company605.ca

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Luciana D Anunciacao

Vidya Kotamraju – *Maktub: Ashes to Alchemy*

Vidya Kotamraju is a South Asian dance artist, choreographer, and educator based in Vancouver. She is the founder of House of Indian Dance, which teaches culturally rooted movement. With three decades of experience, her work blends classical technique with its contemporary expression, global music, and storytelling. Exploring themes of identity, migration, and resilience, her performances have been featured at major festivals across Canada. She has been an Artist-in-Residence at The Dance Centre and is a recipient of the Shade of Hope Award. She is rooted in training under Jai Govinda (Canada), Bragha Bessell (India), and Sheila Kumar (India).

Maktub: Ashes to Alchemy

Inspired by *The Alchemist*, *Maktub: Ashes to Alchemy* is a powerful solo work by Vidya Kotamraju that channels the raw pulse of longing, survival, and transformation. Set against the stark realities of the refugee crisis, the piece fuses Bharata Natyam with global music, the NAVTAR® instrument, voice, and immersive technology.

Vidya Kotamraju

vidya@sloan.mit.edu

vidyadance.com

Home base - British Columbia



Photo: Stephanie Cragg

Foolish Operations – *Baby Space Opera*

In *Baby Space Opera*, families gather under our shared night sky to reflect on the possibility of the child being our guiding star. This is Foolish Operations' new performance for babies and all their adults. This project is a co-production with Théâtre la Seizième, which will premiere in May 2026.

The theme calls for a poetry of the senses: dancing within projections of stars and galaxies, songs, and characters in stunning costumes inspired by the constellations of Ursa Major, Cassiopeia, and their stars.

Cory Haas

Théâtre la Seizième

directionartistique@seizieme.ca

foolishoperations.org

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Riz Herbosa



Allison Lupton

2020 CFMA Traditional Singer of the Year nominee

“Allison Lupton’s balance of strong composition and sensitive musicality makes her a fine contemporary songwriter and interpreter of the tradition and the works of her fellow songsmiths.”

-Archie Fisher

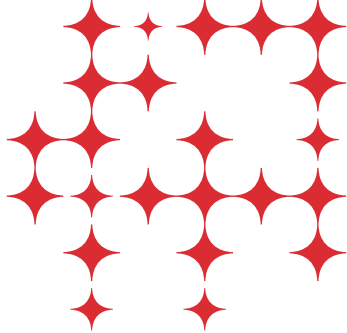
www.allisonlupton.com



pacific 
contact

October 1-4 2026
Nanaimo BC





Showcase 3

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3

7:30 pm to 10:00 pm – Waterfront Theatre

Hosted by Nadine Tremblay



The Hello Darlins

Led by Romani-Canadian musician, Candace Lacina and keyboardist Mike Little, The Hello Darlins are some of Canada's most in-demand professional session and touring musicians who came together to forge a distinct hybrid of traditional country, gospel and blues.

Referred to as a "One-Band Americana Festival," audiences had the first chance to see them when the band showcased at UK Americana Music Week and performed alongside Lucinda Williams, as well as Canada Day in Trafalgar Square and Celtic Connections. The Hello Darlins then joined with their friend Matt Andersen for a 36-date, cross-Canada tour, playing sold-out shows in revered venues such as Massey Hall. This year's activities included highlight performances with Rodney Crowell, Mary Gautier, Amanda Marshall and more.

Nicole Rochefort

AIM Booking Agency
nicole@aimbookingagency.com
thehellodarlins.com
Home base: Alberta



Oh Pray Tell

Oh Pray Tell is a boundary-pushing, multidisciplinary, queering trio made up of Shayna Jones, Sally Titasey, and Betty Supple. Melding roots music, R&B, and folk traditions with stomp-clap rhythms, cajon, upright bass, and banjo, they weave rich three-part harmonies with sass, humour, grief, tears and ruckus good times. Their performances go beyond the musical—blending spoken word, performance art, and experimental folklore to explore themes of justice, connection, and collective care. They center authenticity and communion, creating space for reflection, resistance, and nervous system-soothing presence. Every show is as much ritual as it is concert: bold storytelling, haunting harmonies, and the powerful use of silence draw audiences into an experience that is grounded, connective, and alive.

With joy and disruption in equal measure, Oh Pray Tell invites you into a shared space where art becomes both balm and spark.

Aubrey Burke

ohpraytell@gmail.com
ohpraytell.com
Home base: British Columbia



Gravity Theatre – *Bangs, Bobs & Banter*

Bangs, Bobs & Banter: Confessions of a Hairstylist will have audiences laughing their heads off...without messing up their hair. Nikki, a charismatic hairstylist with a gift for storytelling, invites the audience into her salon, seamlessly shifting between characters and revealing a hilarious mix of sassy, saucy, and scandalous secrets.

Critic's Choice Award Winner-Best Solo Comedy – Orlando Fringe (2024)

Sold-Out Run – Edmonton Fringe (2024)

Patrons Pick Award – Orlando Fringe (2025)

Sold-Out Run – Orlando Fringe (2025)

Don't miss out on this hilarious, heartfelt, must-see show!

Joanna Rannelli

jrannelli@gmail.com
gravitytheatre.ca
Home base: British Columbia



The McDades

Punching through the walls of tradition, The McDades' Celtic-rooted music blends jazz improvisation with infectious global rhythms. The Juno Award winners deliver a cutting-edge sound matched by fiery performances.

With rich vocal harmonies and an evident love for each other and their craft, The McDades fuse original compositions with inventive takes on traditional songs. Their shows feature energetic instrumentals and emotive vocals in both English and French.

Described as “a down-home kitchen party, a jazzy after-hours club, and a folk festival” (London Free Press), the group has also earned three Canadian Folk Music Awards. Their new album continues to highlight their unique sound and irresistible groove.

Nicole Rochefort

AIM Booking Agency
nicole@aimbookingagency.com

themcdades.com

Home base: Alberta



Bria Rose N' Thorns

Bria Rose N' Thorns is a Whitehorse, Yukon-based band that brings a rock'n'roll edge, complete with rasp and a deep alto flavour that bridges heart and grit. BRNT: the sweet and salty ensemble that will have you feeling connected, electrified, embraced and free in a high-powered musical wave.

Her songs reflect her Tahltan name, K'ös Kīs: North Wind Blowing, by bringing power, release, and connection. Bria Rose packs each set with passion, grit, and her soulful spirit. Each song tells a story, each story touches feelings of love, growth, and northern experiences.

Bria McLean

McLean.bria@gmail.com

briarosemusic.com

Home base: Yukon



Photo: Louis Bockner

Tenise Marie

Tenise Marie is a Canadian songwriter, vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, performer, and recording artist based in Nelson, BC. Her original music pairs soulful vocals with acoustic instruments, crafting a unique blend of Western and Eastern folk music, reflective of her mixed European and Assyrian heritage. Tenise Marie performs the range of human emotion through story and song, navigating heartbreak and humour with insightful lyrics, travel anecdotes, and venturing into uncharted musical landscapes.

Her album, “Off The Record,” features a diverse collection of songs from Tenise’s personal journey, including pieces written for her Research & Creation songwriting project with the Canada Council for the Arts, inspired by her experience travelling to the Assyrian homeland in Iraq with GISHRU: Bridge to Assyria.

Tenise Marie

tenisemarie@gmail.com

tenisemariemusic.com

Home base: British Columbia

El Balcón

El Balcón is a collective that composes and arranges as one. They came together in the culturally rich atmosphere of Montreal with a common love for traditional music from around the world and a desire to explore new possibilities in acoustic sound and groove.

As each of the six individuals learned and grew as musicians, so did the band evolve from being one that arranges traditional tunes to being one that composes innovative original music, whilst never losing the acoustic spirit of the traditional music that inspires them. Mexican folk instruments like the Jarana, Requinto and “La Tarima” (Polyrhythm foot board for traditional rhythmic dancing) blend with microtonal melodies of the east on the violin and oud.

Their heavily danceable yet unusual rhythms set the stage for the two voices of the lead singers that never sing a song the same twice.

Tom Landa

Cubbyhole Artists

tom@cubbyholeartists.com

elbalconmusic.com

Home base: Quebec



Sophie Dow & Laura Reznik – Agrimony

Agrimony walks the edge between an evocative live concert and visceral contemporary dance, gliding on Laura Reznik’s sophomore album. We honour the small yellow flower, Agrimonia eupatoria, in plant medicine: a catalyst for honesty, dissolving the masks society forces us to craft; unveiling a truest self. Four dancers in animal masks generously weave Reznik’s songs into a comprehensive & heart-centred story.

Sophie Dow

Sophie.c.d@hotmail.com

sophiedow.com/agrimony

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Vitantonio Spinelli

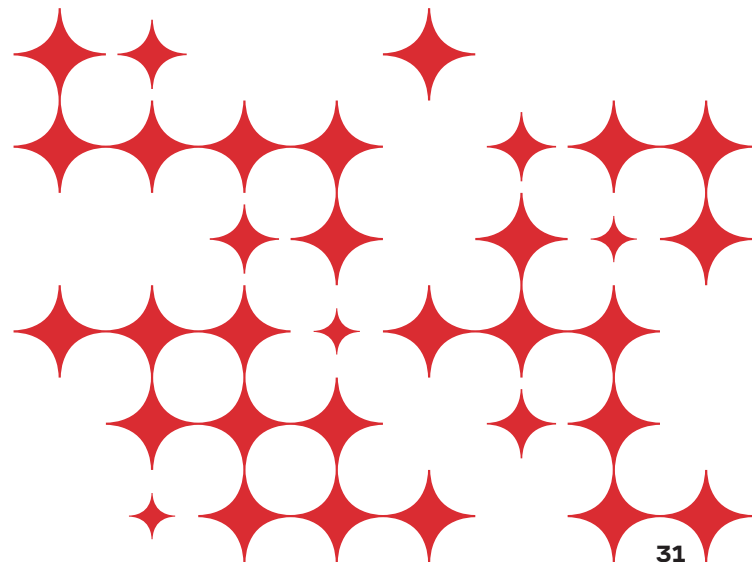




Photo by Millisa Martin

POP UP DANCE:

Honey, I'm Home!

Jacalyn Tatro & Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera

Saturday, October 4 at 3:30 pm outside the Ballet BC Studios

The performance will run for 7 minutes.

A theatrical rendition of the sensibilities that come with a relationship. A two-voice poem about the distance, the closeness, the intimacy, the rage, the forgiveness, the passion, and the delicate tension between freedom and consequence. The movement is derived from playful fluidity and lightness, yet every gesture carries weight.

Presented by New Works in partnership with Ballet BC

JACALYN TATRO (SHE/HER)

Jacalyn Tatro, originally from Naperville, Illinois, trained at Inspire School of Dance and earned her BFA in dance from The Juilliard School in 2022. There, she worked with choreographers like Bobbi Jene Smith, Ohad Naharin, and Justin Peck, and was the first dancer since Martha Graham to perform the solo "Deep Song" to its original score. At Ballet BC, she has worked on repertoire by artists such as Medhi Walerski, Crystal Pite, and William Forsythe. Jacalyn has also completed intensive programs including Springboard Danse Montreal and the Gaga Lab. She is proud to return for her fourth season as a company artist with Ballet BC.



Photo: Peter Smida

Social media: @jac_tatro17

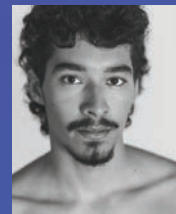


Photo: Peter Smida

EDUARDO JIMÉNEZ CABRERA (HE/HIM)

Eduardo, raised in Cartago, Costa Rica, began dance training at 15, drawn to movement from an early age. He earned a BFA in Dance in 2020 from The University of the Arts, studying under Donna Faye Burchfield. In the U.S., he danced with BigKid Dance and Bocatuya, and worked with Brooklyn's multidisciplinary collective Tribe.

Eduardo joined Ballet BC in 2023 as an emerging artist and is now a full company member. He has performed works by Crystal Pite, William Forsythe, Bobbi Jene Smith, and many others.

Social media: @eduardoj2311

balletbc.com

Social media: @balletbc

Pop Up Festival: newworks.ca/pop-up-dances-festival-2025

Pitch & Performs (Short 5s)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4

9:45 am to 10:45 am – Revue Stage

Hosted by Lucas Myers



Krystle Dos Santos – *A History of Motown*

Krystle Dos Santos is an award-winning, powerhouse vocalist, songwriter, and performer whose dynamic presence and rich, soulful sound have captivated audiences across Canada for nearly two decades. With a career spanning multiple genres and disciplines, she has shared stages with celebrated artists such as Allen Stone, Serena Ryder, Ruth B, Stevie Wonder, and Michael Bublé.

More than just a performer, Dos Santos is a musical historian, using her art to illuminate the cultural and historical impact of music. Delighting in the art of what she coins “Edutainment”, her projects delve deep into the roots of Black music and Canadian history, including BLAK: Canadian Women in Music, A History of Motown, and Hey Viola!, a musical tribute to civil rights icon Viola Desmond.

Krystle Dos Santos

doss_km@yahoo.ca

krystledossantos.com

Home base: British Columbia



Ne. Sans Opera & Dance – *Take This Waltz*

Ne. Sans Opera & Dance, under the artistic direction of Idan Cohen, is a Vancouver-based company committed to reimagining opera and contemporary dance through an interdisciplinary lens, by seamlessly integrating movement, voice, and theatrical expression.

Ne. Sans presents innovative and thought-provoking performances that honour classical traditions while engaging contemporary audiences. Through bold artistic collaborations, the company challenges conventions and enhances the operatic and dance experience.

Joel Klein

Association for Opera in Canada

joel@jkleinarts.ca

nesans.net

Home base: British Columbia



Farhad Khosravi Ensemble

Farhad Khosravi Ensemble plays original compositions written for santur (Persian hammered dulcimer), string quartet, and percussion. With the music written by the award-winning composer, Farhad Khosravi, the compositions weave together elements of Persian and Western classical music to take the audience on a seamless musical journey.

The music showcases Farhad’s most recent compositions written based on some of the well-known Persian short stories, with each piece narrating the moods and emotions of each story through instrumental music.

Farhad Khosravi

farhadsounds@gmail.com

farhadkhosravi.com

Home base: Alberta



Photo: Yoshikazu Inoue

CORPUS – *Mukashi, Mukashi (Once Upon a Time)*

Mukashi, Mukashi (Once Upon a Time) is a co-production between Canada's CORPUS and Japan's Kio companies. Conceived over six years, it explores two iconic characters of Western and Japanese folklore: The Wolf and the Crane. Both carry deep roots in the collective consciousness of each culture. Their unlikely meeting sets the stage for a conflictual, then harmonious relationship that blossoms through a transformative journey.

The work combines traditional and contemporary Japanese art forms (Origami, Kyogen, Bunraku, Manga) with older and newer Western practices, including pantomime and the comedic traditions of Looney Tunes and TV talk shows.

Presented in Japanese and English, with English or French surtitles (or both!). Premiered in Japan and Toronto to critical acclaim.

Janin Goldman

info@corpus.ca

corpus.ca

Home base: Ontario



Photo: Camille Tellier

Bel & Quinn

Bel and Quinn, Haitian sisters, leave a lasting impact on the Canadian music scene with their captivating fusion of world music, soul, jazz, and funk. Audiences praise their energetic and moving performances, highlighting the perfect harmony in their voices.

The two sisters sing in French, Creole, and English, creating electrifying music that blends Haitian rhythms with jazz and soul. The themes of self-acceptance, mental health, and healing resonate with music lovers and envelop them in a comforting feeling.

Luisa González

Marilyn Gilbert Artists Management (MGAM)

luisa@mgam.com

belandquinn.com

Home base: Ontario



O.Dela Arts – *Maamawi (ᐃᐤᐃ): Together Through The Fire*

Maamawi (ᐃᐤᐃ): Together Through The Fire presents a deeply immersive and transformative experience that melds Anishinaabe cultural narratives, particularly the 7 Fires prophecies, with cutting-edge digital storytelling techniques. This innovative performance, envisioned through the guidance of elder Gloria May Eshkibok and creatively interpreted by choreographer Olivia C. Davies with dance artists Sophie Dow and Daisy Thompson, and score by Michael Red, offers a profound exploration of Indigenous wisdom, future visions, and the power of collective healing and renewal.

This work can be presented for a live VR audience of (12) with up to (25) remote viewers. *Maamawi* can also be presented in a black box theatre with motion capture and digital environments projected onto a scrim.

Olivia C. Davies

O.Dela Arts Society

livdavies@gmail.com

maamawi.dance

Home base: British Columbia

Savage Society – *Feast House*

Savage Society was founded by N'lakapamux artist Kevin Loring for Indigenous artists to develop and produce their stories. Our focus is on developing work that reflects our worldview, sourcing traditional stories and cosmologies, and contemporary realities for public dissemination in professional and community settings.

In 2013, the research and community development project “Songs of the Land” began. A foundation of the organization and our work, each summer until a hiatus for the pandemic and fires, Savage Society produced this event in Lytton. The work employs a land-based dramaturgical approach to theatre; this process has led to the play’s enduring success and become a template for developing new work.

“Savage” carries a negative connotation in Western society, which has abhorred the natural state of the world, seeking to dominate and exploit it rather than live with it. We see Savage as humanity in its natural state, humanity in nature. Savages are angry that modern society is brutal and barbarous, attacking The People as we seek to live naturally. Savage Society seeks to attack ignorance and preconceived notions. In our natural state, we are equally human; we are all part of The Savage Society.

Chelsea Carlson

chelsea@savagesociety.ca

savagesociety.ca

Home base - British Columbia



Patti Savard – *A Life in Transition*

Patti Savard is a witty, charismatic comedian whose charming, childlike expressions and heartfelt honesty captivate audiences across Canada and beyond. Blending sharp stand-up with theatrical flair, she brings both laughter and depth to every stage she steps on.

A Life in Transition is a bold, hilarious, and heartfelt one-woman show that dives headfirst into the extraordinary journey of Patti Savard—a trans woman with a knack for turning life’s challenges into laughter. Through a dazzling mix of stand-up, storytelling, theatrics, and song, Patti unpacks her experience of growing up in the 80s and 90s, navigating a world that didn’t yet know how to make space for her true self.

Patti Savard

pattisavard@gmail.com

[instagram.com/pattisavard18](https://www.instagram.com/pattisavard18)

Home base: British Columbia



Les Productions du 10 avril – *Albertine en cinq temps*

Created in 1984, Michel Tremblay’s play *Albertine en cinq temps* features a 70-year-old woman who, on her first night in her new retirement home, rehashes memories from the different stages of her life. At 30 years old, Albertine already suspects that the immensity of the sky will never be able to contain her rage towards life...

With its story about a woman in search of freedom, struggling with her feelings and her relationship with a hostile and suffocating society that has always kept her in a cage, *Albertine* emerged as the obvious choice for the collective of women led by Nathalie Deschamps, director and producer. *Albertine* is the first opera in “joual” (French Québec dialect). Six singers and five musicians give life to the bewitching music by Catherine Major on the libretto by the Collectif de la Lune Rouge.

Joel Klein

Association for Opera in Canada

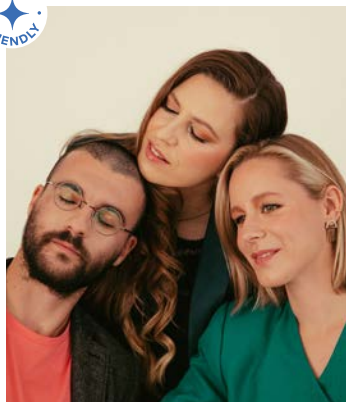
joel@jkleinarts.ca

albertineopera.com/en

Home base: Quebec



Photo: Véronique Duplain



É.T.É – « Sur ces eaux »

É.T.É presents its brand-new show « Sur ces eaux », inspired by the sea and stories of epic crossings where love, death, feminism and passion take center stage. In this fruitful meeting of three young musicians with vibrant artistic journeys, É.T.É propose a dynamic and contemporary vision of Québécois trad music. With influences from jazz, progressive rock, and classical music, violinist Élisabeth Moquin, bouzouki player Thierry Clouette, and cellist Élisabeth Giroux create their own trad universe with original compositions and unique arrangements of Québécois and Acadian repertoire. Their rich vocal harmonies, their groove, their ease with their instruments, and their electrifying simpatico onstage transform the ordinary kitchen party into an unforgettable show!

Résonances, agence de spectacles

info@agenceresonances.com

etemusiquetrad.ca

Home base: Quebec



Photo: Ali June



The Leading Ladies

Taking cues from the vintage stylings of the 1940s, 50s, and 60s, the Leading Ladies blend beloved jazz and blues classics with fresh, original arrangements and a high-energy, swingin' performance style. Directed by trombonist Casey Thomas-Burns, this dynamic and vibrant group of women first came together to perform a single show in 2019.

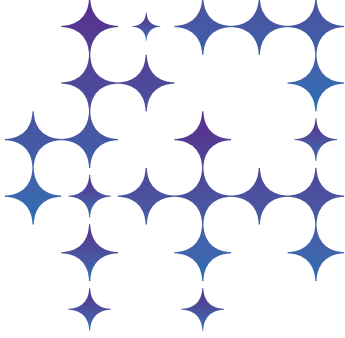
'The Ladies' have toured the province numerous times to festivals, concert tours, and educational tours. 2024 alone saw over 40 performances from the group, with highlights including their "5th Birthday Tour", the opening concert and parade for the Tofino Jazz Festival, a week-long residency at the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby, and the collaborative GALS & PALS show, which saw The Ladies pair up with 5 of Vancouver's most prominent female Rn'B and rock singers to present an evening of never-before-heard collaborations.

Casey Thomas-Burns

c.thomas.burns@gmail.com

leadingladieslittlebigband.com

Home base - British Columbia



Showcase 4

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm – Waterfront Theatre

Hosted by Akhil Jobanputra



Deantha Edmunds

Deantha Edmunds is Canada's first Inuk professional classical singer. She was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada for her work, which seeks to empower Indigenous people and share their stories.

Deantha brings voice to stories of resilience, spirituality, and cultural reclamation. She performs original selections from her award-winning Indigenous classical album 'Connections,' as well as sacred pieces in Inuktitut from her album 'Pillorikput Inuit: Inuktitut Arias for All Seasons,' evoking the soundscape of Nunatsiavut over two centuries ago.

For this showcase performance at Pacific Contact 2025, the ensemble includes Deantha Edmunds (soprano/vocals), her 14-year-old daughter, treble Annabelle Edmunds-Ramsay, Yaletown String Quartet, and renowned throat singer Sylvia Cloutier. Touring configurations range from a duo to an ensemble of up to 8 artists.

This performance offers audiences an intimate window into Deantha's lived experience—how she walks through the world, and the ancestral voices she carries with her. The addition of a throat singer adds a haunting, visceral layer to the music, blending traditional Inuit vocal techniques with contemporary classical instrumentation. The profound mother-daughter connection when Deantha and Annabelle harmonize is captivatingly beautiful.

Joel Klein

Association for Opera in Canada | joel@jkleinarts.ca

deantha.ca

Home base: Newfoundland and Labrador



Photo: Ewelina Ferenc

Waleed Kush Afro Jazz

Waleed Kush Afro Jazz blends the rhythmic soul of Sudanese music with the expressive freedom of jazz, creating a vibrant, cross-cultural sound that moves both heart and body.

Led by Sudanese-Canadian composer, bassist, and vocalist Waleed Abdulhamid Kush, the group fuses African grooves, rich vocals, and jazz improvisation into a high-energy, soul-stirring performance. With lyrics sung in Arabic, English, and African dialects, their music celebrates unity, resilience, and the beauty of diverse traditions. The band's dynamic stage presence, world-class musicianship, and compelling storytelling have captivated audiences across Canada and beyond. A true global jazz experience, Waleed Kush Afro Jazz invites listeners on a powerful journey through rhythm, culture, and connection.

Ewelina Ferenc

Sweet Beets Music | ewelina@sweetbeets.ca

waleedkush.ca

Home base: Ontario



On The River (Houle, Sewepagaham, Dunn, Ground Zero Productions)

"On the River" is a 60-minute live performance of music and video focusing on the Cree, Dene and Métis peoples' community of Fort McKay, located on the Athabasca River, north of Fort McMurray. The community has experienced tremendous changes in the past 70 years. "On The River" explores these changes, telling the story through the lens of the life of former chief Dorothy McDonald-Hyde. "On The River" combines new songs, written and performed by Debbie Houle, Sherryl Sewepagaham (both on vocals, hand drums) and Maria Dunn (vocals, guitar, accordion), with video interviews from people who knew Dorothy McDonald-Hyde (filmed/edited by Don Bouzek of Ground Zero Productions).

Debbie Houle

gypedmonton@outlook.com

mariadunn.com/projects/on-the-river

Home base: Alberta



Collage Trad

Take some of the hottest, award-winning, contemporary fiddlers from Western Canada, mixed with complex arrangements and a thrilling rhythmic underlay, and you've got...Collage Trad. A musical melting pot of local fiddle traditions with a dash of swing, a pinch of jazz, a sprinkle of rock and pure folk. Their music and spirit are uplifting and energizing. Collage Trad has developed an explosive, exceptionally tight, cohesive sound.

This energetic and gripping musical experience is the result of a creative collaboration between six exceptional musicians with strong traditional music roots. Collage Trad is led by fiddler Gabriel Dubreuil. Gabriel is joined by Andy Hillhouse (guitar), Allan Dionne (drums/accordion) and Wynston Minckler (bass), and an award-winning roster of fiddlers including Mark Sullivan, Serena Eades, Danielle Leonard and Annika Wilson.

Gabriel Dubreuil

gabe@gabrieldubreuil.com

collagetrad.com

Home base: British Columbia



Stick&Bow

Stick&Bow 2024 Artist of the Year (Opus) – presents *Disrupting the Silence*, a powerful exploration of artistic defiance and resilience. In this political performance, the duo reveals the untold stories of musical geniuses whose sanity was questioned for daring to dream of a better world. From Beethoven to Bowie, Lennon to Simone, Parra to Puebla, classical, popular, and folk music unite in a defiant celebration of creativity and resistance. Stick&Bow's storytelling prowess leads the way in this unforgettable performance.

Lorrie Snyder

Latitude 45 Arts Promotion

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stickandbow.com

Home base: Quebec

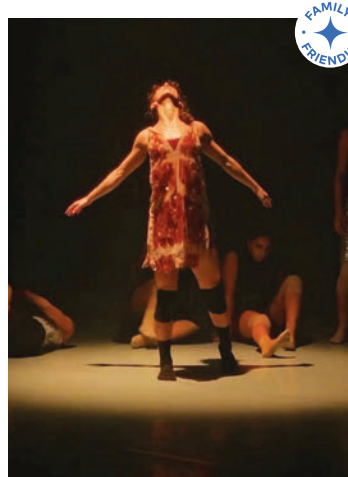


Photo: Darryl Ahye

Anya Saugstad and Artists – *Paper Mountains*

"The forest dies and dies and dies again, and so it lives."

'Paper Mountains' is a dance work that embodies themes of emergence, evolution, and growth. Inspired by nature and animals, the work delves into the sorrow and celebration that coexist within us amid a climate crisis. 'Paper Mountains' embodies the paradoxes of strength and lightness, urgency and yearning, toughness and softness, and surrender and resilience.

We have been asking ourselves throughout this work, "What does it mean to burn down and re-grow again?"

'Paper Mountains' premiered at The Scotiabank Dance Centre with Dance in Vancouver in November 2024 and will be touring through Canada in 2025-2027.

Choreographed by Anya Saugstad and Artists. Danced by Eowynn Enquist, Nasiv Kaur Sall, Oksana Maslechko, Sarah Hutton, and Shion Skye Carter.

Anya Saugstad

anyaallegria@gmail.com

anyasaugstad.com

Home base: British Columbia

Bageshree Vaze – *Classical Roots, Global Rhythms*

Bageshree Vaze is an Indo-Canadian musician, dancer/choreographer and writer. Named after an Indian classical raga (melody), Bageshree was introduced to Indian classical and popular music while growing up in St. John's, Newfoundland, and studied classical vocal music with her father, Damodar Vaze. Bageshree went on to study with some of India's foremost dance and music masters. She is an award-winning Kathak dance artist, and as a vocalist and composer, she has five albums to her credit.

Bageshree's 'Classical Roots, Global Rhythms' showcase will feature traditional and original songs with Kathak and urban dance choreography. The showcase highlights the confluence of her musical and cultural influences, celebrating intersections between classical and popular, Eastern and Western - a tribute to the richness of South Asian culture in the diaspora, a proudly Canadian story.

Bageshree Vaze

Pratibha Arts

bageshreevaze@gmail.com

bageshree.com

Home base: Ontario



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- ✓ SCHOOLS
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RHYTHM BY NATURE

Showcases from Coast to Coast

Working together to strengthen the Canadian touring sector through professional development and networking.

	CAPACOA Conference December 1-5, 2025 Ottawa, ON www.capacoaconference.ca
	Contact East April 7-10, 2026 St John, NB www.contacteast.ca
	Manitoba Showcase September 17-20, 2026 Brandon, MB www.manitobaartsnetwork.ca
	Pacific Contact October 1-4, 2026 Nanaimo, BC www.bclive.ca
	Folk Music Ontario October 14-18, 2026 Hamilton, ON www.folkcanada.com
	OSAC Showcase October 16-18, 2026 Saskatoon, SK www.osac.ca
	Alberta Showcase October 23-25, 2026 Fort Saskatchewan, AB www.artstouring.com
	Virtual Networking Series October 2026 Online www.ontariopresents.ca
	Gather Round - Yukon Conversation Fall 2026 www.yukonartscentre.ca

"...EVERY WOMAN WALKED OUT WITH
A **SMILE** ON HER FACE, A **STRUT** IN HER
STEP, AND IN MANY CASES, SOME
PASTIES IN HER PURSE!"

★ **WINNER** BEST LARGE GROUP 2024
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YEARS!"



THE CHEESECAKE BURLESQUE REVUE

CONTACT BIG CHEESE

INFO@CHEESECAKEBURLESQUE.COM

“We believe that the radical power of queer friendship can help knit our communities back together”

Jocelyn MacDougall
vocalist



Photo by Derek Stevens

CLOSING PARTY: **Queer as Funk**

Performing at the Pacific Contact closing party on Saturday, October 4 at Performance Works

Not your typical dance band, Queer As Funk are part-advocates, part-funk revivalists, turning stages into dance floors and audiences into family for over a decade.

Born of a desire to bring funk and soul to Vancouver’s queer community, Queer As Funk is dedicated to gathering and taking up space. The band has become a beacon in the 2SLGBTQI+ community, putting on high-energy live shows where diversity is celebrated and all are welcome.

Bringing fresh takes to beloved classics in funk, soul, and Motown, Queer As Funk’s powerful vocals, tight horn arrangements, and irresistible rhythm section make each performance as groovy as it is fun. Their arrangements are creative, their vibe is pure celebration, and their love for each other is palpable, adding depth to the onstage dynamic that models the concept of chosen family.

Queer As Funk has played stages across Canada, including six sold-out headlining shows at Vancouver’s legendary Commodore Ballroom. The group’s individual members are consummate professionals in their own right, having collectively performed with artists Serena Ryder, Tegan and Sara, Dan Mangan, and Ken Boothe.

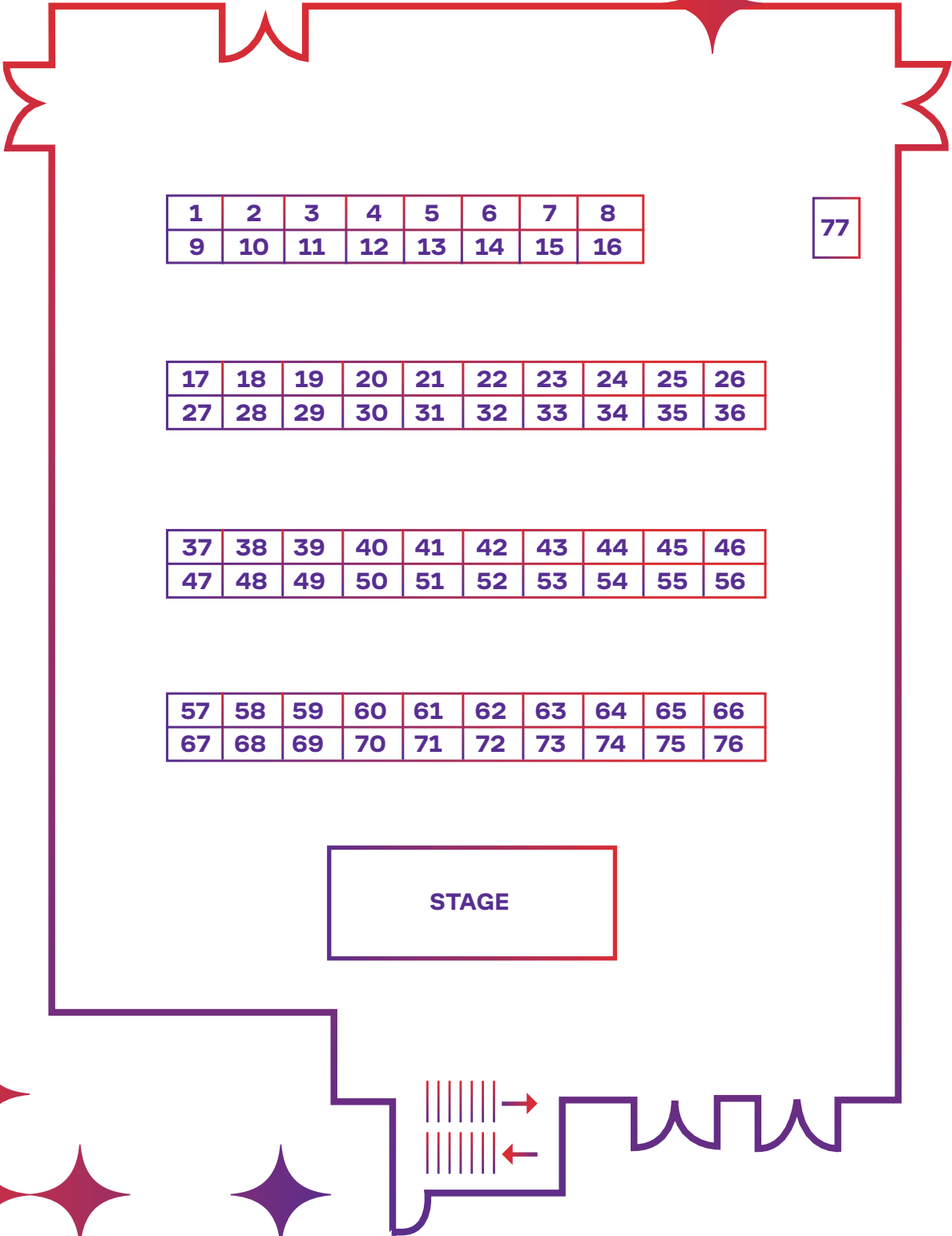
info@railtownentertainment.com
queerasfunk.com

Contact Room List (by Booth Number)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 AIM Booking Agency -
The Hello Darlins, The McDades | 42 Oh Pray Tell |
| 2 Kristina Lao | 43 Association for Opera in Canada -
Deantha Edmunds, Les Productions du 10 Avril,
Ne. Sans Opera & Dance |
| 3 Derina Harvey Band | 44 On The River (Ground Zero Productions) |
| 4 David C Jones | 45 Ombres Folles - Pomelo |
| 5 KBAM! Kevin Bruce Arts Management | 46 Marilyn Gilbert Arts Management (MGAM) -
Bel & Quinn, CaneFire, JER |
| 6 Jack Semple | 47 RAGMOP Theatre - Nayana Fielkov – Presto! |
| 7 Joylyn Secunda | 48 Sursaut Dance Company |
| 8 Le Théâtre des Confettis | 49 RibbitRePublic |
| 9 Ballet Victoria | 50 The Wheat in the Barley |
| 10 Pebble Star Artists - Missy D | 51 The Spontaneous Shakespeare Company |
| 11 Candy Roberts Theatre | 52 Phase Entertainment Group - Kyle McKearney |
| 12 DeMerchant Artists Agency | 53 CORPUS - Mukashi, Mukashi
(Once Upon a Time) |
| 13 Gravity Theatre – Bangs, Bobs & Banter,
Confessions of a Hairstylist! | 54 Belsher Arts Management |
| 14 Farhad Khosravi Ensemble | 55 Aurora Piano Trio |
| 15 Agence Station Bleue - Buzz Brass | 56 Sakka Music |
| 16 Arts Club Theatre Company - On Tour | 57 The Chimera Project Dance Theatre -
Silly Billy |
| 17 Aurelia Productions | 58 Jessica McMann Arts |
| 18 Axis Theatre Company | 59 Wild Mint Arts |
| 19 Patti Savard - A Life in Transition | 60 Maverick Cooperative - Burnstick |
| 20 Bria Rose N' Thorns | 61 Allison Lupton |
| 21 Exact Resemblance | 62 Ballet Jorgen Canada |
| 22 Newworld Theatre | 63 Boulev'Art Inc. - Ariane Racicot Jazz Trio |
| 23 Shirley Gnome | 64 Green Thumb Theatre |
| 24 Dance West Network - Anya Saugstad
& Artists, Company 605, O.Dela Arts Society,
Sophie Dow & Laura Reznick, Vidya Kotamraju | 65 Eponymous |
| 25 Résonances, agence de spectacles -
Ample Man Danse, É.T.É | 66 EduStage Agency - Shaun Boothe &
The Unauthorized Biography Series |
| 26 Théâtre la Seizième - Foolish Operations | 67 Danielle Lefebvre Agency |
| 27 Aliya Kanani - Where You FROM, From? | 68 Pulsive Party |
| 28 Tenise Marie | 69 Collage Trad & Festival du Bois |
| 29 Ragamuffin Productions – Camp Goneaway | 70 Ballet Kelowna |
| 30 The Margie Gillis Dance Foundation | 71 Cubbyhole Artists - El Balcón |
| 31 Newman & Wright Productions | 72 Delta Stageworks Theatre &
Shameless Hussy Productions |
| 32 Andrew Kwan Artists Management Inc. | 73 Spektrix |
| 33 Cause & Effect Circus - Yuki The Juggler | 74 Actsafe Safety Association |
| 34 Jhoely Triana Flamenco | 75 Presentation House |
| 35 The Leading Ladies | 76 Pilotcopilot Theatre |
| 36 Holy Crow Arts – Keepers of the Salish Sea | 77 Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology |
| 37 Krystle Dos Santos - A History of Motown | |
| 38 Latitude 45 Arts Promotion - Stick&Bow | |
| 39 Scrap Arts Music | |
| 40 Sweet Beets Music - Waleed Kush Afro Jazz | |
| 41 Pratibha Arts - Bageshree Vaze | |

Performance Works

1218 Cartwright Street



Acknowledgements

BC LIVE TEAM:

Miriam Manley, Executive Director
Sheryl McGraw, Manager, Programs & Communications
Petrice Brett, Block Booking Coordinator
Jenny Lee Craig, Festivals Coordinator

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL LIAISON: Kym Gouchie

INDIGENOUS WELCOME: Quelemia Sparrow

PROGRAM DESIGN & PRODUCTION:

Lydia Avsec / Copilot Design, Program Design
Sheryl McGraw, Production Coordinator

REGISTRATION: Ray Schmid

CONTACT ROOM LEAD: Jody Matthews

HOSPITALITY LEADS:

Ryver Santos Cegenar, Ayla Desjarlais, Taya Seaton

PHOTOGRAPHER: Mary Matheson Photography

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Heather Lamb, Production Manager
Jody Burkholder, Stage Manager, Revue Stage
Gordon Simmons, Stage Manager, Waterfront Theatre

SOCIAL MEDIA SUPPORT: Angela Lee

VOLUNTEERS: Viviana Renteria, Kent Martin

HOSTS:

Showcase Hosts: Akhil Jobanputra, Dave Deveau,
Nadine Tremblay, Tewanee Joseph

Pecha Kuchas: Am Johal

Pitch & Performs (Short 5s) Host: Lucas Myers

Awards Host: Suzette Amaya

NEXT GEN:

Shea Heatherington, Performing Arts Assistant,
Evergreen Cultural Centre

Hubert Paré, Junior Agent, Agence Station Bleue

GUEST PERFORMANCES:

Git Hayetsk Dancers, Marek Tyler of ASKO

Pop Up Dance: Jacalyn Tatro & Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera,
Presented by New Works in partnership with Ballet BC

Closing Party: Queer as Funk

WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS:

Workshop leaders: Briana Doyle, Danielle Lefebvre,
Marek Tyler of ASKO

Network meetings: Aaron Schubert, Danielle Lefebvre/
AASPAA Canada, Daune Campbell, Petrice Brett,
Theresia Reid

Presenter Pecha Kuchas:

Duncan Watts Grant, Vancouver Fringe Festival

Gabrielle Martin, PuSh International Festival

Heather Redfern, The Cultch

Jason Dupuis, New Works

Katharine Carol, Vancouver International Children's Festival

Ruhamah Buchanan, CMHC Granville Island and Bass Coast

Shelby Richardson, Community Arts Council of Prince George

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Syrian Cuisine

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Deb Renz, Erin Kennedy, Justin Murdy & Miriam Manley

SHOWCASE SELECTION COMMITTEE:

Dana Sipos, Kevin Tobin, Jasmine Howes, Cicela Månsson,
Mya Wilson-Rhodes, Gordon Simmons, Megan Patterson,
Duane Campbell, Jane Gabriels, Xin Xuan Song,
Andrew Stauffer, Shannon Finnegan

PARTNERS & CONTRIBUTORS:

Ballet BC, CMHC Granville Island, New Works

SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

BC Live Board of Directors, Ion Brand Design, Regional
Presenting Networks, Rob Wilson/iContext Internet,
Skip Taylor-Arts Evaluation Tools

Milestones, Moves & In Memoriam

BC Live congratulates everyone who marked important milestones over the past year, embraced new opportunities, retired, or embarked on new journeys. We also take a moment to honour those we have lost, whose contributions profoundly shaped BC Live and the performing arts community. Their legacy continues to inspire us all.

MILESTONES

Agence Station Bleue celebrates 25 years

Founded by Annick-Patricia Carrière and Gabriel Paré in 2000, Agence Station Bleue is one of the most recognized performing arts agencies in Canada. Its growing and ongoing presence in the national and international performing arts sectors, its twenty-five years of expertise in promoting and representing artists, as well as its keen understanding of the challenges in this artistic field, make it an essential partner.

AIM Booking Agency celebrates its 15th anniversary

AIM Booking Agency is a leading independent agency dedicated to building sustainable, long-term touring careers for artists across Canada and beyond. Founded in 2010, AIM is proud to celebrate 15 years of artist-driven booking in 2025.

WELCOME

Aniria Sanz, General Manager, Bulkley Valley Concert Association

Eryn Griffith, Manager of Surrey Civic Theatres

MOVED ON

Harpo Mander, Executive Director, 5X Festival, has stepped down from her position and is taking a well-deserved break before starting a new opportunity.

Ian Case retired as the Director of the Farquhar at UVic after over a decade in the role, where he led the venue's presenting series and created the Indigenous presenting series, Voices in Circle. He joined Cubbyhole Artists in January 2025.

Kent Gallie retired after 13 years as the Manager, Performing Arts/Surrey Civic Theatres for the City of Surrey.

IN MEMORIAM

◆ **Bruce Halliday**

Bruce Halliday, who passed away in August, was a remarkable leader and a true pillar of the performing arts community. Bruce's lifelong dedication to the arts—from his early days as a lighting designer and production manager to his visionary leadership as the Port Theatre's General Manager and Director of Programming—has left an indelible mark on both artists and audiences. His passion for nurturing talent, guiding emerging artists, and creating innovative programming brought the "Spotlight Series" and countless performances to life with warmth and excellence. His mentorship, generosity, and unwavering commitment have inspired so many across the country. His legacy will live on in every stage he touched and in the hearts of the community he served so deeply.

◆ **Frances Heinsheimer Wainwright**

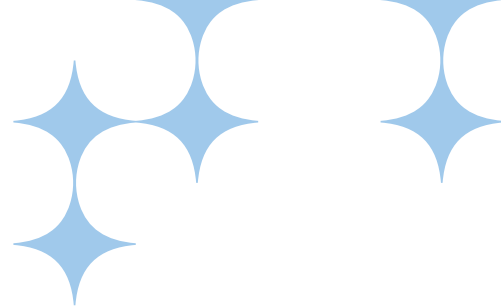
A distinguished figure in Canadian classical music, Frances Heinsheimer Wainwright, passed away on April 22, just a few days short of her 83rd birthday. She was celebrated for her career as a CBC Radio music producer in Montreal, and her transformative leadership at the Coast Recital Society in Sechelt, where she served as Artistic Director for 20 years. She was able to attract some of the greatest musical talent in the world to her small community. Her contributions to Canadian classical music, both on-air and in the concert hall, have left an enduring impact. Our sincere condolences to her family, friends and colleagues. She will be fondly remembered.

◆ **Rick Scott**

We remember and honour our colleague, friend and gifted musician, Rick Scott, who passed away in August. Just before his passing, BC Live's Chair, Deb Renz, had the privilege of presenting Rick with his Touring Award of Excellence—an honour so well deserved for his incredible talent, dedication, and impact on the music community and audiences across BC, Canada and beyond. Rick, who showcased at Pacific Contact solo, with Pied Pumkin, and in 2018 with Nico Rhodes ROOTS & Grooves, was more than a talented musician; he was a passionate storyteller whose performances moved audiences and inspired fellow artists alike. He left a lasting impression on everyone who had the pleasure of working with him.

◆ **Ted Osbourne**

Ted Osbourne, who passed away on May 16 in Oliver, was a high school English and drama teacher. He was a talented singer, guitar player, actor, and director. Ted volunteered for the Osoyoos & District Arts Council, where he was actively involved in their concert series and attended Pacific Contact for several years.



Thank you to our Funders & Sponsors!

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ARTISTS & ARTISTIC COMPANIES NETWORK MEETING



AGENTS & MANAGERS NETWORK MEETING



AGENTS/MANAGERS WORKSHOP



BLOCK BOOKING MEETING



VENUE MANAGERS MEETING



C.A.R.E. CIRCLE TALK



BEYOND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



PRESENTER PECHA KUCHAS



GET TO KNOW YOU RECEPTION



LATE NIGHT HOSPITALITY



REFRESHMENTS



CLOSING PARTY & AWARDS





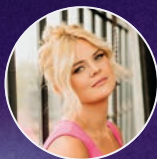
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