

A graphic of concentric circles in red and black, resembling a target or a bullseye, positioned above the text.

impact 23
theatre is here

SEP.26-OCT.01 2023
DOWNTOWN KITCHENER
FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

impact
theatre
festival.ca

ACKNOWLEDGE THE LAND... & PEOPLES.

With gratitude and appreciation, MT Space acknowledges that we live, learn, and benefit on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

We honour that these Nations of people have been living on, working on, and caring for this place from time immemorial and continue to do so today.

There are many dark periods of Canadian history, but the colonial genocide that continues to affect Indigenous peoples across these lands is a very dark reality of our present, and it is too often brushed off or ignored completely.

We need to be aware of these realities, regardless of whether we have been here for generations or are newcomers to this country. We encourage our followers, community members, and patrons to take a moment and truly reflect on your own knowledge of Canada's historic and ongoing genocide of Indigenous peoples, the continued erasure of Indigenous issues, and how we can move forward into reconciliation by listening to the needs of Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island.

To our Indigenous colleagues, friends,
and community members—our hearts go out to you.

We cannot possibly begin to understand the grief and
emotion you are experiencing during this time.

We hear you, we see you, and we will continue to stand with
you and offer our help in carrying the load so that you
never have to do so alone.



FROM THE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,

 PAM PATEL
MT SPACE & IMPACT

While IMPACT 23 marks MT Space's full return to live and in-person theatre, it comes with a bittersweet celebration.

Over the past several years, many socio-political issues have come to the forefront, a younger generation is increasingly grappling with survival, and we have lost loved ones on this difficult path of resistance.

As artists and creators, we have been affected a great deal.

This IMPACT 23, we bring back a crucial platform for artists to do the important work. We invite you into humbling conversations about global and local human rights issues, interrogate and reflect human nature while questioning preconceived notions about gender, and challenge the effects of imperialism by gathering together as Black and Brown bodies on the land. Join us in elevating the careers of local and emerging artists while recognizing that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us—**we are here because of them.**

Let IMPACT 23 be the celebration that we deserve – for those who came before us, for those currently on the frontlines of change, and for those who will honour and carry our work forward into the future.

Let's gather this IMPACT so we can do the good work together.

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL CHAIR, REGION OF WATERLOO



Welcome to everyone attending the 8th biennial IMPACT 23 theater festival. A special thank you to the talented artists and organizers who make this celebration possible. This annual international festival has an expansive reach, bringing the best of international, national and local theatre to our community. I encourage everyone to celebrate the work of Indigenous, Black, and Racialized artists, and acknowledge the special emphasis that is highlighted on interdisciplinary, intercultural, and physical productions.

There are few more impactful art forms than that of live theatre. The immersive quality of performances can both evoke and provoke powerful feelings within audience members. Whether joy, sadness, anger or hope, it is this ability to transport and amaze that continues to make live theatre so powerful in 2023.

On behalf of Regional Council, I want to thank and congratulate the organizers behind IMPACT 23.

The Region of Waterloo is pleased to support the ongoing work of MT Space.

Thank you to the volunteers, staff, community members, families and contributing artists who make this festival possible.



Regards,

Karen Redman
Chair, Regional Municipality
of Waterloo

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, CITY OF KITCHENER



Welcome to everyone attending the 8th Biennial IMPACT 23 Theatre Festival, brought to you by MT Space. On behalf of my council colleagues, the citizens of Kitchener, MT Space presenters and their partners, it is my pleasure to invite everyone to experience theatre arts, brought to you by IMPACT 23, September 26 through October 1, 2023, at venues throughout Kitchener and Waterloo.

At the City of Kitchener, we are committed to supporting, developing and boosting our local artistic and creative talent in order to foster the development of a robust sector that can, in turn, fuel other vital industries.

The IMPACT 23 theatre festival and conference will highlight both international companies and Canadian intercultural theatre groups, presenting their best works of physical theatre. Bringing additional excitement and innovation to downtown Kitchener and this year's festival, IMPACT 23 will feature an in-person conference – "Here Because of Them."

Over the course of the festival there will be something for every theatre enthusiast to enjoy, as well as opportunities for those less familiar with these art forms to experience live performances and learn more about these contemporary styles.

I would like to thank the dedicated artists, performers, volunteers, family members and friends for supporting MT Space and its partners in making IMPACT 23 a reality. Your commitment to arts and culture is commendable and has a very positive impact on our city!

Enjoy the festival!



Sincerely,

Berry Vrbancic
Mayor, City of Kitchener

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, CITY OF WATERLOO



Imagination takes center stage and stories will come to life at the International Multicultural Platform for Alternative Contemporary Theatre Festival! Waterloo's City Council and our residents welcome you to the ninth biennial IMPACT Festival!

IMPACT 23 is an opportunity to bring people together, to celebrate artists from all backgrounds and to focus on cultural awareness, diversity, and physical productions.

It will allow people to interact with actors, directors and writers and have deep and meaningful interactions and conversations.

As you explore and experience the festival and our city, take a moment to appreciate the dedication and passion that each of the cast and crew bring to their productions. The countless stories, costumes, and lighting that culminate in the stunning productions they offer.

Festivals like IMPACT 23 help to facilitate greater communication across cultures and languages, enhancing the well-being of the residents in Waterloo by making it a more vibrant city to live, work, and play.

Immerse yourself in this experience! Your applause is proof of the beauty of human expression. Get ready for an unforgettable journey with the IMPACT festival!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dorothy McCabe'.

Dorothy McCabe,
Mayor of Waterloo

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, CITY OF CAMBRIDGE



Welcome to IMPACT 23 and especially welcome back to a live, in-person theatre experience.

Community theatre provides a vital platform for individuals to share their stories, amplify their voices and foster a sense of belonging. It empowers them to challenge stereotypes, and advocate for social change through the transformative power of the performing arts.

Congratulations MT Space for continuing to promote and develop such a fine and important program, I admire your vision and creativity as well as your commitment to fostering understanding while bringing different communities together.

Thank you to the MT Space and IMPACT Festival team of directors, producers, coordinators, designers, and performers who have worked so hard to make IMPACT 23 a reality. Your dedication and effort give voice to important narratives, and ensure they reach and resonate with a wider audience.



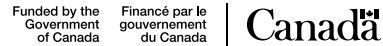
Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jan Ligette'.

Jan Ligette,
Mayor of Cambridge

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

MT SPACE & IMPACT ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:



WHAT'S INSIDE

FESTIVAL NEED-TO-KNOW

Remembering Majdi Bou-Matar & Memorial Bursary 08 – 10
 Being in Space & On the Land – Together
 O:se Kenhionhata:tie / LAND BACK CAMP 14
 Festival Schedule 40-41
 Festival Maps & Venues 39 & 42
 Box Office / Tickets & Passes 43
 Content & Trigger Warnings 71

FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING

Opening Ceremony & Walk 11 – 12
 International 16 – 23
 National 24 – 37
 Local 44 – 55
 Arts Exchange 56 – 65
 Festival Bar & Nightlife 73 – 78
 Neruda Arts Dance Party 79
 IMPACT 23 Conference
 'How Do We Begin Again' 66 – 70
 Writers' Series 72
 Festival Hotel 80

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Festival Staff, Tech Team,
 Staff & Board Inside Back Cover
 About MT Space & IMPACT Back Cover



History of IMPACT: Majdi's Vision

Majdi Bou-Matar founded the Multicultural Theatre Space (MT Space) in 2004 shortly after immigrating to Canada. One of his primary artistic goals was to found an international theatre festival within 10 years.



The Majdi Bou-Matar Bursary Fund

On March 26th, 2009, Majdi stood in front of a crowd in Downtown Kitchener and recited a poem in Arabic about his hometown of Beirut, Lebanon.

"That was a poem I wrote back in the old days when I was just a young dreamer in the battered city of Beirut. Beirut, this marvelous city rising from the ashes that has always inspired me and still does."

Majdi dedicated the inaugural IMPACT 09 Festival to Beirut – a place he called "the city of broken dreams, the city of many complexities and contradictions..."

Kitchener also has many complexities and contradictions, but none of this prevented Majdi from fulfilling his dream of establishing an international festival that continues to act as a nexus of exchange between artists, communities, and people from many walks of life.

In 2009, Majdi set something in motion that not only changed the local arts ecosystem completely but has also shifted what we consider to be mainstream theatre. This was only possible because community and collaboration was, and remains, at the heart of what we do at MT Space.

This past November on Giving Tuesday, MT Space launched a fundraising campaign in honour of Majdi Bou-Matar, who passed away suddenly in June 2022.

This campaign established a bursary fund that is dedicated to offering financial support, as well as mentorship, from MT Space to a newcomer, immigrant, racialized and emerging artist each year.

The inaugural call for applicants to the Majdi Bou-Matar Bursary Fund rolled out over the summer and the first recipient will be named during IMPACT 23.

MT Space continues to focus on seeking potential partners, ongoing fundraising efforts, and establishing an endowment fund to secure the longevity of the bursary. If you are interested in further supporting the Majdi Bou-Matar Bursary Fund, we invite you to connect with us at info@mtspace.ca.

Our utmost gratitude to all who have contributed to one of our most important initiatives at MT Space.

DONATE (TO THE FUTURE) NOW

Bursary donations can be made here: CanadaHelps.org.



Majdi's Invitation

We honour Majdi and the roots of IMPACT by extending the very invitation he extended in 2009:

"IMPACT is a gift to you: to play, discuss, engage and rejuvenate. I invite you to experience theatre stripped of its conventions; where bodies collide and cultures merge. I invite you to join diverse communities of artists, students, youth, cultural groups and international guests for conferences, discussion groups and workshops. I invite you to break bread with one another during breakfast, lunch, and dinner at amazing local restaurants. I invite you to raise a glass and party with us every evening with extraordinary local, national and international performers.

On behalf of the artists, arts organizations, staff, volunteers, funding agencies and community partners who made this dream a reality, I welcome you to IMPACT."

– **Majdi Bou-Matar**,
Founder of MT Space &
IMPACT Theatre Festival

IMPACT 23 OPENING CEREMONIES

SACRED FIRE, WALK, CEREMONY & RECEPTION

SEP 26 | SACRED FIRE 6PM / WALK 7PM / OPENING & RECEPTION 8PM

Start at O:se Kenhionhata:tie Sacred Fire off of Schneider Avenue, Kitchener

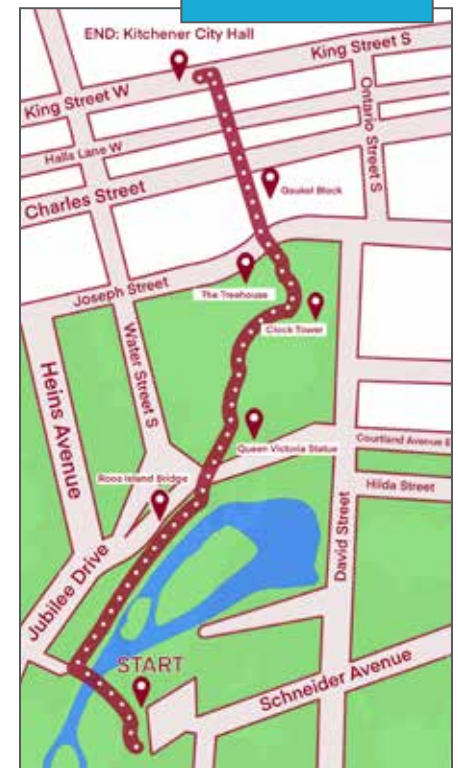
The IMPACT 23 Opening Ceremonies will begin with us gathering in Willow River Park (colonially known as Victoria Park) with a Sacred Fire hosted by O:se Kenhionhata:tie Land Back Camp.

We will meet by the pavilion building off of Schneider Avenue.

The event will pay homage to MT Space and its founder, Majdi Bou-Matar, by showcasing elements of his work at significant sites. MT Space's ethos reflects both the immigrant journey and First Peoples' histories, particularly on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee after the American Revolution (and then disputed). The procession embodies Majdi's perspective on "choosing a dramaturgical approach that imitates the immigration process itself... the flow of immigrants, the pulse in immigrants' everyday lives," aiming to unite communities.

In encouraging folks to walk together we are also honouring and contributing to what was perhaps Majdi's greatest gift and legacy, echoed in the mandate of MT Space to this day: bringing different communities together to build a community of difference.

STARTING LOCATION & ROUTE MAP



OPENING WALK & CEREMONY (CONTINUED)

Itinerary / A Ritual of Remembering

The first stop is the bridge by Roos Island, a site of Indigenous importance and recent Land Back protests. Here, Cree actor Nigel Irwin and MT Space director Pam Patel will perform a song in Cree, called *Sacred Fire: Gawaneh Boneda* (meaning 'don't give up') from Majdi's show, *AMAL*. The song connects to both the frustration and the resilience of the Indigenous peoples of this land.

The procession will then halt at the Queen Victoria statue, which serves as a reminder of colonial oppression. Here, as a monologue delivered by Amy Smoke is projected onto the statue, a protest moment from *AMAL* will mirror Majdi's advocacy for Indigenous rights and his stance against imperialism.

Next, the group will visit the city's clock tower, a notable Kitchener landmark. It has historical significance as a meeting point for Majdi and the Land Back Camp leaders. Majdi took immense pride in one of MT Space's distinctive features: its dedication to building creative and political partnerships between Indigenous peoples and immigrant populations in the land now known as Canada.

However, this endeavor also often brought him frustration.

A scene from *The Last 15 Seconds*, a show that featured Majdi in the lead role, will be performed by the MT Space women. Actors from Majdi's *Seasons of Immigration* will mingle among attendees, signifying immigrant journeys.

The procession will move past the park's Treehaus Collaborative Workspace building, recalling a memorable meeting between Land Back's Amy and Skye Smoke and Majdi where stories were offered, food was shared, and songs sung during a community exercise called *Intergenerational Stories*.

Finally, the group will head up Gaukel Street led by Majdi's beloved Dabke dancing, highlighting Majdi's Lebanese-Canadian roots as well as his beginnings as a dancer.

The walk will conclude at the City Hall Rotunda with a reception, presentations, and the official festival opening ceremonies celebrating Majdi's legacy.

PHOTOS Carlos Parada



IMPACT 23 FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING »



O:se Kenhionhata:tie Land Back Camp

Sep 26 – Oct 01

O:se Kenhionhata:tie, also known as Land Back Camp, is a group of Two Spirit IndigiQueer folx and queer/trans or LGBTQ+ settler accomplices gathering in the Great Peace to celebrate, learn, and thrive in our cultures.

We represent several Nations living under the peace of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum, and the Two Row Wampum. Land Back Camp is the only completely Two Spirit IndigiQueer run organization in the region. Since 2020 it has grown to bring together and support the many Two Spirit and 30,000 Indigenous folks that live in the Region of Waterloo, as many of the programs and organizations in the region that support Indigenous folks have limited capacity to support beyond their designated programming, and do not specifically support Two Spirit IndigiQueer experiences.

O:se Kenhionhata:tie strives to offer space and support to those often pushed to the sidelines of other organizations to be their full authentic selves and offer a space for people to reconnect and learn about their Indigeneity.

O:se Kenhionhata:tie is honoured to be a part of this year's IMPACT 23 Festival in partnership with MT Space.

As grassroots, Indigenous, Black, Racialized (IBR), and community-led spaces, both MT Space and Land Back Camp have struggled for space in the community.

Because of this, we stand in solidarity with one another in order to provide authentic artistic creativity."

~ Amy Smoke & Bangishimo

Kuramanunya

Karul Projects & Thomas E.S. Kelly (Minjungbal Jagun, Australia)



Sep 26, 9pm & Sep 27, 9pm | 50 mins
Kitchener City Hall Stage (Outside)

My feet walk on land that is red blood soaked. Black burnt, yellow sun-drenched country. Stories from thousands of years. Songs eternally kept on the wind and water.

I honor lines that have been cut.

Poisoned, shot and led to the cliff's edge. Those who passed to the spirit world before their kin could arrive from the dreaming to continue a physical lineage.

Remembering the stories that remain unwritten and unspoken, returned to the earth and stars that they arrived from. Acknowledging that First Nations people are descendants of those who fought for land, family and identity. Not everyone continued to walk this physical world, many returned to the spirit world.

Kuramanunya honours them.
Kuramanunya. The story is told.

About the Company

Started by Thomas E.S. Kelly and Taree Sansbury in 2017, Karul Projects is a performing arts company with a focus on increasing First Nations' voices, visibilities and stories locally, nationally and internationally.

Karul is a Yugambeh Language word which means 'Everything'. Named so because Karul will do everything it can to strengthen and empower the cultural knowledge of this land so future generations continue to be proud and learn from Australia's rich First Nations' heritage.

Additionally, 'Karul' represents our works. Alongside our grounding medium of dance we also use Karul/Everything that we feel best suits the story and information we are sharing incorporating theatre, film, projection, animation, singing and more.

Show Credits

Choreographer & Performer

Thomas E. S. Kelly

Sound Designer

**Samuel Pankhurst,
Jhindu-Pedro Lawrie**

Writers

Emily Wells, Thomas E. S. Kelly

Acknowledgments

Karul Projects are proudly supported through Arts Queensland and the City of Gold Coast through their Multi Year Organisational Funding, Ministerio de las culturas las artes y el patrimonio, Fundación FITAM

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.



RESCATE

Alejandro Moreno
The Army of Reality (Atacama Desert, Chile)

Sep 30, 9pm & Oct 01, 9pm | 70 mins

The Registry Theatre

Rescate / Rescue is supported by Lundin
Mining Candelaria, Canada-Chile

Candelaria
lundin mining

RESCATE (RESCUE), is a dialogue between an abandoned theater and a deceased theater director.

Through a series of mechanisms, the voice of the emblematic Chilean theater director, Andrés Pérez Araya, is generated to narrate this staging about the tangible and intangible heritage of theater.

The play *RESCATE* was part of *Excavaciones*, an author's cycle dedicated to the Chilean artist Alejandro Moreno at the La Moneda Cultural Center. *Rescue* premiered in January 2023, within the framework of the Santiago a Mil 2023 Festival.

About the Artist

Chilean playwright and filmmaker Alejandro Moreno Jashes, born in 1975, is currently based in New York. He holds a Ph.D. in Literature from New York University and serves as a dramaturgy professor there.

Moreno's work centers on exploring the various voices in contemporary dramaturgy, emphasizing a blend of technology and theater beyond traditional stage conventions.

He has won the Chilean Prize for Drama five times for plays like *I am the piece of card that stops the table from wobbling* and *Medea*. Since 2000, his plays, including *Rescue*, *National Theater*, *North*, *Black parrots*, *Johnny Deep*, *Laura Ingalls' Vagina*, *Berlin is Not Yours*, and others, have been produced and translated into multiple languages, gaining recognition on diverse stages worldwide.

Show Credits

Direction & dramaturgy **Alejandro Moreno**

Cast

Valentina Muhr, Paula Bravo, Mario Goya and Juan Pablo Lara

Model boss **Mario Goya**

Art direction & setting **Juan Pablo Lara**

Stage director **José Noriega**

Lighting design **Claudia Yolin**

Lighting production **Dubi Cano**

Wardrobe **Constanza Rojas**

Puppet production **Macarena Ahumada**

Model choreography **Cristián Plana**

Robotics **Saiprasanth Krishnamoorthy, Hassam Khan Wazir and Diego Pozo**

Text programmer – Music & Sound Design

Joaquín Vallejos General

Production **Jorge Sepúlveda**

Production Assistant **Nicole Venegas**

Direction assistance

María Paz González Durney

Acknowledgements

Centro Cultural La Moneda, Gobierno Regional de Atacama, Fundación Desierto Creativo, Fundación Atacamagica, Fundación Santiago a Mil, Marcelo Porta, Andrés Pérez Araya Foundation. *Rescate / Rescue* is supported by Lundin Mining Candelaria, Canada-Chile

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.

La dernière

Wafa Taboubi / Arts Distribution Le Rio et Fabula Production (Tunis, Tunisia)

Sep 27, 8pm & Sep 28, 9pm | 80 mins

The Registry Theatre

The last two... A man and a woman...
No other human Beings ... It can be a
natural disaster or a pandemic that
affects the earth or a mass suicide...
That lead to the extinction of their
species...

Same shape same size same color
same language... Close in age... Siblings
maybe?? ...

They exist in a narrow-enclosed space
surrounded by nothingness dominating
outer space...

Loneliness, boredom, and the feeling of
weariness push them to play the game
of Time...

The game of fear, isolation, suspicion,
and conflict with each other to
exterminate the monster that resides
within them...

About the Company

Fabula Production was established in 2008 by three women with a shared goal of theatrical production and creativity. They aspired to create a humanitarian theatrical project aimed at presenting plays that capture the current human experience, portraying the daily struggles of humanity and raising pertinent human issues for artistic discussion. Fabula Productions has produced a diverse range of works, including productions for adults such as *The Last Speech*, *Widows* and *The Last* as well as theatrical pieces tailored for children, including *I Don't Want to Be a Fox*, *Long Live the King*, and *Meteors*.

Show Credits

Written and directed by **Wafa Taboubi**

With

Meriem Ben Hamida

Oussama Kochkar

Music **Salah Chargui**

Technical Director **Yazid Bel Hedi**

Choreography

Meriem Ben Hamida and **Wafa Taboubi**

Assistant Director **Ismail Mahdhaoui**

Scenographer **Skander Cherif**

Costume Designer **Chafa El Amir**

Sound Designer **Salah Chargui**

Set Construction **Aymen Weslati**

Production Manager **Hajer Toumi**

Company Director **Mohamed Habib Bel Hedi**

Set movement

Fadhila Ben Akacha and **Hajer Toumi**

Fabula Production and Arts Distribution

Creation at the Ciné-Théâtre Le Rio season 2020/2021

Special Thanks

With the help of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in Tunis

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.

Hybrid Women

Vanguardia Dance Projects
(Canada, Mexico, Chile, Colombia)

Sep 30, 1:00, 5:30pm | 30 mins
King Street, Downtown Kitchener
Oct 01, 12pm | 30 mins
Gaukel Street, Downtown Kitchener

Hybrid Women is a site-specific dancetheatre-ritual action that focuses on the relationship of us humans with our environment and the diverse aspects of decadency of our planet. It is a clown-like piece that makes us think of what our priorities are at this moment in time. This work looks for the conversation between movement, theatre, performance, sound, and plastic elements as a cross pollination that has been present in our work so far. The outcome is a site-specific performance ritual.

The work has been presented at:

- Festa International Theatre Festival, Bogotá, Colombia, 2022.
- Vanguardia Dance Festival, Toronto, Uxbridge, 2021.
- Trent University, Public Energy, Peterborough, On., Can., 2022.
- Nogojwanong Indigenous Fringe Festival, Peterborough, On., Can., 2021.

About the Company

Vanguardia Dance Projects is a collective focused on creating, presenting, promoting, supporting works of dance artists with Latin American and indigenous backgrounds living in Canada. We intend to promote an ongoing exchange and collaboration with international dance organizations and artists. We are interested in the dissemination of contemporary artistic practices of dance artists with Latin American background in Canada, maintaining conversation with the rest of the country and the world. We support innovative artists that include other art disciplines pushing the boundaries of what is called 'contemporary' as well as works that, having dance as the core, reflect a permanent search of expression through different languages.

Show Credits

Concept, direction & choreography
Norma Araiza and **Olga Barrios**

Sound & music composition
Edgardo Moreno

Performers
Norma Araiza, Olga Barrios and
Edgardo Moreno (live sound)





Hello, Buffalo

Daina Ashbee

(Gabriola, British Columbia –
Gabriola Island is located on the
unceded territory of
Snuneymuxw Nation)

Sep 30, 6:30pm & Oct 01, 6:30pm | 90 mins

SkyWatch

Hello, Buffalo by Daina Ashbee is an acknowledgment of beings and animals in our realm, highlighting our tendency to view them through a human lens where we often humanize and manipulate. The performance starts with mutual recognition in the space. As it progresses, boundaries blur between audience, performer, and natural energies, leading to abstract experiences beyond conventional narratives. Performer Imara Bosco immerses us in the raw essence of nature and animals, shedding human perspectives to embrace earth's primal frequencies. *Hello, Buffalo* offers a window into an unfamiliar world, emphasizing nature's permanence. It challenges us: can we resist our urge to categorize or control our experiences?

About the Artist

Daina Ashbee is an artist, director, and choreographer based in Canada, born in Nanaimo, British Columbia, known for her radical works at the edge of dance and performance. At 26, she won two awards for her choreographies: the Prix du CALQ for Best Choreography of 2015-2016 for *When the Ice Melts, Will We Drink the Water?* and the Prix Découverte de la danse for *Unrelated*. She was recognized by German TANZ magazine in 2017 and named one of "25 to Watch" by DANCE in 2018.

In 2019, she received a Bessie Award for Outstanding Choreographer. In 2021, two retrospectives of her work were held in Montpellier, France, and Montreal, Canada. In 2022, she received The Clifford E. Lee Choreographer Award.

In 2020, she released two new pieces: *Laborious Song* and *J'ai pleuré avec les chiens* TIME, CREATION, DESTRUCTION.

Daina's work has been presented over 100 times in 16 countries and 40 cities, including prestigious festivals and stages worldwide.

She resides on Gabriola Island, British Columbia, when not touring. Daina continues to create, teach, and tour globally, with upcoming projects in 2023 and 2024.

Show Credits

Artistic Direction, Concept & Choreography

Daina Ashbee

Interpreted & performed by **Imara Bosco**

Rehearsal Director & Contributor **Gabriel Nieto**

Lighting Designer & Technical Director

Beaudrau Banks

Scenography **Daina Ashbee**

Additional Advisors

Terry Fernandes, Zulis Yalte

World Premiere

New York Live Arts - May 18 & 19 2023, New York City

Avant-Premiere

The Haven - April 1st 2023, Gabriola Island, Canada

Show Acknowledgements & Special Thanks

The creation of *Hello, Buffalo* was supported in part by New York Live Arts' Live Ideas 2023: Planet Justice

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.



The Meeting Place

Esie Mensah & Raechele Lovell (Tkaronto & Waterloo Region, Ontario)

Sep 30, 12:30pm 8:00pm | 30 mins

King Street, Downtown Kitchener

Oct 01, 6pm | 30 mins

Gaukel Street, Downtown Kitchener

The Meeting Place is a gathering space for these chosen individuals to explore the journey of finding their honesty through movement. By first giving to ourselves we extend the offering to our communities hoping to discover how to build a better way forward. A site-specific dance/theatre work co-created by Esie Mensah and Raechele Lovell encourages communities to give to themselves, before extending the offering to our communities. Our hope is that we discover how to build a better way forward. We ask the dance artist and audience to step forward in integrity, love, honesty and forgiveness. A new work centered in liberation and exploration, director, choreographer, dancer Esie Mensah and choreographer, dancer and director of DiverseWorks Dance Co., Raechele Lovell.

About the Creators

Esie Mensah & Raechele Lovell are recognized Black Artists who honour the voices that live within them and find themselves intrigued with seeing beyond their capacities.

Drawing on their heritage, experiences and what it means to be an artist today, this collaboration asks the question, “what does it mean to heal through intentional movement?”

Through Dramaturgy and Research, we have come together to create a living exploration. Our intention in our collaboration is to hold space for the Afro-diasporic dance through creation of new pieces of original dance theatre.

Exploring themes of joy and celebration in our bodies, in collaboration with our community.

This mentor-mentee collaboration is a celebration of life and the joy that comes with it, exploring the different ways that Black people celebrate—from traditional cultural celebrations to modern-day parties and festivals.

In a devised process of Artistic Collaboration, these Black Women come together to create in the spirit of building a bolder future for our industry and uplifting each other through meaningful collaboration and shared artistic practice. Through process, we intend to highlight the body as a living archive through traditional dance practices and ceremony, in intersection with contemporary storytelling and movement evolution of Blackness in Canada.

Show Credits

Created by

Esie Mensah and Raechele Lovell

Dancers

Kwasi Obeng-Adjei, Monique Pascall, Keleshaye Christmas, Abel Hagos, Raechele Lovell, Esie Mensah

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.

Deafy

Chris Dodd
Follow The Signs Theatre
(Edmonton, Alberta)



Sep 28, 7pm & Sep 29, 7pm | 60 mins

The Registry Theatre

Deaf public speaker, Nathan Jesper, has arrived at his venue, desperately late.

However, as he launches into his speech, he soon realizes that things are not what they seem.

A new play by Edmonton-based Deaf performer and writer Chris Dodd, *Deafy* is a tragi-comedy that weaves spoken English, ASL and surtitles and which leads the audience on an unexpected journey of discovering what it really means to belong.

About the Artist

Chris Dodd is an award-winning Deaf actor, playwright, accessibility advocate and Governor General Innovation Award finalist. He is the founder and artistic director of SOUND OFF, Canada's national festival devoted to Deaf performance. Chris holds a degree from the University of Alberta's Drama program and has been working within Edmonton's theatre community and across Canada for over 20 years. His play, *Deafy*, will be published by Playwrights' Canada Press in 2022 as part of the anthology, "Interdependent Magic: Disability Performance in Canada". Notable performances include the role of Alphonse in *Ultrasound* at Theatre Passe Muraille. Recent film credits include the principal role of Odin in the upcoming feature film, *Finality of Dusk*. In 2019 he was the recipient of the Guy Laliberté Prize for innovation and creative leadership by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Show Credits

Writer / Performer **Chris Dodd**

Director **Ashley Wright**

Production Designer / Surtitlist **Sarah Karpyschin**

Sound Designer **Dave Clarke**

Movement Coach **Ainsley Hillyard**

Stage Manager **Jessy Ardern**

Assistant Stage Manager **Amanda Goldberg**

ASL Coach **Amorena Bartlett**

Vocal Coach **Joshua Meredith**

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.



Bulfinch's Mythology

Trevor Copp & Ric Knowles / Tottering Biped Theatre (Hamilton, Ontario)



Sep 28, 8pm & Sep 29, 8pm | 75 mins w 15 min intermission

SkyWatch

1850s, Boston. Thomas Bulfinch, famous translator and redactor of Greek and Roman myths, delivers a virulent racist, misogynist, and gloriously homophobic rant that rails against the unspeakable abominations of “the men of the mollyhouses” before Bulfinch himself descends into a labyrinth of his own making. *Bulfinch's Mythology* blends poetic text, evocative mime, and enacted myth in a powerful tale of internalized homophobia that invokes all that is lost in translation.

About the Company

Tottering Biped Theatre (TBT) was founded in 2009 as a social justice inspired theatre company. We devise contemporary pieces through a workshop process spanning several years to create highly physical works of artistic excellence during the Fall/Winter. We also tour ‘Liquid Lead’ gender neutral partner dance talks and workshops. During the summer, we create contemporary, highly physical interpretations of Shakespeare. Our works have addressed poverty, Israeli-Palestinian relations, same sex marriage, violence against women, and mental health.

TBT has toured to/been presented by regional professional theatres (Hamilton's Theatre Aquarius, London's Grand Theatre, and Kitchener's MT Space), performing arts centres (Burlington, Oakville, Guelph, Brampton, Hamilton, Mississauga, Richmond Hill), and theatre festivals (IMPACT, Undercurrents, In the Soil) as well as internationally (New York, Virginia, and North Carolina - USA; Dublin, Ireland; Tirana, Albania). In recognition of our work, TBT has been supported by the Ontario Arts Council, the Trillium Foundation, and the Canada Council for the Arts, and our work has been featured in over 15

publications including CBC, the Canadian Theatre Review, Dance International, Whole Note, and TED.com.

Show Credits

Playwright/Performer **Trevor Copp**

Director/Dramaturge **Ric Knowles**

Sound Design/Composer **Zach Parsons**

Stage Management **Henny Hamilton**

Lighting Designer **Lisa Van Oorschot**

Acknowledgements

Special Thanks to our magic consultant Michael Kras, our Latin language consultant Adrial Fitzgerald, The Hamilton Family for their assistance, and Joe Pagnon and Echo Zhou for design work during our workshop process.

This production is dedicated to the memory of Majdi Bou-Matar.

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.

There Are No Gays in Chechnya (Work-in-Progress)

Isaac Mulè & Pam Patel

Page1 Theatre & MT Space
(Halifax, Nova Scotia & Waterloo Region, Ontario)

Sep 28, 9pm & Sep 29, 9pm | 80 mins

Kitchener City Hall Square

Beginning in 2017, Chechnya began to purge 'undesirables' from the country, mostly gay men.

Thousands began to flee to neighbouring countries including Russia, Ukraine, Poland, and Europe. Since then, purges against Queer people have been on the rise across the world, especially in North America, and the invasion of Ukraine has made it difficult for those trying to flee.

Combining first-hand testimony from survivors in the Netherlands and Toronto, as well as over five years of research, this show highlights the ongoing gay purge in Chechnya while also reflecting similar purges being carried out against Queer people.

Through text and movement, we follow four characters who embody interconnected oppression, forced displacement, colonization, and the desire to resist and be seen.

About the Companies

Page1 Theatre was founded in 2016 in Kitchener, Ontario before relocating to Kijipuktuk/Halifax in February 2021. Our main project is an annual festival, OutFest, which presents some of the best local, regional, and national Queer artists. In addition to OutFest, the company produces a bi-monthly improv show Queer-prov, with shows also including musicians and local Drag artists. We also present various shows throughout our season, as well as develop original work, while also providing development opportunities for professional Queer artists at all stages of their careers.

MT Space is Waterloo Region's first and only multicultural theatre company that continues to fulfill its mandate by creating, producing, and presenting high quality artistic performances and cultural events reflective of the people who live in the area.

Show Credits

Creative Team

Playwright/Text Developer **Isaac Mulè**

Director **Pam Patel**

Production Stage Manager **Brooke Barnes**

Lighting Designer **Chris Malkowski**

Sound Designer **Andrew Jacob Rinehart**

Costume & Props Designer **Freddy Van Camp**

Created with the Ensemble

Robert Azevedo

Bó Bárdos

Maher Sinno

Taras Rudyi

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.

Termite (Work-in-Progress)

Meghna Haldar / (Turtle Island)

In Association with MT Space

This reading made possible by:



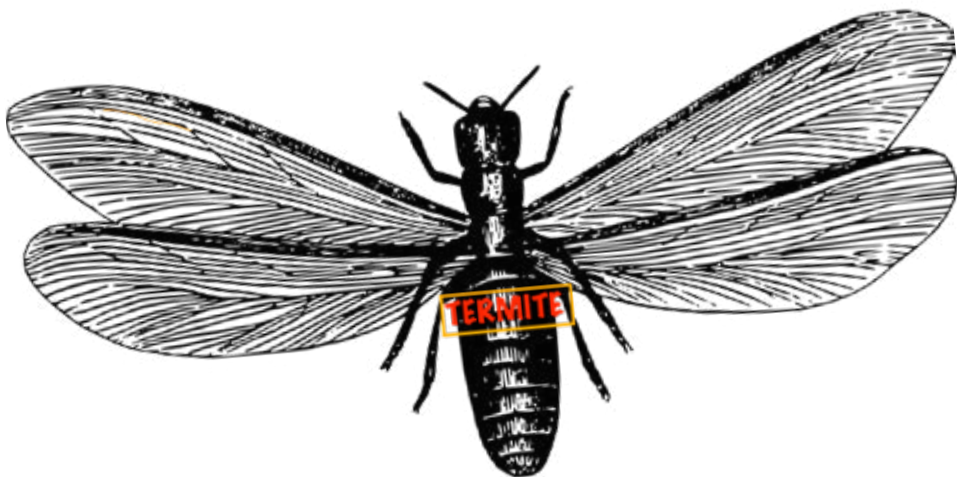
Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

Termite is a play in development by Meghna Haldar, inspired by tragic events. It's a dance-drama blending contemporary storytelling with classical Indian aesthetics.

The narrative unfolds in an overnight train compartment from Delhi to Bangalore, where Mr. B, a middle-class Hindu, reluctantly shares his space with Faaru and Jam, a Muslim newly-wed couple bound for a forced citizenship camp. As tensions rise among the passengers over historical grievances, Mr. B seeks the help of two rogue policemen, Bittu and Ranga, to remove the couple. However, the situation takes a dramatic turn.

Termite explores these complexities through a troupe of actors and musicians who disrupt the performance arena, with two clowns in monkey form as 'sutradhars' guiding the audience through this thought-provoking narrative.



Sep 30, 6pm & Oct 01, 2pm | 110 min with a 10 min intermission

Gaukel Street, Downtown Kitchener

About the Artist

Meghna Haldar is a storyteller, educator, independent screen and emerging theatre artist, and a settler on the unceded land of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) in Vancouver, BC.

Meghna got involved with professional theatre in 2012 with *My Mother's Story*, and then a number of years later when she was invited by Frank Theatre as a writer/participant to work on community devised show *Diaspora* in 2019. That work was expanded into a lengthier collaboration with Frank Theatre and the Chimerik Collective to create *Be-Longing*, a theatrical performance on film.

In 2020, Meghna was selected as an MSG Playwright and Block V with the Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre and PTC with *Termite*. Subsequently Meghna formed the *Termite* Collective with dramaturge Kathleen Flaherty, choreographer Arno Komolika, and director Micheline Chevrier to develop the play into a full-fledged production.

The Collective will have workshop and readings at IMPACT 23 followed by a staged reading in Vancouver in 2024.

Meghna has taught at ECUAD, Arts Umbrella, University of Texas at Austin and is an alumni of WIDC, NSI Features First, Melting Silos, Playwrights Theatre Centre and the Wet Ink collective. Her essay *Dirt: A Social Mirror* was published in the book *From Conflict to Recognition: Moving Multiculturalism Forward* by Rodopi/Brill.

Her work in theatre and media arts has been supported by: Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council, Hari Sharma

Foundation, NSI, Funds for the Arts of the North Shore, NFB, Creative BC, Telefilm Canada and the ISO.

She is a member of PGC.

Show Credits

Playwright **Meghna Haldar**

Choreographer **Arno Kamolika**

Dramaturg **Kathleen Flaherty**

Director **Micheline Chevrier***

Stage Manager **Amber Archbell***

Cultural Consultant **Jivesh Parasram**

Cast

Farah Merani*

Nadeem Phillip*

Elisa Moolecherry*

Suchiththa Wickremesooriya*

Tushar Dalvi

**The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance•Opera•Theatre Policy.*

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors without whom we would not have been able to make this work happen: Canada Council for the Arts, British Columbia Arts Council, Fund for the Arts on the North Shore, HariSharma Foundation, Playwrights Theatre Centre, Playwrights Guild of Canada Playconnect Program (made possible by Canada Council for the Arts).

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.

UNCIVILIZED (Work-in-Progress)

Ahmad Meree / (Toronto, Ontario)



Sep 30, 5pm & Oct 01, 7pm | 40 mins

TWH Social

UNCIVILIZED is a story about identity, what it means to be a Syrian-Canadian citizen, and refusing to politicize human rights.

It's about the journey of leaving home to become a refugee and then a citizen.

What is identity... a piece of paper?
We'll see.

About the Artist

Syrian-Canadian Ahmad Meree, a graduate of the Higher Institute of Theatre Arts in Cairo, is an award-winning actor, playwright, and director.

Notable accolades include the emerging artist award at Arts Awards Waterloo Region (2019), Best Actor at the Central Theatre Festival in Syria (2008), and Best Director for Chekhov's *The Bear* in Cairo (2013). Since arriving in Canada in 2016, he's authored plays like *I Don't Know*, *Suitcase*, *Underground*, and *Adrenaline* – the latter earning a Dora nomination in 2020. His works *Suitcase* and *Adrenaline* were published by Scirocco Drama in 2020.

He resides in Toronto, ON.

Show Credits

Written, Co-directed & Performed by
Ahmad Meree

Dramaturgy & Co-directed by
Ric Knowles

THE VOICE Played by
Jenn Weatherall

Stage Manager & Media Producer
Rafik Alsamkary

Acknowledgements

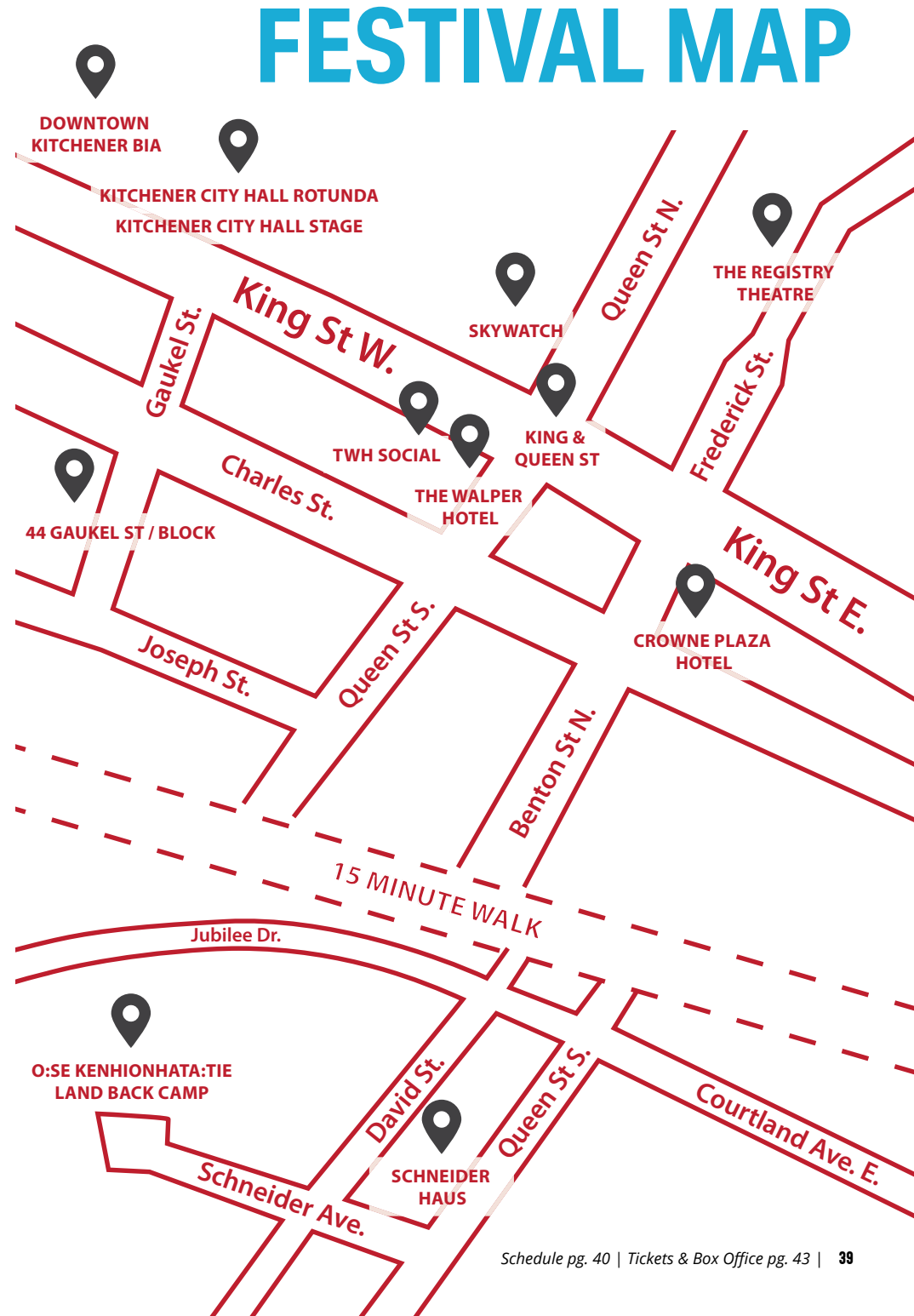
The creation process is supported by Ontario Arts Council – Recommender Grants for Theatre Creators.

Special thanks to:

Aluna Theatre
MT Space
Rahaf Fasheh
Maan Alhmidi

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.



Wilmot Technologies Inc.
YOUR PERSONAL IT DEPARTMENT

HERE FOR YOUR IT NEEDS:

- Windows Hardware Implementation & Repair
- Mac Hardware Implementation & Repair
- Network Administration & Implementation
- Website & Application Development
- Structured Cable Design & Implementation
- Social Media Management
- Onsite, Remote & Telephone Technical Support

Contact Us Today! We Are Here to Support You.

519-571-9745 | support@wilmottech.com | wilmottech.com

IMPACT 23 Festival Schedule

Opening Ceremonies (pg.11) » Starts at O:se Kenhionhata:tie in Willow River Park near the Pavilion off Schneider Ave. with walk to Kitchener City Hall Stage.

SHOWS	VENUE	LENGTH	PG.	TUE SEP 26	WED SEP 27	THU SEP 28	FRI SEP 29	SAT SEP 30	SUN OCT 01
O:se Kenhionhata:tie Land Back Camp Sacred Fire	Willow River Park <i>(colonially Victoria Park)</i>		11	6pm*					
Majdi Bou-Matar Memorial Walk			11	7pm*					
Opening Ceremonies & Reception	Kitchener City Hall Stage		11	8pm*					
Kuramanunya	Kitchener City Hall Stage	50 mins	16	9pm*	9pm				
La dernière	The Registry Theatre	80 mins	18		8pm*	9pm			
Asphalt Jungle Shorts	Start at 44 Gaukel Street	50 mins	54		8pm*	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm
Bulfinch's Mythology	SkyWatch	90 mins	30	<i>will include a 15 min intermission</i>		8pm*	8pm		
Deafy	The Registry Theatre	60 mins	28			7pm*	7pm		
There Are No Gays in Chechnya	Kitchener City Hall Stage	80 mins	32			9pm*	9pm		
Corporate Finch	Schneider Haus	50 mins	44				9:30pm*	9:30pm	
The Meeting Place	King Street Gaukel Street	30 mins	26					12:30pm* 8:00pm	6pm
Hybrid Women	King Street Gaukel Street	30 mins	22					1pm* / 5:30pm	12pm
20 Grains of Rice	The Registry Theatre	60 mins	52					4pm*	5pm
Uncivilized	TWH Social	60 mins	36					5pm*	7pm
Termite	King Street Gaukel Street	110 mins	34	<i>will include a 10 min intermission</i>				6pm*	2pm
Hello, Buffalo	SkyWatch	90 mins	24					6:30pm*	6:30pm
mixed(er)	Kitchener City Hall Stage	60 mins	50					7pm*	3pm
RESCATE	The Registry Theatre	70 mins	18					9pm*	9pm
Ode to Katherine	Crowne Plaza Pool	45 mins	48					9:30pm*	9:30pm

CONFERENCE & ENGAGEMENT

O:se Kenhionhata:tie Land Back Camp	Willow River Park <i>(colonially Victoria Park)</i>		14	Throughout the festival					
Arts Exchange	Multiple		58-65	Throughout the festival (<i>Performances / Presentations / Installations / Workshops</i>)					
Sand Pendulum	SkyWatch	60 mins	46		6pm*	Throughout the festival (<i>Installation</i>)			
Writers' Series	Walper Hotel – Oak Room 44 Gaukel	90 mins 45 mins	72				12:30pm*		1:30pm*
IMPACT 23 Conference – Here Because of Them	<i>(Registry Theatre Lobby)</i> Crowne Plaza Hotel		66		7pm* <i>Reception Registry Lobby</i>	10am - 4pm* Recovery	10am - 4pm* Embodiment	10am - 4pm* Succession	

NIGHTLIFE

Festival Bar	TWH Social		73-78	10pm-late*	9pm-late*	10pm-late*	10pm-late*		10:00pm-late*
Neruda Arts Party: DJ Yazzy	King Street		79					9pm*	

FESTIVAL VENUES

INSIDE

Crowne Plaza Hotel

105 King St E, entrance off Benton

Shows: *Ode to Katherine* (Crowne Pool)

Conference: Trillium Room

The Registry Theatre

122 Frederick St

Shows: *La dernière*, *Deafy*,

20 Grains of Rice, *RESCATE*

SkyWatch

8 Queen St N, Unit 3

Shows: *Sand Pendulum*, *Bulfinch's*

Mythology, *Hello Buffalo*

TWH Social

1 King St W

Shows: *UNCIVILIZED*

Other: Festival Bar

The Walper Hotel: Oak Room

20 Queen St S

Events: *Writers' Series*

OUTSIDE

Kitchener City Hall Stage

Carl Zehr Square, 200 King St W

Shows: *Kuramanunya*, *There Are No Gays in*

Chechnya, *Mixed(er)*

O:se Kenhionhata:tie

Land Back Camp

466 Queen St S

Schneider Haus

466 Queen St S

Shows: *Corporate Finch*, *Homecoming*

Downtown Kitchener

Street Events #DTK:

King Street (Saturday)

King St: on the street, near the

intersection of King and Queen

Gaukel Street (Sunday)

Gaukel Block: outside 44 Gaukel St

Shows:

The Meeting Place, *Hybrid Women*, *Termite*

Asphalt Jungle Shorts:

meet outside 44 Gaukel St

BOX OFFICE & TICKET INFO

Sales for Festival & Conference Passes Closed Sep 22

Conference Day Passes Available until NOON day prior to session

Single Tickets Sliding Scale \$10-30

Tickets available at <https://ticketscene.ca/series/1090>

We strongly encourage you to buy tickets in advance on TicketScene. A limited number of tickets will be available for sale at the door of each show, if it is not sold out.

Note that in-person IMPACT box office will ONLY be open 30 minutes prior to performances at respective venues. Cash and credit card are accepted for ticket purchases at the door.

Special instructions about attending a given show, where applicable, are available on TicketScene.

Outdoor Venues & Weather

For shows at outdoor venues (Gaukel Block, King St, Kitchener City Hall, Schneider Haus), make sure to dress appropriately – if there is a light drizzle, the show will go on. A raincoat or sweater may be helpful. Please keep an eye out for an email in advance regarding a rain plan.

Questions

If you have any questions, please call or email our Box Office: phone 519-585-7763 | email tickets@mtspace.ca

Additional notes

Tickets are available for sale online until 2.5h before the show start time.

Accessibility information is listed on TicketScene. If you have any accessibility needs, please contact the box office so we can ensure a smooth seating experience.

There is no fee for Indigenous Peoples to attend – reach out to tickets@mtspace.ca for details and to reserve tickets.

Corporate Finch

Taylor Marie Graham

Port Albert Productions (Waterloo Region, Ontario)

Sep 29, 9:30pm & Sep 30, 9:30pm | 50 mins

Schneider Haus

It's midnight in St. Jacob's and two local teenagers are breaking into an old factory.

Will both of them make it out alive?

Corporate Finch is an eerie and startling one act thriller by acclaimed Waterloo Region playwright Taylor Marie Graham.

About the Playwright

Taylor Marie Graham (she/her) is an award-winning playwright, librettist, director, theatre researcher, and educator. She lives and works in Cambridge, Ontario, on Treaty 3, Haldimand Tract. Both her creative and scholarly work often explores rural feminist identities, the decolonization of bodies in space, and relationships to land/environment. Her plays and operas have been described as, "arresting and funny" (Lynn Slotkin), "an uncommonly cool theatrical experience" (MoT), "charmingly twisted" (Toronto Star), "searingly written" (Bill Mandel) and "profound, beautifully crafted . . . one of the most exciting new Canadian plays I've seen in a long time" (Christopher Hoile). She holds an MFA in Creative Writing and is completing a doctoral degree in English/Theatre at the University of Guelph. She also loves working with students as a sessional theatre professor at various institutions in Southwestern Ontario.

taylormariegraham.com

Show Credits

Playwright / Director

Taylor Marie Graham

Cast

Finch Lucy Sancí

Jacob Matthew Ivanoff

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.

Sand Pendulum

Gary Kirkham

In Association with Inter Arts Matrix (Waterloo Region, Ontario)



Performance: Sep 27, 6pm | 60 mins

Installation: Sep 26 – Oct 01

SkyWatch

Sand Pendulum Performance

(September 27, 6pm):

A pendulum filled with sand will use kinetic energy and harmonic motion to slowly create a naturally complex sand sculpture over the course of one hour. While the pendulum swings, vocalists Tahirih Vejdani and keyboardist/looper Nick Storrington will generate a new composition in response to slowly evolving sand sculpture.

An Arduino* will also track the pendulum and trigger parts of the soundscape.

Using the physics of the pendulum, the artists will explore time, patterns, ritual, and beauty.

Sand Pendulum Sculpture

(throughout IMPACT 23):

Twice a day during the IMPACT Festival (*keep an eye out for more information soon!*), the Sand Pendulum will be engaged and a unique sand sculpture will slowly emerge.

As the pendulum moves, a soundscape designed by Nick Storrington will use an Arduino* on the pendulum that will trigger a new composition based on the movement of the pendulum in space

**(Arduino created and programmed by Rob Gorbet with Laura Stinson)*

About the Artist

Gary Kirkham has been a theatre artist for over 40 years. 10 years ago he became an installation artist

He has created installations for the Idea Exchange, Cambridge Galleries, Night Shift, CAFKA, and UnSilent Night. He created video designs for Music and the Shadow People, Numus, Canadian Arab Theatre, Cactusbloem (Belgium), Randolph Academy, MT Space, and Greenlight Arts.

He co-created *Dancing within our Worlds* with Heather Kocsis with artists from Iran, Russia, Palestine and Mexico.

Gary has authored several plays including *Falling: A Wake*, *Queen Milli of Galt*, *Pearl Gidley*, *Pocket Rocket* (with Lea Daniel) and *Rage Against Violence* (with Dwight Storrington).

He's collaborated with MT Space on several shows including: *AMAL*, *Body 13*, and *The Last 15 Seconds*.

His plays have been translated into French, Italian and Arabic and have been produced by over 90 theatre companies internationally. His scripts have been published under Samuel French and Scirocco Press.

Show Credits

Creator, Designer & Director **Gary Kirkham**

Performer/Vocalist **Tahirih Vejdani**

Live Looping & Composition **Nick Storrington**

Electronics & Integration Design **Rob Gorbet**

Workshop explorer & composer, additional programming **Laura Stinson**

Ode to Katherine

Tess Martens

In Association with Inter Arts Matrix (Waterloo Region, Ontario)

O starry pool! Lights dance and reflect.
Dips in to bathe, a swimmer in red.
Now blue pool and outer space connect,
elegant opera sung ahead.

New York City artist origin,
as Katherine Bradford imagined,
genius paintings, with flair and quirk.

Question: Is admiring a sin?
For flattery, performance fashioned.

O to bring life to her striking work!

A swimmer in a red swimsuit kneels at the poolside. They stand up and dive into the water. The swimmer performs synchronized-swimming-like movements in an illuminated body of water. Meanwhile, an opera singer sings and lights dance around the space.

An installation piece inspired by New York painter Katherine Bradford's imaginative paintings of swimmers in space.

Tess Martens' past swimming performance out of water, *Slow Change*, 2019, was described as,

"In *Slow Change*, she uses a slapstick strategy as she attempts to put on synchronized swimming costumes from her youth and re-enact her former routines. This work proposes an authentic moment, a state of vulnerability from which emerges the power of being a woman and an artist." – Tangente Danse

About the Artists

Tess Martens (she/her) graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Master of Fine Art focusing on performance art (2018). In her art practice, personal experiences are re-contextualized through performances. Between 2019-2020, she traveled and performed in 4 performance residencies in 4 different countries.

She worked closely with Marilyn Arsem, La Pocha Nostra, VestAndPage and Andriago & Aliprandi. She actively performs in Ontario and Quebec; whether it be at official performances for festivals, galleries and artist run centers—or performing more underground and relying on herself to just create!

Show Credits

Artistic Director **Tess Martens**

Opera Singer & performer **Bó Bárdos**

Technician & performer **Gary Kirkham**



Sep 30, 9:30pm & Oct 01, 9:30pm | 45 mins

Crowne Plaza Pool

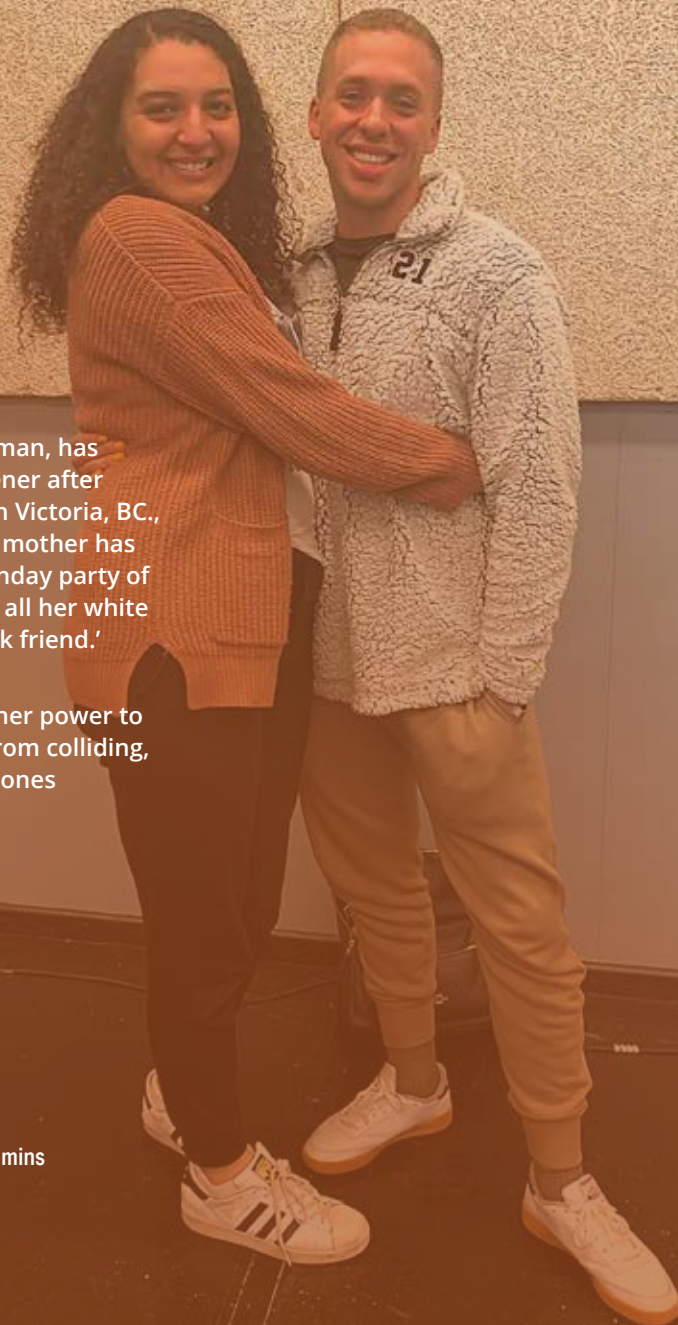
mixed(er)

Sam Mercury & Alten Wilmot
(Waterloo Region, Ontario)

Sam, a young biracial woman, has just come home to Kitchener after finishing her undergrad in Victoria, BC., when she learns that her mother has planned the surprise birthday party of her nightmares featuring all her white friends and her only 'Black friend.'

Sam must decide:
will she do everything in her power to prevent her two worlds from colliding, or will she face her loved ones and hope for the best?

Sep 30, 7pm & Oct 01, 3pm | 60 mins
Kitchener City Hall Stage



About the Artists

Sam Mercury and Alten Wilmot met after being paired up during the inaugural Arts Exchange hosted by MT Space in 2020. After bonding over their mutual experiences of growing up biracial in the Waterloo Region, they began to devise *mixed(er)* in the hopes of starting a conversation around the biracial identity.

Working through lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, they came up with the idea of a farcical comedy about a young woman desperate to keep the white and Black parts of her separate. Finally, in 2022, they had the opportunity to workshop the script in person as a part of Inter Arts Matrix's COVE/COVOX project, which ended with a wildly successful staged reading featuring the most wonderful group of artists, who breathed all new life into the piece.

From there, Alten and Sam have been working on giving *mixed(er)* the world premiere it deserves, in the hopes of starting a national conversation that is impossible to ignore.

Show Credits

co-playwright, actor, producer
Sam Mercury (she/her/hers)

co-playwright, director
Alten Wilmot (he/they)

Cast

Chantaine Green-Leach (her/she)

Nathan Rossi (he/him/his)

Jay Njoku (he/him/his)

Ren Nash (she/her/hers)

Jenn Adesso (she/her)

Acknowledgements

This production was created on the traditional land of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and the Attiwasandewonk (Neutral) Peoples. We deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place. We also recognize the contributions Indigenous people have made in shaping and strengthening this community. We are grateful for the opportunity to work and play on this land, while also recognizing that words are not enough. We must all commit to understanding the Indigenous communities where we live, and to reframe our responsibilities to this land.

We gratefully acknowledge and thank Sheila McMath and Inter Arts Matrix for their generous contributions to this performance, and overall support of this project. We couldn't have done it without you!

We would also like to thank Pam Patel for her mentorship and guidance since the beginning. We simply would not be here without your undying support, and for that we are grateful.

And lastly, much thanks to the Ontario Arts Council, whose support has given all the established and emerging artists involved in this production the opportunity to grow and challenge themselves in their practice.

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.

20 Grains of Rice

Kate Kamo McHugh
(Waterloo Region, Ontario)



Sep 30, 4pm & Oct 01, 5pm | 60 mins

The Registry Theatre

20 Grains of Rice tells the story of one woman's identity as a Japanese Canadian two generations after Japanese internment in Canada. Through dance, monologue, and projections, Kate Kamo McHugh processes her family's story and seeks a way to pass it onto the next generation.

About the Artist(s)

Kate Kamo McHugh is a dance and theatre artist from Waterloo, Ontario.

She is interested in artistically exploring concepts such as migration, belonging and the intersection of art and care - all themes she feels intimately connected to in her everyday life.

Highlights for Kate over the past year include working with Dancemakers and CanAsian Dance, participating in a workshop of Julie Tamiko Manning's new play Mizushōbai (Tableau D'Hôte Theatre), and performing Theatre for Early Years with Cosmic Fishing Theatre.

Currently she is working on her show 20 Grains of Rice, an exploration of Japanese Canadian identity - cultural loss, retention and creation. Kate holds a BFA from Toronto Metropolitan University in Theatre Performance Dance.

Show Credits

Writer & Performer

Kate Kamo McHugh

Creative Technologist & Violinist

Meghan Cheng

Creative Instigator

Andrea Nann

Dramaturg

Denise Fujiwara

Sound Designer

Nicholas Murray

Additional Music

Cameron Slipp

Stage Manager & Lighting Designer

Vishmayaa Jeyamoorthy

Photography

Drew Berry

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.





Asphalt Jungle Shorts

Paddy Gillard-Bentley
Flush Ink Productions (Waterloo Region, Ontario)

Sep 27 – Oct 01, 8pm | 50 mins
Start at 44 Gaukel, Downtown Kitchener

Asphalt Jungle Shorts, Flush Ink Productions' signature event, is a series of site-specific, environmental plays performed in downtown Kitchener, Ontario. Whether performed in an alley, on a fire escape, parking garage or twenty feet below the sidewalk, the city itself becomes the stage, and the lines between theatre and reality are beautifully blurred.

About the Company/Artist(s)

Flush Ink Productions is a producing theatre company located in Kitchener, Ontario. It was founded in 2006 by Founding Artistic Director, Paddy Gillard-Bentley. Since its beginnings, it has evolved into a theatre company that challenges the boundaries of traditional theatre; specializing in site-specific and environmental theatre. Flush Ink was incorporated in 2008 under the name Flush Ink Performing Arts.

Over the years, Flush Ink Productions has established several unique projects: Asphalt Jungle Shorts, She Speaks, Unhinged Festival of Disturbing Theatre, and Urban Scrawlers.

They've also produced several full-length plays, including: *Accidental Fish*, *Shaking the Dew from the Lilies* and *Shaking the Trees*.

Show Credits

Producer/Director/Playwright
Paddy Gillard-Bentley

Co-Artistic Director
Robin Bennett

Road Manager
Sam Liam Bentley

Cast

Maria Colonescu (also a playwright)
Helen Basson
Hiyam Mahrat
John Dibben
Cathy Goudie
Deb Huggins
Greg Allen
Brian Otto
Liz Dennis

Acknowledgements:

City of Kitchener,
The Rich Uncle, Verdexus.

Special Instructions

Asphalt Jungle is 50 minutes of walking and standing on urban surfaces—like asphalt—be prepared to get your steps in.

- * Wear your walking shoes.
- * Leave the kids at home.
- * We may end up in a bar.
- * Dress for the weather. If, tut tut, it looks like rain – bring an umbrella.

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.



ARTS EXCHANGE

COHORT 4

MT Space's Arts Exchange

Multiple Artists (Cohort 4 / 2023)
In Association with MT Space
(Waterloo Region, Ontario)

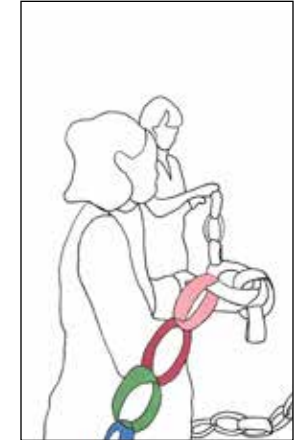
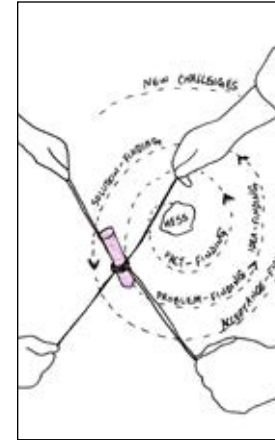
MT Space's Arts Exchange was established in 2020 to keep artists employed and active at a time when many artists faced loss of employment and opportunities.

Indigenous, Black, and Racialized artists based in Waterloo Region are invited to explore new artistic partnerships, collaborate on new or existing projects, mentor each other in similar or new disciplines, and elevate each other's work.

Join us as we present some of what has emerged as part of this incredible initiative:

The Haptic Playground, Homebound, Homecoming, Monsters, Lines of Expression, No More Ice Cream, Ribbon Skirt Making Workshop, The Unity Project, Where Tap Meets Flamenco.

Sep 26 – Oct 01
Downtown Kitchener / Multiple Venues



The Haptic Playground (Interactive Installation & Artist Talk)

The Haptic Playground as Designed Sites for Healing & Learning

Mélika Hashemi / (Waterloo Region, Ontario)

The Haptic Playground is a trauma-informed, participatory project that uses the familiar and accessible language of play through re-imagined childhood games to potentialize communal healing, and re-vision self-care in centering ourselves as the experts.

Through a series of workshops or games aimed at decolonizing wellness using play-based learning, a collective effervescence emerges.

Is there a potential for these play-based rituals to serve as productive sites to learn and heal both as a formed collective, and the unique Self?

Installation: Sep 30 – Oct 01
Artist Talk: Oct 01, 1pm
Gaukel Block

About the Artist

Mélika Hashemi is an artist-researcher and courseware developer based in Kitchener, Ontario. Using art and emerging technologies, she finds ways to creatively renew intersectionality and empowerment beyond screens and institutional walls.

Acknowledgement

I extend my gratitude to Mahdieh Varvani Farahani, for our diasporic ruminations about intergenerational healing that sparked the inspiration behind this project; Mina Akida, for her collaboration on the initial iteration of this project for Arts Exchange 2020; Aya Durubi, for her meticulous sewing of the toolkits; Gabe Geiger, for his support and trust in my vision; Veen Wong, for her collaboration on this project's facilitation at IMPACT 2023.

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.

Homebound (Installation, Presentations)

Migration, Returning Home and the In Between

MJ and Faryal Diwan / (Waterloo Region)

Homebound explores the possibilities of poetry collaborations. On our journey of discovering who each of us is and how we connect, we connected over home and what that means to each of us, and how that has evolved over time. We shared an interest in experimenting this connection with poetry.

Homebound explores our individual experiences of immigration, returning to our homeland, and the in between. Here, the term 'homebound' refers to going home or searching for home, our relationship to home and whatever that means for each of us.

In 2022, we collectively worked on finding our passion for poetry and what home means to us. We curated 3 poetry pieces written by each of us. These poems were drafted and edited, followed by a poetry recital at MT Space's Tell in October 2022. This year we explored visualizing our poetry through film.

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.

Installation: Sep 28 – Oct 01

Presentations: Sep 28, 5:30pm & Oct 01, 4pm
Gaukel Block

About the Artists

I am **Mithra Jacob John, MJ** from Kerala, the most beautiful part of the southern region of India. I am a young emerging lyricist who also has a career in healthcare. The first performance was happened when I was on my high school. My poems and lyrics are mostly genuine and influenced by my personal experiences. Through my art I would like to inspire many other, who really in need of care and compassion, most importantly motivation to get out their own comfort world.

Faryal Diwan (she/her) is a multidisciplinary artist, researcher, community activist and social urban planner based in Karachi, Pakistan and Kitchener, Ontario.

Diwan is passionate about the environment, arts, architecture and culture. She explores various mediums of art—painting, truck art, Islamic art, photography, patchwork (Arpilleras), poetry, and dance. Life and nature inspires her to move, write, create—she uses poetry to translate experience and then transforms them into visual artwork.

She has presented work at THEMUSEUM in Kitchener; Alliance Française and V.M. Gallery in Karachi.

Special Thanks

MT Space for this opportunity, Nada and Claudia for their support, Carlos for his guidance to create this film, and to Seemab Raza and Tamara Menon for providing us feedback on our work.

Homecoming (Performances)

Mada Theatre / (Waterloo Region)

Homecoming is a story-telling workshop performance that discusses the housing challenges and struggles in Waterloo Region, through a conversation between a landlord and a tenant.

The piece explores the meanings of home and belonging.

About the Artists

Mada Theatre was founded by Majdi Bou-Matar and Nada Humsi in 2013 as a collective with other Arab artists in Waterloo Region.

Show Credits

Actor/co-producer **Ameya Kale**

Actor/co-producer **Hiyam Mahrat**

Director **Pam Patel**

Co-director **Nada Abusaleh**

Scriptwriter **Prashant Das**

Research Assistant **Faryal Diwan**

Acting consultant **Nada Humsi**

Special Thanks

Ontario Arts Council, Region of Waterloo Arts Fund, MT Space, Mada Theatre

Performances: Sep 30, 12pm & Oct 01, 12pm | 50 mins
Schneider Haus



Monsters

(Installation, Performances,
Artist Talk)

**Shantell Powell, Phoenix/Jordan M. Burns,
Bangishimo / (Waterloo Region)**

Monsters are all around us. This multimedia, multidisciplinary installation and performance explores the monsters of colonialism, ecocide, and violence—all brought to life through poetry, storytelling, AI-powered short videos, visual art, and sculptures.

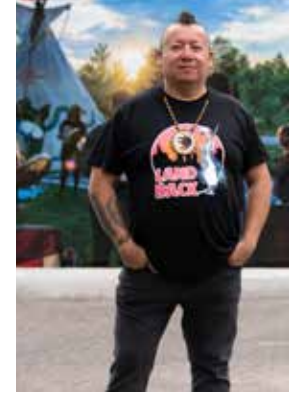
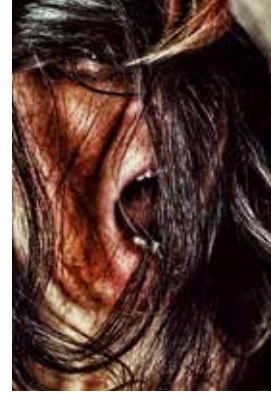
About the Artists

Phoenix/Jordan M. Burns (they/them) is a Disabled, Indigenous, Two-Spirit, Neurodivergent, multidisciplinary artist from Treaty 3 territory on Turtle Island. Jordan M. is co-founding artistic director with Third Wheel Theatre Co. They're a director, producer, puppeteer, actor, and playwright. Jordan M. is a proud honours graduate of both York University and Humber College's Theatre Acting programs. Credits include *Stranger Things: The Experience* (dir. T. Vannucci), *Salt Baby* (dir. N. Robitaille), *Mno Bimaadiziwin* (dir. H. Barnes), *Art Ambulance* (dir. D. Anderson), *Cat in the Hat* (dir. S. Prelletz), and *A Pineberry's Past* (writ. J.M. Burns).

Follow Jordan M. on Instagram at:
[@ThirdWheelTheatreCo](#) / [@BurnsBright97](#)

Shantell Powell is a two-spirit author, artist, and swamp hag of mixed Inuk/Mi'kmaw/European descent. She is the 2023 Yosef Wosk VMI Fellow, a Speculative Fiction fellow at the 2023 Roots Wounds Words Winter Retreat, and graduate of the Writers' Studio at Simon Fraser University and LET(s) Lead Academy at Yale University. She received the Waterloo Arts Fund in 2022 for her novel *The Everwhen*. Her writing is in *Augur*, *Feminist Studies Journal*, *Solarpunk Magazine*, *Yellow Medicine Journal*, and more. When she's not writing or making things, she wrangles chinchillas or gets filthy in the woods. You can find her online at <https://c.im/@Shanmonster>

Bangishimo (They/Them) is an IndigiQueer Anishinaabe originally from Couchiching First Nation located on Treaty #3 territory. Bangishimo is a community organizer, educator, and advocate. They are a co-founder of O:se Kenhionhata:tie (Land Back Camp). Their work has been featured in numerous publications and art spaces across Canada. Most recently, Bangishimo won the Briarpatch Writing in the Margins Contest 2020, voted Best Photographer 2021/22 in the Community Edition, and received the Waterloo Region Arts Award 2022. Bangishimo is the 2022/2023 Artist-in-Residence for the City of Kitchener.



Show Credits

Shantell Powell

Author/Performer **Shantell Powell**

Videographer **Carlos Parada**

Recorded on location at the Zehr studio of the Kitchener Public Library.

Phoenix/Jordan M. Burns

Builder, Creator, Co-Designer, Writer

Phoenix/Jordan M. Burns

Builder, Consultant, Co-Designer

Shayna Burns

Bangishimo

Creator **Bangishimo**

Music **Psychopath** by KoGK

Tools **Midjourney + Photoshop + Capcut**

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.

Acknowledgements

Shantell Powell

Thanks to Region of Waterloo Arts Fund for sponsoring my novel in progress, *The Everwhen* from which *Forced Birth* is excerpted.

Sibyl Has a Heart of Gold appears in Temz Review. *The Ghosts of Forests Past* appears in *Solarpunk Magazine*. *The Redcoats are Coming* will be published in NUNUM this autumn. *This is the Time Just Before Spider Woman Meets Kiviuq* appears in the emerge22 Anthology.

A huge thank you goes out to MT Space for their continued support in my creative endeavours.

Phoenix/Jordan M. Burns

A huge thank you to Third Wheel Theatre Co. for their continued support of the development of this piece.

And massive thanks to MT Space for bringing me on board again to continue to develop my little slice of "Monsters".

Installation: Sep 28 – Oct 01

Performances: Sep 29, 7pm & Sep 30, 7pm | 45 min

Artist Talk: Oct 01, 5pm

Gaukel Block



Lines of Expression

(Interactive Art Installation)

Behnaz Fatemi / (Waterloo Region)

Lines of Expression is an engaging, interactive art project that beckons participants into a collaborative drawing journey. Choose your drawing tool—charcoal, pencil, or pastel—explore yourself.

This dynamic fusion of creativity serves as a conduit for shared experiences, fostering connections and illuminating art's therapeutic and unifying power. Lines of Expression becomes a testament to art's universal accessibility, a communal celebration that transcends boundaries.

About the Artist

Behnaz Fatemi is an Iranian artist who relocated to Canada in 2018. She holds a painting BFA (Iran) and is currently pursuing her Studio Arts MFA (University of Waterloo). Her mediums include: drawing, sculpture, video, and installation. Her art explores connections between humans and their behaviors, questions how human sensibility interconnects with: society, politics, religion, and personal beliefs. Kitchener Artist in Residence (2020-21), received the Emerging Artist Award, Arts Awards Waterloo Region (2020).

Installation: Sep 20 – Oct 01
Artist Talk: Oct 01, 5pm
Gaukel Block

No More Ice Cream

(Performance)

Edwin Laryea & Carlos Parada / (Waterloo Region)

A former African student, who came to Canada several years ago to study at one of the Canadian Universities, shares some of the fluctuating emotions he experienced and continues to experience, about leaving a friend behind.

About the Artist

Dr. Edwin William Daniel Laryea

BA, B Ed., MA, PhD

Originally from Ghana, West Africa, Edwin is a former teacher, administrator, and politician with a passion for social justice and equal representation. He is focused on mobilizing the hitherto untapped imagination, creativity, and talents of BIPOC individuals. As a budding creative writer and actor, he specializes in youth empowerment and strives to create consistent and affirming spaces for muted narratives.

Performances: Sep 29, 6pm & Sep 30, 6pm | 25 mins
Gaukel Block



He has several years of community leadership, having served as a Board member, Vice-President, Chair, and President for 15 community organizations, such as, the K-W United Way, Waterloo Mayor's Advisory, Waterloo Museum Board of Governors, Social Planning Council, The Literacy Group, President of Kiwanis Club, President of the African Canadian Association of Waterloo Region, and Member of the University of Waterloo Research Ethics Board. He graduated from McMaster, University of Toronto, and Brock University. He has three beautiful daughters.

Show Credits

Written & created by

Dr. Edwin W. D. Laryea (he/him)

Directed by

Carlos Parada (he/him)

Content & Trigger Warnings

Turn to page 71.



Ribbon Skirt Making Workshop

Cara Loft / (Waterloo Region)

The Ribbon Skirt Workshop is a community event where ten (10) Indigenous women will select their fabric and learn to make a four (4) panelled ribbon skirt. The workshop facilitator will then take a piece from each of the participants skirt fabric and will make a community ribbon skirt. This skirt will honour the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Special Thanks

WLU Indigenous Student Centre,
Theatre & Performance Program at
the University of Waterloo



Workshop: Sep 24, 9am – 3pm (pre-festival)
Schneider Haus

The Unity Project

(Presentation & Workshop)

Maria Fernanda Ibarra

Maria Ibarra shares the importance of the arts for mental health, especially for immigrants: make your own plasticine portrait in a guided workshop, following a dialogue with the artist. Maria is pursuing the creation of a documentary about immigration in Canada, including mental health, with input from the community. This is *The Unity Project*.



Presentation & Workshop:
Sep 27, 5:30pm | 90 mins
Schneider Haus



PHOTOS UNKNOWN

Where Tap Meets Flamenco: A Rhythmic Exploration

(Movement/Dance Workshop)

Raechele Lovell & Claudia Aguirre / (Waterloo Region and Tkaronto)

During this 90-minute workshop, dancers of any level (from beginner to experienced), and of any age, are welcomed to take part in a rhythmic challenge that utilizes tap and flamenco dance vocabulary. The challenge? To learn to hold your own as we experiment with polyrhythms (that's more than one rhythm at a time) so that we can co-create a full sonorous experience that harkens back to the roots of tap, flamenco, and other percussive dance forms that have evolved out of the African diaspora. No tap or flamenco shoes necessary. Wear something comfortable and warm, as this workshop will be outdoors, and be prepared to stomp, clap, and play.

About the Company

Claudia Aguirre & Raechele Lovell began working together as two independent dance artists coming together during the 2023 MT Space Arts Exchange. Prior to that, the two knew each other, briefly, from having worked at the same dance studio.

Workshop: Sep 29, 4:30pm | 90 min
Gaukel Block

PHOTOS Robin Cymbaly

Workshop Credits

Workshop co-creators

Raechele Lovell (she/her)

Claudia Aguirre (she/her)



Schedule pg. 40 | Tickets & Box Office pg. 43 | 65

IMPACT 23 INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

HERE BECAUSE OF THEM

IMPACT 19 marked the beginning of several difficult and complicated years for MT Space that were pivotal in our evolution. Some of you were present to witness and be a part of the challenges that we faced.

This 'perfect storm' compounded with the events of the past three years, including COVID lockdowns and the loss of our Founder, Majdi Bou-Matar, took MT Space on an incredibly unique journey of learning, community-building, and re-prioritizing needs and values.

This IMPACT 23, we pick up where we left off in 2019 and share this journey with you...



Sep 27, 7pm | The Registry Theatre – Lobby
Sep 28 – 30, 10am-4pm | Crowne Plaza Hotel



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1: RECOVERY

In conversation with Theatre Direct's Balancing Act, MT Space shares how we faced crises and interrogates this need for being "resilient" with colleagues and friends from the theatre sector.

DAY 2: EMBODIMENT

MT Space presents a demonstration of the intercultural theatre creation methodology established by Majdi Bou-Matar, and engages others in the conversations around devised processes, ancestry, and culture clash.

DAY 3: SUCCESSION

Bringing together those who succeeded the founders of organizations, we engage in a discussion around what it means to honour those who came before us while moving towards a future that calls for change.

CONFERENCE PASSES NO LONGER FOR SALE

Conference day passes available at ticketscene.ca.

IMPACT 23 INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

HERE BECAUSE OF THEM

These day one conversations are supported in part by
Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT)

Session 1 | 10am-12pm

In conversation with Theatre Direct's Balancing Act, MT Space shares how we faced crises and interrogates this need for being "resilient" with colleagues and friends from the theatre sector. Balancing Act presents a case study of MT Space.

Co-facilitated by **Susie Burpee & Sehar Bhojani** – Theatre Direct / Balancing Act

Panelists:

Daniel Thau-Eleff – Artistic Producer / Moving Target Theatre

Bó Bárdos – Company Manager / MT Space

Pam Patel – Artistic Director / MT Space and IMPACT

Amy Balatoni – HR Consultant / AmitaHR

Session 2 | 2pm-4pm

In conversation with Theatre Direct's Balancing Act, MT Space shares how we faced crises and interrogates this need for being 'resilient' with colleagues and friends from the theatre sector.

Co-facilitated by **Susie Burpee & Sehar Bhojani** – Theatre Direct / Balancing Act

Panelists:

Margo Kane – Artistic Managing Director / Full Circle: First Nations Performance

Sheila McMath – Artistic Director / Inter Arts Matrix

Nova Bhattacharya – Artistic Director / Nova Dance

DAY 01

RECOVERY

SEP 28TH

IMPACT 23 INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

HERE BECAUSE OF THEM

Session 3 | 10am-12pm

MT Space presents a live demonstration of the intercultural theatre creation methodology established by Majdi Bou-Matar, and engages others in the conversations around devised processes, ancestry, and culture clash.

Facilitated by **Pam Patel** – Artistic Director / MT Space & IMPACT

Performers:

Brad Cook – Co-Artistic Director / Blue Bird Theatre Collective

Olga Barrios – Co-artistic Director / Vanguardia Dance Projects

Nada Abusaleh – Apprentice Artistic Director / MT Space

Tawaih M'Carthy – Co-Artistic Director / Blue Bird Theatre Collective

Musicians:

Reza Yazdanpanah – Community-Music Instructor, Composer, Improvisor

Jashen Edwards – Postdoctoral Fellow / International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation (IICSI)

Session 4 | 2pm-4pm

Following the morning session's live demonstration of MT Space's performance creation methodology, we engage artist-creators in the conversations around devised processes, ancestry, and culture clash.

Facilitated by **Tawaih M'Carthy** – Co-Artistic Director / Blue Bird Theatre Collective

Panelists:

Daina Ashbee – Artistic Director & Choreographer

Olga Barrios – Co-artistic Director / Vanguardia Dance Projects

Thomas E.S. Kelly – Artistic Director / Karul Projects

Alejandro Moreno – Playwright, Director & Dramaturge

DAY 02

EMBODIMENT

SEP 29TH

IMPACT 23 INDUSTRY CONFERENCE HERE BECAUSE OF THEM

DAY 03 SUCCESSION SEP 30TH

Session 5 | 10am-12pm

Bringing together those who succeeded the founders of organizations, we engage in a discussion around what it means to honour those who came before us while moving towards a future that calls for change.

Facilitated by

Ajay Heble – Director, International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation, University of Guelph

Panelists:

Rouvan Silogix – Artistic Director / Modern Times Stage Company

Cyrine Gannoun – Director / El-Hamra Theater

Pam Patel – Artistic Director / MT Space & IMPACT

Session 6 | 2pm-4pm

Join us for the final session of the

IMPACT 23 Here Because of Them Conference,

leading us to a reflection and discussion of the entire three days.

This session will be led and facilitated by **Atheven Jeyakumaran**, our conference rapporteur.

IMPACT 23 // CONTENT & TRIGGER WARNINGS

IMPACT can get a little intense.

Some people are triggered by trigger warnings and see them as spoilers... and some people depend on them to not have their days ruined and to take radical care of their own mental health and well-being.

So we gathered all of them together in one place—you've been warned! (*hugs*)

Festival Programming

20 Grains of Rice (pg 52) Themes of racism and discrimination, brief loud ambulance noises.

Bulfinch's Mythology (pg 30) Representations of racism, sex, violence towards the Queer community.

Corporate Finch (pg 44) Coarse language, violence, discussions of violence, mature themes.

Deafy (pg 28) Coarse language, self-harm, death.

Hello, Buffalo (pg 24) Nudity.

Kuramanunya (pg 16) Themes of colonialism.

La dernière (pg 20) Violence.

mixed(er) (pg 50) Coarse language.

RESCATE (pg 18) Themes and depictions of violence toward women.

Termite (pg 34) References to, depictions of violence and racism.

There Are No Gays in Chechnya (pg 32)

Depictions of torture, war, and persecution. Themes of violence towards the Queer community.

UNCIVILIZED (pg 42) Coarse language and smoking.

Arts Exchange

The Meeting Place (pg 26) Incense used during the performance.

Monsters (pg 60) **Shantell**: Live reading references colonial violence at the hands of the police, animal death. Recorded stories reference residential schools, cancer, cannibalism, and ecocide. **Jordan**: Sculptures, paintings, and poems depict themes of colonialism, environmental destruction, and monsters. **Bangishimo**: Depictions/themes of colonialism, environmental destruction, graphic and disturbing images, blood, violence.

No More Ice Cream (pg 62) Coarse language, discussions of death.

Some scenes may trigger intense emotional responses.

Festival Bar

Indigibabes (pg 77) Mature themes.

**WRITERS' SERIES:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

**Patti Flather /
Yukon Digital Theatre**

Pieces of Paradise

Reading & Discussion

Majdi Bou-Matar and the MT Space team partnered with Gwaandak Theatre to develop and tour Patti's play *Paradise* in the Yukon, at IMPACT, and nationally, with Majdi as director. A potent fusion of text-based, physical, and intercultural devised work emerged from this unique collaboration.

With Yukon Digital Theatre, the adaptation *Pieces of Paradise* is inspired by and moves beyond the original tragedy, one of but many examples of Majdi's legacy.

**Yana Meerzon / Professor of
Theatre Studies, Department of
Theatre, University of Ottawa**

*The Palgrave Handbook of
Theatre and Migration*

Book Launch

Edited by Yana Meerzon and S. E. Wilmer, editors of the Palgrave Studies in Performance and Migration book series, *The Palgrave Handbook of Theatre and Migration* provides a wide survey of theatre and performance practices related to the experience of global movements, both in historical and contemporary contexts.

During this book launch, Yana Meerzon will introduce major themes of the book, its structure, and present specific case studies.

Sep 29, 12:30pm | 90 mins | The Walper Hotel: Oak Room (Flather & Meerzon)
Sep 30, 1:30pm | 45 mins | Gaukel Block (Haldar)

Writers' Series

**WRITERS' SERIES:
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

**Meghna Haldar / Playwright/The
Termite Collective**

Termite

Reading & Discussion

Meghna Haldar will read excerpts from her play *Termite*, a dystopian contemporary drama set on an overnight train in India where a gentleman feels aggravated by the arrival of two fellow passengers with whom he has to share "his" space and thus hatches an ugly plan to get rid of them. Incorporating scenes from epic mythology, *Termite* seeks to combine contemporary Canadian theatre practice with the aesthetic traditions of Indian classical dance drama. There will be a short Q&A following the reading.

Acknowledgements

Writers' Series: Patti Flather and Meghna Haldar events made possible by:
Playwrights Guild of Canada Playconnect Program (made possible by Canada Council for the Arts).



Festival Bar

Multiple Acts & Great Conversations

The festival experience doesn't have to end once you walk out of the theatre. Join us every night as we congregate at our designated IMPACT Festival Bar.

The Festival Bar, serving food and drinks, will be open every night of IMPACT. Wrap up a night of theatre with good food, good conversations, and excellent late-night programming!

Stay tuned as we announce our partners for this year's IMPACT 23 Festival!

Sep 26 – Oct 01 | TWH Social


THE WALPER HOTEL
EST. 1923


TWH Social.
BAR | BISTRO



Eric Jackson and the Willow River Band

Based out of Waterloo Region, Ontario, Canada, Eric Jackson & The Willow River Band is an alternative-country/folk band with songs about current world issues, real-life experiences, and good times. With strong vocals and highlights of mandolin, banjo, and classic guitar riffs, their music combines the best of country, folk, and easy-listening.

Eric is a Métis artist who is passionate about connecting with his indigenous heritage, and remains active in the community.

Sep 26, 10pm - late
TWH Social

Rufus John & Momma's Kitchen

Rufus is an award-winning artist who is bringing a refreshing sound to Canadian R&B music. Along with being an artist Rufus is an entrepreneur, a graduated Child and Youth Worker and an Active Youth Mentor in his community. His music has undertones of Jazz, Funk, Soul and Hip Hop but everything he sings is sung with soul.

Momma's Kitchen is Kitchener's premium customizable 2 to 12 piece live Party band. Specializing in top notch, high energy, party starting entertainment that will make any event unique and brilliant. From 90's/2000's Hip Hop/R&B to Top 40 Pop Hits to Motown/Soul their live shows pack dance floors, engage audiences and provide clients with memorable experiences.



Sep 27, 9pm - late
TWH Social





Drag Night

Sasha Tease & Melody Bijou

Sasha Tease (she/they)

With previous training in dance, theater and comedy, **Sasha Tease** loves to put on shows that are full-on productions. Sasha Tease proudly refers to herself as the nonbinary bombshell, as they are on a mission to blow up gender norms and beauty standards. Sasha's drag is rooted in body positivity and feminism and aims to inspire every audience member to love themselves deeply and unconditionally.

Melody Bijou

Incorporating her first love of music into her drag, **Melody Bijou**, brings a fun and exciting 'punk-like' attitude every time she hits the stage. Hailing from the KW area and London, you are sure to be amazed by her love of all things rock and roll.

Sep 28, 10pm - late
TWH Social

Indigibabes

The IndigiBabes are a Toronto based burlesque collective created by Indigenous artists, activists and aunties. These Babes are all about reclamation, celebration and empowerment not only of themselves but also for the larger communities. Challenging dominant culture narratives and stereotypes, the IndigiBabes are rewriting these stories by creating safer spaces that celebrate Indigenous sexuality,

sensuality, gender expression and storytelling through the art of Burlesque.

The IndigiBabes have graced stages throughout Ontario, Nogojiwanong Indigenous Fringe Festival, Indigenous Fashion Arts Festival and Sarina Pride just to name a few!!! With their bi-monthly shows at Glad Day Bookshop have created quite a fan base of supporters, fans and others!

Get ready to witness the breathtaking beauty of Indigenous brilliance and joy!

Sep 29, 10pm - late
TWH Social



Closing Night Karaoke

Join us as we wrap IMPACT 23 with a version of MT Space's TELL - an open-mic coffeehouse-style event that invites all to take the stage and share their art.

This TELL will also be a karaoke party, so come on down to TWH Social with your favourite songs, stories, poems—and celebrate another great festival with friends, artists, and community!

Oct 01, 10pm - late
TWH Social

Neruda Arts Party

Neruda Arts *presents* DJ Yazzy (Waterloo Region)

After five days of exciting theatre, we invite you to dance your assumptions off with DJ Yazzy Vallejo, known to friends and family simply as Yesy. DJ Yazzy's love for music was cultivated in the vibrant, eclectic culture of his native city.

Even as a child, Yesy was captivated by the rhythmic allure of various genres, from classic rock and jazz to Latin beats and modern electronic music. These early experiences equipped him with a profound understanding of the emotive power of music. Yesy's infectious energy, eclectic taste, keen understanding of his audience, his extraordinary musical prowess, diverse mixes and unwavering commitment to creating music, results in exciting and memorable events—a fitting celebration during IMPACT 23.

Sep 30, 9pm
King Street, Downtown Kitchener



Festival Hotel



Crowne Plaza Kitchener-Waterloo
 105 King St E, Kitchener, Ontario N2G 2K8

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is located in the heart of downtown Kitchener, Ontario. A short walk from all IMPACT 23 venues, this modern hotel is conveniently located to enjoy both the festival and the lovely restaurants and shops that Kitchener has to offer. Mention IMPACT 23 to receive a special discounted rate for your stay this fall!

Book now at kitchener-hotel.com or call 519-744-4141.

MT Space & IMPACT Festival Staff

MT SPACE & IMPACT

Managing Artistic Director	Pam Patel
Company Manager	Bó Bárdos
Apprentice General Manager	Hiyam Mahrat
Associate Producer	Yazan Maarouf
Public Outreach & Development Coordinator	Carlos Parada
Apprentice Artistic Director	Nada AbuSaleh

IMPACT

Production Manager	Cameron Slipp
Box Office Manager	Maria Kouznetsova
Photographer	Andy Wright
Logistics Coordinator	Brooke Barnes
Production Assistant	Freddy Van Camp
Marketing Assistant	Elsa Haroon

SUPPORT

Bookkeeper	Suzanne Langdon
Creative Services & Graphic Design	Nichol Comyn

Thank You

Jenna Winter, Viktorija Kovač,
 G & G Carpentry, WLU Indigenous
 Student Centre, Theatre & Performance
 Program at the University of Waterloo,
 The Water Depot, Janelle Rainville,
 Emily Robson, Karoline Varin,
 Julie Marshall, Steve Roth,
 Kristy Skelton, Patti Flather, Brian Kelly,
 Gaya Bin Noon, Luke Swinson,
 May Mahrat, Robert Azevedo,
 Raina Schumacher, Colin Umbach,
 Taras Rudyi, Sharanya Karkera,
 Amy Balatoni, Mary Saleh

IMPACT Technical Team

James Agathos, Leelind Keary,
 Nadia Ursacki, Rafik Alsamkary,
 Elias Dekoter, Shannon Lee,
 Monica Durlak, Lilian Adom

Volunteers

Big thank you to all our wonderful
 volunteers who make everything
 possible, you know who you are!

MT Space Board of Directors 2023-24

Chair	David Morneau
Treasurer	Joan Chandra
Secretary	Fitsum Areguy
Director	Fawaz Almassri
Director	Fanny Villarte-Croce

Majdi Bou-Matar Memorial Committee

Isabel Cisterna, Cyrine Gannoun,
 Patti Flather, Ric Knowles,
 Tawiah M'Carthy, Bó Bárdos

GET TICKETS

Tickets Sliding Scale \$10-30

There is no fee for Indigenous Peoples to attend – reach out to tickets@mtspace.ca for details and to reserve tickets.

Get tickets now at:
[impact theatre festival.ca](http://impacttheatrefestival.ca)

Box Office & Ticket Info pg. 33
Festival Schedule pg. 40
Festival Map & Venue Info pg. 39 & 42

About MT Space & IMPACT Theatre Festival

Founded in 2004, MT Space is dedicated to theatre that centralizes marginalized voices to address social issues and constitute a vibrant intercultural community.

IMPACT (International Multicultural Platform for Alternative Contemporary Theatre) is a biennial celebration organized by MT Space in Ontario's Waterloo Region. IMPACT is focused on Indigenous and culturally diverse work from Turtle Island and around the world, with special emphasis on interdisciplinary, intercultural, and physical productions. IMPACT presents some of the finest local, national, and international work.

It provides a unique platform to engage, play, and rejuvenate with hundreds of artists and thousands of visitors from across Canada and beyond.

impact
theatre
festival.ca

