

SEP 26 - OCT 01, 2023 Waterloo region, canada

## FESTIVAL BROCHURE

LAST UPDATED MON, AUG 28, 2023

IMPACT THEATRE FESTIVAL.CA

#### ACKNOWLEDGE THE LAND... & PEOPLES.

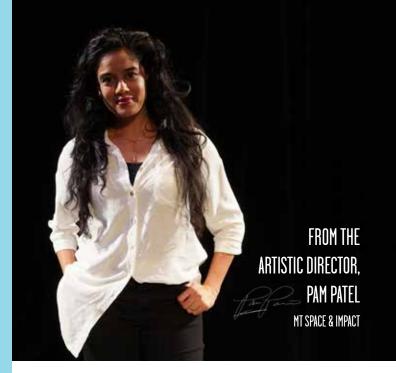
With gratitude and appreciation, MT Space acknowledges that we live, learn, and benefit on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We honour that these Nations of people have been living on, working on, and caring for this place from time immemorial and continue to do so today.

There are 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 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.



While IMPACT 23 will mark 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.

рното Carlos Parada

## **Sponsors & Partners**MT Space & IMPACT are generously supported by:



for the Arts

Canada Council Conseil des arts

Funded by the of Canada Financé par le du Canada Canada a



**ONTARIO CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS FUND** LE FONDS POUR LES MANIFESTATIONS **CULTURELLES DE L'ONTARIO** 

















The Musagetes Fund

















du Canada











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#### **About MT SPACE & IMPACT Theatre Festival**

Founded in 2004, MT Space is dedicated to theatre that centralizes racialized and marginalized voices to address social issues and shift narratives - bringing different communities together to create a community of difference.

IMPACT (International Multicultural Platform for Alternative Contemporary Theatre) is a biennial celebration organized by MT Space in Ontario's Waterloo Region.

IMPACT presents some of the finest local, national, and international work by Indigenous, Black, and Racialized artists, with special emphasis on interdisciplinary, intercultural, and physical productions.

Join us as we engage, play, and rejuvenate with hundreds of artists and thousands of guests from across the country and beyond!



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, to establish a bursary fund that will be 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 will roll out over the summer with a goal of naming the first recipient at the IMPACT 23 Festival.

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.

On March 26th, 2009, the late Majdi Bou-Matar stood in front of a crowd in downtown Kitchener, Ontario 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 ecology 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.



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 FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING »

### Kuramanunya

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

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.

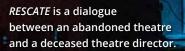
Kuramanunya honours them. Kuramanunya.

The story is told.

Sep 26, 27 | Kitchener City Hall Square

## **RESCATE**

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



Through meticulous dramaturgy and adaptation, the voice of the late emblematic Chilean theatre director, Andrés Pérez Araya, offers a narration about the tangible and intangible heritage of theatre.

Sep 30, 01 | The Registry Theatre



### La dernière

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



The last two... A man and a woman... No other human beings...

Loneliness, boredom, and the feeling of weariness push them to play the game of fear, isolation, suspicion, and conflict with each other to exterminate the monster that resides within them.

Sep 27, 28 | The Registry Theatre

рнотоs Javier Paz

## **Hybrid Women**

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

Hybrid Women is a site-specific dance theatre piece that focuses on the relationship between us humans and the diverse aspects of our environment.

Engage in a performance ritual through movement, sound, and clown as we challenge ourselves to rethink our priorities at this moment in time.

Sep 30, Oct 1 | King Street, Downtown Kitchener

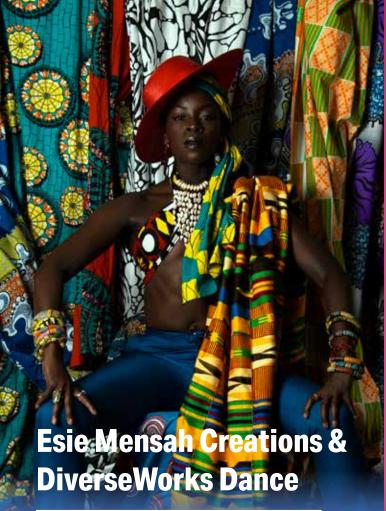
## J'ai pleuré avec les chiens (TIME, CREATION, DESTRUCTION)

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

The colonial and capitalist relationship to the world is not only material where territories and bodies are to be conquered, classified, possessed, and exploited, but also cognitive and sensitive. The colonial perspective considers the arts, knowledge and, in general, what makes up the world as commodities to be acquired and categorized.

J'ai pleuré avec les chiens (Time, Creation, Destruction) constitutes a refusal of the ways of knowing, creating, and feeling that are marked by colonialism.

Sep 28, 29 | Kitchener Gaol Yard



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

Esie Mensah and Raechele Lovell – two 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 mentor and mentee collaboration asks the question, "what does it mean to heal through intentional movement?"

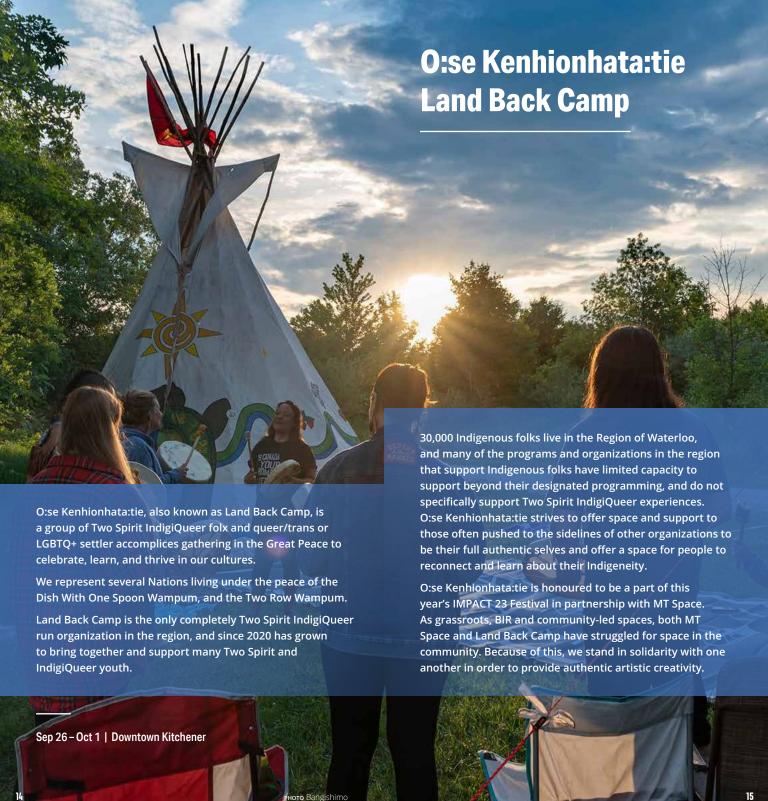
Sep 30, Oct 1 | King Street, Downtown Kitchener



Mensah and Lovell collaborate for the first time on this special project for IMPACT 23.

This new work of dance theatre explores the themes of joy and celebration in Afro-diasporic bodies. This piece is a celebration of life and the joy that comes with it, exploring the different ways that people celebrate, from traditional cultural celebrations to modern-day parties and festivals. In a devised process of Artistic Collaboration and Mentorship, Esie Mensah and Raechele Lovell come together to create in the spirit of building a bolder future for our industry.

It is time to find and relish in joy.



#### **Opening Ceremonies** »

Starts at Willow River Park with walk to City Hall Stage

## **IMPACT 23 Launch Schedule**

SHOWS	VENUE	PG.	TUE SEP 26	WED SEP 27	THU SEP 28	FRI SEP 29	SAT SEP 30	SUN OCT 01
Opening Ceremonies	DTK		6:30* / 7-8pm*					
Kuramanunya	KCH	7	9pm*	9pm				
La dernière	REG	9		7pm*	9pm			
Asphalt Jungle Shorts	DTK	28		8pm*	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm
Bulfinch's Mythology	SKY	21			8pm*	8pm		
J'ai pleuré avec les chiens	GAOL	11			6pm*	6pm		
Deafy	REG	20			7pm*	7pm		
There Are No Gays in Chechnya	KCH	22			9pm*	9pm		
Corporate Finch	S-HAUS	25				9:30pm*	9:30pm	
DiverseWorks Dance & Esie Mensah Creations	KST	12					12:00pm* 4:30pm	6pm
Hybrid Women	KST	10					2:30pm* / 7pm	12pm
Termite	KST   GAU	23					6pm* @кsт	2pm @GAU
Uncivilized	TBA	24					8pm*	5pm
RESCATE	REG	8					9pm*	9pm
Ode to Katherine	POOL	27					9:30pm*	9:30pm

CONFERENCE & ENGAGEMENT							
Land Back Camp	DTK	14		Througho	ut the festival		
Arts Exchange	DTK	29	Throughout the festival				
Sand Pendulum	ТВА	26	6pm* Throughout the festival				
Writers' Series	TBA	26			2:30pm*		2:30pm*
IMPACT 23 Conference – Here Because of Them	СРН	16	6pm³ Recepti @ Reg Lo	n Recovery	10am - 4pm* Embodiment	10am - 4pm* Succession	

NIGHTLIFE								
Festival Bar	TWH	30	10pm-late*	10pm-late*	10pm-late*	10pm-late*		10:00pm-late*
Neruda Arts Party: DJ Yazzy	KST	31					9pm*	

INSIDE VENUES: CPH - Crowne Plaza Hotel | POOL - Crowne Plaza Pool | REG - The Registry Theatre | SKY - SkyWatch | TWH - TWH Social

OUTSIDE VENUES: DTK - Downtown Kitchener | GAOL - Kitchener Gaol (Jail) Yard | GAU - Gaukel Street KCH - Kitchener City Hall Square Stage | KST - King Street | S-HAUS - Schneider Haus

TBA - To Be Announced

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates Opening or Unique Performance | !! Launch Announcement & Brochure: Line-up, Schedule, venues all subject to change !!

## IMPACT 23 Industry Conference Here Because Of Them

IMPACT 19 marked the beginning of several difficult and complicated years for MT Space that has been 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 reprioritizing needs and values.

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



Sep 28 – 30, 10am-4pm | Venue 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.

#### **GET YOUR CONFERENCE PASS**

Conference passes available at ticketscene.ca.

## Deafy

Chris Dodd Follow The Signs Theatre (Edmonton, Alberta)



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 tragicomedy that weaves spoken English, ASL and surtitles—which leads the audience on an unexpected journey of discovering what it really means to belong.



Sep 28, 29 | The Registry Theatre

## **Bulfinch's Mythology**

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

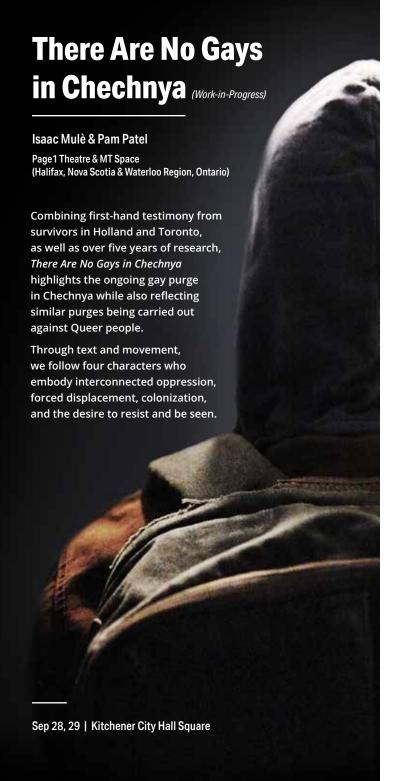


In 1850s Boston, confirmed bachelor Thomas Bulfinch, whose translations of Greek and Roman myths were the standard for over 100 years in the West, was otherwise known for his virulent anti-homosexuality activism.

He published one other book – a memorial to his deceased younger student, Matthew, beside whom he had himself buried.

Myth, mime, and theatre coalesce to tell the story of what was lost in translation.

Sep 28, 29 | SkyWatch



#### **Termite** (Work-in-Progress)

Meghna Haldar / In Association with MT Space (Turtle Island)



In a second-class railway compartment, Mr. B, a gentleman, tries to be hospitable to the young couple who join him.

When he feels his authority challenged, he recruits a couple of ruffians to reassert control over his space with increasingly devastating consequences.

A national team of racialized and ally artists come together to perform this text by Meghna Haldar – inviting the audience into a discussion that considers what it means to be "civilized".

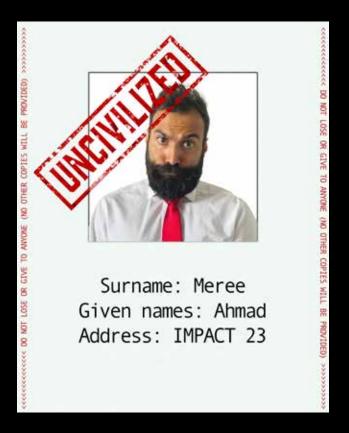
Reading supported by:



Sep 30, Oct 1 | King Street, Downtown Kitchener

## UNCIVILIZED (Work-in-Progress)

Ahmad Meree / (Tkaronto, Ontario)



UNCIVILIZED is a story about identity and what it means to be a Syrian Canadian citizen – 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...

Sep 30, Oct 1 | Venue TBA



#### **Sand Pendulum**

#### **Gary Kirkham**

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



A pendulum filled with sand uses kinetic energy and harmonic motion to slowly create a complex sand sculpture.

While the pendulum swings, a sonic composition responds to the creation of the sculpture using the sounds of vocalists Pam Patel (soprano), Bó Bárdos (mezzo), and multi-instrumentalist Nick Storring.

Marvel at the physics of the pendulum while engaging in the explorations of patterns, ritual, time, and beauty.

Sep 26 - Oct 1 | Venue TBA

#### **Ode to Katherine**

#### **Tess Martens**

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

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.





Asphalt Jungle Shorts, Flush Ink Productions' signature event, is a series of site-specific environmental plays performed in downtown Kitchener. Whether set 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.

MT Space's
Arts Exchange

Multiple Artists
In Association with MT Space
(Waterloo Region, Ontario)

ARTS EXCHANGE

**COHORT 4** 

MT Space's Arts Exchange was established in 2020 to keep artists employed and active when many artists were faced with 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.

Sep 27 – Oct 1 | Downtown Kitchener

Sep 26 – Oct 1 | Downtown Kitchener

28 LOCAL LOCAL 29



#### **Festival Bar**

#### Multiple Acts & Great Conversations (Waterloo Region)

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 1 | Venue TWH Social

### **Neruda Arts Party**

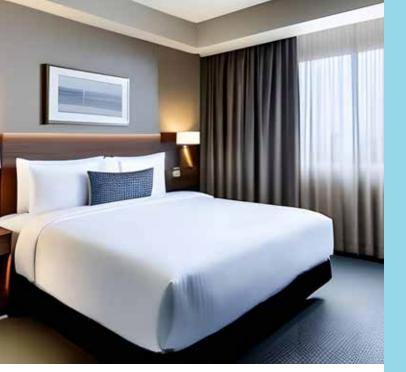
#### Neruda Arts presents DJ Yazzy (Waterloo Region)

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 | King Street

30 FESTIVAL BAR NERUDA ARTS PARTY



#### **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 Team (at launch)

Managing Artistic Director Pam Pat	:el
Company Manager Bó Bárdo	os
Apprentice General Manager Hiyam Mahra	at
Associate Producer Yazan Maaro	uf
Public Outreach &  Development Coordinator Carlos Parac	da
Apprentice Artistic Director Nada Abusale	
Artistic Director Intern Viktorija Kova	ač
IMPACT Production Manager Cameron Slip	р
IMPACT Box Office Coordinator Maria Kouznetsov	va
IMPACT Photographer Andy Wrigh	ht
Graphic Designer Nichol Comy	/n
Bookkeeper Suzanne Langdo	n

#### MT SPACE Board of Directors (2022-23)

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

## **GET PASSES & TICKETS**

Festival Pass \$175
Conference Pass \$250

(Festival Pass includes up to 18 ticketed shows) (Conference Pass includes: 3-day conference + Festival Pass)

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

Get Passes & Tickets at ticketscene.ca

\*\*There is no fee for Indigenous Peoples to attend – reach out to <u>tickets@mtspace.ca</u> for details and to reserve tickets\*\*

IMPACT THEATRE FESTIVAL.CA