

With gratitude and appreciation, MT Space acknowledges that we live, learn, and benefit within the boundaries of the Haldimand Tract, which includes ten miles on each side of the Grand River.

This is the traditional territory of the **Attawandaron** (Neutral Confederacy), **Anishinaabeg** (Ojibway, Mississauga, Chippewa, and Algonquin), and Haudenosaunee Confederacy (Six Nations including the Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca, Oneida, and Tuscarora Nations).

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 dark pieces 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 over or ignored completely. We need to be aware of these realities whether we have been here for generations or are newcomers to this country.

We invite you to check out the **resource page on our website** where we continue to provide resources of all kinds, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. 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 truly 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.

# HOW DO WE BEGIN AGAIN?

# TIME TO COME TOGETHER & HEAL...

Our theatre was always a form of resistance and activism, but two years ago, I realized that the louder our voices became, the more colonial structures were being imposed on us. We were at risk of compromising our values in order to meet the expectations of the systems that surround us.

In 2020, we began the process of dismantling and rebuilding MT Space – and shortly after we cancelled our programming and shut our doors as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we continued on the journey of rebuilding ourselves, the world started to hear what racialized communities had been talking about for decades. For the first time, I started to wonder if things would actually change.

This IMPACT 21 we continue on this journey while pushing the conversation forward. We ask our community to show up so the world continues to listen.

We invite you to support us as we literally and figuratively build up the structures and systems that work for us – all of us. Let's bring these conversations out into the open and center lived experiences, sitting together in fearless discomfort.

Let's put our money where our mouth is and engage and support racialized artists on stage and in leadership roles. Let's come together and heal.

The festival this year brings work from around the world and across Turtle Island by artists I admire and consider my dear colleagues. I am honoured to present to you a roster of resilience and invite you to come back to IMPACT!

Meegwetch – Nyawen – Merci – Shukriya – With Gratitude,

Pam Patel
Artistic Director,
MT Space &
IMPACT Theatre Festival

BEGIN.

# MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL CHAIR, REGION OF WATERLOO



Congratulations to the organizers of IMPACT 21 and the MT Space for planning this year's festival. Welcome and thank you to the artists, performers and directors who are showcasing their talents as part of this years' international theatre festival.

For yet another year and under extraordinary circumstances, this festival is bringing world-class local, national and international artists to Waterloo Region. IMPACT has always brought new stories and voices to unique locations across our community, and this year is no exception. Theatre – particularly the performances showcased at this festival – always prompts reflection, listening and conversation. It has the power to change the lives and perspectives of both performers and audiences. Thank you to everyone involved for bringing this important gift to our community.

Regional council and the residents of Waterloo Region have been proud supporters of the MT Space, whether through the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund or personal donations. We are fortunate to live in a community with rich artistic and cultural diversity. The impact of arts and culture are appreciated now more than ever.

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



Regards,

Faren Redman

Karen Redman Chair, Regional Municipality of Waterloo

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, CITY OF KITCHENER

Welcome to everyone attending IMPACT 21 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 21, September 28 through October 9, 2021, in downtown Kitchener.

At the City of Kitchener, we understand the need to support, develop and boost 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 21 theatre festival and conference will highlight both international companies and Canadian intercultural theatre groups, presenting their best works of physical theatre – something that many of us have certainly missed during the pandemic. Bringing additional excitement and innovation to this year's festival, IMPACT 21 will feature an online conference which will explore the idea of relationships that are stripped of titles and how this can help us focus on our lived experiences, while bridging gaps of awareness.

Over the course of the festival there will be something for every theatre enthusiast, as well as opportunities for those less familiar with these forms to experience live performances.

Thank you to the dedicated artists, performers, volunteers, family members and friends for supporting MT Space and its partners in making IMPACT 21 a reality in our community.

Your commitment to arts and culture is commendable, and has a very positive impact on our city!

KITCHENER



Sincerely,

Berry Vrbanovic Mayor of Kitchener

# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, CITY OF WATERLOO



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, CITY OF CAMBRIDGE



On behalf of Council and the citizens of the City of Waterloo, it is truly a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending The IMPACT 21 Festival from running September 28 to October 9, 2021.

IMPACT is a celebration for the whole family, where you can experience the best works of physical theatre from international companies alongside the latest in Canadian Intercultural theatre.

I extend my thanks to the many hardworking individuals that make this Festival possible. Efforts like yours make our community a great place to live, work and play. Waterloo Region is proud of its cultural diversity, and we are pleased that MT Space Theatre Company is hosting this unique celebration in our community.

Thank you for visiting Waterloo, and I wish each of you a wonderful time as you engage, play, and rejuvenate with hundreds of artists and visitors from across Canada.



Sincerely,

Dave Jourshy

Dave Jaworsky, Mayor of Waterloo Welcome to IMPACT 21, a reimagined festival uniting us all with the power of theatre once again.

Arts and culture are what hold our community together through challenging times. The theatre provides a creative outlet where we can share our stories of adversity and triumph.

Congratulations on forging forward through this difficult year to bring these stories to our community. IMPACT 21 allows us all the opportunity to learn from each other and to grow in our understanding of all that makes us both different and similar.

I admire the vision and creativity that led to the creation of MT Space and IMPACT 21. Our community is better because of it.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the the many organizers, designers, coordinators and of course the talent. Bringing back performances, adapted for COVID-19 cannot be an easy feat.

Without all of your hard work many of these stories would not be told in the way they deserve.



Warmest regards,

Kathryn McGarry, Mayor of Cambridge



Crowne Plaza® Kitchener Waterloo, conveniently located in the heart of "Downtown Kitchener", is a full service hotel & conference center that offers 201 guest rooms with 15,000 sq.ft. of meeting/event space.



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- Large comfortable beds with quality bedding, pillows and linens.

#### Meeting Rooms

- Ideal for conferences, meetings, weddings & social gatherings.
- Natural daylight, breakout areas. Latest audio visual technology.



- indoor swimming pool & Sauna. Hot Tub & squash courte



#### Food & Beverage

Enjoy a variety of food and drink options throughout the day, from fine dining to lighter meals at our full-service, onsite restaurant & lounge, Aqua

#### **Business Centre**

Our business center is open 24 hours offering our guests services of printing, private work station and high speed



#### **CROWNE PLAZA KITCHENER WATERLOO**

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# WHAT IS...

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Follow us on social for the latest news:

#### @TheMTSpace Facebook | Instagram | Twitter







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# COVID19 FESTIVAL POLICIES

#### THEATRE IS BACK. THEATRE IS HERE.

MT Space is thrilled to be bringing you live performance, in-person, after a challenging year and a half. To make IMPACT possible, we have re-imagined this year's festival from top to bottom – moving venues outdoors, reducing capacity, and streaming performances online.

#### WHAT WE'RE DOING TO KEEP YOU SAFE

- All in-person venues will be outdoors, including an inflatable movie screen and a specially constructed theatre tent in Victoria Park!
- Almost all in-person performances will be livestreamed online for viewing in private
- IMPACT staff and artists will undergo regular COVID-19 rapid testing during festival
- All venues have reduced capacity below Stage 3 restrictions to help with distancing
- Created a comprehensive COVID Safety Plan, hired a dedicated COVID Coordinator
- Sanitizing all chairs, equipment and surfaces after each performance
- Screening all artists, staff, crew, volunteers and patrons daily before entering festival venues

#### **FAST FACTS:**

- Over 150 COVID-19 rapid tests will be administered throughout IMPACT 21!
- All mainstage venues will have a maximum capacity of 50 audience members
- There will be a total of 40 live events over 2 weeks
- Performances will be broadcast from Chile, Tunisia, Australia, India, Lebanon and across Waterloo Region!

#### WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

#### **BEFORE YOU ARRIVE**

As we work on a return to theatre that is as safe as possible, we ask you to help us out – so that we can reopen without turning back!

If you or anyone in your household is experiencing the following, we ask that you DO NOT attend any IN-PERSON IMPACT 21 events:

- Any COVID-19 symptoms, such as: fever and/or chills, coughing, shortness of breath, decrease or loss of taste or smell, muscle aches/joint pain, extreme fatigue
- Have been told to quarantine or isolate (stay at home) by a doctor, health care
  provider, public health unit or by federal quarantine requirement (due to travel)
  within the last 14 days
- Have been identified as a 'close contact' of someone who currently has COVID-19, including via the COVID alert app
- Have tested positive for COVID-19 (any form of test) or are currently waiting on COVID-19 test results
- Live with someone who is currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/ or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms

There will be COVID-19 screening and contact tracing at all of our in-person venues to confirm that our audiences are not experiencing any of the above.

If you cannot attend an in-person IMPACT performance that you have tickets for due to any of the situations outlined above, please contact our box office at tickets@mtspace.ca or 519-585-7763 to change your tickets to a livestreamed performance you can watch at home.

#### WHEN YOU ARE HERE

If you will be joining us in person at IMPACT 21, we ask that you:

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth at all times (including during performances)
- Participate in COVID-screening and contact tracing
- Follow directions from our ushers to enter and exit shows
- Have the COVID Alert app activated on your smartphone
- Follow public health guidelines at all times

While IMPACT 21 will be a little different this year, we look forward to welcoming you back to the theatre and putting the stories that matter centerstage. Thank you for being with us on this journey!

# 'COME BACK TO IMPACT'

#### THANK YOU FOR COMING BACK TO IMPACT!

On September 1, we launched our biennial crowdfunding campaign, 'Come Back to IMPACT'.

We aim to raise \$20,000 from this campaign and would love your support.

The festival this year dives into the issues that were brought to light over the past year from the lived and ancestral experiences of Indigenous, Black, and racialized artists, while also holding space for conversation and relationship.

In a time when we hope to dismantle systems and reshape society, we ask ourselves, "How do we begin again?"

As we demonstrate our resilience by carefully re-opening our doors and carving out spaces for artists to tell their stories, we invite you to Come Back to IMPACT. Come take a stand with us as we use theatre as a means to challenge and instigate societal change.

Making a donation to this campaign will help us to pay artists, to reconnect with our national and international networks, and to bring communities together to create a community of difference. Help us make IMPACT!

THANK YOU to those of you who have already donated!

#### Donate at:

indiegogo.com/projects/come-back-to-impact







# **OPENING CEREMONY**

Directed by Cosmic Fishing Theatre's The B Party SEPTEMBER 28 @ 7:00 PM WILLIAM ST PARKING LOT, WATERLOO & ONLINE IN-PERSON: INVITE ONLY / ONLINE: FREE

Join us as we kick off our seventh biennial theatre festival, IMPACT 21!

Directed by local theatre artists, Viktorija Kovac and Nada Abusaleh, the opening ceremonies will showcase a sample of the amazing talent found in Waterloo Region with musical and dance performances not to be missed. While the event will be limited for in-person attendance, it will also be livestreamed online for anyone looking to dive right into two weeks of transformative experiences.

#### Hosted by Sam Mercury & Cameron Smith.

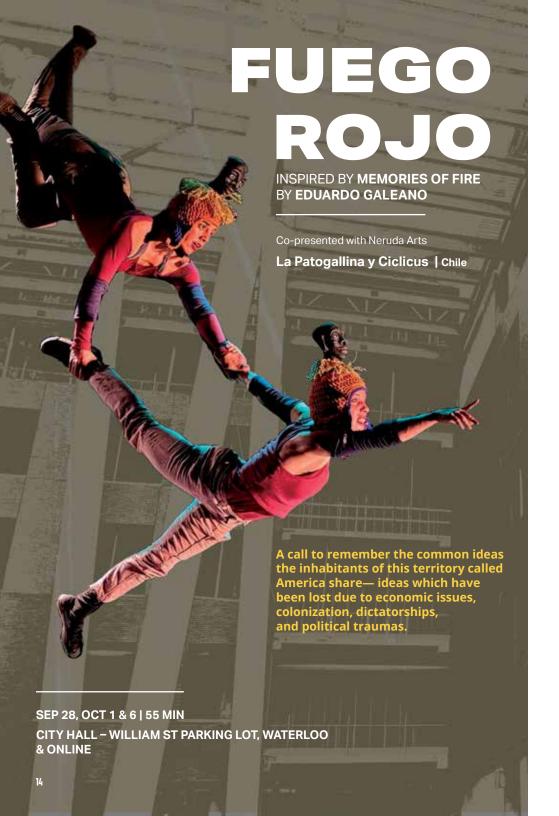
Sam Mercury and Cameron Smith are two theatre artists in the K-W and Mississauga area, respectively. When they're not working on their own projects, they use their combined talents in writing, acting, voiceover, and visual art to form "Chill Spot," a production company consisting of comedy sketches, podcasts, and Twitch streams.



Watch on Facebook live! facebook.com/TheMTSpace

Livestream on Youtube – visit mtspace.ca/impact21/ on opening day for correct links – subscribe and stay tuned to us on YouTube at MTSpaceTheatre.

# HOW DO WE BEGIN AGAIN?



A funeral is transformed into a pagan celebration, a coffin becomes a portal which brings forth the voices of Atahualpa and Jemanya, and the rituals of the Yawar and shrines to the dead are put on display in this rustic opera. Physical theater and contemporary circus mix and meld, breathing life into a series of dreamlike landscapes through the use of object manipulation, poetic imagery, and live music.

A Latin America under construction is presented in this dynamic production that speaks to us about the tension that exists between our memory of the past and our experience of the present, raising the questions: How much of that past have we lost? How much of it lives within us in the present? Is it possible to reconnect with that past?

#### **About the Company**

La Patogallina is a street theatre company born in 1996 with their experimental project A Sangre e Pato. As a result of this first project, they were invited to Argentina to the First International Conference of Street Theater and Circus Arts where they experienced a fascinating and fertile independent street art movement that became a fundamental moment in the company's development.

Ever since these fruitful and successful beginnings, the company has worked incessantly on new projects and creative processes. To date, after 20 years of activity and dedication, the company accounts for a broad catalogue of original productions.

Currently, La Patogallina is composed of 16 members, among which are actors, musicians, producers and other members of diverse artistic backgrounds.

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

Ministerio de las culturas las artes y el patrimonio, Fundación FITAM

#### **Show Credits**

Director Martin Erazo (Chile)

Original Idea & Dramaturgy

Martin Erazo &

Leandro Mendoza (España)

Assistant Director Francisca Arce

#### Cast

Francisca Arce Gloria Salgado Francisca Artaza Valentina Weingart Alex Carreño Matias Burgos Juan Ferino

Musical Creation & Interpretation

Alejandra Muñoz

Wardrobe Design **Antonio Sepúlveda** 

Lighting Design Martin Erazo

Accessory & Headdress Design

**Gabriela Gonzalez & Natalia Morales** 

Puppets (Apu Condor) Tomas O'Ryan

Circus Equipment Design

**Leandro Mendoza & Ulrich Weigel** 

Stage Design Taller La Patogallina

Sound Design Pablo Contreras

Circus Coach Exzequiel Silva

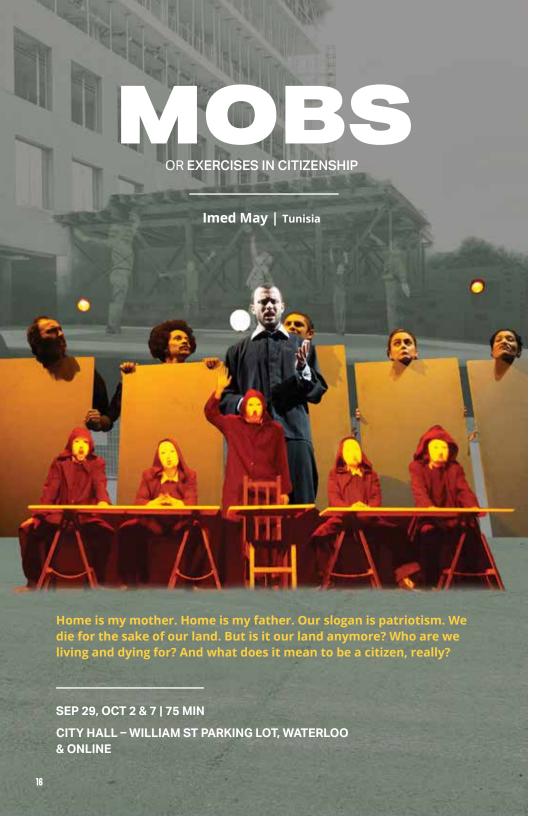
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Communications & Press José Arroyo

Graphic Design Tomás Yves

Production

Lorena Ojeda S. Minga Producción Escénica



Winner of the title prize at the inaugural International Ezzeddine Gannoun Festival for Theatre in Tunis.

Following a national uprising that led to the dismantling of one system and the establishment of another in Tunisia, *Mobs (or Exercises in Citizenship)* analyzes the friction between honouring and respecting homeland and participating in society as an upstanding citizen.

#### About the Creator

Imed May is the author of several dramatic works including *Barshman*, *Al – Rahut*, *les sans-visages*, and *Mobs (or Exercises in Citizenship)*. The latter was presented at various festivals, notably the 10th session of the Arab Theater Festival and the 19th session of the Carthage Theater Days in Tunisia where it won the Najeeba Al-Hamrouni Prize.

His complete works were also awarded in Jordan at the 25th session of the Journées du Théâtre. Currently, Imed May is working as a teacher of educational theatre. Holder of a doctorate, he also conducts research in philosophy and theatre.

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

Biffalo-Art Ministry of Culture, Republic of Tunisia

#### **Show Credits**

Written & Directed by Imed May
Co-Director Ghassen Elghadhab

#### Cast

Walid Ben Abdesslam Abdelkader Ben Said Ali Ben Said Ghassen Elghadhab Emna Kouki Mouna Talmoudi

Production Manager Mohamed Sassi Ghorbeli

Costume Abdesslam Djemal

Lighting **Touti** 

Music & Sound Zein Abdelkafi

Lutist Chiheb Eddine Ezzehi

Vocalist Ali Ben Said

Masks Moheddine Ben Abdallah

Set Mahdi Elkafi

Photography & Design Rock Raven



Lara, a Sydney mum working interstate as a dancer, receives a distress call from her youngest son. Dad hasn't been seen for days and they are running out of food. Lara has only the weekend to traverse the world of high-rise public housing, drug dealing, and addiction to track him down.

And if she succeeds, what will she find?

The Weekend is a rollercoaster ride into one woman's nightmare scenario, one from which she emerges a little wiser about the world and herself. Dancer-turned-playwright Henrietta Baird's one-woman play blends laughter, hope, love, and loss into a young family's search for a new beginning.

The Weekend was first developed at Yellamundie Festival 2017, had its world premiere with Moogahlin Performing Arts at Carriageworks as part of the 2019 Sydney Festival, and subsequently presented at BATS Theatre in Wellington for the Kia Mau Festival.

#### **About the Company**

Moogahlin Performing Arts was formed on Gadigal country in Redfern N.S.W in November 2007, by a group of First Peoples performance artists, educators and community workers.

Bunuba man Frederick Copperwaite, Murriwarri woman Lily Shearer, and Biripai woman Liza-Mare Syron established the company at the request of the late Kevin Smith who wished to bring performing arts back to the community of Redfern, in honour of the founding members of the National Black Theatre.

Moogahlin Performing Arts was incorporated in 2009, with Redfern Community Centre and Gadigal Information Service hosting them until they became a resident company of Carriageworks in 2014. In 2015 the Co-Founders stepped down from the Board to become Co-Artistic Directors, and joined Yorta Yorta theatre maker Andrea James from 2015 – 2016 to form a peer-based Artistic Directorship model utilizing cultural principles to provide a supportive, yet critical and interrogative framework for the discussion and development of new work.

Moogahlin's first production was the third instalment of the PACT led project *Gathering Ground* in 2010 at the Block in Redfern Sydney, a community performance development project. Since that time the program has grown to include three key festivals, the Yellamundie National First Peoples Storytelling Festival, Baiame's Nguungu Festival in Brewarrina, and Koori Gras with the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, as well as several new work developments and artist and sector development initiatives.

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

Supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW, and the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts and the Catalyst — Australian Arts and Culture Fund.

#### **Show Credits**

Playwright Henrietta Baird

Director Liza-Mare Syron

Performed by **Shakira Clanton** 

Producer Lily Shearer

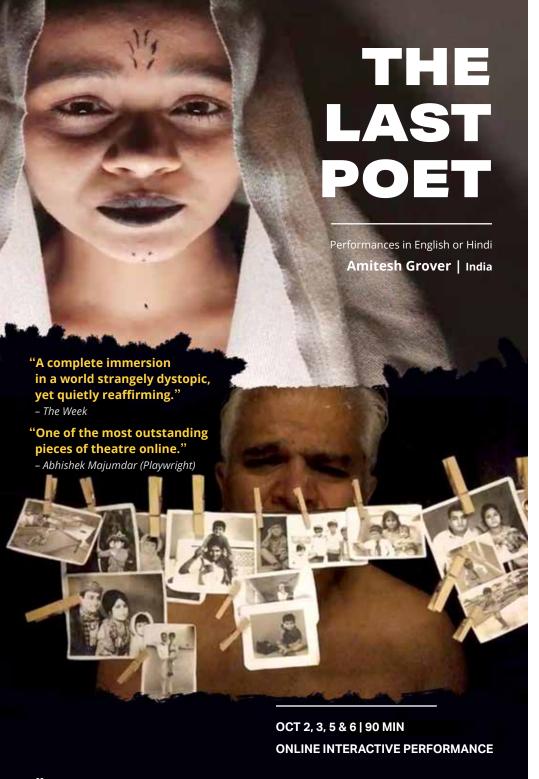
Choreography Vicki Van Hout

Sound Design & Composition

Nick Wales & Rhyan Clapham (Dobby)

Lighting Design Karen Norris

Set Design Kevin O'Brien



A poet disappears abruptly, leaving his world haunted. This world has no fringe—its towers, minarets, tunnels and rooms lead one into the other endlessly. In there, we meet a weaver, a prosecutor, a daughter, a publisher, a bereaved student, and several more characters, all of whom tell us about the vanished poet and unravel the mystery behind his disappearance. In this maddening world of desire, rumour, and regret, the poet's poems appear as phantom notes that speak truth to power, and we wonder: Can a poet change the world? Will they let him?

Like a flaneur gliding through a virtualtentacular city, the audience navigates this world on internet-enabled devices.

While watching the show, we might choose to step into a floating room, stay back and listen, or travel to another one. *The Last Poet* is an online interactive performance that brings together theatre, film, sound art, creative coding, and digital scenography. It is India's first theatre-forthe-internet.

#### **About the Creator**

Amitesh Grover (b.1980) is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist. He moves beyond theatre into installation, digital and text-based art. His work delves into themes like the dyad of absence/presence, staging abandonment, the necessity of remembering, the performance of resistance to keep on living, and how to embody unsayable knowledge. He is the recipient of several international grants and artist residencies, and his work is shown globally in theatres, galleries, public spaces, and on the internet. He also teaches and curates for performance and is based in New Delhi. India.

#### **Show Credits**

Conceived & Directed by  ${\bf Amitesh\ Grover}$ 

Written by Sarah Mariam

Scenography & Tech Design **Ajaibghar** 

Films Annette Jacob

Creative Tech

Praveen Sinha & Gagandeep Singh

Sound Suvani Suri & Abhishek Mathur

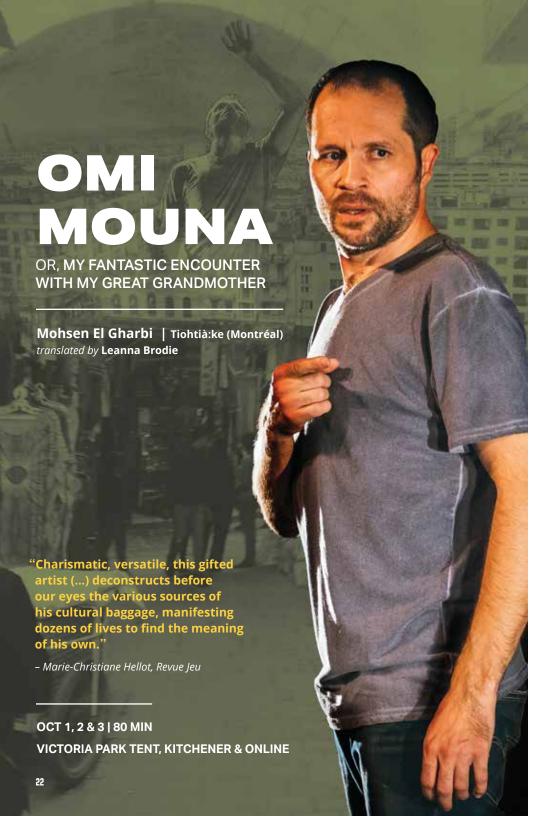
Assistant Director Pankhuri Zaheer

#### Cast

Ashwath Bhatt Atul Kumar Dipti Mahadev Pallav Singh Bhagyashree Tarke

SPECIAL NOTE
Ticket sales for *The Last Poet*end 2 hours before start time.

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Inspired by real life events, *Omi Mouna* is a tragicomic play that the actor, Mohsen El Gharbi, improvises every evening.

A man investigates the source of the violence he suffered as a child. Dominated by a fear of having inherited his father's brutality, Mohsen goes to Tunisia to film his great-grandmother, Omi Mouna, and retrace the history of her family.

He finds himself thrown back to when she was a young girl, martyred by a tyrannical husband. Mohsen then becomes an invisible witness of dramatic events.

Inspired by fragments of memories,
Mohsen, like an archaeologist, reconstructs
the significant events in the life of Omi
Mouna and discovers a long history of
women's resilience and struggle. The
monodrama unfolds on a bare stage,
where the actor, by his acting alone,
manages to resuscitate a whole world.
This story comes to us with humour,
self-mockery, and tenderness. Mohsen El
Gharbi, playing a multitude of characters,
immerses us in a fantastic and funny world
that can also hurt. Omi Mouna is a poetic
mural that tries to understand the violence
that perpetuates in the world.

#### **About the Creator**

Mohsen El Gharbi is an author, actor and director born in Antwerp by a Flemish mother and a Tunisian father. Mohsen is a graduate of the LASSAAD International Theatre School (Jacques Lecoq pedagogy, Brussels). He refined his training with Ariane Mouchkine, Dario Fo, Yoshi Oida. He has been living in Montreal since 1997.

He is the author of five solos, *Omi Mouna*, *Once upon a time... Omi Mouna*, *The Last Role*, *Just for Die - Monologue of a Failed Kamikaze!* and most recently *Omi Mouna*  or My Fantastic Encounter With My Great-Grandmother.

He has participated in several theatre productions, including Trois (Mani Soleymanlou), L'énigme Camus - une passion algérienne (Jean-Marie Papapietro), The Poster (Arianna Bardesono), Mr. Goldberg Goes To Tel Aviv (Guy Spring), L'orangeraie (Claude Poissant), Là où le sang se mêle (Charles Bender).

In 2016, he directed his first short film, *The secret of Omi Mouna*, selected in several festivals. He will perform *Omi Mouna* at the IMPACT 21 Festival in English. This will be the first time he performs one of his solo shows in English after having already performed in Dutch. The Montreal Englishlanguage premiere will be produced by Infinithéâtre in November 2021 and will be co-directed by Zach Fraser.

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

L'acteur en marche Collectif Honey Haloua Infinithéâtre Canada Council for the Arts Cole Foundation

#### **Show Credits**

Producer

L'Acteur en Marche & Collectif Honey Haloua

Playwright, Actor & Director Mohsen El Gharbi

English Translation Leanna Brodie

Artistic Advisor for the English Version & Diction Coach

**Zach Fraser** 

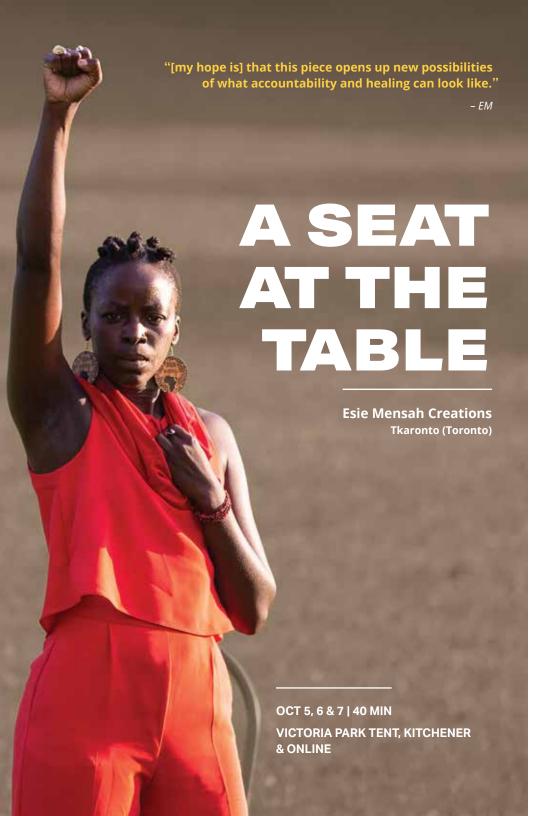
Artistic Advisor Jean-Marie Papapietro

Dramaturgical Advisor Patrick Cady

Lighting Designer Armando Gomez Rubio

Lighting Adaptation Audrey-Anne Bouchard

Stage Manager Claude Lemelin



A Seat at the Table is an ode to the complexities and realities of the black experience. This solo performance created by Esie Mensah was birthed from the tragedies that have occurred throughout the world and the impact of a global shift towards accountability. A continuation of her highly acclaimed film, TESSEL. Mensah wants to continue the conversation by unpacking the emotional rollercoaster that racism and colonialism have had on our spirits. We are tired and honesty still feels too hard to express. Not allowing fear to mute our true feelings, Mensah explores the reality of giving the audience a seat at the table to the black experience.

#### **About the Creator**

Esie Mensah (she/her) is an artist whose creative footprint extends into many genres, disciplines, and regions. As a dancer, choreographer, director, educator, and public speaker, Mensah's mastery of storytelling is as diverse as her experience. From working with megastars like Rihanna, Drake, and Arcade Fire to historic brands like Coca-Cola, TIFF, and the Toronto Raptors, this powerful woman shows no sign of slowing down.

She was a featured speaker at TEDxToronto 2019, where she spoke about her experience as a dark-skinned dancer and the process of creating her Doranominated production *Shades*. Her short film, A Revolution of Love, opened Toronto History Museum's ongoing Awakenings initiative alongside works by celebrity Chef Roger Mooking and Director X. She has led equity and inclusion work at Sheridan College, the Royal Academy of Dance, the University of Calgary, and is an Artistic Advisor at The National Ballet School. She is a faculty member of George Brown College and is a mentee of acclaimed dance artist Akram Khan through Why Not Theatre's Fellowship Program. More recently, Esie announced the world premiere of her newest short film, TESSEL, co-commissioned by Fall For Dance North and Habourfront Centre. TESSEL is a national call of healing supported by 21 dance organizations from across Canada, streaming online at www.tessel.film.

#### **Show Credits**

Directed & Performed by

**Esie Mensah** 

Lighting & Set Design

**Steve Lucas** 

Stage Manager/Spiritual Advisor

Samson Bonkeabantu Brown



We are traceable to the very beginnings of the universe, our ancestral origins stretching across the Milky Way to the atoms burning inside of us in the 'here and now' on earth. *Trace* is a highly kinetic contemporary dance work inspired by Indigenous (Anishinaabe) sky and star stories, offering a glimpse into our origin as well as our future evolution.

Winner of two Dora Mavor Moore Awards and nominated for four Dora Awards.

#### **About the Company**

Red Sky Performance is a leading company of contemporary Indigenous performance in Canada and worldwide.

Led by Artistic Director Sandra Laronde of the Teme-Augama-Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water), they are currently in their 18th year of dance, theatre, music, and media.

Their mission is to create inspiring experiences of contemporary Indigenous arts and culture that transform society. They create, produce, and disseminate new creations and events that illuminate themes, aesthetics, and values of importance to Indigenous peoples.

They significantly influence the evolution of Indigenous-made work and share their work across Canadian provinces and territories and with the world.

Touring since 2003, they have delivered over 2,253 performances across Canada including international performances in 17 countries on four continents, including landmark events such as at two Cultural Olympiads (Beijing and Vancouver), opened *Canada* at World Expo in Shanghai, and opened *UNCEDED: Voices of the Land* at the Venice Biennale.

They are the recipient of eight Dora Mavor Moore awards and nominations, two Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, three International Youth Drama Awards from Shenzhen, China, and the Smithsonian Expressive Award, among other recognitions.

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

Original commission and in association with Canadian Stage.

World premiere at Canadian Stage in November 2018. US premiere at Jacob's Pillow in August 2019.

#### **Show Credits**

Director & Concept Sandra Laronde
Choreography Jera Wolfe
Music & Sound Design Eliot Britton
Lighting Design Alexis Bowles
Video & Screen Design Marcelle Grimaux
Costume Design Kinoo Arcentales

Stage Manager **Sarah Miller**Lighting Director **Chris Malkowski** 

Cast

Miyeko Ferguson Lindsay Harpham Tyler Layton-Olson Sarah Di Lorio Jessica Mak Connor Mitton FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SHOWS - WEEK ONE			PG.	TUE SEP 28	WED SEP 29	THU SEP 30	FRI OCT 01	SAT OCT 02	SUN OCT 03
Opening Ceremony		60m	12	7pm*					
Fuego Rojo	FILM-W IP&ON	55m	14	8pm*			8pm		
Black Flags	PARK-K IP&ON	60m	36		7pm*	1pm   7pm			
Mobs	FILM-W IP&ON	75m	16		8pm*			8pm	
The Bell الجرس	HAUS-W IPO!	70m	38		9pm*	9pm	1pm		
Asphalt Jungle Shorts	VOGEL-K IPO!	70m	44			8pm*	8pm	8pm	
The Weekend	FILM-W IP&ON	70m	18			8pm*			
I Don't Know	GAOL-K IP&ON	50m	40				7pm*	9pm	1pm
Omi Mouna	PARK-K IP&ON	80m	22				9pm*	7pm	2:30pm
This is Not a Conversation	ONLINE!	60m	28					1pm*	
The Last Poet	ONLINE!	90m	20					9pm*	9pm
DiSCoVeR	ONLINE!	25m	46						10* 10:30* 11am
CONFERENCE									
#HowDoWeBeginAgain?	ONLINE!		50		opening 5-7pm	11 - 4pm*	11 - 4pm*	11 - 4pm*	
NIGHTLIFE									
Festival Bar	BAR-K IPO!		51	9-11p	7-11p	7-11p	7-11p	2-11p	
Virtual Bar on Kumo Space	ONLINE!		51	7-11p	7-11p	7-11p	7-11p	7-11p	7-11p

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#### ON VENUES

#### .00

City Hall-William Street \_ot

#### NER

- **Gaol Yard**
- Kitchener Market Piazza Face' Festival Bar
- Schneider Haus
- Victoria Park Main Tent
- = Vogelsang Green

SHOWS - WEEK TWO			PG.	TUE OCT 05	WED OCT 06	THU OCT 07	FRI OCT 08	SAT OCT 09
This is Not a Conversation	ONLINE!	60m	34	1pm			1pm	
A Seat at the Table	PARK-K IP&ON	40m	24	7pm*	9pm	1pm		
The Weekend	FILM-W IP&ON	70m	18	8pm			8pm	
The Last Poet	ONLINE!	90m	20	9pm	9pm			
NAC Free Rein Dance	GAOL-K IP&ON	30m	48	9pm*	2:30pm	7pm		
Fuego Rojo	FILM-W IP&ON	55m	14		8pm			
Mobs	FILM-W IP&ON	75m	16			8pm		
Asphalt Jungle Shorts	VOGEL-K IPO!	45m	44			8pm*	8pm	8pm
Trace	TENT-K IP&ON	60m	26			9pm*	9pm	7pm
Stretch Marks	GAOL-K IP&ON	75m	42				7pm*	2:30pm   9pm
DiSCoVeR	ONLINE!	25m	46					10   10:30   11ar
CONFERENCE								
#HowDoWeBeginAgain?	ONLINE!		50			11 - 4pm*	11 - 4pm*	11 - 4pm*
NIGHTLIFE								
Festival Bar	BAR-K IPO!		51	7-11p	7-11p	7-11p	7-11p	7-11p
Virtual Bar on Kumo Space	ONLINE!		51	7-11p	7-11p	7-11p	7-11p	7-11p

#### **NLINE VENUES**

Facebook Live:

acebook.com/TheMTSpace

Conference - Info & Registration:

tspace.ca/conference/

KUMO Space

umospace.com/MTSpace

#### **HOW TYPES**

- IP&ON = In-Person AND Online
- ONLINE! = Online Only!
- IPO! = In-Person Only!

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OTE: Schedule subject to change! neck mtspace.ca/impact21 for most up-to-date schedule.

Indicates Unique/Opening Performance or Event

### **VENUES**

#### **WATERLOO**

#### City Hall - William St Parking Lot | (FILM-W)

Shows: International films – Fuego Rojo, Mobs, The Weekend Closest Intersection is Regina St S and William St E in Waterloo, across William from Waterloo City Hall at 100 Regina St South

#### **KITCHENER**

#### Victoria Park Main Tent, Kitchener | (PARK-K)

Shows: A Seat at the Table, Black Flags, Omi Mouna, Trace Closest Intersection is Jubilee Drive and David Street / Across Jubilee Drive from Victoria Park Lake, the main tent will be towards the parking lot off of Jubilee – near the public washrooms, in the same field as the Kitchener Clock Tower.

#### Kitchener Gaol Yard | (GAOL-K)

Shows: I Don't Know, NAC 'FREE REIN' Dance Residency, Stretch Marks Closest Intersections are Queen St N / Frederick St and Weber St E Access from both Queen and Frederick

#### Schneider Haus, Kitchener | (HAUS-K)

Show: الجرس The Bell (IN-PERSON ONLY!) 466 Queen St S, Kitchener

#### Vogelsang Green, Kitchener | (VOGEL-K)

Show: Asphalt Jungle Shorts – Starting point (IN-PERSON ONLY!) Green Space at Intersection of Queen St N and Duke St E

SPECIAL NOTE: Asphalt Jungle Shorts, a collection of short plays, involves walking from play to play and standing while the shows play out in the concrete jungle of downtown Kitchener – wear appropriate footwear and gauge your own level of comfort and fitness for this show. Approx 45 mins runtime.

#### Kitchener Market Piazza | (BAR-K)

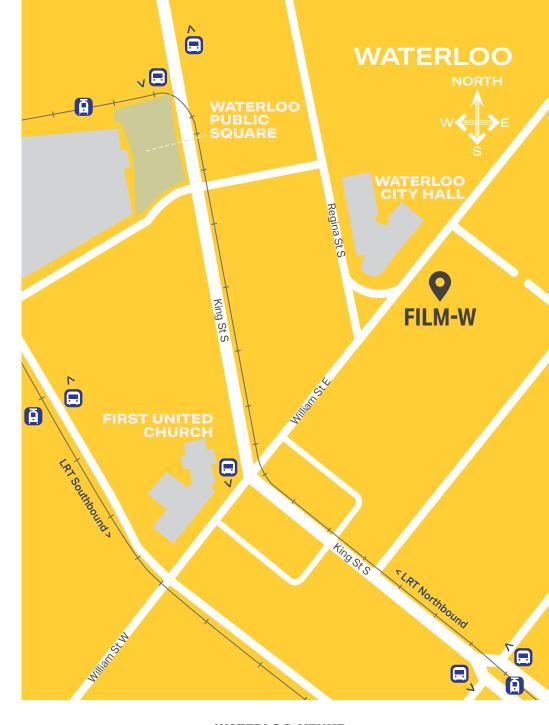
'FACE to FACE' Festival Bar 300 King St E, Kitchener

#### **ONLINE ONLY!**

Shows: DiSCoVeR, #HowDoWeBeginAgain Conference, This is Not a Conversation. The Last Poet

SPECIAL NOTE: All in-person venues are outdoors, in open air (except Victoria Park) – please dress accordingly and abide by weather advisories.

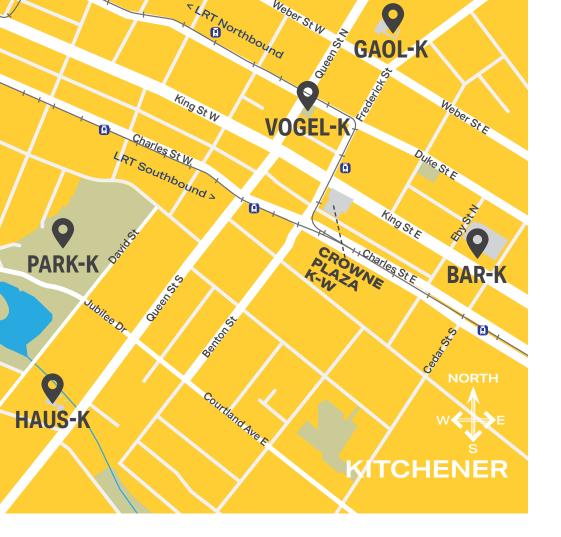
Visit mtspace.ca/impact21/ for latest updates.



#### **WATERLOO VENUE**

City Hall - William St Parking Lot | (FILM-W)

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#### **KITCHENER VENUES**

Victoria Park Main Tent | (PARK-K) Gaol Yard | (GAOL-K) Schneider Haus | (HAUS-K) Vogelsang Green | (VOGEL-K) Market Piazza | (BAR-K)

# TICKET INFO

#### Festival Pass \$121 (on sale until MON, OCT 4, 11:59pm) Single Tickets Sliding Scale \$10-30

Passes & Tickets available at mtspace.ca/impact21



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We strongly encourage you to buy tickets in advance on TicketScene. Tickets may also be reserved by emailing tickets@mtspace.ca or calling or Box Office at 519-585-7763 and paying in cash at the door. 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. Please bring cash if possible for purchasing tickets at the door.

Most shows take place both in-person and online; if you feel unwell and unable to attend an in-person show, email tickets@mtspace.ca and an IMPACT staff member will forward you the link to watch the show online, or you may exchange your ticket for another show.

If you bought a ticket, you will receive an email within 24 hours before the show you are planning to attend. This email will contain COVID screening questions for in-person shows, your personal show link for online shows, and any special notes regarding the performance.

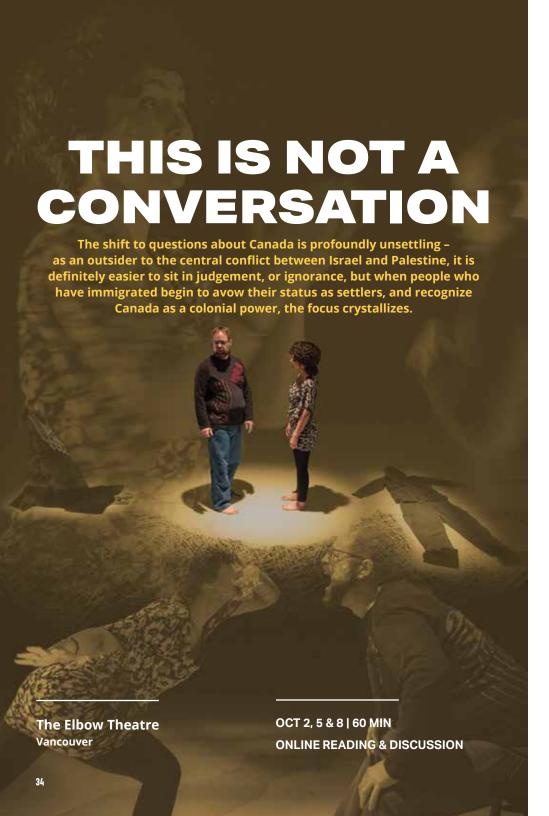
For in-person shows, make sure to dress appropriately - if there is a light drizzle, the show will go on. A rain coat or a sweater may be helpful. Note that in the case of heavy rain, a show may be cancelled.

If you have questions, please call or email our Box Office:

phone 519-585-7763 | email tickets@mtspace.ca

#### **Additional Notes:**

- . Festival Passes are on sale until Monday, October 4 at 11:59pm
- · Advance tickets for in-person shows and The Last Poet are on sale until 2h before start time
- · Advance tickets for online shows are available until the show starts



This is Not a Conversation: a performance in words and actions about guilt, memory, identity, and the nature of responsibility.

Dima's father is a Palestinian from Jerusalem, where she is not allowed to visit. Itai is an Israeli from Jerusalem, who was a soldier in Palestine. Both are natural storytellers and improvisers. Both are very passionate about the conflict. What happens when you put them on stage together? This is not a conversation.

The situation in Palestine and Israel has become the quintessentially unresolvable conflict of our time. Successive generations and governments have discussed, negotiated, and fought over an area of land smaller than Vancouver Island, and home to over twelve million people, and a peaceful solution has never seemed more remote than in the past vear. Itai Erdal was born in Israel and served with the Israeli Army in Lebanon and Palestine. Shortly after he left the army, he decided that he also had to leave Israel, and in 1999 he came to Canada. Dima Alansari is a grandchild of Palestinians exiled from Jerusalem during the 1948 forced exodus. She has never been allowed to visit Palestine. In 2013 Itai and Dima met at a dinner party in Vancouver.

Developed with director Ker Wells, a first draft workshop production was invited to the 2015 IMPACT Festival in Kitchener, and the show premiered at the 2017 Spark Festival in Victoria.

Dedicated to the loving memory of our late director Ker Wells.

#### **About the Company**

The Elbow Theatre was founded in 2012 by Itai Erdal with the purpose of creating and producing thought-provoking theatre about political and social subject matters.

The Elbow's past projects include:

White Rabbit / Red Rabbit by Nassim Soleimanpour; Flee by David Hudgins, a co-production between The Elbow, The Electric Company, Studio 58 and Barking Sphinx; A Very Narrow Bridge by Itai Erdal, Anita Rochon and Maiko Yamamoto; Hyperlink by Itai Erdal and TJ Dawe, directed by Rachel Peake.

This Is Not A Conversation by Dima Alansari and Itai Erdal, directed by Ker Wells, has received funding from the BC Arts Council, The City of Vancouver, and the Canada Council for the Arts. A version of the show premiered at the North American Culture Lab in upstate New York in May 2016, and its official world premiere was presented by the Belfry Theatre in Victoria at the 2017 SPARK Festival. It was extremely well received by audiences and critics alike. The Elbow is in talks with national and international presenters about touring the show.

#### **Show Credits**

Written by

Itai Erdal, Dima Alansari & Ker Wells

Director Ker Wells

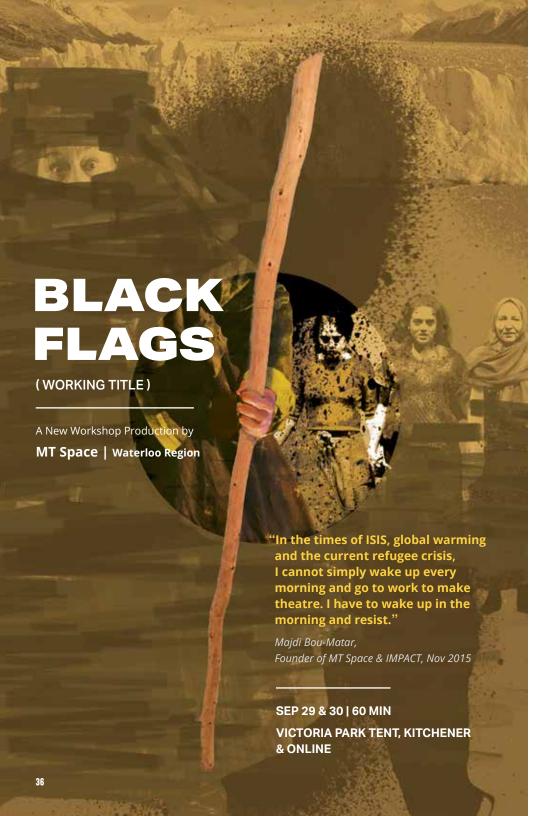
Cast

Dima Alansari Itai Erdal

Design Itai Erdal

Sound Jeremy Thierren

Photography **Peter Pokorny** 



On a creative hiatus for the past two years, MT Space began work on our new creation this summer. This new piece began as the third installation of an informal trilogy including previous productions, *The Last 15 Seconds* and *AMAL* - both of which are still touring internationally.

An attempt to recognize how much has changed since creating shows that delve into issues of terrorism, extremism, and occupation—this new work was going to explore the roles that Canada and the United States play in perpetuating extremism.

Now, two years later, theatre as a livelihood has taken on a whole new meaning for many artists within our own communities.

#### Our stories are a form of resistance.

Before pouring our hearts and our emotions into this new work, we took some time and space to be together – to mourn, to sit in our heaviness, to acknowledge that we didn't come out of the past two years okay, but we did arrive here still standing.

What began as a work exploring the ideas of extremism quickly evolved into a piece that centers women and our endurance, injustices committed against us, and what pushes us towards our own tipping points.

#### **About the Company**

MT Space was founded upon the value of centralizing marginalized and racialized artists and stories, filling what seemed to be a great void in a community of many different peoples. MT Space was founded in 2004 by Lebanese-Canadian Majdi Bou-Matar, who is a trained director, actor, and dancer. Majdi relocated to Canada when his wife was accepted to University of Waterloo to pursue a PhD. Thinking

that Majdi would continue his career in Canada as a multi-talented artist, he auditioned with various theatre companies in Southern Ontario. After receiving the same criticism over and over, hearing that his accent was too thick or that he "didn't look the part", Majdi decided to create a company that would become a platform for all artists that felt marginalized, racialized, and displaced.

This is how MT Space was born.

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

First United Church for welcoming us back to rehearsals with open arms and enormous smiles.

Our mothers – for inspiring us, driving us bananas, and carrying the load with incredible resilience.

#### **Show Credits**

Co-conceived by

Pam Patel & Gary Kirkham

Co-creator & Outside Eye Gülce Oral

Text Development Gary Kirkham

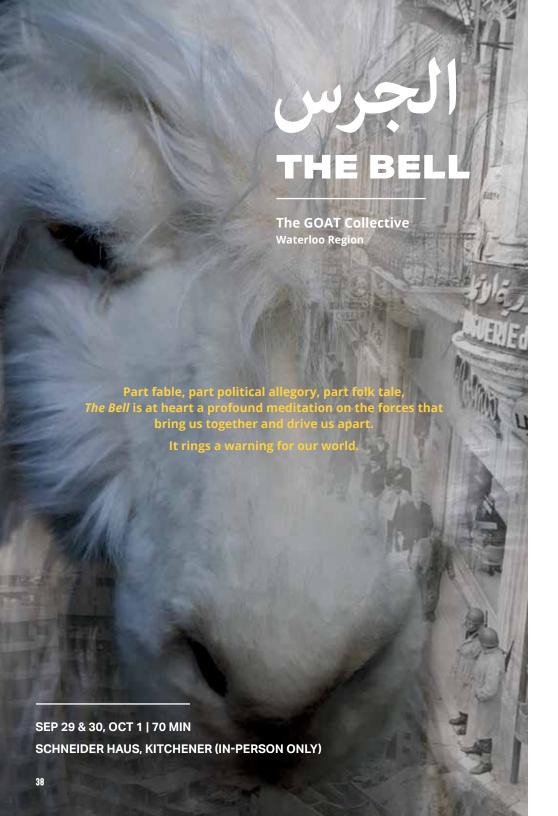
Dramaturgy Ric Knowles

Sound Design & Musician

Mary Abdel-Malek Neil

Created & Performed by Bó Bárdos Mya Gomez Nada Humsi Sarah Nairne

Lizzie Song Pam Patel



A herd of goats.

The late 1980s.

The Lebanese civil war.

An ageing goatherd weaves a tale of chaos, laughter, and regret.

The Bell is a unique collaboration on a Lebanese script, translated and performed by a Lebanese Canadian, directed by a Filipina Canadian, dramaturged by a white settler Canadian, and co-starring a herd of stuffed goats.

#### **About the Company**

The GOAT Collective, an intercultural team of senior artists and friends Nina Lee Aquino, Majdi Bou-Matar, and Ric Knowles, was formed for this production as a model of intercultural communication and cooperation.

With a string of firsts in Asian Canadian theatre, Nina Lee Aquino was the founding Artistic Director of fu-GEN Asian Canadian theatre company, organized the first Asian Canadian theatre conference, edited the first (2-volume) Asian Canadian play anthology, and co-edited the first (awardwinning) book on Asian Canadian theatre. She became Artistic Director of Cahoots Theatre and currently holds the same position at Factory Theatre. Awards for her work include the Ken McDougall Award 2004, the Canada Council John Hirsch Prize 2008, the Toronto Arts Foundation's Margo Bindhart and Rita Davies Cultural Leadership Award, the Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best Director, and three Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Direction.

Ric Knowles has worked for over forty years as a director and dramaturge at theatres ranging from Mulgrave Road to the Stratford Festival, most recently

specializing in facilitating intercultural performance practice. He is University Professor Emeritus at the University of Guelph, former editor of Theatre Journal, Modern Drama, and Canadian Theatre Review, and award-winning author or editor of over twenty books on theatre and performance.

Majdi Bou-Matar was the Founding Artistic Director of both MT Space and IMPACT Festival. He has directed and acted in productions in Beirut, Tunisia, Toronto, Vancouver, and Whitehorse, and his productions at MT Space have included Seasons of Immigration, Yes or NO!, Exit Strategy, and the widely touring and highly acclaimed Body 13, AMAL, The Raft, and The Last 15 Seconds, the last of which has toured within Canada and throughout the Middle East for over a decade.

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

Produced in association with:

Ontario Arts Council Wuchien Michael Than Foundation Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

#### **Show Credits**

Playwright Rafic Ali Ahmad

Translators Majdi Bou-Matar & Paddy Gillard-Bentley

Director Nina Lee Aquino

Performer Majdi Bou-Matar

Dramaturge Ric Knowles

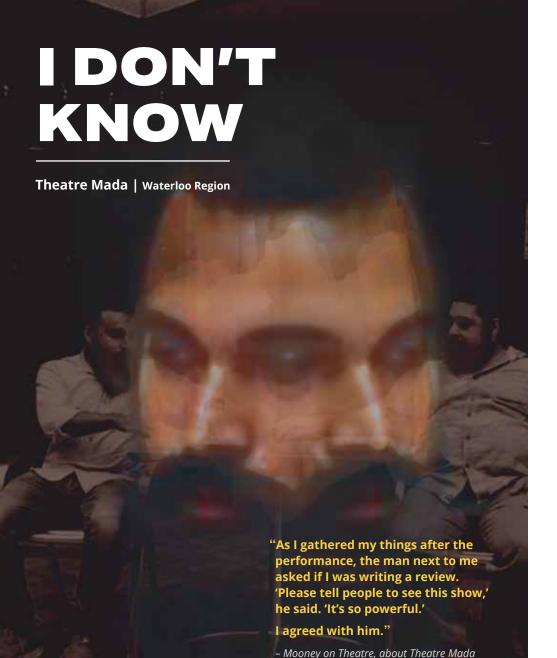
Lighting Designer Michelle Ramsay

Composer & Sound Designer

Michelle Bensimon

Producer/Production Manager

**Richard Lee** 



Saeed is a troubled man in an intense negotiation with a regular visitor. Saeed suffers from a paralyzing fear of disease, disability, and death. The visitor badgers him in an attempt to take over Saeed, continuously provoking a fight or flight response. Saeed is so overwhelmed that he is no longer able to distinguish who is his doctor and who is his psychiatrist.

The question is, who is the visitor and who is Saeed?

I Don't Know will have its world premiere at IMPACT 21.

#### **About the Company**

Theatre Mada is a collective of Arab theatre artists living in the Waterloo Region. Mada means horizon in Arabic.

#### **About the Playwright**

Ahmad Meree is an actor and writer born in Aleppo, Syria. He is a graduate from the Higher Institute of Theatre Arts in Cairo. Winner of an emerging artist award at Arts Awards Waterloo Region (2019) and the Best Actor Award at the Central Theatre Festival in Syria (2008), he directed Ionesco's *The Lesson* in Egypt and won Best Director Award for directing Chekhov's The Bear at Cairo's Festival of International Theatre (2013). Ahmad came to Canada as a refugee in 2016 and currently lives in Kitchener, ON, where he works with MT Space as an artistic associate, facilitator and co-director of their Young Company. Ahmad has written four plays including I Don't Know (2021), Suitcase (2019), and Adrenaline (2017) - which he toured to the Ryga Festival in Summerland, BC, UNO Fest in Victoria, BC, and SummerWorks Performance Festival in Toronto where Adrengline was nominated for a Dora in Outstanding Touring Production in 2020 and Underground (2014) which was Winner

of Best Original Script in the University competition. *Suitcase/Adrenaline* were published in a book format in 2020 by Scirocco Drama.

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

The production is supported by Canada Council for the Arts and Region of Waterloo Arts Fund.

The writing stage was supported by Ontario Arts Council's Recommender Grants for Theatre Creators.

I wish to acknowledge that this play was written on Six Nations Territory on the Haldimand Tract which takes in six miles on each side of the Grand River. I wish to thank the Six Nations from whose land I benefit, where I live, work and learn.

Special Thanks also to: Workman Arts, Pleiades Theatre, Bashar Jabbour, Viktorija Kovac, Paddy Gillard-Bentley and Quinn Quinn.

#### **Credits**

Playwright Ahmad Meree

Director Pam Patel

Assistant Director Nada Abusaleh

Cast

Majdi Bou-Matar & Ahmad Meree

Dramaturge Ric Knowles

Stage Manager Cameron Slipp

Lighting Designer Nadia Ursacki

Sound Designer Janice Jo Lee

Set & Costume Designer Madeline Samms

Consulting Psychologist Dr. Yusra Ahmad

OCT 1, 2 & 3 | 50 MIN

**GAOL YARD, KITCHENER & ONLINE** 

## STRETCH MARKS

Virtu Arts | Waterloo Region

Eight months ago, I found out I was pregnant. Two weeks later, the whole world shut down. No eating out, no bars, no liquor stores on Mondays – nothing.

I had made up my mind.
I was going to get an abortion.

Sasha, a pregnant, transracial adoptee, attempts to beat her gestational clock as she battles with her past, present, and future to decide whether she should keep her unplanned child or place them for adoption.



This piece is part of a three-part series of one-woman shows that explore the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual imbalances of oncoming motherhood and themes of young Black motherhood and the cyclical and familial trauma that motherhood can encompass. Over the span of ten moons, the audience follows the protagonist through the decision-making process of whether she should follow in her biological mother's footsteps or forge a path of her own.

#### **About the Company**

Virtu Arts was founded in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 global pandemic. We began as a production company that set out to create a virtual space to tell stories through live performance. As the pandemic continued, and we were forced to settle into a new normal, we pivoted and are now a community arts organization that focuses on creating virtual space to educate, develop, and share Black/African/Caribbean diasporic creators and their stories with the world.

With our creative streams, we nurture artists through every step of their creative process by offering skill-building workshops facilitated by influential artists, one-person play development programs, and by producing live performances.

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

Ontario Arts Council Region of Waterloo Arts Fund Pat the Dog Theatre Creation

#### Credits

Playwright/Director Vanessa Spence
Performer Sarah Nairne
Voice Actor Vanessa Spence
Costume Design/Hair/Make-Up Janissa Cyrus



# ASPHALT JUNGLE SHORTS

Flush Ink Productions
Waterloo Region

The line between reality and theatre is blurred.

It's kinda like a glimpse into humanity.

SEP 30, OCT 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9 | 45 MIN
STARTS VOGELSANG GREEN, KITCHENER (IN-PERSON ONLY)

Site-specific theatre in downtown Kitchener, where at the intersection of Theatre & Reality, the cityscape becomes the stage, the lights and sound are organic and the lines between what is real and what is fantasy are blurred.

#### **About the Company**

Flush Ink Productions is a performing arts company specializing in Site-Specific Theatre. Flush Ink Productions has been challenging the boundaries of traditional theatre since 2006.

It was incorporated in 2008 and in the meantime, has established four unique projects: She Speaks, women's work, women's words; Unhinged, Kitchener's Festival of Disturbing Theatre including Write or Flight playwriting challenge; Urban Scrawlers playwright's collective; and its signature event, Asphalt Jungle Shorts.

Asphalt Jungle Shorts—at the intersection of Theatre & Reality—challenges the perceptions of traditional theatre by taking it out of the theatre.

UnHinged, Flush Ink Productions' Festival of Disturbing Theatre, challenges the audience emotionally with theatre that is dark and disturbing.

She Speaks, coinciding with International Women's Day, challenges the world of theatre to produce more work by women.

Urban Scrawlers Playwright's Collective challenges the playwrights in the community to write, present, rewrite, hone and get to stage the story burning in their belly.

#### **Show Credits**

Playwrights

Alex Drenmman
Peter Dakutis
Paddy Gillard-Bentley
Brendan Griffin
Janis Butler Holm
Mark Harvey Levine
John Mabey
Anita Mcfarlane
Kelly Muir
J. J. Steinfeld
Rafael Duarte Oliveira Venancio

Directed by Paddy Gillard-Bentley, Robin Bennett & Tracey Kenyon Road Crew Sam Liam Bentley

Cast

Nike Abbott
Kendalin Bishop
Emily Bolyea-Kyere
Josh Bosworth
Scott Cooper
Deb Huggins
Raechele Lovell
Mason M Micevski
K Mills
Brian Otto
Bruce Wolff

# DiSCoVeR

Cosmic Fishing Theatre
Waterloo Region



We believe that all children have a right to access and engage with the performing arts – even online!

OCTOBER 3 & 9 | 15 MIN + 10 MIN DISCUSSION
ONLINE ONLY EVENT FOR CHILDREN 1-6 YEARS

*DisCoveR* is an experimental theatre project specially designed for a very young audience (children 1-6 years), and their caregivers to enjoy—together.

There are THREE performances to choose from:

#### **DiSCoVeR: Forms of Play**

(suitable for ages 1-3)

October 3 and 9, 2021 at 10:00 am EST

A new game of peek-a-boo combined with mime and clown techniques, including puppetry surprises.

#### DiSCoVeR: The World Around You

(suitable for ages 2-4)

October 3 and 9, 2021 at 10:30 am EST

Nature and adventure made up of household objects that come to life, framed with lo-fi puppetry special effects.

#### **DiSCoVeR: Hidden Talents**

(suitable for ages 3-6)

October 3 and 9, 2021 at 11:00 am EST

Everyday objects showcase their unique talents to delight audiences and each other.

This is an experimental theatre workshop performance presented safely over a closed Zoom meeting. Each online event is composed of a main 15-minute performance, and a 5-minute interactive audience survey. All audience feedback is integral to the development of this project. DiSCoVeR will be growing under a mentorship with MT Space in 2022.

Theatre for very young audiences offers an extraordinary experience for young children to have fun, while sparking fresh connections in the brain that stimulate the child's creative thinking and feeling. Parents and caregivers can also re-discover the world of theatre through their child's eyes.

Although we have age recommendations for each event, people of all ages are welcome to all three performances!

#### **About the Company**

Cosmic Fishing Theatre (@cosmicfishing) is an experimental theatre company based in Waterloo Region. We draw on multiple cultural influences to amplify women's artistic voices, dividing our creative work between innovative adaptations of plays, and creating exciting original performances and events. We stage theatre for adults, young audiences, and very young audiences (ages 0-6) with a mission to serve an intercultural and an intergenerational audience. The name of the collective, Cosmic Fishing is our metaphor for intuition as a source of creative knowledge.

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

This project has been financially supported by Ontario Arts Council, Region of Waterloo Arts Fund, Pat the Dog's Microgrants Pilot Program for Waterloo Region Artists, and IMPACT21 International Theatre Festival.

Special Thanks to: THEMUSEUM, The Registry Theatre, WeeFestival, Crane Creations Theatre Company and Bridges Festival, Puppetmongers Theatre, Inter Arts Matrix, Pat the Dog and MT Space

#### **Show Credits**

Artistic Director/Creator **Viktorija Kovac** Artistic Producer/Co-creator/Performer

#### Nada Abusaleh

Co-creator/Performer **Ahmad Meree**Co-creator/Performer **Kate Kamo McHugh**Puppet/Costume Designer & Builder

#### **Alexa Fraser**

Technical Collaborator **Nadia Ursacki** Video Editor **Vladimir Kovac** 

## NAC FREE REIN RESIDENCY

DANCERS-IN-RESIDENCE AT MT SPACE:

Raven Morand & Kate Kamo McHugh Waterloo Region



This summer, The National Arts Centre is partnering with more than 30 Canadian artists through a summer artistic residency program called 'Free Rein'—a new threemonth-long initiative in support of the renewal of the Canadian performing arts sector. MT Space is fortunate to be partnering with the NAC Dance Section as a conduit to host two of these artists-in-residence locally.

We are thrilled and honoured to be incubating the work of Raven Morand and Kate Kamo McHugh, who will be creating this August and sharing their journeys at IMPACT 21.

Here's what they look to explore:

OCTOBER 5, 6 & 7 | 30 MIN
GAOL YARD, KITCHENER & ONLINE



Raven Morand: "The goal of this project is to demonstrate the power of healing through dance for Indigenous folks residing on Turtle Island. Since colonization, Indigenous people have had to endure unjust violence which continues to happen to this day. Indigenous folks have also had to display incredible amounts of resilience while also battling intergenerational trauma and cycles of abuse. In recent weeks, the public has become aware of over a thousand unmarked graves of Indigenous children at a handful of residential schools in the colonial state of Canada. With hundreds more of residential schools to be searched. that number is sure to climb.

For many of us, dancing is what feeds our spirits, how we connect/reconnect with our culture, how we pass down our culture to the next generations to come, and one of our most important healing tools. This project will have three dancers within their own categories explore what healing through dance means to them and dance in honor of all those children who never made it home."



Kate Kamo McHugh: "My project is a solo dance piece called Michiko (working title), an exploration of Japanese Canadian identity—cultural loss, retention and creation. The central question I will be exploring is: Throughout my Japanese family's five generations in Canada, what has been lost culturally and what remains? I will be looking at critical aspects like language, physical appearance, and family names. Michiko is my grandmother's name, my middle name, and the Japanese name I gave to my Gosei (fifth) generation daughter. I cherish this name, like the other Japanese cultural elements that remain in our family. After experiencing ostracization during WWII, families like mine tried to become as Canadian as possible—distancing themselves from all that is Japanese and accelerating this cultural loss. Today, families like mine are proud of their heritage and trying to access the cultural remains of generations past. I first started to think about this piece with the 2019 birth of my daughter, the first member of our family's fifth generation. How would I explain to her why we've lost so much of our Japanese culture? Through this residency, I hope to discover more about my family and peoples' history."

#### **About the Artists**

Raven Morand is an Anishinaabe/ Metis Kwe from Thunder Bay. She grew up spending summers in her home community of Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation) and moved to Kitchener, Ontario with her family when she was 4. Raven is a dedicated pow wow dancer and has been dancing Fancy Shawl for over a decade. Raven has been the head female dancer at many pow wows and enjoys her culture through dance and beadwork. Raven actively engages with her community through sitting on pow wow committees and attending community events. Raven is an activist and organizer and a strong advocate for Indigenous sovereignty and land defense.

Kate Kamo McHugh is a performing artist and educator from Kitchener, Ontario. Some professional highlights for Kate include dancing for Disney Cruise lines, working in children's theatre in South America, and being part of MT Space's inaugural Arts Exchange. Earlier this year, Kate was honoured to co-facilitate a movement-based workshop for the Newcomer Youth Program in partnership with MT Space and the YMCA. Kate is currently rehearsing with Cosmic Fishing Theatre and excited to perform for an audience again post-COVID. She holds a BFA from Ryerson University in Theatre Performance Dance.

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

Denise Kamo, Viktorija Kovac, Cathy Levy & NAC Dance, National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC), Andrea Nann

# HOW DO WE **BEGIN AGAIN**

(OR LET'S SHIFT HOW WE RELATE)

### INDUSTRY CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9

ONLINE (FREE - REGISTRATION NECESSARY)

What if we brought everything back to relationship, and stripped away titles but respected and honoured lived experiences—in ourselves and in each other?

What if we could forge connections not out of necessity, but to truly understand one another and build a bridge?

#### **IMPACT 21 Co-Instigators**

**Denise Bolduc Glodeane Brown** Margo Kane **Kevin Ormsby Lily Shearer** Charles C Smith Sarah Nairne

Pam Patel

#### **Special Thanks & Acknowledgement**

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Ric Knowles

This year's IMPACT Co-Instigators are devising an experiment to explore these concepts during the festival. Industry professionals from a range of perspectives will be invited to participate in an exchange that will involve documenting the journey of a relationship stripped of titles, centering lived experiences, and bridging gaps of awareness. We invite you to join us as a witness, as an Instigator, or as someone looking to shift the sector one person at a time.

#### **Conference Sessions:**

DAY 1 - Radical Welcome & Theatre-Making Culture

DAY 2 - Rethinking Systems of Support

DAY 3 - Bridging Creative Communities

DAY 4 - Why Do Good People Always Leave?

DAY 5 - Building Locally, Building Over

DAY 6 - How Do We Begin Again?

Visit mtspace.ca/conference/ for up-to-date session and registration info!

# FESTBAR





**SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 9** KITCHENER MARKET PIAZZA & ONLINE

#### 'Face to Face' In-Person Bar

With the help of our friends from the Kitchener Market, we will be hosting a popup outdoor Festival Bar, equipped with a variety of beverages and food, open every night of the festival. Wrap up a night of theatre with good drinks, good food, and great conversation!

C19 NOTE: Vaccine certificates will be required at this venue for entrance, in line with Ontario regulations.

#### Virtual Bar @ Kumo Space

For those unable to join in person, we invite you to unwind with us at our virtual festival bar where you can pour yourself a virtual drink and mingle with friends and colleagues from near and afar.

Our 'Virtual Bar' enables you to have closeknit conversations and pop in and out as you desire. Join in on Kumo Space, every evening from 7pm to 11pm.

kumospace.com/MTSpace



# **PARTNERS**

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our amazing community partners, without whom we wouldn't have been able to even begin imagining for IMPACT 21:



The Crowne Plaza Kitchener-Waterloo is Kitchener's largest and premier fullservice hotel. Ideally located in the heart of downtown Kitchener, the Crowe Plaza Kitchener-Waterloo is the jewel of downtown, providing upscale accommodations and meetings/ conference facilities. With a multi-milliondollar renovation completed each guest room is a brand-new room, offering our guest a luxurious stay. The Crowne Plaza Kitchener-Waterloo boasts 201 modernly designed guestrooms, 17 000 square feet of meeting/function space, onsite restaurant and lounge, indoor swimming pool, full fitness and recreation centre including two bowling lanes and mini putt.



Sherwood is an event and entertainment industry leader, dedicated to delivering "old school" service excellence using creativity and innovative solutions. Since its inception, Sherwood has consistently grown in capacity and capability so that today it owns one of the most advanced inventories of production equipment in Ontario. It also houses a spacious showroom filled with musical instruments, AV, Recording and DJ equipment, and offers a full range of services that includes onsite repairs and installation, private teaching facilities, as well as a wide range of rental solutions. The staff are knowledgeable, friendly and here to look after all your needs. They understand the business inside and out as they are a representation of our customers, being musicians, Installers, DJs, engineers, and technicians themselves. Every year, some of Canada's most recognized and respected corporate customers, and international musical artists, make Sherwood their provider of choice.



Our story begins with a vision: to create a business rooted firmly in our local community. And what better way to create community than with craft beer!

We envisioned making the craft beer scene more approachable and accessible for everyone to enjoy. That also extends to our business model: as a worker-owned co-operative, business ownership becomes more accessible as well.

From academics to welders, community advocates to graphic designers, our six founding members came together over this vision. They spent every ounce of their spare time building our scrappy little brewery from scratch: from developing the business plan, to learning how to brew on the German-made all-in-one brewhouse rescued from a storage locker, to building our bar top out of an old bowling alley – everything was DIY.

Opened in 2016, TWB focuses on maintaining a well-rounded lineup of high quality, approachable beers in order to invite more people to share in what we love.

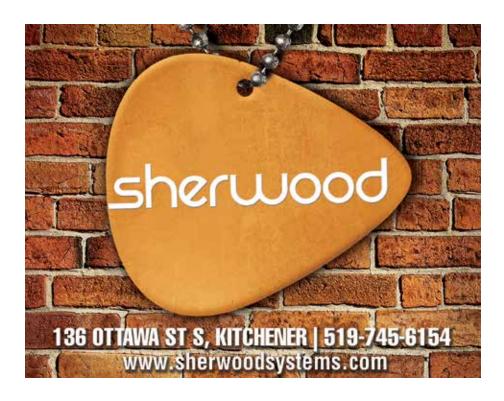
True to our original vision, we continue to focus on building strong relationships with community partners, using our resources and platforms to make our community a better place. Today, we continue to grow to include new worker-owners who each add their own unique skills and passions to the mix. TWB is a living, growing, and changing embodiment of how craft beer and community can support each other.



For over 25 years among organizations across Ontario, Wilmot Technologies has provided leading technology consulting, support, deployment and infrastructure expertise. Both commercial and retail, local and provincial, rely on Wilmot Technologies to help them meet their particular Information Technology challenges as they adapt to the digital economy. Wilmot Technologies consistently delivers customer satisfaction with quality, reliability, and accuracy acknowledged by our partners and by Canadian industry measurements. Let us focus on your internal IT infrastructure so that you can focus on the demands of your business world. We serve our clients as trusted friends, providing them with the loyalty of a business partner while affirming the economics of an outside vendor. We ensure that our clients have the means to run their businesses confidently with maximum efficiency and certainty. Many of our information applications are mission critical, so we assure our clients that we will be available and on call when they need us.

If you would like to be among this list of incredible partners and be a part of our upcoming events, we'd love to hear from you!

Just drop us a line at: info@mtspace.ca







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- Onsite, Remote & Telephone Technical Support

Contact Us Today! We Are Here to Support You.

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### IMPACT FESTIVAL STAFF

Artistic Director, MT Space & IMPACT
Office Administrator & Marketing Manager
Festival Producer
Production Manager
Company Manager
Public Outreach & Development Coordinator
Assistant Artistic Director & Conference Coordinator Sarah Nairne
Arts Administrator & Hospitality Coordinator Lizzie Song
Box Office Coordinator
COVID-19 Coordinator
Volunteer Coordinator
Administrative Assistant
Marketing Assistant
Production Assistant
Graphic Designer (launch)
Graphic Designer (programme & pre-festival) Nick Comyn
Festival Photographer

#### MT SPACE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2021)

Chair Ben Gregory
Vice Chair
Treasurer
Secretary Lara Mekkawi
Vice Secretary
Director
Director



# 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.

Registered Charity: 862192291RR0001

# HOW DO WE BEGIN AGAIN!

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COVID-19 BIPOC Sustainability and Recovery Fund



The Musagetes Fund



The Spinnaker Fund













#### **GET TICKETS & PASSES**

Festival Pass \$121 (until MON, OCT 4)

**Tickets Sliding Scale \$10-30** 

impact theatre festival.ca

COVID19 Policies pg. 8 Festival Maps & Venue Info pg. 30-32 Important Ticket Info pg. 33

