




theatre is...



impact
theatre
festival.ca

SEPTEMBER
23-28
2 0 2 5
WATERLOO REGION,
ONTARIO, CANADA



WE CANNOT AGREE ON WHAT THE TRUTH IS...

With gratitude and appreciation, MT Space acknowledges that we live, learn, and benefit on the traditional territory of the Chonnonton, 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.

We recognize that Indigenous people of all lands have the right to sovereignty and echo the calls of the Land Back movement.

Within Canada's problematic colonial history, a genocide of human design continues to affect Indigenous peoples—often ignored, downplayed, suppressed—take time during IMPACT and beyond to deepen your learnings around Canada's continued revocation of Indigenous rights, erasure of Indigenous issues... and reflect on how we can move forward into reconciliation by listening to the needs of Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island.

It is our shared responsibility to be present with these realities, whether here for generations or newcomers to this land.

To our Indigenous colleagues, friends, community members – we hear you, we see you – we continue to stand with you and offer our help in carrying the load of truth & reconciliation.

SURVIVAL IS RESISTANCE. RESISTANCE IS SURVIVAL.

FROM THE
ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR



Survivance, a term coined by Anishinaabe scholar Gerald Vizenor, refers to the survival of Indigenous Peoples, their cultures, and their stories as an act of resistance.

This IMPACT 25, we follow this theme in a global context as artists from around the world and across Turtle Island bring their lived experiences to the stage and directly into the audience's hands...

From the destruction and rebirth of nations depicted through dance, to the resilience of women told through intimate theatre, to interactive play with audiences as they reenact the journeys of those trying to flee hardship, IMPACT 25 unpacks what it means to survive, to resist, and to seek refuge.

Join us as histories are retold, truth is revealed, and human nature is uncovered in a week of raw, urgent, and political theatre and dance.

Join the movement in making impact, one show at a time.

Pam Patel

Artistic Director, MT Space &
IMPACT Theatre Festival



ABOUT MT SPACE & IMPACT THEATRE FESTIVAL

Founded in 2004 by Majdi Bou-Matar, MT Space centralizes minoritized voices and narratives through theatre.

IMPACT (International Multicultural Platform for Alternative Contemporary Theatre) is a biennial festival produced by MT Space in Waterloo Region, Ontario, Canada – presenting politically-charged and urgent international, national, and local work by Indigenous, Black, and Racialized artists since 2009.

GET PASSES & TICKETS

Early Bird Passes *(until Aug 31st)*

- » Festival Pass¹ \$125
- » Conference Pass¹ \$175

(Conference Pass includes: 3-day conference + Festival Pass)

Regular Passes *(after Aug 31st)*

- » Festival Pass¹ \$175
- » Conference Pass¹ \$250

(Conference Pass includes: 3-day conference + Festival Pass)

Regular Tickets

- » Individual Tickets² Sliding Scale \$10-30

BUY TICKETS
ticketscene.ca
SCAN ME »



¹ Festival Passes give access to almost all shows with advance reservation; it may not be possible see all shows at the festival; some shows may not be included in the pass, for example *asses.masses* (pg. 15)

² There is no fee for Indigenous Peoples to attend – reach out to tickets@mtspace.ca for details and to reserve tickets

WHAT'S INSIDE.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING

- International Shows 04-07
- National Shows 08-15, 18
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JOIN US FOR IMPACT 25.

6 DAYS. 20 PRODUCTIONS.
100 ARTISTS...

...THEATRE & DANCE FROM MANY NATIONS –
COLOMBIA, LEBANON, PALESTINE,
ACROSS TURTLE ISLAND (CANADA/MEXICO).



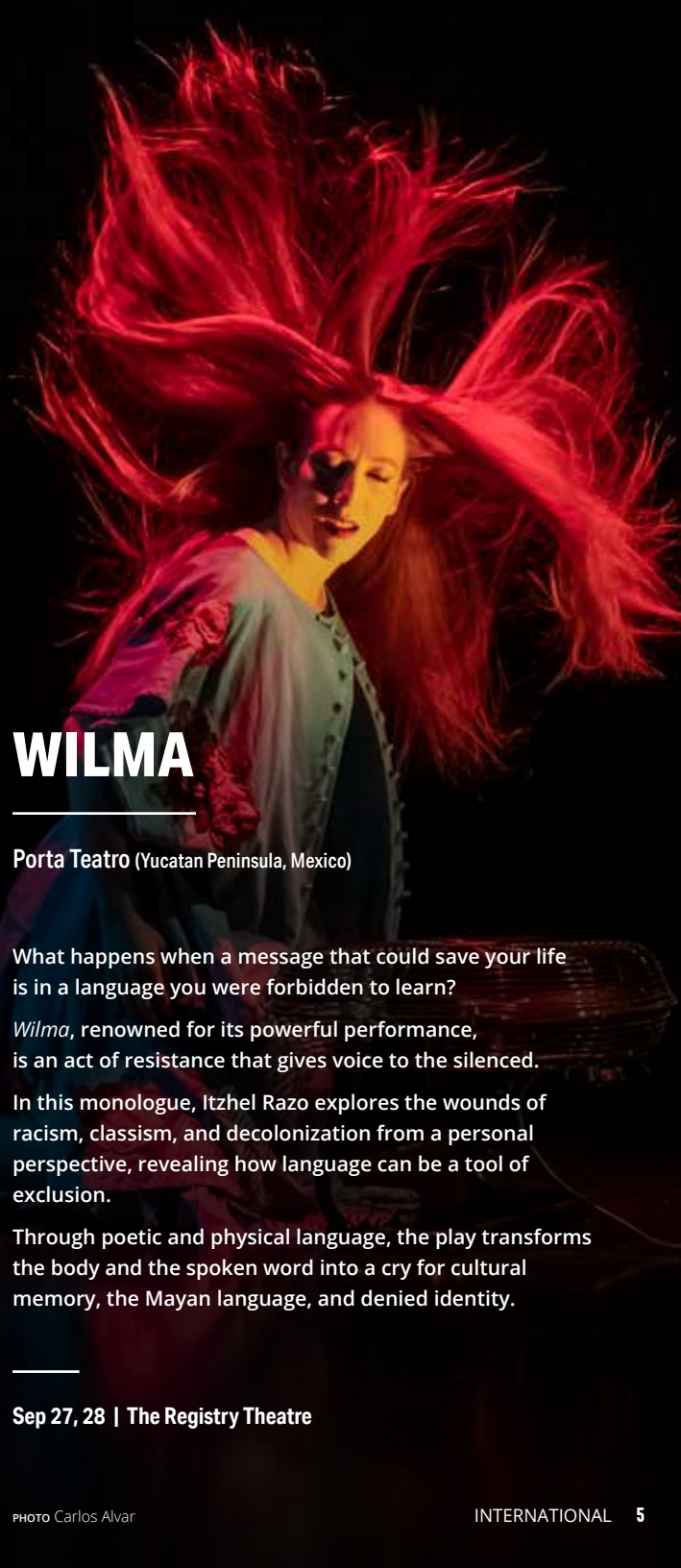
FECHA LIMITE (EXPIRATION DATE)

SANKOFA DANZAFRO (Medellín, Colombia)

Fecha Límite (Expiration Date) is a powerful dance and music work by Sankofa Danzafro that honors the resistance of Afro-Colombian communities. Set in Colombia's conflict-ridden Pacific Coast, the piece confronts land dispossession, racism, and displacement. Through traditional movement and live percussion, it becomes a ritual of mourning, resilience, and social justice.

Sep 23, 24 | Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts

PHOTOS Valentina Roldan, Paulina Perez



WILMA

Porta Teatro (Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico)

What happens when a message that could save your life is in a language you were forbidden to learn?

Wilma, renowned for its powerful performance, is an act of resistance that gives voice to the silenced.

In this monologue, Itzhel Razo explores the wounds of racism, classism, and decolonization from a personal perspective, revealing how language can be a tool of exclusion.

Through poetic and physical language, the play transforms the body and the spoken word into a cry for cultural memory, the Mayan language, and denied identity.

Sep 27, 28 | The Registry Theatre

PHOTO Carlos Alvar

٢٠٤٨ – تحلل هوية

2048 – identity in dissolution

alaa minawi (Beirut, Lebanon / Amsterdam, Netherlands)

alaa invites you to a street that is not his street, in a house that is not his house, in a country that may not be his country...

alaa is the son of a Lebanese mother who, by Lebanese law, is not allowed to grant citizenship to him. In Lebanon only men have the right to give citizenship to their children. alaa receives his father's Palestinian passport. A dual identity crisis arises with racist and discriminatory experiences that eventually lead alaa to become invisible.

Sep 24-28 | Downtown Kitchener

Dear Laila

Basel Zaraa (Palestine / Birmingham, UK)

Dear Laila shares the Palestinian experience of displacement and resistance through the story of one family, exploring how war and exile are experienced through the everyday, the domestic, and the public space. An intimate, interactive installation experienced by one audience member at a time, *Dear Laila* uses the retelling of memories and tactile details to bring this now destroyed place to life.

Sep 24-28 | Schneider Haus

BOGOTÁ

ANDREA PEÑA & ARTISTS (Montréal, Quebec)

Visceral, transgressive and magnetic, *BOGOTÁ* constructs a brutalist landscape out of choreography inspired by Colombia's political and spiritual heritage. With striking intensity, nine performers chronicle transformations between chaos and rebirth, incarnating the tensions of ever unfolding and turbulent histories.

Offering a raw, physical experience of mutation and ultimately resurrection, *BOGOTÁ* delves into inherited mythologies to consider how origins are embodied, and mortality is expressed through the endless cycles of existence and death.

Sep 25, 26 | Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts

DIRECTION & PHOTOS:
MAIN: Kevin Calero, Antoine Ryan
BOTTOM: Félix Godbout Delavaud

ROSA

Carlos Rivera (Turtle Island)

Rosa, a peasant Indigenous woman from Ixtacamaxtitlan, flees her community with her six small children on her back. As she escapes a life of abuse at the hands of her husband and her in-laws, she crosses valleys, climbs mountains, and faces enormous challenges.

She arrives in Mexico City where she will face her greatest challenge yet: brutal discrimination – forcing her to make a choice that will impact her, her children, and will reverberate for generations.

Through movement, theatre, video and documentary, *ROSA* highlights the female body, its relationship to the land, and its capacity to resist, survive, and transform.

Sep 27 | Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts

PHOTO Alfredo Alves Media



This is Not What I Want to Tell You

Rimah Jabr (Toronto, Ontario)

This is Not What I Want to Tell You is about a 15-year-old sleepwalker who one day wakes up by a settlement fence while getting arrested. But did she really commit anything?

In a land where childhood is under constant surveillance, children are often imprisoned for ordinary activities, playing in the 'wrong' area, crossing invisible boundaries, or merely existing in their lands. The piece explores how these young people, denied the language and platforms to express their experiences, find their bodies become both the message and the medium of their resistance.

Presented in collaboration with Centre in the Square.

Sep 24, 25 | Centre in the Square Studio

PHOTOS Stevey Hunter



The Seventh Fire

Lisa Cooke Ravensbergen (Vancouver, British Columbia)

The Seventh Fire is an immersive, in-the-round audio performance that sources traditional, oral Anishinaabe stories and societal roles as a way to evoke ceremony in the everyday. The sound and the story are the somatic links to ancestral realms. The story takes place in the present, past, and future; above and below the earth. It follows disconnected sisters Daanis and Nimise, who reconnect on their ancestral territory. Their journey interweaves with that of Nokomis, their grandmother who raised them, as she lights her fires in the Spirit World.

A Newworld Theatre touring production.

Sep 24-28 | Venue TBA

PHOTO Henry Chan

SOMETIMES IT SNOWS IN APRIL

Tottering Biped Theatre
(Hamilton, Ontario)

A stag hunter and his prey, a young man and his lover,
an old man and his dog, a woman, a park bench,
a lamppost, and an umbrella.

Performed by a mime and a mezzo, *Sometimes It Snows
in April* is a brief and wordless evocation of loss and the
mysterious process of grieving.

Sep 24, 25 | The Registry Theatre



The Opposite بالعكس

Kawalease ACT (Arab Canadian Theatre) /
Swallow-a-Bicycle Theatre (Calgary, Alberta)

At the height of the Syrian Civil War, Canada resettled more
than 44,000 Syrian refugees. But what if the situation was
reversed? What if Waterloo Region became a warzone, and
we were all forced to flee our homes and seek refuge?

In this provocative, participatory experience, audiences are
invited to feel what it means to be a refugee, what it means
to leave your country, to leave everything behind and start
anew – while playing the role of Canadian refugees seeking
asylum in Syria.

Presented in association with Mada Theatre.

Sep 24-28 | Kitchener City Hall

PHOTOS
TOP Unknown
BOTTOM Sleman Aldib Productions

kicked in the end: a magic show

Shawn DeSouza-Coelho (Toronto, Ontario)



kicked in the end: a magic show is a boundary-defying production that interrogates race in Canadian theatre, questioning our deeply held assumptions about illusion and identity. What starts as wacky, rapid-fire magician's patter soon transforms into something more powerful — a poetic interrogation of race and belonging. Shawn DeSouza-Coelho doesn't just perform tricks; he pulls apart assumptions, revealing the hidden gears of racial bias in magic, theatre, and society at large.

Presented in collaboration with Centre in the Square.



Sep 26, 27 | Centre in the Square Studio

asses.masses

Patrick Blenkarn &
Milton Lim (Canada)



asses.masses is a custom video game designed to be played from beginning to end by a live audience, one person at a time. It's a 7+ hour epic story of a herd of unemployed donkeys trying to get their jobs back, all while navigating the perils of a post-Industrial society in which they've been made redundant.

Cheeky, political, and best described as *Animal Farm* meets *Pokémon* meets *Final Fantasy*, *asses.masses* puts the control(ler) in its audience's hands and asks them to discover the space between the work that defines us and the play that frees us.

Sep 28 | Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts

! Not included in Festival Pass

NIGHTLIFE								
Festival Bar	TAM	27	10:30pm-late*	10:30pm-late*	10:30pm-late*	10:30pm-late*	10:30pm-late*	10:30pm-late*

IMPACT 25 Conference: Moving Beyond Allyship	CCPA-BH	28		10am - 4pm*	10am - 4pm*	10am - 4pm*	
Sq.Peg Box Office & Event Space	SQ.PEG	30	Throughout the festival				

ASL – Sign Language Performance | CCPA – Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts, CCPA-BH – Blair Hall
CITS – Centre in the Square Studio | DTK – Downtown Kitchener | GLOBE – Globe Studios | KCH – Kitchener City Hall
REG – The Registry Theatre | SH – Schneider Haus | SQ.PEG – Square Peg | TAM – Tamasha Bar + Indian Kitchen
UW-TOFA – University of Waterloo: Theatre of the Arts | TBA – To Be Announced | WRP – Willow River Park

!! Launch Announcement & Brochure: Programming Line-up, Schedule, Venues all subject to change !!

The View From Here

Rhema Collective
(Waterloo Region, Ontario)

The View From Here is a project at the intersection of verbatim play and exhibition - attempting to provide a more objective lens to the history of the Grandview Training School for Girls in Cambridge, Ontario. The play is formed out of verbatim texts from interview transcripts, historical documents, and the playwright's personal archival footage. It follows the playwright and her research as she meets a survivor of the school whose life begins to parallel her own, despite their differing experiences with the building.

Presented in association with Inter Arts Matrix.

Sep 27, 28 | Globe Studios

PHOTO Provided courtesy of
the Waterloo Region Record
and the University of Waterloo archives

DEAD NAME

Winter Collective
(Waterloo Region, Ontario)

My name is...

Names are not always gifts.

Sometimes they must be chosen,
and sometimes they must be fought for.

And sometimes, they die.

Created by a duo of transgender artists,
Dead Name is an expressive theatrical piece
dedicated to names: those we call ourselves,
those given to us, those we birth, and those
that die. It is a love letter to transition, the
people we used to be, and the people we
choose to become.

Sep 25, 26 | Venue TBA

PHOTO June Sung

Darling

WOOMcollaborative (Waterloo Region, Ontario)



A manila envelope containing three cassette tapes and one journal from 1976 unravels MA student Erin Zeigler's entire thesis before her dissertation defense. The story of a woman and her gynecologist lover leaves Erin with a burning question she cannot get out of her mind, even in her dreams:

Who is "Darling"?

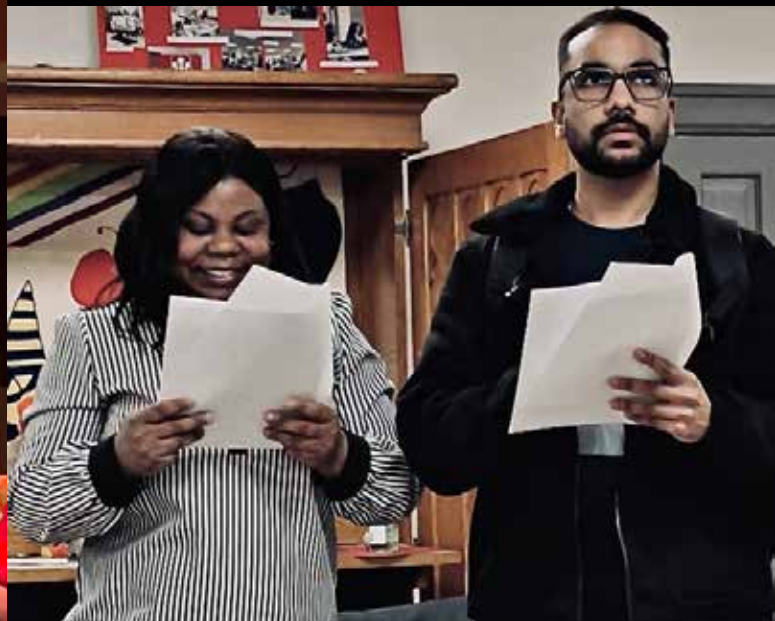
Through various media (sound, video, performance, and interactive pedagogical technology), this production explores the archive of a woman from the past known only as "Darling."

Sep 25, 26 | Theatre of the Arts, University of Waterloo

PHOTO Brooke Barnes

The Canadian Dream

Outta Work Actors Inc. (Waterloo Region, Ontario)



The Canadian Dream is a fictionalized story following Rahul's journey to Canada as a student starting a promising career in the tech industry to ultimately becoming unsheltered and homeless. This forum theatre piece asks audiences to consider alternatives to the outcome of this play and to consider their wildest dreams to prevent this from happening to others.

Created with the Lived Expertise Working Group at the Social Development Centre Waterloo Region and Kaleidoscope Two Minute Play Applied Theatre Laboratory.

Sep 24, 25 | Kitchener City Hall

PHOTO Unknown

Provenance-Asē

Lily (Abena-Ansuah) Gyamfi-Kumanini and Gary Kirkham
(Waterloo Region, Ontario)



Present day at the British Museum: A young Ghanaian academic meets with the curator to get her ancestral sword returned to Ghana.

1950's colonial Gold Coast (Ghana): Nana Abenaa Afima, a royal granddaughter to one of the earliest Empires in Ghana, meets a Bengal-Brit soldier denying his Indian heritage.

In this staged reading, Lily and Gary explore their family histories and how they intersected in Ghana during its road to independence.

Sep 27, 28 | Venue TBA



The Quiet Power of Personal Things

Kate Kamo McHugh
(Waterloo Region, Ontario)

Bring an object, a memory, a scrap of something once-loved (or still loved!) from your personal or family archive to this participatory show and tell-style workshop led by dance and theatre artist Kate Kamo McHugh. The artist will begin the workshop with a short, devised performance that can be evidenced in her wheatpasted works, created in collaboration with Natalie Vuong for In this act of burial.

After the performance, participants are invited to gather around the kitchen table to share stories about their family objects and activate the kitchen table as a site for gathering.

Rooted in storytelling and practices of care, the workshop invites reflection and roundtable sharing to realize the quiet power of personal things, while considering the tension between Regional and personal archives.

September 27 – 28 | Schneider Haus

Ni Nagamoon: A Cultural Sharing Workshop

Nicole Joy-Fraser
(St. Catharines, Ontario)

Ni Nagamoon (Nehewiwak for 'my song') is a First Nation cultural sharing created and performed by Niagara-based performing artist, Nicole Joy-Fraser. Through storytelling and original hand drum songs, Nicole shares her Anishnaabe teachings, based on her journey and reclamation of Indigenous heritage. This intimate and interactive workshop invites audiences of all ages to use shakers and rattles to join Nicole in music making, while sitting on the ground, reconnecting with Mother Earth.

A Carousel Players touring production.

Sep 27, 28 | Schneider Haus
Free Admission

Leaders of Today

MT Space Young Company
(Waterloo Region, Ontario)

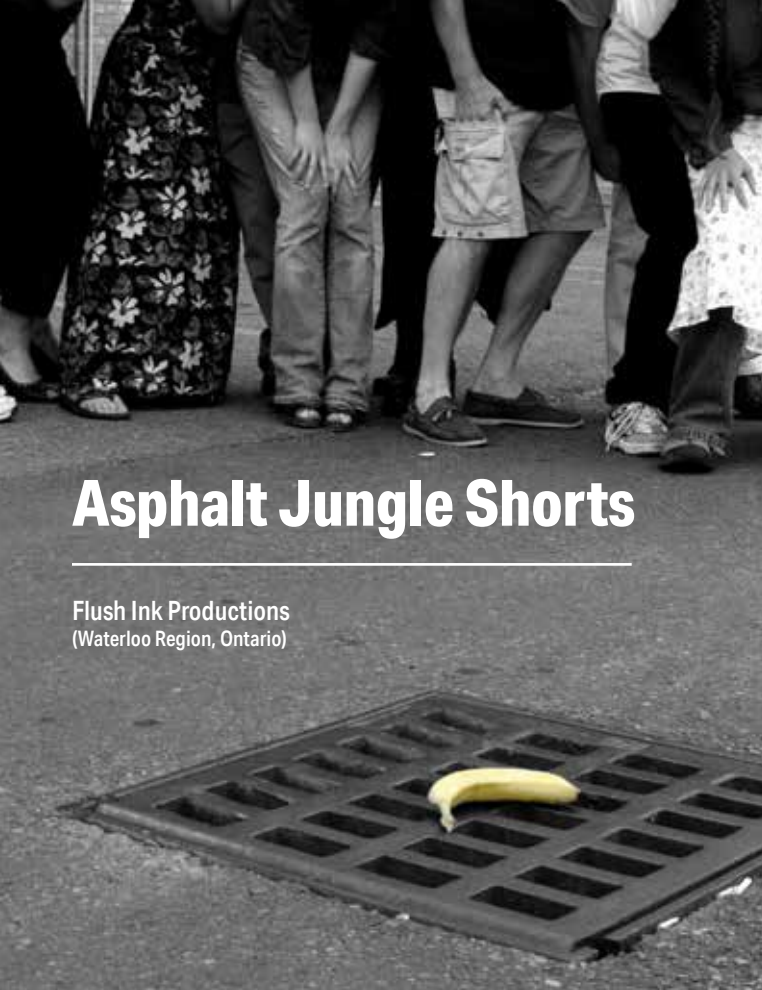
Building from MT Space's Newcomer Youth Theatre Project, an after-school theatre program for multi-language learner high school students in partnership with the YMCA of Three Rivers, the Young Company will bring together newcomer, immigrant, and refugee youth for a more intensive theatre process of workshops and sharing of lived experiences.

Join us for the culmination of MT Space's Young Company program as these youth showcase their newly developed skills, tell their stories, and facilitate us in dialogue as the leaders of today.

Presented in partnership with YMCA of Three Rivers.

Sep 27, 28 | Venue TBA
Free Admission

PHOTOS Carlos Parada



Asphalt Jungle Shorts

Flush Ink Productions
(Waterloo Region, Ontario)

In its twentieth year, *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.

Sep 24-28 | Downtown Kitchener



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!

September 23 – 28 | Tamasha Bar + Indian Kitchen

IMPACT 25 INDUSTRY CONFERENCE: MOVING BEYOND ALLYSHIP

What does it mean to move “beyond allyship”? How do we challenge our approaches to art-making, collaboration, and creating space? This year’s conference discussions will explore collaboration and accessibility as it relates to artists, audiences, and the wider community.



September 25, 26, 27 – 10:00am-4:00pm
Blair Hall at Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1 (in partnership with O:se Kenhionhata:tie Land Back Camp)

What does it mean to offer and claim space? Over two sessions, we unpack partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups while sharing local case studies and context with O:se Kenhionhata:tie Land Back Camp.

DAY 2 (in partnership with SOUND OFF Festival and Phoenix The Fire)

What does it mean to open doors and improve accessibility? SOUND OFF Festival and Phoenix The Fire lead us in discussions around the complicated nature of hiring interpreters, consultants, and best practices becoming bad practices.

DAY 3: A TIME FOR REFLECTION

Through small group sharing circles and a concluding panel with O:se Kenhionhata:tie Land Back Camp, SOUND OFF Festival and Phoenix The Fire, we open up space to be vulnerable, share our reflections, and envision how to move beyond allyship together.

GET YOUR CONFERENCE PASS

Conference passes available at ticketscene.ca.



MT SPACE AT SQUARE PEG

We are filling the space at Square Peg!

IMPACT 25 is making a home at this unique location for all of September where we will transform Square Peg into a vibrant space for community, storytelling, and connection – plus our IMPACT headquarters and box office.

From installations to workshops to artisanal shopping experiences, you are invited to help us re-imagine Square Peg into a space of belonging—a space that brings different communities together to create a community of difference.

220 King Street West, Kitchener

MT SPACE & IMPACT 25

FESTIVAL TEAM

Artistic Director	Pam Patel
Company Manager	Bó Bárdos
General Manager	Hiyam Mahrat
Associate Producer	Yazan Maarouf
Apprentice Artistic Director	Nada Abusaleh
Logistics Coordinator	Maddie Cranston
Marketing & Outreach Manager	Phi Doan
IMPACT Production Manager	Cameron Slipp
IMPACT Box Office Coordinator	Maria Kouznetsova
Volunteer Coordinator	Anjali Shankar
Marketing Assistant	Foufou Nazer
Production Assistant	Jubran Mansour
Admin Assistant	Sophie Corbett
Assistant Production Manager	Gordon Simmons
Production Coordinator	Jasmine Rajaballey
Festival Stage Manager	Yansshi Rughani
IMPACT Photographer	Andy Wright
Bookkeeper	Suzanne Langdon
Creative Services & Graphic Designer	Nichol Comyn

MT SPACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair	David Morneau
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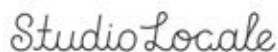
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PRINCESS CINEMAS



**FULL
CIRCLE
FOODS**

**SURVIVAL.
RESISTANCE.
HISTORIES RETOLD.
TRUTH REVEALED.
HUMAN NATURE
UNCOVERED.**

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ACROSS TURTLE ISLAND (CANADA/MEXICO).**



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