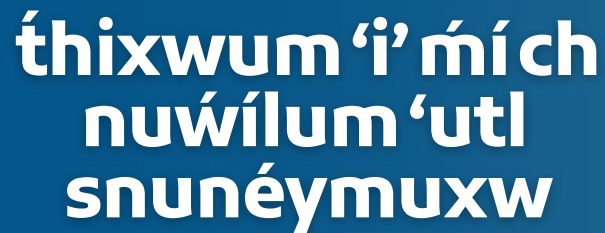


pacific **contact** 2026





Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) is a vibrant Coast Salish Nation whose sacred homelands extend across eastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, the Fraser River, Burrard Inlet and Howe Sound.

Snuneymuxw holds one of the few pre-Confederation treaties with the Crown, the Snuneymuxw Sarlequun Treaty of 1854, protected under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. In recent years, SFN signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Canada and B.C., which marks a transformative shift from the extinguishment of rights toward the recognition of Treaty rights and Treaty implementation. SFN has also established a protocol agreement with the City of Nanaimo, which adopts a cooperative and mutually beneficial approach to recognizing the Treaty. Snuneymuxw is governed by Chief Mike Wyse, Xum'silum, and Council.

pacific contact 2026

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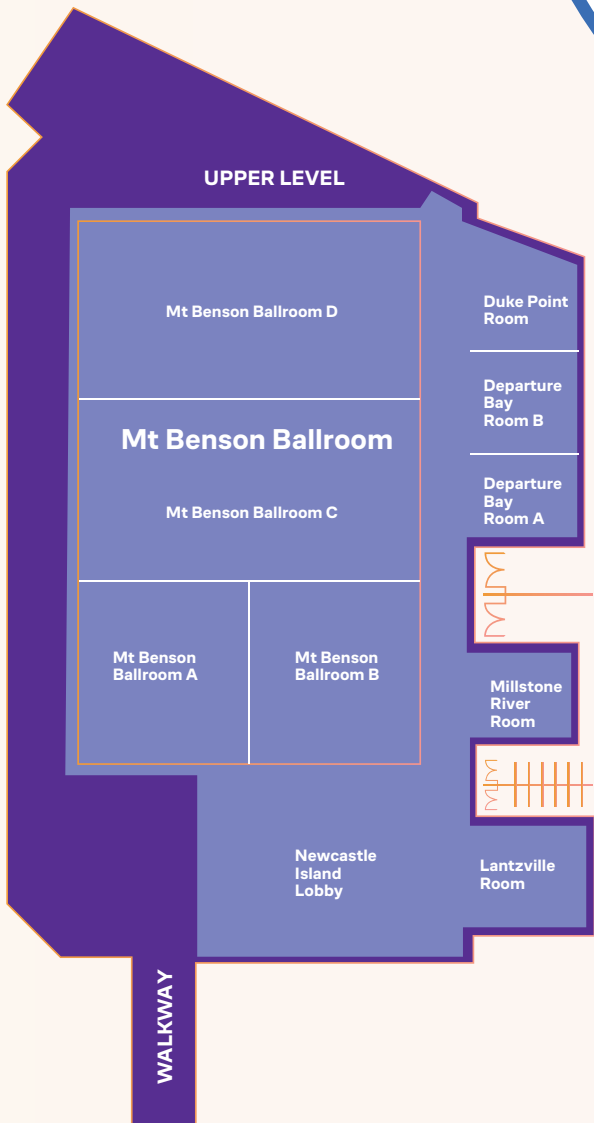
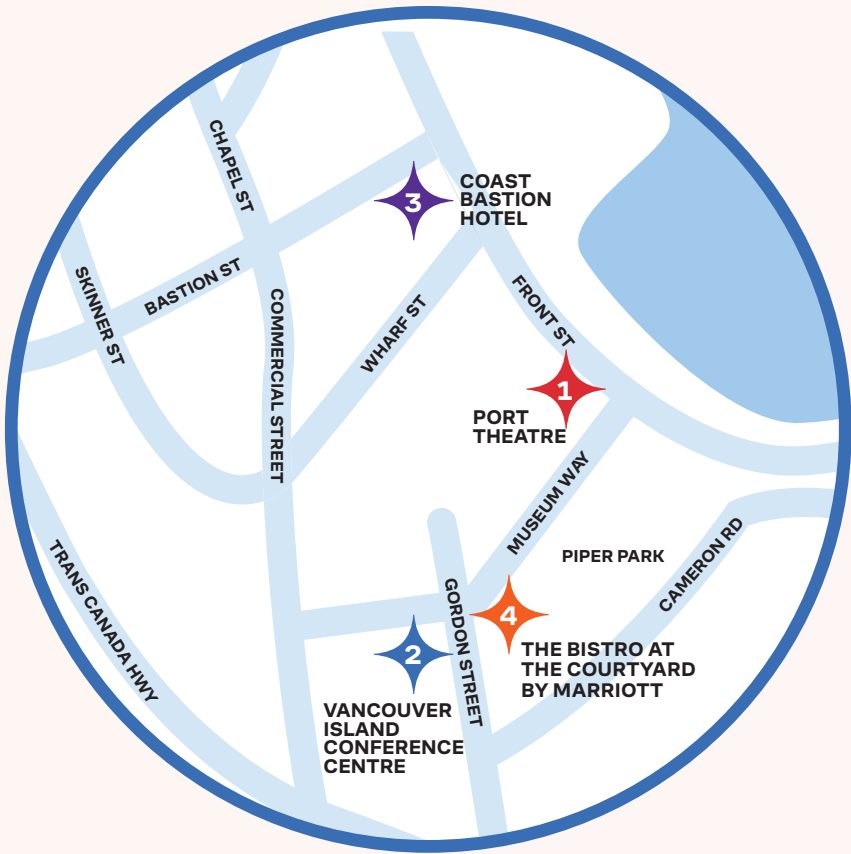
Hosted in partnership with The Port Theatre, Tourism Nanaimo and the City of Nanaimo

FRONT COVER: Ballet Kelowna / *Cikilax™m: Controlled Burn*
Photo: Emily Cooper / Dancers: McKeely Borger & MacKye White

 [bclivenetwork](#)  [bclivenetwork](#)

Pacific Contact 2026 Map

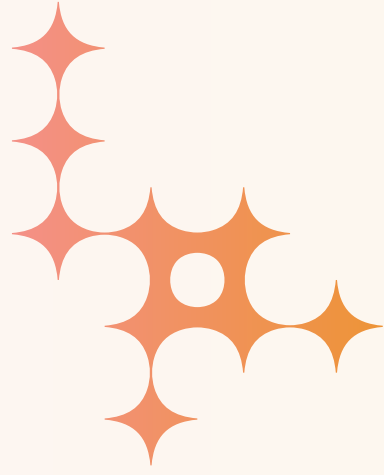
- 1. Port Theatre
- 2. Vancouver Island Conference Centre
- 3. Coast Bastion Hotel
- 4. The Bistro at the Courtyard by Marriott



Vancouver Island
Convention Centre
101 Gordon Street

Schedule at a Glance

Subject to Change



THURSDAY OCTOBER 1

8:00 am	Conference Registration , Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC
9:00 am-9:10 am	Snuneymuxw Welcome , Ballroom A/B, VICC
9:15 am-12:30 pm	Spotlight on Marketing - Parts 1 & 2 - VICC Part 1- 9:15 am to 10:45 am Workshop A- Departure Room A/B, VICC Workshop B- Duke Point Room, VICC Part 2- 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Workshop A- Departure Room A/B, VICC Workshop B- Duke Point Room, VICC
12:30 pm-2:00 pm	Lunch (on your own)
2:00 pm-3:30 pm	Network Meeting: Agents/Managers , Lantzville Room, VICC Network Meeting: Artists/Artistic Companies , Departure Room A/B, VICC Network Meeting: Box Office & Front of House , Duke Point Room, VICC Network Meeting: Festivals , Millstone River Room, VICC Network Meeting: Marketing & Development , Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC Network Meeting: Venue Managers , Ballroom A/B, VICC
3:30 pm-4:00 pm	Refreshment Break - Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC
4:00 pm-5:30 pm	Slow Socials Sticky Notes on Doors by The Fox Queen, Ballroom A/B, VICC Tricoter by Foolish Operations Society, Ballroom C, VICC
5:30 pm-7:00 pm	Get to Know You Networking Reception , Newcastle Island Lobby & Ballroom A/B, VICC
7:00 pm-10:00 pm	Showcase 1 – The Port Theatre
10:00 pm-12:30 am	Late Night Hospitality , Bistro at the Courtyard by Marriott

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2

8:00 am	Conference Registration , Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC
9:00 am-9:10 am	Snuneymuxw Welcome , Ballroom A/B, VICC
9:15 am-10:45 am	Peer Panels , Ballroom A/B, VICC Panel 1: Re-imagining Customer Relationships Panel 2: Supporting New Work Panel 3: AI and Climate Change
10:45 am-11:00 am	Refreshment Break
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Showcase 2 – Family & Young Audiences (Morning) , The Port Theatre
12:00 pm-1:30 pm	Lunch , Ballroom A/B, VICC
12:00 pm-2:30 pm	Contact Room: Exhibitor load-in and set-up , Ballroom C, VICC
1:30 pm-2:30 pm	Showcase 2 – Family & Young Audiences (Afternoon) , The Port Theatre
2:30 pm-3:00 pm	Refreshment Break , Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC
3:00 pm-4:00 pm	Pitch & Performs , Ballroom D, VICC
4:00 pm-6:00 pm	Contact Room , Ballroom C, VICC
6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Dine Arouds , Downtown Nanaimo
8:00 pm-10:00 pm	Showcase 3 – The Port Theatre
10:00 pm-12:30 am	Late Night Hospitality , Bistro at the Courtyard by Marriott

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3

8:00 am	Conference Registration , Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC
9:00 am-9:10 am	Snuneymuxw Welcome , Ballroom A/B, VICC
9:15 am-10:45 am	Knowledge Café by CAPACOA, VICC
10:45 am-11:00 am	Refreshment Break
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Pitch & Performs , Ballroom D, VICC
12:00 pm-1:30 pm	Lunch (on your own) - Downtown Nanaimo
1:30 pm-4:00 pm	Showcase 4 – The Port Theatre
4:00 pm-6:00 pm	Contact Room , Ballroom C, VICC
6:00 pm-6:30 pm	Contact Room Strike , Ballroom C, VICC
7:00 pm-10:00 pm	BC Live's 50th Anniversary Dinner & Awards , Ballroom A/B, VICC
10:00 pm-12:30 am	Late Night Hospitality , Bistro at the Courtyard by Marriott

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4

9:30 am-11:00 am	Block Booking Meeting for Presenters & Festivals ONLY , Ladysmith Ballroom, Coast Hotel
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Welcome to Pacific Contact 2026!



bclive  **performance network**

I am honoured to welcome you to Nanaimo for Pacific Contact 2026.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the BC Live Performance Network, a milestone that reflects five decades of dedication to supporting, nurturing, and strengthening the vibrant live performance community we are proud to be part of today. While the responsibility of carrying this work forward is significant, I have every confidence in the creativity, resilience, and commitment of our sector.

Throughout history, the arts have helped people understand who they are, where they have come from, and what possibilities lie ahead. Through performance, we share stories, emotions, lessons, and truths that connect us and help make sense of the world. In these uncertain times, the arts also provide comfort, inspiration, and belonging.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the BC Live staff as this small but mighty team works tirelessly behind the scenes to bring artists, presenters, festivals and communities together through live performance. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for all you do.

We are also deeply grateful to our funders and partners, whose support makes Pacific Contact possible.

Finally, thank you to everyone here. Whatever your role, you are essential to this community. Thank you for sharing your talents and strengthening our sector through your work.

Theresia Reid

Board 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 2026!

It is exciting to see Pacific Contact come to Vancouver Island for the first time in its 50-year history. Gathering on the territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation in Nanaimo provides a wonderful opportunity to connect through the performing arts while celebrating the unique cultures, communities, and creative voices of this region.

Our thanks to the BC Live Performance Network, together with The Port Theatre, Tourism Nanaimo, and the City of Nanaimo, for bringing this important event to life. Pacific Contact continues to create valuable opportunities for presenters, artists, agents, and arts leaders to connect, collaborate, and strengthen the performing arts sector across British Columbia.

I hope you enjoy the showcases, workshops, and conversations, and leave inspired by the talent, creativity, and connections that make our arts community so vibrant.

Nicholas Simons

Chair, BC Arts Council



On behalf of Premier David Eby and the Government of British Columbia, I am honoured to welcome everyone to BC Live Performance Network's Pacific Contact 2026.

This year marks an incredible milestone for BC Live. For 50 years, the organization has been enriching the province's performing arts sector, encouraging professional development, collaboration among artists and industry professionals, and bringing unforgettable live performances to people throughout B.C.

Our government stands alongside this work and is committed to supporting a thriving arts and culture sector. That is why the Province of B.C. has supported BC Live with over \$625,000 in grants through the BC Arts Council since 2021. We know how vital the arts are to our communities, the well-being of our society and the British Columbians who depend on it for their livelihoods. We are proud to invest in arts and culture through the BC Arts Council, Creative BC, Community Gaming Grants and the Destination Events Program, helping events like Pacific Contact continue year after year. This year's Pacific Contact is supported by a \$30,000 grant from Creative BC's Music Industry Initiatives program, through Amplify BC.

I want to give my heartfelt thanks the BC Live for its partnership with the Province of B.C. in delivering more than \$630,000 in grants annually to performing arts venues throughout the province. The work that BC Live does helps make the province a vibrant place for performing arts with a strong festival sector that supports the many artists, musicians, and performers who call British Columbia home.

I hope that everyone enjoys Pacific Contact 2026 and the incredible showcase of talent and creativity from throughout British Columbia and the rest of Canada. Once again, thank you to BC Live for its continued advocacy and support of our creative, performing arts, and festival sectors.

Sincerely,

Hon. Anne Kang
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport



Welcome to the Pacific Contact!

For the first time, Pacific Contact is taking place in the beautiful city of Nanaimo, bringing together artists, presenters and cultural leaders from across British Columbia to celebrate creativity, collaboration and the transformative power of live performance.

This year's conference once again highlights the incredible diversity of our artistic landscape, bringing us closer together and helping shape the vibrant cultural life of communities across British Columbia.

I congratulate everyone whose vision and dedication have made this event possible. Over the next four days, stories will be shared, ideas will take root and new collaborations and opportunities will flourish. I wish all participants an inspiring and memorable experience!

The Honourable Marc Miller
Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and
Minister responsible for Official Languages

BC Live Board Members



Theresia Reid – Chair, Presenter Representative

Theresia has been working in professional theatre for over twenty years. She began her career as an Equity Stage Manager at Western Canada Theatre in Kamloops, then became Resident Stage Manager for Sunshine Theatre in Kelowna, followed by Theatre North West in Prince George. While in Kelowna, she served as 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 Rentals Manager for the Chilliwack Cultural Centre, and in 2022 became Operations Manager for the Centre.



Deborah Renz – Past Chair, Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands Representative

Deborah is a presenter and venue manager of the Sid Williams Theatre Society in Courtenay, BC. She worked as a publicist, box office/front of house, and volunteer with the Sid for many years before becoming 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 a M.A. from Simon Fraser University.



Aaron Schubert – Vice Chair, Agent/Manager Representative

Aaron has been a Booking Agent with Paquin Artists Agency since 2006, with a short stint working as an Artist Manager, Concert Promoter/Talent Buyer and Consultant.

Aaron books music, comedy and theatrical artists and shows across Canada and the US, with a primary focus on Western Canada. Career highlights include working with artists such as Sly & The Family Stone, Sam Moore (Sam & Dave), Owen Pallett, Fred Penner & Buffy Sainte-Marie. 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 Immersives such as Beyond Van Gogh and Beyond King Tut.



Lynnda McDougall – Treasurer, North Representative

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.

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.



Jessica Duran – Secretary, South West Representative

With over 16 years of governance experience in 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.



Renae Morriveau – Artist Representative

Renae is a Cree (nehiyaw iskwew ᑭᓐᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴᓴ) and Saulteaux woman (nahkawiskwêw ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ) 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.



Justine Murdy – Artist Representative

Justine’s experiences range from material culture enthusiast to artistic director, producer, writer, and designer (lighting, costume, marketing, 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 in the midst of 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!



Leah Foreman – South Central Representative

Leah, born and raised in the South Okanagan, moved to Vancouver to pursue theatre before shifting to event management, working at Pacific National Exhibition and Rogers Arena. After her son’s birth, she returned to the South Okanagan in 2019 to reconnect with the community and became General Manager of the Oliver Community Theatre Society. Passionate about bringing quality performing arts to rural audiences, she embraces arts management and seeks to create meaningful shared experiences and community engagement.



Eliseo Santillan – Festival Representative

Eliseo is a Mexican composer, artistic director, music producer, and sound designer with over 30 years of experience across music, theatre, dance, documentary, television, multimedia, and large-scale cultural events. He has collaborated internationally with groups like Les Petits Français, La Fura dels Baus, and Butoh Dance Company. As a producer and event manager, he has worked on key Mexican festivals like Festival Barroquisimo and MUTEK Mexico City. Now based in Kelowna, he continues to create interdisciplinary performances and serves as Managing Director and Producer of the Living Things International Arts Festival.



Elijah Larsen – Festival Representative

Elijah is a Northern BC-based musician, recording engineer, videographer, and festival director with a background in music composition from Selkirk College. A multi-instrumentalist focused on voice, piano, and guitar, he has built recording studios in diverse settings and founded Soniquinn Studios, a dedicated facility. Elijah works with artists and organizations across Northern BC, composing for media and releasing his own music as Elijah Quinn. Since 2020, he has been the Artistic Director of the Kispiox Valley Music Festival, passionately supporting sustainable, community-driven arts experiences.



Xin Xuan Song – Festival/Artistic Company Representative

Xin Xuan is an arts administrator, programmer, and grant writer currently managing Grants & Sponsorship at Vancouver Opera and serving as Artistic Associate with the Vancouver Folk Music Festival. With eight years of involvement in BC Live, including roles at Kay Meek Arts Centre as Director of Artistic Planning, she has also contributed as an adjudicator, showcase selection committee member, and EDI Caucus participant. Since moving to Vancouver from Shanxi, China, in 2009, Xin Xuan discovered her passion for the arts through stage management studies at Simon Fraser University and continues to engage with freelance projects alongside her administrative career.



Tara Nazemi – Presenter Representative

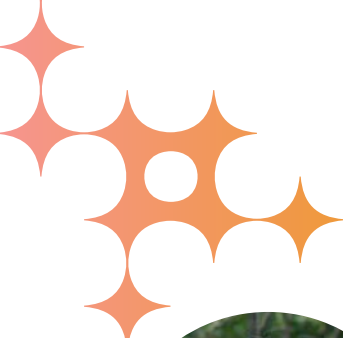
Tara is an accomplished arts leader, performer, and collaborator with extensive experience designing and managing arts programming in Vancouver. Since 2018, she has served as Arts and Cultural Programming Manager at the City of Vancouver’s Civic Theatres, developing sustainable programming frameworks that enhance public access and community engagement. A trained dancer and Assistant Director at Vancouver Pars National Ballet, Tara’s creative work extends to film collaborations with notable directors. Her early career included leadership roles in major events like the FIFA Women’s World Cup Closing Ceremony and Grey Cup Half-Time Show, along with contributions to equity and social policy initiatives.



Amelia Ewart – South East Representative

Amelia is a musician, actor, director, and arts leader who stepped into the role of Executive and Artistic Director at the Trail & District Arts Council in late 2025. After moving from Vancouver to the Greater Trail area in 2022, she quickly immersed herself in the region’s cultural community, serving as Vice President of the Rossland Light Opera Players, and Director at Large with the Rossland Council for Arts and Culture.

Professionally, Amelia trained in marketing and tourism before pivoting into construction and engineering, where she worked as a Project Coordinator and Project Manager. This unique combination of artistic experience and technical expertise informs her thoughtful, people-centered approach to leadership.



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 Royal 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 British Columbia's performing arts community. 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 land that was shared between the Neutral (Attawandaron), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples.

Sheryl is a seasoned arts administrator and communications manager with 30 years of experience supporting artists and arts organizations across Canada. She currently leads key funding programs at BC Live, helping bring performances to communities throughout the province. Originally from Stratford, Ontario, she has lent her expertise to prominent organizations including the Creative City Network, the Centre for Expertise on Culture & Communities, 2010 Legacies Now/Arts, North Van Arts, and Arts BC. A committed advocate for the arts, Sheryl serves on the board of C.A.R.E. (Canadian Artists for Reconciliation & Education), where she actively contributes to reconciliation and education alongside colleagues and peers from across the country.



Petrice Brett, Block Booking Coordinator (she/her) on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the Coast Salish peoples – *skwxwú7mesh* (Squamish), *selilwitulh* (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 working with BC Live as the Block Booking Coordinator and honoured to connect and collaborate with Presenters and Artists to bring more Art to the world.



Jenny Lee Craig, Festival Coordinator (outgoing) on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the Coast Salish peoples – *skwxwú7mesh* (Squamish), *selilwitulh* (Tsleil-Waututh), and *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam) nations.

Jenny played a crucial role in supporting a network of festival organizers by providing resources, facilitating peer-to-peer learning, and leading initiatives to strengthen the community. She also helped implement our member directories and ensure smooth conference registration at BC Live. Jenny has decided to pursue a full-time role with Granville Island Theatre District as their new Executive Director. We sincerely thank her for her meaningful contributions and wish her every success in this exciting next chapter.

Workshop Leaders



Spotlight on Marketing - Thursday, October 1, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm



Briana Doyle, Troubadours & Vagabonds Productions

Briana is a cultural strategy consultant, arts marketer, musician, presenter, and co-founder of Troubadours & Vagabonds Productions. Her work sits at the intersection of programming, promotion, audience development, and community context — the place where many ticket sales challenges actually begin. Based in Québec, Briana works with presenters, venues, festivals, and artist-led organizations across Canada, focusing on small and mid-size communities, regional touring, and bilingual cultural ecosystems. She also co-produces live music series in Hudson, Québec and Vankleek Hill, Ontario, giving her a practical view of what helps audiences say yes to a show. She brings a systems-thinking lens to arts marketing, helping artists and presenters look beyond promotion alone.

troubadoursandvagabonds.com



Frédéric Julien, CAPACOA

Frédéric Julien has been active in the performing arts for several years as an arts administrator, researcher, advocate, and change maker. Frédéric has led research and development activities at the Canadian Arts Presenting Association since 2010. In this capacity, he has directed or authored several key research initiatives, including Arts and Belonging, Vitality and Impact of Arts Presenting, Digitizing the Performing Arts, and A Linked Digital Future for the Performing Arts. An active volunteer, Frédéric has also served as community organizer of the COVID ASO Response Group, Co-Chair of the Canadian Arts Coalition, and board member of Arts Health Network Canada.



Inga Petri, Strategic Moves

Inga is the founder and principal of Strategic Moves, an insight-driven consultancy based in Whitehorse, Yukon. For more than three decades, she has helped arts, culture, public-sector and not-for-profit organizations across Canada make clearer decisions, sharpen their positioning, and connect more meaningfully with artists, audiences and communities. Nationally recognized for thought leadership in the performing arts, including the landmark study on The Value of Presenting and Digitizing the Performing Arts, Inga turns sector-wide research into practical strategies for presenters, festivals, theatres, arts service organizations and cultural institutions. Her work combines audience insight, marketing, digital strategy, organizational planning and AI-readiness.

strategicmoves.ca



Rebecca Coleman

A lifelong creative, Rebecca Coleman is a published writer and has done every job there is to do in the theatre. She has been a content creator for the past 20 years and helps arts organizations and small businesses with social media. Rebecca teaches a course called “Social Media Essentials” at BCIT, and has taught at every local post-secondary institution. She is the author of “Aquafabulous” and “Vegan Baking Made Easy,” and you can find her online on most social media platforms at @rebeccacoleman.

cookingbylaptop.com

Slow Socials – Thursday, October 1, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Slow Social 1: The Fox Queen

The Fox Queen is tsatassaya White, Tamara McCarthy and Dave Mott. A progressive theatre collective, The Fox Queen (FQ) was formed during the early days of Covid 19, due to a strong desire to connect, inquire, dismantle, (re)align artistic practices, and forge new decolonized ways of theatre-making and creation. FQ is guided by a set of shared Values: Love. Truth. Listening. Survival. Joy. Humour. Communication. Listening. Collaboration. Our values lead and define us.

FQ exists in the present moment, self-reflecting and focusing on the heartbeats around us; we are flexible, continually responding to the evolving needs of the people on our teams and the communities with whom we engage.



Slow Social 2: Foolish Operations

Foolish Operations' vision is about creating togetherness. Their mandate is to create dance experiences that welcome babies, toddlers and their families in performances and workshops filled with irresistible invitations to participate. They collaborate with artists, educators and specialists to spark inspiration between communities, disciplines and fields of knowledge, using play in art-making as the glue.



Pacific Contact Hosts



Showcase 1: **Aunalee Boyd-Good and Sophia Seward-Good, Ay Lelum - The Good House of Design**

Ay Lelum—The Good House of Design, run by sisters Aunalee Boyd-Good and Sophia Good in collaboration with their family—is a Coast Salish design house recognized as one of Canada's leading Indigenous fashion companies and a recipient of the Excellence in Culture Award for their contributions to local, national, and international fashion. Committed to sustainability, ethical practices, and cultural protocols, Ay Lelum produces eco-friendly ready-to-wear garments using sustainable fibres. Since 2018, they have showcased collections at Vancouver Fashion Week and across North America, with couture featured in *Vogue Italia* and other publications.



Showcase 2: **Nayana Fielkov**

Nayana Fielkov is a Canadian-based performing artist and educator dedicated to the work of play, blending clown, dance, mask, and physical comedy. As a co-creator and performer in numerous multi-award-winning shows such as *Falling Awake*, *Hotel Vortruba*, and *Flotsam River Circus*, she is also a founding member of theatre and clown ensembles including the Poupon Parade, The Myrtle Sisters, and The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret. Drawing from her extensive experience as a performer and somatic practitioner, Nayana brings ongoing inquiry to the mysteries of clown and has taught internationally and across Canada for over a decade.



Showcase 3: **Nadine Tremblay**

Nadine Tremblay is a performer at heart, with a background in opera and musical theatre. She is the co-founder of Iron Mountain Theatre and the creator of *Company Jump*, *Mennonite Mafia*, *G-Rated*, and more. Nadine has been an arts programmer for 19 years, formerly at The Bailey Theatre in Trail and now as the Entertainment Coordinator at the beautiful Butchart Gardens in Victoria. She is thrilled to be part of Pacific Contact and to help create a welcoming and memorable experience for artists and presenters. Prepare yourself for some dad jokes, curious questions and quirky remarks!



Showcase 4: **Joëlle Rabu**

Joëlle Rabu is an award-winning performer, writer, director, broadcaster, and recording artist with a career spanning over four decades. Known for her versatility, she has starred in acclaimed productions like *Cabaret*, *Anything Goes*, and her signature role as *Edith Piaf*, performed more than 2,500 times across Canada and the U.S. Currently, she is touring her new play, *I Don't Belong Here – Stories & Songs Remembered*, co-created with Kelly Wyatt, featuring music by Harry Nilsson and arrangements by her son, Nico Rhodes. She has received numerous honours, including two Jessie Theatre Awards, BC Touring Artist of the Year, and the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Award. Born by Manitoba's Red River, she has proudly called Nanaimo home for 30 years.



Pitch & Performs: **Laura Piccinin**

Laura was born to tell stories. Whether as a dancer/aerialist with Tokyo Disney, a playwright for new Canadian musicals, *Every Silver Lining*, and *Apothecary*, her solo shows, *LESBIHONEST*, *The Suicide Key*, and *GO*, or as a comédienne in *Footloose* with Just for Laughs, Laura's unstoppable passion in life lies in telling people all sorts of eccentric stories, in every form they come.



Awards Host: **Tahina Awan**

Tahina Awan is an Indo-Canadian actor, writer, educator and clown from Vancouver, most recently seen onstage in her one-woman autobiographical comedy, *Punjabi Wabi Sabi*, or as her alter ego and everyone's favourite guru, Baba Bibiji. Tahina's training is rooted in the physical theatre approach of Jerzy Grotowski, the clowning method of Richard Pochinko, and she holds a BFA from SFU in Visual Art and English Literature with a minor in Contemporary Dance. She regularly appears in commercials, on TV, in voice-overs, and on Vancouver stages doing comedy and even produced a film on the CBC. She teaches Movement, Mask and Clown at the Vancouver Film School.

Melt



Bookings: Valerie Buddle
valerie@lepatinlibre.com
Booth #1 / pitch Oct 3rd

Le Patin Libre



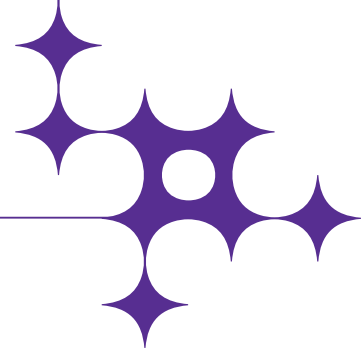
Culture builds
community.

Strategy makes it
sustainable.

CONSULTING • CULTURAL RESEARCH • STRATEGY
troubadoursandvagabonds.com

troubadours
VAGABONDS

2026 Schedule: THURSDAY OCTOBER 1



8:00 am **Conference Registration**, Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC

9:00 am–9:10 am **Snuneymuxw Welcome**, Ballroom A/B, VICC

9:15 am–12:30 pm **Spotlight on Marketing - Parts 1 & 2 - VICC**

Spotlight on Marketing offers an in-depth, hands-on learning experience designed for presenters, artists, marketers and communications professionals in the performing arts.

Structured as a flexible “choose your own adventure,” the Spotlight on Marketing features two concurrent 90-minute sessions. This allows participants to choose the topics most relevant to their work.

Part 1 (9:15 am to 10:45 am)

Part 2 (11:00 am to 12:30 pm)

There will be a 15-minute refreshment break at 10:45 am.

Led by four expert facilitators, each session dives into a distinct aspect of contemporary arts marketing:

Part 1 - Workshop A - Departure Room A/B, VICC

Social Media for the Arts: What's Working and What's Not in 2026

Hosted by Rebecca Coleman

Social Media can be so overwhelming! Which platforms should you be posting on? How often? And when? Should you be making a video? And do you really need to make a video lip-syncing and dancing to Charli XCX in order to get more than 200 views??? Also, who even is Charli XCX? In this workshop, Rebecca Coleman breaks down the fundamentals for presenters: how to choose the platforms where your audience is, what to post, how often to post, and some hacks to save both your time and your sanity. Using real-life examples culled from local BC companies, Rebecca will break down what's working and what's not working for Arts Organizations in 2026.

Part 1 - Workshop B - Duke Point Room, VICC

Conveying Authority and Trust in AI-centered Discovery

Hosted by Frédéric Julien, CAPACOA

Event discovery is changing. Whether artsgoers are searching for events to attend through traditional search engines or through chatbots, their queries are interpreted, executed, analyzed and/or summarized by one or more AI models. Soon, with the advent of agentic AI, artsgoers might even stop searching, let their agent decide which event to attend and then book tickets on their behalf. Schema structured data can help. Event structured data works with both traditional search engines and AI chatbots. Artsdata can also help. In this session, you will gain awareness and understanding of different strategies to publish information that can be found and trusted, no matter which service is used to access it.

Part 2 - Workshop A - Departure Room A/B, VICC

Critical Thinking: Why This Show Sold Out (And That One Didn't)

Hosted by Briana Doyle, Troubadours & Vagabonds

Why do some shows sell out while others struggle – even with strong marketing? In this interactive session, artists and presenters will share real-world examples and uncover what actually drives attendance. Together, we'll explore what's within our control, what we can influence, and what we can't predict – and how better alignment across roles can lead to stronger results. Expect practical insights, fresh perspectives, and a few “aha” moments along the way.

Part 2 - Workshop B - Duke Point Room, VICC

Critical Thinking for AI-powered Marketing

Hosted by: Inga Petri, Strategic Moves

This practical workshop helps arts leaders and marketers move past the hype and focus on what AI can realistically do for their marketing and communications. We will explore practical ways AI can stretch limited marketing resources, save time, and support everyday tasks such as creating marketing materials, analyzing customer data, and learning from audience surveys. We will also explore how AI tools can connect with the digital systems you already use, and where automation may help free up staff time. Just as importantly, we will take a critical look at the risks. Participants will consider the ethical and practical implications of using AI across your organization. We will also discuss AI governance considerations to help keep your organization's data, voice, and values safe.

12:30 pm–2:00 pm **Lunch (on your own)**

2:00 pm–3:30 pm **Network Meeting: Agents/Managers, Lantzville Room, VICC**

Co-hosted by Brent Belsher, AASPAA Canada Board Member and Director of Belsher Arts Management; Danielle Lefebvre, President of AASPAA Canada and Owner/Agent at Agence AD & Michel Bénac, Executive Director, AASPAA Canada

Agents and managers are invited to connect with colleagues across Canada for an informal, engaging networking session to exchange ideas, discuss shared interests, share best practices, and talk openly about the realities, challenges, and opportunities of working as an agent or manager in Canada.

Participants will also learn more about AASPAA Canada's new study on the working conditions and realities of agents in Canada, an important initiative to develop a clearer picture of the sector and help shape its future.

2:00 pm–3:30 pm **Network Meeting: Artists/Artistic Companies, Departure Room A/B, VICC**

Hosted by Myriam Verzat, Creative Facilitator, Conflict Transformation Consultant, Leadership Coach & Artist at Reconnect, myriamverzat.com

This exceptional opportunity, guided by Myriam Verzat's creative facilitation expertise, invites you to connect with fellow artists and artistic companies from BC and across Canada. Join colleagues to exchange ideas, expand your network, learn from colleagues' experiences, and share valuable resources in a collaborative, supportive environment.

Sponsored by Dufflebag Theatre

2:00 pm–3:30 pm **Network Meeting: Box Office & Front of House, Duke Point Room, VICC**

Hosted by Kathy Robinson, The Port Theatre

This meeting offers a valuable space to connect with peers involved in ticket sales and audience services for live events and performances. Share your successes and challenges, explore emerging trends, and discuss innovative approaches to operations and management. Collaborate with fellow professionals to enhance audience experiences and discover new ways of working in this dynamic field.

2:00 pm–3:30 pm **Network Meeting: Festivals, Millstone River Room, VICC**

Hosted by Jenny Lee Craig, BC Live's Festival Coordinator

Festivals face unique challenges in hosting events indoors and outdoors, often over multiple days involving vendors, camping, and logistical complexities. Join fellow festival organizers to discuss key issues. Exchange insights and strategies to navigate the diverse realities of the festival environment.

2:00 pm–3:30 pm **Network Meeting: Marketing & Development, Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC**

Hosted by Vicky Jones, The Bailey Theatre, Trail and District Arts Council

This meeting offers marketing and development professionals an invaluable chance to connect after the Spotlight on Marketing. As the landscape rapidly evolves with emerging platforms, changing audience behaviours, and new challenges, this meeting provides a space to share insights, exchange strategies, and explore innovative approaches.

2:00 pm–3:30 pm **Network Meeting: Venue Managers, Ballroom A/B, VICC**

Hosted by Theresia Reid, Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Venue managers from BC and beyond are invited to discuss evolving trends, share successes, and address challenges in venue management and programming. Recognizing the complexity of their roles—including overseeing venue operations and curating artistic activity—participants will exchange practical strategies and insights.

Sponsored by Actsafe Safety Association

3:30 pm–4:00 pm **Refreshment Break - Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC**

4:00 pm–5:30 pm **Slow Socials**

The Slow Socials offer an atmosphere that encourages gentle curiosity, meaningful dialogue, and personal connection through guided, interactive activities.

Slow Social 1: Sticky Notes on Doors by The Fox Queen, Ballroom A/B, VICC

Hosted by tsatassaya White, Tamara McCarthy and Dave Mott

Sticky Notes on Doors is an immersive glimpse into The Fox Queen's Messages on Doors community engagement workshop, commission and event. Participants explore practices and experiences from our full Messages on Doors project. Designed as an accessible entry point, we invite all to gather in a shared space for knowledge-sharing and reflection. Providing insight into the artistic and cultural foundations of the work, the session dives into the project's two big Ideas:

1. We are responsible for taking action against the historical and present-day dark messages of hate towards Indigenous peoples.

2. In these times of Reconciliation, we need to connect more.

By encouraging conversation, curiosity, and personal connection through guided interactions, *Sticky Notes on Doors* offers an opportunity to experience the Spirit of Messages on Doors in a condensed format.

Slow Social 2: Tricoter by Foolish Operations Society, Ballroom C, VICC

Hosted by Julie Lebel & Michelle Rosales, Foolish Operations

Tricoter (Tree-Ko-Tay), or Knitting in English, is a wonderful melange of colourful yarn, dance and live violin that captivates the imagination. The dance winds and unwinds through and around the public, who are arranged in the round. Yarn is integrated into the choreography, weaving an architecture that links the public and the place to the dancer. In this performance, we are reminded of the connection between yarn and knitting in our families.

After the performance, gather, slow down and connect with your peers in this crafty slow social session involving colourful yarn. Learn to make pompoms, how to knit with only your hands or your arms, untangle yarn, or teach someone your fancy techniques!

5:30 pm–7:00 pm Get to Know You Networking Reception, Newcastle Island Lobby & Ballroom A/B, VICC
(includes a no-host bar)

Welcome by City of Nanaimo Mayor, Leonard Krog

Join us for the Get to Know You Networking Reception—an inviting and relaxed space where artists, presenters, and industry professionals come together to connect.

Enjoy a generous selection of light refreshments and delicious appetizers, thoughtfully prepared to satisfy your dinner appetite.

7:00 pm–10:00 pm Showcase 1 – The Port Theatre
(6:30 pm Doors, 7:00 pm Snuneymuxw Welcome, 7:30 pm Showcase)
Hosted by Aunalee Boyd-Good and Sophia Seward-Good,
Ay Lelum - The Good House of Design, House music by Ay Lelum

Myc Sharratt & The Alibis

Tymisha Harris – A Cabaret of Legends

Kobo Town

Chloé Dumoulin – Musical Moments

Trio Hochelaga – Hidden Notes

Rum Ragged

Sponsored by Chilliwack Cultural Centre

10 pm–12:30 am Late Night Hospitality, Bistro at the Courtyard by Marriott

Our late-night lounge is your place to connect, debrief and unwind after an inspiring day discovering the brightest talent from BC and beyond.

Sponsored by Agence Station Bleue

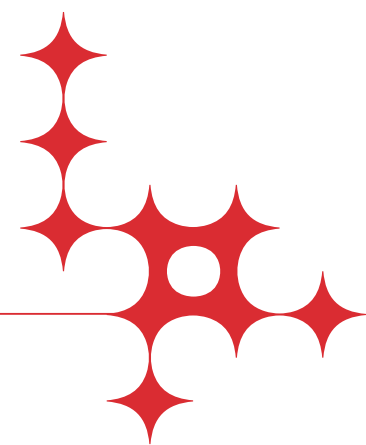
FRIDAY OCTOBER 2

8:00 am Conference Registration, Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC

9:00 am–9:10 am Snuneymuxw Welcome, Ballroom A/B, VICC

9:15 am–10:45pm Peer Panels, Ballroom A/B, VICC

Peer Panels offer a dynamic, discussion-driven format designed to spark practical insight and candid exchange among performing arts professionals. This 90-minute session is structured as three consecutive 30-minute panels, each led by a different facilitator and focused on a timely topic shaping the sector.



Panel 1: Re-imagining Customer Relationships

Facilitated by Frédéric Julien, CAPACOA

Explores the Re-imagining Customer Relationships project – a national, collaborative, open-access research initiative examining new approaches to audience loyalty and engagement. Participants will hear early findings from the Supporting Initiators field study, receive updates on Trialling Membership Offers, and join a facilitated discussion with firsthand testimonials from participating organizations.

Participants include: Renaud Legoux, HEC Montréal & Ellie Parker, Kay Meek Arts Centre

Sponsored by Kay Meek Arts Centre

Panel 2: Supporting New Work

Facilitated by David Warburton, The Port Theatre

Focuses on how venues and presenters can better support artists and companies in developing high-quality, tour-ready new work, emphasizing collaboration, investment, and long-term artistic relationships.

Participants include: Debi Wong, re:Naissance Immersive; Howard Jang, ArtSpring & Mary-Louise Albert, BC Movement Arts Society

Panel 3: AI and Climate Change

Facilitated by Inga Petri, Strategic Moves

Tackles the intersection of AI and climate change, inviting participants to consider both the opportunities and challenges these forces present for the performing arts.

Designed to be interactive and peer-led, these panels create space for shared learning, practical takeaways, and meaningful dialogue across the sector.

Participants include: Jay Dodge, Boca Del Lupo, Ian Garrett, Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts & Chimerik 似不像 / interplay_

10:45 am–11:00 am **Refreshment Break**

11:00 am–12:00 pm **Showcase 2 – Family & Young Audiences (Morning), The Port Theatre**

Hosted by Nayana Fielkov

Théâtre Motus and Nubila Teatro – Cosmo

The Kif-Kif Sisters – Returns Department

Wild Mint Arts – nimihitowin!

12:00 pm–1:30 pm **Lunch, Ballroom A/B, VICC**

Enjoy a catered lunch with colleagues—an excellent opportunity to meet new connections or catch up with familiar ones in a relaxed setting.

12:00 pm–2:30 pm **Contact Room: Exhibitor load-in and set-up, Ballroom C, VICC**

1:30 pm–2:30 pm **Showcase 2 – Family & Young Audiences (Afternoon), The Port Theatre**

Hosted by Nayana Fielkov

Little Onion Puppet Co. – Otosan

La Nef – Undersea

ORIGINZ

2:30 pm–3:00 pm **Refreshment Break, Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC**

Sponsored by the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils

3:00 pm–4:00 pm **Pitch & Perform (Short 5s), Ballroom D, VICC**

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 Laura Piccinin

Green Thumb Theatre – She Shoots, She Scores! by Michele Riml

Sophie Lukacs

Candy Roberts – Oopsie and Queenage Wasteland

Pulsive Party – Lip Service

Corpo Imago – Drift & Imago

Scrap Arts Music: Original Music. Invented Instruments. Unforgettable Performance

Kellie Haines Ventriloquist – A Birdy Told Me So

Jhoely Triana Flamenco – Las Mujeres

Sponsored by the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre

4:00 pm–6:00 pm **Contact Room, Ballroom C, VICC**

6:00 pm–8:00 pm **Dine Arouds, Downtown Nanaimo**

Join a small group of delegates for dinner at one of Nanaimo's beloved restaurants. It's a relaxed and delicious way to deepen your connections and explore Nanaimo's culinary scene.

Sign-ups are done prior to the conference, and a list is available at registration. Each restaurant will have a host with a list of those who signed up for each restaurant. We have arranged for separate cheques with each restaurant for your convenience.

8:00 pm–10:00 pm **Showcase 3, The Port Theatre**

(7:30 pm doors, 8:00 pm Showcase)

Hosted by Nadine Tremblay

Ballet Kelowna – Cikilax™m: Controlled Burn

Quatuor esca – Résonances

Joylyn Secunda – The Routine

Ballet Vancouver – Beginnings

CC Duo – Lyrique

The North Sound

Sponsored by Surrey Civic Theatres

10:00 pm–12:30 am **Late Night Hospitality, Bistro at the Courtyard by Marriott**

Don't miss this perfect chance to enjoy late-night refreshments and snacks while connecting with colleagues.

Sponsored by Ballet Jörgen

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3

8:00 am **Conference Registration, Newcastle Island Lobby, VICC**

9:00 am–9:10 am **Snuneymuxw Welcome, Ballroom A/B, VICC**

9:15 am–10:45pm **Knowledge Café, VICC**

Returning to Pacific Contact is the Knowledge Café, presented by BC Live with CAPACOA.

Led by artists and experts, this event format gives conference participants the opportunity to engage in workshops and small roundtable discussions. These sessions provide a space for sharing experiences and insights on a variety of topics.

The event includes two rounds of workshops and discussions, with the same topics repeated in the second round to allow more participants to join. Each session will accommodate between 7 and 10 participants.

SESSIONS:

★ **Accessibility: Whose job is it?** Lantzville Room

Everyone wants to be accessible, but who is responsible for what? What should a presenter take on vs. the artist? – Anika Verweken

★ **AI Tools, Ballroom A/B**

Explore practical AI uses for arts organizations, and consider the safeguards needed to protect organizational data, information, and trust – Inga Petri, Strategic Moves

★ **Climate Change Adaptation Program, Ballroom A/B**

Explore how climate change is reshaping performances and what practical tools, resources and collective learning can strengthen the future of outdoor performance – Erin Kennedy and Ian Garrett, CAPACOA

★ **Crowd Management, Ballroom A/B**

Explore crowd management challenges at live events and how to ensure safety for performers, crew and audiences while preventing risks – Caleigh Hoot, ActSafe Safety Association

★ **Demystifying International Delegations and Opportunities, Newcastle Island Lobby**

Lesandra Dodson, Fredericton Playhouse

- ✦ **Embodiment 101: “I Am; therefore, I Think”,** Duke Point Room
What is embodiment, how do we practice it, how does it relate to creativity? Through foundational awareness work, discover how the body tells a story and why joy is essential. No experience necessary – Tahina Awan
- ✦ **Experience Hoop Dance,** Departure Room B
Vee will bring participants into an active powwow and hoop dance experience. Bring a water bottle, socks/indoor shoes, and get ready to dance. She will consider all abilities and welcomes all to participate. Protocol and discussion around cultural appropriation will be shared as well – Virginia Sparvier-Wells (Cree, Cowessess First Nation), Wild Mint Arts
- ✦ **Incubating New Work,** Newcastle Island Lobby
Debi Wong, Re:Naissance Immersive
- ✦ **Redefining the Box: Crafting Out-of-the-Ordinary Experiences,** Ballroom A/B
Transform traditional performance by crafting immersive, out-of-the-ordinary experiences that engage audiences – Holly Bright, Crimson Coast Dance
- ✦ **Re-Imagining Customer Relationships,** Ballroom A/B
Engaging Social Initiators and Rethinking Membership Models – Renaud Legoux, HEC Montreal & Frédéric Julien, CAPACOA
- ✦ **The Art of Play,** Departure Room A
Using principles of clown and somatics, we will spend 45 minutes together in expression, discovery and delight – no experience necessary – Nayana Fielkov, Ragmop Theatre
- ✦ **Word Sound & Power,** Millstone River Room
Explore the elements of Hip Hop Movement, Freestyle Rap & Songwriting for the Soul – Ndid Cascade

10:45 am–11 am

Refreshment Break

11:00 am–12 pm

Pitch & Perform (Short 5s), Ballroom D, VICC

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 Laura Piccinin

Empanadas Ilegales

Brandon Thornhill with Sound the Alarm Music/Theatre – *Ebony Roots*

Gay4Nature Collective – *Bach’s Coffee Cantata/Green*

Le Patin Libre– *Melt*

Olivia Khoury

re:Naissance Immersive – *Inferno: A Hip Hop Opera & Orpheus in Underworld*

Small Town Artillery

Sponsored by Sid Williams Theatre

12:00 pm–1:30 pm

Lunch (on your own) - Downtown Nanaimo

1:30 pm–4:00 pm

Showcase 4 (1:00 pm door, 1:30 pm Showcase), The Port Theatre

Hosted by Joëlle Rabu

Inverso Productions – *Borrowed Time*

Laila Biali – *Joni Mitchell & The Canadian Songbook Reimagined*

La famille LeBlanc – *Amourette*

Garret T. Willie

Transcendent Talas

Flavia Nascimento and Tio Chorinho

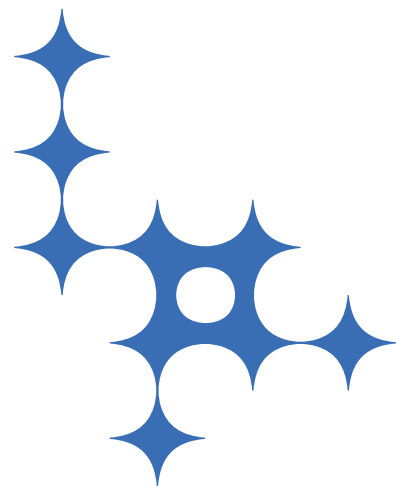
AV & the Inner City

4:00 pm–6:00 pm

Contact Room, Ballroom C, VICC

6:00 pm–6:30 pm

Contact Room Strike, Ballroom C, VICC



7:00 pm–10:00 pm **BC Live's 50th Anniversary Dinner & Awards**, Ballroom A/B, VICC

(7:00 PM Reception; 8:00 PM Buffet; 9:00 PM Awards)

Hosted by Tahina Awan

Don't miss out on this memorable celebration to reflect and to look ahead to the future of BC Live and Pacific Contact. The 50th Anniversary Dinner & Awards Party promises an unforgettable night filled with celebration, inspiration, and connection. Join us as we reflect on our past and honour outstanding achievements in our sector.

Sponsored by Capitol Theatre & SmartGrant

10:00pm–12:30 am **Late Night Hospitality**, Bistro at the Courtyard by Marriott

Don't miss your final chance to connect! Our late-night lounge is the perfect place to unwind, catch up with colleagues, and spark conversations with those you haven't yet met. Join us for a relaxed evening to share reflections and build new connections before we depart.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4

9:30 am–11:00 am **Block Booking Meeting for Presenters & Festivals ONLY**

Ladysmith Ballroom, Coast Hotel

Hosted by Petrice Brett, Block Booking Coordinator

Join 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 available opportunities to collaborate to book more artists in their communities.



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SmartGrant.ca

50 Years BC Live Performance Network

In 1976, a workshop at SFU which connected artists and presenters with shared resources and supported professional development in the arts sector helped launch the **BC Touring Council**.



1970s



Founding & Vision

Under **Rory Rolston's** leadership, BCTC launched key initiatives, including the Arts for BC Schools program (ABCs), which subsidized school districts to bring in touring artists. At the same time, the Arts Resource Touring Subsidy was launched, a precursor to the BC Arts Council's Community Presenters Assistance program.

Perhaps the most important initiative was Pacific Contact, a yearly gathering of presenters, artists, agents, and schools. The first Pacific Contact at the David Y.H. Lui Theatre in 1976 proved so successful that participation grew from 300 to 500 between 1978 and 1979. In just four years, BCTC fulfilled its mandate of bringing people together to support touring artists and presenters.

1980s

Innovation & Growth

When a financial recession hit the province in 1981, the government cut many programs, including the ABC's school program. This was a real blow to BCTC as the program had been a cornerstone of the organization. It needed a reset, and in 1983, under Executive Director Virginia Cleary, BCTC continued to expand.

Many initiatives from this period continue today: the Young Audiences showcase, Sales Spotlights (now Pitch & Performs), and the Awards.

The Gateway Theatre in Richmond became the showcase venue for Pacific Contact.



1990s



Building Connections & Support

Pacific Contact gained a reputation for showcasing high-level artists, including **Sarah MacLachlan**, **Spirit of the West**, and **Loreena McKennitt**.

The Community Presenters Assistance program, launched in 1995, provided funding to assist presenters with artist fees. This enabled them to book more artists, take creative risks, and reduce reliance on box office revenue.

BCTC began hosting Facility/Venue Managers meetings to build a network of peers who shared knowledge, exchanged ideas, and supported each other's professional development.

2000s

Leadership & Transition

Executive Director **John McLachlan** helped BCTC recover from financial challenges while implementing organizational improvements, including a website and an email database.

In 2001, **Joanna Maratta** joined the team. She continued developing BCTC as an organization focussed on professional development for artists and presenters.

The venue for Pacific Contact also moved from the Norman Rothstein Theatre to the Chan Centre at UBC, then to Granville Island, before settling in Burnaby at the Michael J. Fox Theatre and Shadbolt Centre for the Arts.



2010s



Diversity & Inclusion

Block booking became an established practice for coordinating tours. Northern presenters became an important group that would consistently work together to book artists.

The “On the Road” workshop series was delivered in thirteen locations in BC under the Aspiring & Emerging Artists Initiative.

Other projects included Warming up the Act, the Next Gen, and a Youth Friendly Venues inventory, all designed with a focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to support and amplify early-career artists from diverse backgrounds.

2020s

Renewed Vision

After the challenge of the pandemic, **Miriam Manley** was hired as Executive Director with a series of new initiatives to build on the previous successes of BCTC and offer new opportunities. The organization rebranded as **BC Live** to encompass a wider spectrum of provincial presenters, such as festivals.

Pacific Contact began to move to a different community each year and was hosted in Kelowna for the first time in 2024.

“Into the Act” was created to provide financial assistance to presenters and festivals across BC to engage early-career artists.



Future

As the organization continues to grow, BC Live is primed to advocate for and support BC presenters, festivals, schools, artists, and artist representatives well into the future.

We will continue to offer professional development, expand access to valuable resources, and create more opportunities for creative professionals to connect, collaborate, and support one another. By strengthening our network and staying responsive to members' evolving needs, BC Live will empower artists and presenters to thrive and enrich the performing arts landscape throughout British Columbia.

Photo credits: Page 1: Krystle Dos Santos. Sylvain LaPointe, Buzz Brass photos by Mary Matheson Photography/Moneka Arabic Jazz, Photo by Daniel Soares (Prince George Folk Fest Society)/Bageshree Vaze
Page 2: Jeremy Dutcher, photo by M Howard-Gibbon (Prince George Folk Fest Society)/Ballet Victoria Dracula, Constellations, Photos Bryan Walwork.jpg (Sid Williams Theatre),

Showcase 1: THURSDAY OCTOBER 1

7:30 pm to 10:00 pm – Port Theatre

Hosted by Aunalee Boyd-Good and Sophia Seward-Good, Ay Lelum - The Good House of Design



Myc Sharratt & The Alibis

Myc Sharratt has performed his award-winning brand of folk-funk to audiences across North America and Europe for close to 20 years. Sharratt's new album "The Bird & The Bear" was recorded live in front of a captive audience in Sharratt's hometown of Nanaimo, BC, with his band, "The Alibis". The lively sextet was complemented by the magic of the Vancouver Island Symphony. The collection sees the reimagining of songs from Sharratt's first 5 albums, which have garnered over 4 million streams and 7 Vancouver Island Music Award nominations.

Michael Sharratt

myc@mycsharratt.com

mycsharratt.com

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Michael Marinaccio

Tymisha Harris – A Cabaret of Legends

Aspiring legendary vocalist Tymisha Harris spent decades performing as Aretha Franklin at Universal Studios and working as a Tina Turner impersonator and tribute artist. She has won dozens of awards for her portrayal of Josephine Baker in the off-Broadway and international hit show "Josephine", and is a 2X winner of the Orlando Sentinel Critic's Choice for "Leading Actress, Musical" (one for Josephine, the other for her embodiment of Billie Holiday in "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill").

In this new, surprisingly personal cabaret, Tymisha sings us through the generations of some of the most iconic performers of the last hundred years, highlighting black female excellence as she shares stories of these Legends and their impact on her journey. Featuring songs from legends like Nina Simone, Billie Holiday, Tina Turner, Whitney Houston and Beyoncé.

Michael Marinaccio

Dynamite Lunchbox

dynamitelunchbox@gmail.com

linktr.ee/dynamitelunchbox

Home base: Orlando, Florida



Photo: Lucas Schuller

Kobo Town

Kobo Town is a Juno-winning Canadian Caribbean music group, led by Trinidadian Canadian singer and songwriter Drew Gonsalves. Based in Toronto, the band blends calypso music with a diverse mix of Caribbean and other musical influences, including ska, reggae, dub, rapso, zouk, and hip hop.

Lucas Schuller

Cubbyhole Artists

lucas@cubbyholeartists.com

cubbyholeartists.com

Home base: Ontario



Chloé Dumoulin – *Musical Moments*

This program invites you to discover the world of two of history's most influential composers through a free-form structure that brings out a rich tapestry of colours and atmospheres. Schubert's music captures deep interiority and spirituality alongside fiery rhythm and dance. Rachmaninoff's *Moments Musicaux* range from intimate, supple, and delicate to virtuosic, tempestuous, and deeply moving. This concert promises an authentic showcase of the piano's full potential through two unique musical universes that will captivate every listener.

Named one of CBC's "30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30," pianist Chloé Dumoulin is one of the most promising artists of her generation. Praised for her sensitive and deeply expressive playing, she stands out for her "impressive tonal mastery" (*Le Soleil*) and compelling musical storytelling.

Her international career has brought her to stages across Canada, the US, Europe, and Asia, including debuts at Carnegie Hall, London's St James's Piccadilly, and the Maison symphonique. A Prix d'Europe laureate and Canimex Grand Prize winner, she currently teaches at Domaine Forget and Orford Musique.

Chloé holds an Artist Diploma from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she is now a Junior Fellow. Her debut album, *Nouveau lyrisme*, was released by Leaf Music in 2025.

Annick-Patricia Carrière

Agence Station Bleue / ap.carriere@stationbleue.com

Hubert Paré / h.pare@stationbleue.com

chloedumoulinpiano.com/en / Home base: Québec



Photo: David Bélanger

Trio Hochelaga – *Hidden Notes*

Through meticulously chosen excerpts from the great repertoire for piano trio, the musicians reveal the most eloquent passages, the pivotal moments where emotions, daring, and surprises lie hidden. Each fragment becomes a key that unlocks the composers' world, offering a rich and contrasting panorama that will captivate both passionate music lovers and those curious to discover new music. This program includes movements from works by Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Debussy, Shostakovich and more.

The Trio Hochelaga brings together three exceptional musicians: violinist Anne Robert (formerly of the OSM, with a discography of 40+ albums), cellist and composer Dominique Beauséjour-Ostiguy (2018 Prix d'Europe winner), and pianist Dantonio Pisano, a renowned soloist and pedagogue. Together, they offer a passionate approach to the chamber music repertoire, blending heritage with innovation.

Internationally recognized for its artistic integrity and precision, the Trio has performed across North America, Europe, and Asia since its founding in 2000. Highlights include collaborations with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and the Tokyo New City Orchestra, as well as performances at London's Wigmore Hall and Venice's Palazzetto Bru Zane. With a dozen critically acclaimed recordings to its credit, the Trio has also produced its own concert series in Montreal for over 20 years.

Jo-Anne Fraser

Annick-Patricia Carrière

Agence Station Bleue / ap.carriere@stationbleue.com

Hubert Paré / h.pare@stationbleue.com

triohochelaga.com

Home base: Québec



Photo: Jeff Fasano



Rum Ragged

JUNO Award nominees, Rum Ragged, take a bold approach to the Folk music of their home: the Eastern Canadian island of Newfoundland. With a reverence for their roots and a contemporary edge, this young band is known as the finest performers of their great, living, musical tradition. Boasting bouzouki, fiddle, banjo, guitar, and button accordion, these champions of East Coast music enliven and enlighten audiences with their signature brand of Newfoundland Folk. Always honest, thought-provoking, and often humorous, it's Rum Ragged's live show that makes them a fast favourite with audiences. Their combination of striking vocal harmonies, staggering musicianship, and captivating storytelling gives concert-goers an unforgettable experience. Since forming in 2016, they have maintained a rigorous tour schedule, performing on many of the world's premier Folk, Celtic, and Roots stages, all while managing to record five award-winning albums. Rum Ragged is not your run-of-the-mill band: they are the genuine article.

Nigel Jenkins

Laughing Heart Music Ltd. / nigel@laughingheartmusic.com

lhrec.com

Home base: Newfoundland and Labrador

Showcase 2: (morning)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2

11:00 am to 12:00 pm – Port Theatre

Hosted by Nayana Fielkov



Photo: Sylvie-Ann Paré

Théâtre Motus and Nubila Teatro – Cosmo

Two cosmic beings, weavers of time, reinvent the world. A soft light, like a star, lands in their universe and activates their cocoons, revealing astonishing landscapes populated by textures, sounds and creatures great or small. In this fascinating space, poetry, puppets and theatre play together to offer us a fresh look at the universe and its elements: air, water, earth, fire... and everything they contain. All you need to do is observe, enjoy and let the world light up.

Hélène Ducharme

Théâtre Motus / helene@theatremotus.com

theatremotus.com

Home base: Québec & Mexico

The Kif-Kif Sisters – Returns Department

Twin sisters welcome you to the Returns Department, where they inspect merchandise returned to the store by disgruntled customers. They discover all sorts of dysfunctional objects and manufacturing defects on their conveyor belt. For them, dealing with complaints is like opening a box of chocolates. Little by little, the temptation to play with the merchandise takes hold, but the objects themselves play some tricks of their own!

Returns Department combines physical theatre, circus, robotics and puppetry. With humour inspired by Chaplin and comic strips, the show takes a playful look behind the scenes of a production line. Through defective products, the characters find a space of freedom to express their creativity, invent, and evolve.

Josette Lepine

info@kif-kif.ca

kif-kif.ca

Home base: Québec



Wild Mint Arts – nimihitowin!

Powwow and hoop dance are beautiful expressions of Indigenous Peoples' rich history and culture. Translated from Cree to mean "to dance" and "to be in movement", nimihitowin! (knee-me-toe-win) will mesmerize audiences with dramatic dancing, spectacular regalia and the subtle beauty of Native American flute songs. Insightful commentary about each dance will also enhance the performance as kids get the chance to celebrate this rich cultural treasure with the Cree, Blackfoot and Stoney Nakoda dancers of Nimihitowin!

Created exclusively for young audiences by acclaimed Cochrane-based Cree musician, contemporary dancer and choreographer V.J. Sparvier-Wells, this energetic performance offers a rare opportunity to experience the stunning vibrancy of Indigenous culture through dance.

Elijah Wells

wildmintarts@gmail.com

wildmintarts.com

Home base: Alberta



Showcase 2: (afternoon)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm – Port Theatre

Hosted by *Nayana Fielkov*



Photo: Chelsey Stuyt

Little Onion Puppet Co – *Otosan*

Created by Shizuka Kai, Jess Amy Shead, and Randi Edmundson

When little Shizu hides in her Otosan's suitcase and secretly travels to his most dangerous destination, The North, her presence is a big surprise and an even bigger nuisance to her gruff, no-nonsense father. Facing snowy owls, white wolves, and grizzly bears, Otosan and Shizu tackle challenges together and learn to communicate their love. Inspired by Co-creator Shizuka Kai's real-life relationship with her father, a wildlife videographer, Otosan uses puppetry, video projections, and an original score to take the audience on an immersive journey.

Otosan was created with support from Deaf Theatre Consultants to include Deaf and hard-of-hearing people and has won four Jessie Richardson Awards.

Little Onion Puppet Co. strives to make puppetry exciting and accessible for all audiences. Our award-winning new works of puppetry have toured as far as Indonesia.

Randi Edmundson

edmundson.randi@gmail.com

littleonionpuppetco.weebly.com

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Danylo Bobyk

La Nef – *Undersea*

Undersea is a poetic exploration of the submarine world, populated by enigmatic beings, sounds, dreams, shimmering currents, iridescent reflections, and oblique light.

James, the main character, is an island-dwelling young boy and a dreamer. He emerges from his unforgettable underwater adventures with a sense of purpose, a mission to accomplish, and considerable self-confidence. In a way, it's a kind of modern coming-of-age story.

Through fascinating original video footage of Quebec's seabed and the Magdalen Islands' picturesque landscapes, we explore the importance of conserving marine habitats and protecting the environment. This fable also explores the importance of art, imagination, and creativity, as well as passing on stories, myths, and legends. This magnificent show, full of finesse and sensitivity, is poetic, funny, action-packed, and, above all, awe-inspiring!

Anne-Audrey Deltell

diffusion@la-nef.com

la-nef.com

Home base: Québec

ORIGINZ

ORIGINZ is an engaging, high-energy performance that blends rap-poetry, music & dance. Founded by rap artist/educator Ndidi Cascade and delivered alongside a crew of acclaimed Canadian hip hop artists, audiences are led through a musical journey using rhythm, rhyme & participatory music. ORIGINZ connects hip hop roots from Africa to Turtle Island, exploring themes of empathy, identity, inclusion, anti-racism, and acceptance.

ORIGINZ co-creates a space where unity in diversity comes alive!

Cassandra "Ndidi Cascade" Onyejikwe

ndidicademusic@gmail.com

ndidicascade.ca

Home base: British Columbia



Pitch & Performs 1: **FRIDAY OCTOBER 2**

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm – Ballroom D

Hosted by Laura Piccinin



Green Thumb Theatre - *She Shoots, She Scores!* by Michele Riml

SHE SHOOTs, SHE SCORES! tells the story of a determined girl who challenges expectations by pursuing her love of hockey. The play is inspired by a book by hockey legend Cammi Granato, one of the first women inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

This show looks at teamwork, confidence, perseverance, and personal accountability. Featuring actors playing multiple roles, the production is physical, fast-paced, and inventive, making it an ideal introduction to live theatre. **SHE SHOOTs, SHE SCORES!** is an inspiring and joyful experience, not just for hockey fans, but for any young person finding the courage to try something new.

SHE SHOOTs, SHE SCORES! is performed by arrangement with Celine Cassis, One Scoop Publishing. 50 minutes followed by a Q & A.

Jenn Hogg

touring@greenthumb.bc.ca

greenthumb.bc.ca

Home base: British Columbia

Sophie Lukacs

Sophie Lukacs is a kora player, singer-songwriter and composer whose music bridges Mandingue kora tradition with contemporary songwriting in her four spoken languages — French, English, Bambara and Hungarian. A classical violinist turned kora player, she spent seven years in Bamako, Mali, studying under GRAMMY winner Toumani Diabaté. Her debut album *Bamako* (Disques Nuits d'Afrique) won Global Roots Album of the Year at the 2024 Canadian Folk Music Awards.

Fresh from sold-out shows in Paris and the UK, Sophie has brought her music to stages across West Africa, Europe and North America. Live - as a trio or a larger band - she moves between full-band energy and the intimacy of solo storytelling, holding a quiet room as easily as she fills it. Her story proves that music truly has no borders, only bridges waiting to be built.

Jacynthe Plamondon-Émond, Manager

InTempo Musique

jacynthe@intempomusique.com

intempomusique.com

Home base: Québec



Photo: Jeff Malo



Candy Roberts - *Oopsie and Queenage Wasteland*

Candy Roberts is a Canadian theatre artist and fifth-generation European-Canadian settler, residing on the Unceded Territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), and xwməθkwəyem (Musqueam) Nations, also known as Vancouver, BC.

Her innovative works blend physical theatre, storytelling, music, and clowning to explore the heartbreak and hilarities of the human condition. She is renowned for her immersive and original productions that captivate adults, children and families alike.

Candy tours nationally and internationally with her critically acclaimed solo productions, **QUEENAGE WASTELAND**, an autobiographical stand-up and storytelling show about the pursuit of becoming a dangerous old woman. **LARRY**, a riotous gender-bending clown romp, and **OOPSIE, TYA**, exploring the art of failure that will have the entire family laughing.

In addition to her solo work, Candy is the Band Leader of the Myrtle Sisters, and one half of the Canadian folk duo, The Sawtooth Stars, who have recently completed their debut tour opening for sold-out shows across Europe.

Candy Roberts

candyrobertstheatre@gmail.com

candyroberts.com

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Chelsey Stuyt Photography

Pulsive Party - Lip Service

Ever wonder what your vulva alter-ego would do if given the spotlight? Lip Service is a 75-minute physical comedy musical that follows two larger-than-life vulva characters through hilarious scenes and songs as they navigate their relationship to service, self-acceptance, and empowerment. Through absurdist humour, Lip Service celebrates the strength and spirit of vulva bodies while tackling the complexities and contradictions of empowerment in today's society.

The show features two performers dressed in vulva costumes who perform comedic scenes, educational parody songs, and bombastic dance numbers, accentuated by costume pieces, props, instruments, lighting design, and a mix of pre-recorded and live sound.

Tone - If Chappell Roan, a sexual health educator, and Mr. Bean walked into a cabaret.

Available with ASL Interpretation, audio description, sexual health Q+A's, and performance workshops.

Ashley Whitehead

ashley@pulsiveparty.com

pulsiveparty.com

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Chris Randle

Corpo Imago - Drift & Imago

Imago and *Drift* are two distinct shows demonstrating Corpo Imago's breadth—from intimate aerial partnering to ensemble-based visual dramaturgy.

Imago is a "visually stunning, emotionally resonant" (Ed Fest Mag) contemporary aerial dance duet. Winner of the IC Best Production award at the 2025 EdFringe, the work explores the fragile space between holding onto and letting go of another. Critics have praised it as "an incredibly impressive feat of acrobatics, staging, and sound design" (Fest) and "a thoughtful and beautiful take on circus and aerial skills" (Voice Mag).

Recently premiered in May 2026, *Drift* journeys from the final hours of the Anthropocene into deep time, where the human form dissolves into a landscape scarred by its own existence. Five dancers inhabit an ecology no longer defined by human time or agency. In this liminal world, bodies, light and atmosphere drift in elemental flux.

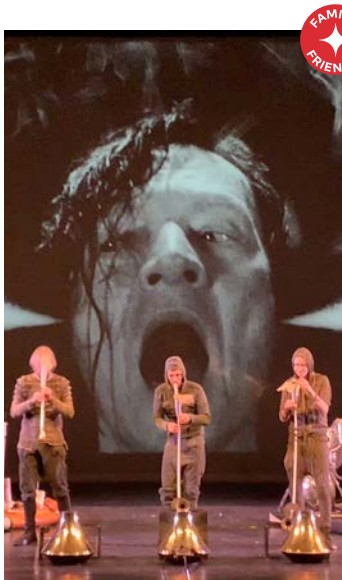
Jeremiah Hughes

Corpo Imago

jeremiah@companyci.com

corpoimago.com

Home base: British Columbia



Scrap Arts Music: Original Music. Invented Instruments. Unforgettable Performance

We start with SCRAP.

Transform it through the ARTS of sculpture, choreography and film.

And create an entirely original MUSIC experience.

Scrap Arts Music transforms salvaged industrial materials into sculptural musical instruments—and those instruments into visually compelling live performance. Original music, athletic choreography, humour and inventive design come together in productions that engage audiences across generations and cultures.

Founded in British Columbia in 1998, Scrap Arts Music has toured internationally since 2001, performing in 17 countries and at the Closing Ceremony of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Its non-verbal productions are designed for MainStage and family audiences, offering presenters a distinctive Canadian work that is imaginative, accessible and environmentally conscious.

Justine Murdy

Scrap Arts Music

justine@scrapartsmusic.com

scrapartsmusic.com

Home base: British Columbia



Kellie Haines Ventriloquist - *A Birdy Told Me So*

Eight-year-old Kellie doesn't feel like she fits in until she receives a birthday gift that changes everything. Magrau is a chatty bird puppet who talks by himself! Kellie shares with Magrau that she always wanted to perform at the school talent show, but when Magrau secretly signs them up for it, Kellie is mortified. The advice from Magrau? "Follow your dreams! Never give up!"

This multimedia, interactive show opened to rave reviews, touring schools, theatres, festivals and selling out the Whistler Children's Festival's main stage in May 2025.

Magrau and Kellie lead audiences into the imaginative world of this story, with songs, adventures, and a few mishaps along the way. In the end, they find out that success is like learning how to ride a bike: you may fall down a few times, but if you keep on trying, you'll get there.

Kellie Haines

kelliehaines@shaw.ca

kelliehaines.com

Home base: British Columbia



Jhoely Triana Flamenco - *Las Mujeres*

Las Mujeres brings together a collective of Flamenco Latinas to explore the impact of immigration on identity, memory, and cultural expression. Performed in Spanish, Portuguese and English, the work seamlessly fuses flamenco dance, poetry, song, and storytelling to reflect the complex and layered experiences of migration. Drawing on the intercultural roots of flamenco, especially the *Ida y Vuelta* (going and coming) song forms that travelled between Spain and Latin America, the piece becomes a powerful act of reclaiming voice, space, and belonging. Through rhythm, movement, and lived experience, Las Mujeres invites audiences into a bold and intimate reimagining of home and heritage.

Jhoely Triana

jhoely triana flamenco@gmail.com

jhoely triana flamenco.com

Home base: British Columbia

Matriarchs uprising

FEB 13-27, 2027
THE DANCE CENTRE, VANCOUVER

O'Della The Dance Centre at Scotiabank Dance Centre

MATRIARCHSUPRISING.COM

PuSh Industry Series

Jan 20–24, 2027

MST Territories (Vancouver), Canada



A leading assembly for the international performing arts sector.

Part platform, part assembly, the Industry Series brings together 240+ global performing arts professionals for five 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.

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

**Registration opens
November 20, 2026.**

PUSHFESTIVAL.CA

Showcase 3: **FRIDAY OCTOBER 2**

8:00 pm to 10:00 pm – Port Theatre
Hosted by Nadine Tremblay



Photo: Emily Cooper, Dancers McKeely Borger & Mackye White

Ballet Kelowna – *Cikilaxʷm: Controlled Burn*

Cikilaxʷm: Controlled Burn is a full-length narrative contemporary ballet by Tla'amin choreographer Cameron sinkwə Fraser-Monroe. Set in a dystopian future where wildfire season has no end, the piece follows the journey of a young Indigenous firefighter whose beliefs are challenged when he meets Mothkʷ, a trickster-teacher figure and fierce protector of ancestral knowledge. The word cikilaxʷm [tseekiLAHkwum] means "prescribed fire" in nsyilxən, the language belonging to the syilx (Okanagan) People, referring to traditional fire stewardship that restores the land and revitalizes community. Featuring a commissioned score by beloved Cree cellist and composer Cris Derksen, the production is further brought to life with evocative projections by Euro/Omushkego Cree artist Andy Moro and costume design by Navajo/Cherokee artist Asa Benally.

Developed in collaboration with the National Creation Fund at Canada's National Arts Centre, *Cikilaxʷm: Controlled Burn* is both a cultural reclamation and a vision of resilience, rooted in Indigenous knowledge and artistry.

Simone Orlando

ad.ceo@balletkelowna.ca

balletkelowna.ca

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Annie Diotte

Quatuor esca – *Résonances*

With *Resonances*, Quatuor esca presents a vibrant chamber music experience that bridges classical tradition and contemporary influences.

Formed by four dynamic musicians, the all-female string quartet has developed a distinctive ensemble sound through numerous collaborations across Québec's musical scene. Their repertoire moves fluidly between classical works, cinematic-inspired music, and imaginative interpretations of well-known songs.

Blending expressive playing with a modern stage presence, the ensemble creates a concert experience that highlights the emotional richness of the string quartet while making chamber music accessible to a wide range of audiences.

Already touring successfully in Québec, Quatuor esca looks forward to introducing its fresh, contemporary approach to audiences in British Columbia.

Danielle Lefebvre

Danielle Lefebvre Agency ADL

danielle@agencedlefebvre.com

agencedlefebvre.com

Home base: Québec



Joylyn Secunda – *The Routine*

Mr. Bean meets Death of a Salesman...A lonely office worker squeezes through a portal in their bathroom mirror and goes on a quest for the meaning of life in this surreal physical comedy. The mundane becomes extraordinary as each vignette and dance takes you deeper into a whimsical world of illusion. *The Routine* will leave you in stitches and remind you of the magic within.

Joylyn Secunda has captivated adults, teens, and families across Canada, Australia, and the Czech Republic with this comedic mime drama. *The Routine* has received glowing five-star reviews and countless award nominations, notably winning the Artistic Merit Award at the Newcastle Fringe Festival this year.

Joylyn Secunda

joylynsecunda@gmail.com

joylynsecunda.ca

Home base: British Columbia



Ballet Vancouver – Beginnings

Ballet Vancouver launched in 2025 with the aim to revitalize the city's access to professional classical, neoclassical and narrative ballet. Led by Artistic Director Joshua Beamish, the company will tour BC for the first time in 2027-28.

Ballet Vancouver's inaugural touring program will feature Beamish's "Romeo & Juliet Balcony Pas de deux", "Self Portrait" by Taiwanese choreographer Tsai-Hsi Hung, "Swan" by Wen Wei Wang, and excerpts from "Winterbourne", a co-creation by Beamish and Gitxsan fashion Yolonda Skelton Jackson.

Ballet Vancouver's showcase will feature an excerpt of Beamish's "Romeo & Juliet Balcony Pas de deux", a deeply lyrical pas de deux that translates Shakespeare's immortal words into expressive movement. Sweeping and emotionally charged, this virtuosic work captures ballet at its most romantic and resonant. The program will also include the Black Swan duet from Wen Wei Wang's "Swan", a charged and dynamic reimagining of the iconic narrative ballet.

Joshua Beamish

info@balletvancouver.com

balletvancouver.com

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Kevin Calixte

CC Duo – Lyrique

Lyrique offers a unique and evocative portrait of 19th- and 20th-century piano music, masterfully arranged for two guitars. CC Duo transports listeners to this refined era through the rich tonal palette and inherently intimate nature of their instruments, lending new depth to familiar masterpieces. By translating these distinguished works, CC Duo invites audiences into an intimate world that highlights the guitar's unique ability to convey both delicate subtlety and compelling, vibrant expression. The selections span a broad emotional landscape: from the captivating lyricism of Grieg and Ravel, where romantic, sweeping melodies take center stage, to the contemplative, introspective melodies of Satie. Finally, the program includes the bright clarity and playful wit of Tailleferre. The arrangements are meticulously crafted to showcase the duo's virtuosic interplay, ensuring a seamless dialogue that blends intricate harmonies and melodic lines into a singular, captivating performance.

Lorrie Snyder

Latitude 45 Arts Promotion Inc.

lorrie@latitude45arts.com

latitude45arts.com/cc-duo

Home base: Québec



The North Sound

Forged deep in Treaty 7 Territory, where the prairies rush towards the foothills, The North Sound is a partnership between lead singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Forrest Eaglespeaker and vocalist and composer Nevada Eaglespeaker. A fusion of authentic voices, crisp harmonies and burgeoning indie folk-roots rock, the duo — a married couple — weave and wend through themes of family and connection, recovery and addiction. As partners who play and write together, the themes of family, love and sacrifice are inescapable — in their shared sojourn, Forrest and Nevada have forged the core of a rock-solid collaboration.

Nicole Rochefort

AIM Booking Agency

nicole@aimbookingagency.com

Forrest Eaglespeaker - forrest.eaglespeaker@gmail.com

thenorthsoundmusic.com

Home base: Saskatchewan

Pitch & Performs 2: SATURDAY OCTOBER 3

11:00 am to 12:00 pm – Ballroom D

Hosted by Laura Piccinin

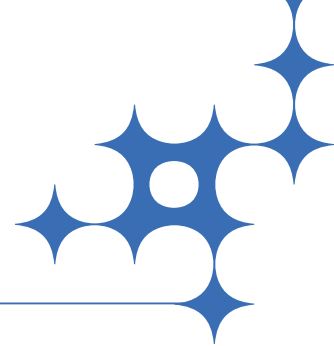


Photo: Rodrigo Romero

Empanadas Ilegales

Empanadas Ilegales is a Vancouver-based tropical psychedelic music ensemble known for genre-bending compositions and kinetic live performances.

Formed in 2017 by musicians with roots in Colombia, Argentina, and Canada, the group merges Latin American traditions with surf rock, free jazz, and experimental psychedelia.

Luisa Gonzalez

MGAM

luisa@mgam.com

mgam.com

Home base: British Columbia

Brandon Thornhill in partnership with Sound the Alarm Music/Theatre - *Ebony Roots*

Ebony Roots is a powerful concert celebration of music from the African Descent/Black experience—tracing a 300-year journey from work songs and spirituals to the rise of Soul, R&B, Blues, and Motown. It highlights the evolving emancipation and cultural impact of African Descent communities from a North American perspective.

Produced by Brandon Thornhill, with mentorship and admin support from Sound the Alarm: Music/Theatre, the concert features a dynamic lineup of BC-based African Descent artists: Brandon Thornhill and Leo D.E. Johnson (vocalists), Olaf de Shield (MD/guitarist), Russell Jackson (bass), Carlos Joe Costa (percussion), and pianist Benjamin Sigerson.

Brandon Thornhill

Brandon Thornhill with Sound the Alarm

brandonthornhillmusic@gmail.com

soundthealarm.ca/ebony-roots

Home base: British Columbia



Gay4Nature Collective - *Bach's Coffee Cantata/Green*

Gay4Nature Collective is an indie opera + collective delighting diverse audiences of new and established theatre-goers with intermodal live productions, film, and community events.

Drawing on tools like Western classical music, contemporary dance, theatre, and film, Gay4Nature is dedicated to the amplification of queer joy, creative connection, and advocacy for climate justice and nature conservation.

Co-Creators Anna Bigland-Pritchard and Alex Chen assemble teams of innovative and collaborative artists to explore the capacity of art to build connection, hope, and action.

Anna Bigland-Pritchard

anna@abpcreative.ca

abpcreative.ca

Home base: British Columbia

Le Patin Libre - *Melt*

In a scorching post-apocalyptic world without ice or music, a duet of skaters lives on. Eerily observed by a gas-guzzling musician, they survive together on what's left: humour and love.

On theatre stages for the first time, Montreal-based contemporary skating company Le Patin Libre grabs the opportunity to deploy an intimacy and a weirdness impossible in ice rinks. On a 1990's forgotten prototype of roller skates, they combine the athletic virtuosity of figure skating and the depth of contemporary dance, with a nod towards street performance. *Melt* takes us on a surreal journey to reflect on what is really precious in these uncertain times.

Valerie Buddle

valerie@lepatinlibre.com

lepatinlibre.com

Home base: Québec



Photo: Emmanuel Burriel



Photo: Alex Beausejour

Olivia Khoury

Born and raised in Montreal, Olivia Khoury is a singer-songwriter and interdisciplinary artist who found her voice somewhere between dance and music. Her sound, shaped by dreams and travels, blends indie-folk, alt-pop, and jazz influences into her own luminous, hybrid universe. Inspired by Feist, Lianne La Havas, and Jordan Rakei, she combines vulnerability, authenticity and groove. Her jazz influences shine through the band's skill on stage, where the interplay between instruments and vocals makes each performance unique. Olivia won the Jazz EP of the Year at the 2023 GAMIQ awards for her bilingual debut EP, Portraits. Her singles Saving Face and Fall Forward are both part of her upcoming EP, set for release in 2026.

Jacynthe Plamondon-Émond

InTempo Musique
jacynthe@intempomusique.com
intempomusique.com
Home base: Québec



Photo: Lindsey Blane

re:Naissance Immersive - *Inferno: A Hip Hop Opera & Orpheus in Underworld*

Immersive crafts immersive story worlds and engages audiences in transformative experiences that challenge and expand the possibilities of live performance. Located on the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh, Səlilwətaʔ, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm nations, our mission is to inspire awe while we celebrate and lift up equity-deserving artists.

2027 touring productions include: Orpheus In Underworld, a queer telling of the classic myth that blends rock music, opera, dance, and interactive technology to explore identity beyond binaries. The story follows O, a trans person navigating self-expression through virtual avatars in a quest for wholeness. This immersive performance challenges audiences to consider the complexity of identity in a modern world. Also touring, is Inferno: A Hip Hop Opera a new work blending Hip-Hop, Blues, Musical Theatre and Contemporary Opera by Omari Newton and Amy Lee Lavoie. In this radical adaptation of Dante's epic poem, Hell is reimagined as a Spotify-esque headquarters in Vancouver, BC, where protagonists Vie (a music producer) and Mo (an artist turned janitor) meet in the bathroom after Vie learns the company stole their song. Their ultimate goal? Reach the top floor of the skyscraper and confront the CEO (a.k.a. the devil). If only it was that easy...

Debi Wong

debi@reopera.com
reopera.com
Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Andy Doyle-Linden

Small Town Artillery

An almost orchestral modern rock performance featuring dynamic, original music that sounds as much like what you may know as it doesn't. Violin, trumpet, two electric guitars, bass and drums.

Born in the mountain town of Kaslo, BC, brothers Tom & Derek van Deursen have been building their sound together since the basement-jam days - growing it into something big, earnest, and unmistakably their own.

Tom Van Deursen

tommyvanboom@gmail.com
smalltownartillery.com
Home base: British Columbia

Showcase 4: SATURDAY OCTOBER 3

1:30 pm to 4:00 pm – Port Theatre

Hosted by Joëlle Rabu



Inverso Productions – Film Excerpt of Borrowed Time

This intergenerational project brings together professional and community dancers to question how our relationships across generations allow us to give in, grow and rebuild. A 50-year range of ages explores strength and vulnerability through different phases of our lives and how the constellations of our families shift as the weight of care teeters over time.

With performance by: Yuha Tomita and Savannah Walling

Choreography by Lesley Telford

Lesley Telford

inversoproductions@gmail.com

inverso.ca

Home base: British Columbia



Photo: Rachel Cicoria

Laila Biali – Joni Mitchell & The Canadian Songbook Reimagined

Multi-award-winning 2026 GRAMMY-nominated vocalist, pianist, songwriter, and national CBC radio host Laila Biali is thrilled to share her latest tribute project: “Joni Mitchell & the Canadian Songbook Reimagined.” Already selling out several performing arts centres across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario, this memorable concert experience is filled with dynamic covers of our country’s musical icons alongside the next generation’s.

Audiences will be treated to fresh takes on a range of Canadian artists from across the decades, including k.d. Lang, Neil Young, Feist, Sarah McLachlan, Anne Murray, Jeremy Dutcher, Celeigh Cardinal, Dominique Fils-Aimé and many more – all centred around the heart of this show: songwriting royalty, Joni Mitchell.

Come experience why The Washington Post hails Biali for her unique ability to “masterfully mix jazz and pop”, interweaving your favourite Canadian classics with material from current groundbreaking voices and playful anecdotes in a heartwarming show.

Genny DeMerchant

DeMerchant Artists Agency

genny@demerchantagency.com

demerchantagency.com

Home base: Ontario

La famille LeBlanc – Amourette

La Famille LeBlanc is an Acadian family band from New Brunswick, based on an ancestral farm along the Bay of Chaleur. Rooted in Acadian and Celtic traditions, their music draws from 19th-century repertoire passed down through generations, connecting Acadia, Louisiana, and Ireland. The three daughters perform on concertina, whistle, and fiddle and are now leading a new creative chapter by composing original works inspired by tradition. Their third album, *Amourette*, released in May 2026, features mostly original compositions that weave heritage and contemporary creation.

Their mother sings some of the oldest Acadian ballads in rich family harmonies, while father Robin LeBlanc, a multi-instrumentalist and descendant of a long line of fiddlers, brings refined arrangements blending traditional, baroque, and jazz influences.

Touring widely across Canada, the United States, and internationally (Ireland, France), the group has received support from the Canada Council for the Arts and Musicaction, earned multiple ECMA nominations and awards, and won at the Canadian Folk Music Awards for Artist(s) of the Year. Their work has also been highlighted by *Le Figaro* for its vibrant renewal of Acadian music.

Patrick Nadon

Résonances

musique@agenceresonances.com

agenceresonances.com

Home base: New Brunswick





Photo: Sydney Woodward
@folklore.photography.co

Garret T. Willie

Garret T. Willie's second album, *Bill's Cafe*, is a tribute to his roots and a bold step forward. Named after his grandfather's pool hall Cafe in Alert Bay, British Columbia, the record connects small-town grit with the bright lights of Nashville, where Willie recorded with Grammy-winning producer Tom Hambridge.

From roadhouse stompers to backseat ballads, Willie sings of love, loss, addiction, and resilience with a voice that cuts like high-beam headlights on a dark backroad. *Bill's Cafe* is a live wire of energy and soul, carrying old-soul traditions into the future with fire and truth.

Eli Wener

Wener Mgmt
eli@wenermgmt.com
wenermgmt.com
Home base: British Columbia



Transcendent Talas

Transcendent Talas is an intercultural ensemble that brings South Indian (Carnatic) musical traditions into dialogue with contemporary improvisation and global jazz practices. Led by percussionist and composer Curtis Andrews, the ensemble features Shruti Ramani (voice), Raman Kalyan (flute), and Jared Burrows (guitar), musicians whose work is grounded in deep study while remaining open to experimentation and cross-cultural exchange.

The ensemble performs original compositions alongside creative arrangements inspired by Carnatic music, highlighting the tradition's rhythmic sophistication (tāla) and melodic richness (rāga). The music moves fluidly between composed and improvised sections, creating dynamic, highly interactive performances that are accessible to diverse audiences.

From soaring melodic passages to explosive rhythmic interplay, Transcendent Talas creates an immersive live experience that is at once deeply rooted, adventurous, and electrifying in the moment.

Curtis Andrews

curtisandrews@gmail.com
curtisandrews.ca/transcendent-talas-epk.html
Home base: British Columbia



Image credit: Zahra Salecki



Flávia Nascimento & Tio Chorinho

Flávia Nascimento & Tio Chorinho is an epic pairing of two of Canada's top Brazilian roots music artists. Hailing from the rich musical wellsprings of Bahia in northeastern Brazil and based in Quebec for the last 20 years, Flávia is a prolific performer at major festivals, concert halls, and street parties everywhere, wowing audiences with her soulful voice and boisterous presence. Toronto's Tio Chorinho is Canada's first ensemble dedicated to choro, the "New Orleans Jazz of Brazil." Recent winners of "Instrumental Group of the Year" at the 2025 Canadian Folk Music Awards, listeners are charmed and thrilled by the group's virtuosity, dynamics and unique repertoire. Together with Flávia, they explore Brazil's original soul music along with their own original tunes.

Choro (pronounced SHOH-roh) is a primarily instrumental style originating in Rio de Janeiro in the late-19th century. Choro is the original Brazilian soul music, combining popular and classical European styles with Afro-Brazilian influences. It is the foundation of many modern Brazilian music styles and is often described as "the New Orleans jazz of Brazil." Exciting, energetic, soulful, intimate, nostalgic and virtuosic, choro is an infectious popular style whose universal appeal belies its musical complexity.

In addition to Flávia the ensemble features Eric Stein (mandolin), Andre Valerio (7-string guitar), Maninho Costa (percussion), Carlinhos Cardoso (cavaquinho), and Matheus Coelho (clarinet).

Ewelina Ferenc

Sweet Beets Music
ewelina@sweetbeets.ca
sweetbeets.ca
Home base: Ontario & Quebec



Photo: Mathieu Durnford

AV & the Inner City – Showcase

AV & the Inner City is an award-winning soul/roots vocal group which formed during the COVID-19 pandemic in Edmonton's inner city. Led by multi-award-winning soul/blues artist AV (Ann Vriend), the group is a vibrant reflection of Canada's musical diversity, with its all-female cast hailing from a very wide range of backgrounds. Their coveted stage performances are marked by emotional depth and vocal power, and while their lyrics cover sobering inner-city topics, their concerts also contain anecdotal personal stories and wry Canadian humour. Their common denominator is intricate 6-part vocal harmonies and songs about empowerment in the face of classism, sexism, racism, and other "isms"; while "soul" is the main genre category for this group, their sound has a twist different from the American soul to which they pay a respectful tribute. In short, AV & the Inner City are developing a Canadian sound all their own.

Ann Vriend

av@annvriend.com

Laurelle K

laurellekmusic@gmail.com

avandtheinnercity.ca

Home base: Alberta

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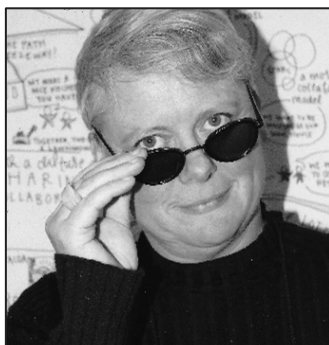


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DeCoste Centre, Pictou, NS

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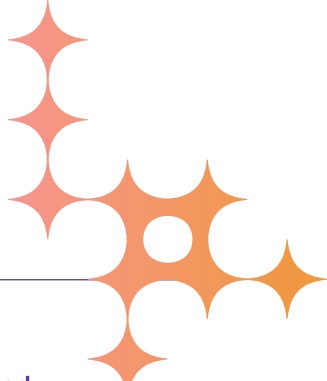


Pacific Contact
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www.bclive.ca



Contact East
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Truro, NS
www.contacteast.ca

Contact Room List (by Booth Number)

- 
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Le Patin Libre | 39 Laughing Heart Music - Rum Ragged |
| 2 The Bobolink Agency - Adi Braun | 40 Dance West Network - Inverso Productions/
Ballet Vancouver |
| 3 Lunar Productions | 41 Wild Mint Arts |
| 4 Brandon Thornhill in partnership with
Sound the Alarm Music/Theatre – Ebony Roots | 42 VEE / Jessica McMann Arts |
| 5 Little Onion Puppet Co. | 43 The Feldman Agency |
| 6 ORIGINZ | 44 New Works |
| 7 Pitchin'in Productions/Laura Piccinin | 45 Corpo Imago |
| 8 Green Thumb Theatre | 46 DeMerchant Artists Agency - Laila Biali |
| 9 Milton Music Management | 47 Plisskin Productions |
| 10 Murmur Arts Collective | 48 Tymisha Harris |
| 11 Gay4Nature Collective | 49 Théâtre Motus and Nubila Teatro |
| 12 Foolish Operations Society | 50 Candy Roberts Theatre |
| 13 Jhoely Triana Flamenco - Las Mujeres | 51 Marilyn Gilbert Artists Management -
Empandas Ilegales |
| 14 Latitude 45 & InTempo - CC Duo/Olivia Khoury/
Sophie Lukacs | 52 Transcendent Talas |
| 15 Agence Station Bleue - Chloé Dumoulin
/ Trio Hochelaga | 53 Project Convergence |
| 16 SmartGrant Ltd. | 54 Secret Golden Flower |
| 17 Canadian Heritage | 55 Sweet Beets Music - Flávia Nascimento
and Tio Chorinho |
| 18 BC Arts Council | 56 Ballet Jörgen |
| 19 AASPAA | 57 The Cheesecake Burlesque Revue |
| 20 Backstage Pass | 58 tiger princess dance projects |
| 21 La Nef | 59 The Wheat in the Barley |
| 22 Ballet Kelowna | 60 Maverick Cooperative (Partners Caline Artists
Int and Magnum Opus Management) |
| 23 Presentation House Theatre | 61 Altitude Music - Trevor Panczak |
| 24 re:Naissance Immersive | 62 RibbitRePublic |
| 25 Chimerik 似不像 / interplay_ | 63 Tahina Awan |
| 26 Sakka Management | 64 AIM Booking Agency - The North Sound |
| 27 The Kif-Kif Sisters | 65 Myc Sharratt & The Alibis |
| 28 Joylyn Secunda | 66 Andrew Kwan Artists Management |
| 29 Ombres Folles | 67 Eagle Peak Trio |
| 30 Arts Club Theatre Company - On Tour | 68 PuSh International Performing Arts Festival |
| 31 Résonances - La famille LeBlanc | 69 AV & the Inner City |
| 32 Scrap Arts Music | 70 Danielle Lefebvre Agency ADL - Quatuor esca |
| 33 Laugh Out LIVE! | 71 DuffleBag Theatre |
| 34 Kellie Haines Ventriloquist | 72 Cubbyhole Artists - Kobo Town |
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	20	19	18	17	16			
21							15	
22							14	
23							13	
24	36	46			56	66	12	
25	37	47			57	67	11	
26	38	48			58	68	10	
27	39	49			59	69	9	
28	40	50			60	70	8	
29							7	
30	41	51			61	71	6	
31	42	52			62	72	5	
32	43	53			63	73	4	
33	44	54			64	74	3	
34	45	55			65	75	2	
35							1	

Acknowledgements

BC LIVE TEAM:

Miriam Manley, Executive Director
Sheryl McGraw, Manager, Programs & Communications
Petrice Brett, Block Booking Coordinator
Jenny Lee Craig, Festivals Coordinator
Lucas Myers, 50th Anniversary Coordinator

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL LIAISON: Kym Gouchie

INDIGENOUS WELCOME: Snuneymuxw First Nations

PROGRAM DESIGN & PRODUCTION:

Copilot Design, Graphic Design
Sheryl McGraw, Production Coordinator
Kent Martin, Production Assistance

CONTACT ROOM LEAD: Craig Moddle

PHOTOGRAPHER: Mary Matheson Photography

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Heather Lamb, Production Manager
Jenna Bigmore, Assistant Stage Manager for
Pitch and Performs
Mya Wilson-Rhodes, Stage Manager for
Showcase Performances
Shelby Matthews, Stage Manager for Pitch and Performs

THANK YOU TO:

Allison Thomasson, VICC
Greg Graham, The Port Theatre
Jonathan Moddle, SW AV
Mike Harrison, West Coast Backline Services
Wilson Pascoe, The Port Theatre

VOLUNTEERS: A special thank you to the volunteers at Pacific Contact and to the Port Theatre volunteers for their invaluable contributions.

SHOWCASE HOSTS:

Showcase 1: Aunalee Boyd-Good and Sophia Seward-Good, Ay Lelum - The Good House of Design
Showcase 2: Nayana Fielkov
Showcase 3: Nadine Tremblay
Showcase 4: Joëlle Rabu

PITCH & PERFORMS (SHORT 5S) HOST:

Laura Piccinin

AWARDS HOST: Tahina Awan

NEXT GEN:

Juolin Lee, Dance West Network
Kiara Hosie, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
Katja Ewart, Arts Revelstoke
Landon LaFond, Rossland Council for Arts and Culture
Perelandra Waddle, New Works

GUEST PERFORMANCES & SPEAKERS:

Murmur Arts Collective
City of Nanaimo Mayor, Leonard Krog

WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS:

Workshop leaders: Briana Doyle, Frédéric Julien, Inga Petrie, Rebecca Coleman

Network & other meetings: Brent Belsher, Danielle Lefebvre, & Michel Bénac of AASPAA Canada; Jenny Lee Craig, Kathy Robinson, Myriam Verzat, Petrice Brett, Theresia Reid, Vicky Jones

SLOW SOCIALS:

The Fox Queen: tsatassaya White, Tamara McCarthy and Dave Mott

Tricoter: Hosted by Julie Lebel & Michelle Rosales, Foolish Operations

PEER PANELS:

Hosted by Frédéric Julien, CAPACOA with Denny Warner, Mary Winspear Centre & Ellie Parker, Kay Meek Arts Centre

Hosted by David Warburton, The Port Theatre with Debi Wong, re:Naissance Immersive; Howard Jang, ArtSpring & Mary-Louise Albert, BC Movement Arts Society

Hosted by Inga Petri, Strategic Moves with Jay Dodge, Boca Del Lupo; Ian Garrett, Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts & Chimerik 似不像 / interplay_

KNOWLEDGE CAFÉ:

Anika Vervecken, Caleigh Hoot, Debi Wong, Erin Kennedy, Frédéric Julien, Holly Bright, Ian Garrett, Inga Petri, Lesandra Dodson, Nayana Fielkov, Ndidi Cascade, Virginia Sparvier-Wells, Renaud Legoux

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Theatre/Dance/Variety: Dinah D, Mary-Louise Albert, Sean Guist

Family/Young Audience: Dinah D, Mary-Louise Albert, Sean Guist, Keltie Forsyth, Marnie Perrin

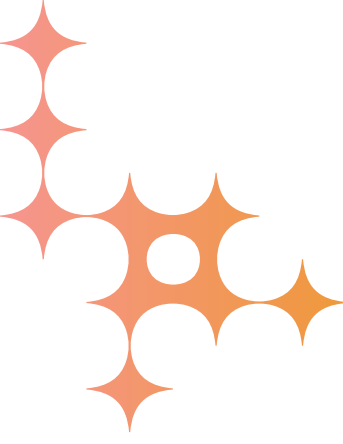
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SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO BCLIVE & PACIFIC CONTACT:

BC Live Board of Directors, David Warburton, Galen Olstead, Jasmine Howes, Margo Holmes, Mya Wilson, Regional Presenting Networks, Rob Wilson/iContext Internet, SmartGrant Ltd, Skip Taylor, Vancouver Island Convention Centre staff



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

Carousel Theatre celebrating its 50th season
Green Thumb Theatre celebrated its 50th anniversary
Vancouver Folk Music Festival celebrating 50 years in 2027
Vernon & District Performing Arts Centre celebrating 25 years this year

Welcome

Rainbow Roberts, who joined ArtSpring as their new Executive Director

In Memoriam

Our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and all who were blessed to know these colleagues.

✦ Brenda Fleeton

Brenda's dedication to the North Island Concert Society was truly admirable, and many of us had the pleasure of seeing her often at Pacific Contact alongside Malcolm, her husband of nearly 43 years. Brenda's life was marked by a passion for music, community service, and a warm hospitality that touched many. Her contributions to the arts and community events exemplified her natural leadership and kindness. Her presence brought joy to all who knew her, and her memory will remain cherished.

✦ Cris Derksen

We were deeply saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Cris Derksen, an extraordinary Cree composer, cellist, and truly remarkable talent and visionary artist. Cris's unique voice and powerful music touched many hearts and left an indelible mark on the world. Cris was chosen to showcase at Pacific Contact 2026 in Nanaimo, and we eagerly looked forward to their participation. We greatly miss their creativity and generous spirit, but their legacy will continue to inspire for generations to come.

✦ Jacqueline (Jacquie) Dawson

Jacqueline (Jacquie) Dawson was an extraordinary woman and a dear colleague and friend to many. Respected by her peers, adored by all who knew her, she was often the bright spark that lit up the room. We were truly fortunate to share moments with Jacquie last fall at Pacific Contact on Granville Island. Jacquie served as the Theatre and Facilities Manager at the Max Cameron Theatre in Powell River for many years. Her dedication, passion, and kindness touched many lives and helped shape the vibrant arts community we cherish today. Her legacy will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of working with her. She is greatly missed and fondly remembered.



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