



THE 2023/24 SEASON SEAS

MISSABLE PERFORMANCES.

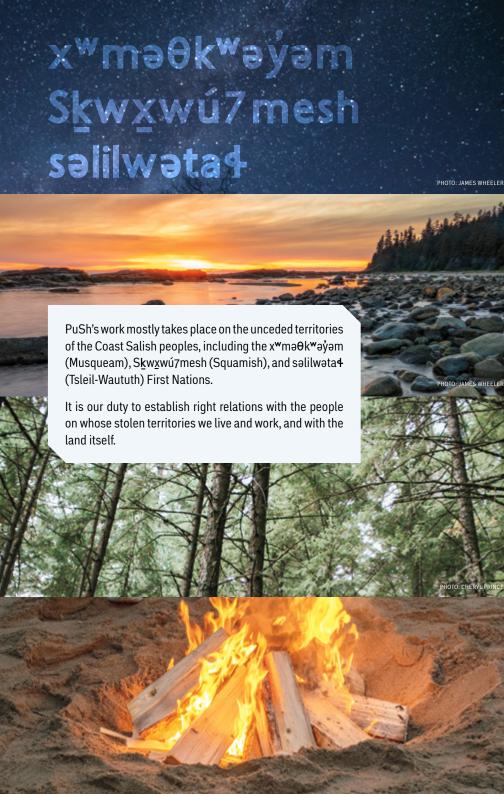
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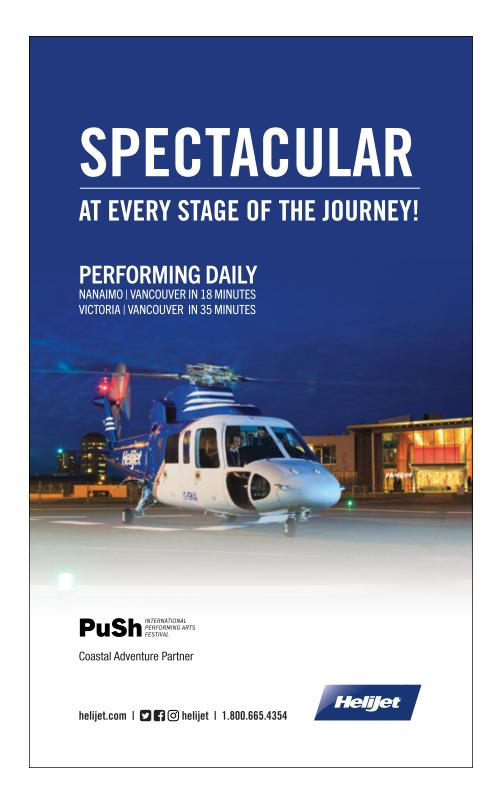


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WELCOME MESSAGES



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in the 2024 PuSh International Performing Arts Festival.

Since 2005, this festival has offered artists from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to showcase their talents. I am sure that everyone in attendance will enjoy this wonderful celebration of theatre, dance, music, circus arts and multimedia.

I would like to thank the organizers for their commitment to bringing the community together through the medium of performing arts. I would also like to thank the volunteers and artists for their role in making this an unforget-table experience for everyone.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful festival.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau



On behalf of Premier David Eby and the Government of British Columbia, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the 2024 PuSh International Performing Arts Festival.

For nearly two decades, PuSh has been attracting global attention with its exceptional performances. PuSh showcases innovative live art, including theatre, dance, music, circus arts, and multimedia, by acclaimed artists from around the world.

Beyond providing innovative, artistic experiences to B.C. audience, PuSh also offers valuable opportunities for both aspiring and established artists and presenters to network, gain inspiration and learn from industry leaders.

The Province is proud to support the 2024 PuSh Festival through the BC Arts Council and the B.C. Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund. PuSh and other B.C. based festivals are an integral part of a dynamic and thriving arts and culture sector in our province, which contributes to local economies and the vibrancy of communities.

Congratulations to the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival for its continuous success. Thank you to the volunteers and sponsors whose involvement and support made this festival possible. To the talented B.C. artists and performers, thank you for your participation. Enjoy the festival!

Sincerely,

Hon. Lana Popham
MINISTER OF TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORT



On behalf of the citizens of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I want to congratulate the organizers, performers and audiences of the 2024 PuSh International Performing Arts Festival on their 19th Anniversary.

It is the unique character of our City that all our citizens can enjoy and participate in a large, diverse selection of cultural entertainment events. The PuSh Festival expands the horizons of Vancouver artists and audiences with work that is visionary, genre-bending, multi-disciplined and original. It showcases acclaimed international, Canadian and local artists with an alchemy that inspires audiences. There are a variety of performances that are sure to please everyone. We are very proud of our enlightened arts community and we welcome all the performers from across Canada and around the world. Once again, it is an honour to have you in Vancouver.

Congratulations on a fabulous event and I hope everyone enjoys the festivities!

Sincerely,

Mayor Ken Sim
MAYOR OF VANCOUVER



On behalf of the BC Arts Council, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to everyone participating in the 2024 PuSh Festival. The BC Arts Council has been proud to support the Festival since the beginning.

With contemporary works from around the world, this year's festival is sure to be a space for dialogue and big ideas. In these turbulent times, art challenges us to think deeply and push for social change. It allows us to share knowledge and ask critical questions about culture. The success of PuSh has always been in connecting communities and imagining a different future.

A full team of incredible artists, arts workers, and volunteers are at the heart of the Festival. Congratulations to everyone involved on the presentation of another program of innovative and boundary-pushing performances.

Enjoy this year's festival!

Sincerely,

Dr Sae-Hoon Stan Chung, Chair BC ARTS COUNCIL

SFU WOODWARD'S

Push INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

CREATE. ENGAGE. INSPIRE.

As we opened our doors in 2010, Jerome Bel's unforgettable *The Show Must Go On* began our very first partnership with PuSh Festival.

To date, we have now co-presented over 50 remarkable shows, Industry Series and Audience Talkbacks... some permanently etched in our collective memories like:

- Jack Charles V the Crown Ilbijerri Theatre (2016)
- Zappa meets Varese & Oswald Turning Point Ensemble (2017)
- · Old Stock: A Refugee Story 2b Theatre (2022)

Our unique relationship extends to artistic innovation and creating learning opportunities with SFU's School for Contemporary Arts.

To this day, we continue to actively engage leading artists, diverse communities in pursuit of finding the most compelling storytellers/ visionaries to take us to new places, revealing new ways of seeing; and, understanding an ever complex world. Art prepares us to provoke, adapt and at times truly celebrate the beauty and mystery of being alive.

Don't miss the PuSh @ SFU Woodward's 15th Anniversary Series during this year's Festival!

15TH ANNIVERSARY

WELCOME TO THE 2024 PUSH INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL!



In a time of social fracture, coming together to experience live performance sparks empathy, serves as a catalyst for building resilient communities and is integral to shaping our shared and collective identities. We hope you come to PuSh to experience art that challenges you, inspires you, or invites you to look at the world from a different perspective.

One thing we continue to hear is that coming to PuSh means seeing something you'd never see anywhere else. We share that spirit of adventure, always looking for new experiences, new voices and new ways of looking at our community and the world.

As we are reconceptualizing what PuSh can mean to our community, it's important to acknowledge where we come from. The founders of PuSh shared a vision to bring the best live arts the world had to offer to this city and to share the best of Vancouver with the world. They and the staff who built PuSh created a remarkable legacy that inspires us daily.

The Festival also wouldn't be where we are without our Presenting Partners. These are the other arts organizations who come together with us to bring work that is innovative and surprising to the city. Collaboration is the bedrock upon which this festival stands and the key to our shared survival. It is through our collective efforts and shared commitment to live arts that we not only thrive but also redefine what it means to be a vibrant and interconnected community.

Thank you for joining us on the adventure.

2024 PuSh Festival Team

PUSH PASSES & TICKETS

PUSH PASSES

A PuSh Pass is the best way to experience the PuSh Festival! See four or six different PuSh presentations and enjoy savings of up to 25% off single ticket prices. Make a short list of what you want to see at pushfestival. ca then book your shows online any time of day.

All PuSh Pass Holders receive free admission to Club PuSh (p 38).

FOUR-SHOW PASS	\$135
SIX-SHOW PASS	200
DIGITAL PASS	\$10C

Upgraded seating is available for *Pli* for an additional charge.

GROUP TICKETS

Share the PuSh Festival with your friends or colleagues! When you come as a group of 10 or more, save up to 20% off single ticket prices to select shows. To get your party started, email tickets@pushfestival.ca.

PUSH @ SFU WOODWARD'S ANNIVERSARY SERIES

Help us celebrate 15 years of partnerships with SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs. See all three shows at the SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts and save 15%.

YOUTH PASS

A Youth Four-Show Pass allows you to book online and guarantees you a seat in the theatre. Available for patrons 16 to 24 years old. Ouantities limited.

YOUTH PASS.....\$20

INDUSTRY PASS

For artists and arts workers, an Industry Pass provides access to Industry Series events with discounted tickets to PuSh programming. See more information on page 51.

INDUSTRY PASS.....\$75

SINGLE TICKETS

If you can't commit to a PuSh Pass, single tickets are your best bet! Some shows have limited capacities, and purchasing tickets in advance is recommended.

Tickets for *Inheritances* and *The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes* will be available via our co-presenters' box offices. Find a direct ticket link on the individual show pages at **pushfestival.ca**.

••••••

PAY IT FORWARD!

Add an extra ticket to your order to help someone else see a show at PuSh. Look for the add-on donation button or ask a Patron Services representative if ordering by phone.

At PuSh, we believe that access to performing arts should not be limited due to financial constraints. If ticket prices are a barrier for you, contact **community@pushfestival.ca**.

ACCESS NEEDS

Contact the box office or Accessible PuSh Coordinator Andrea Cownden at **access@pushfestival.ca** or by phone at 604.605.8284 ext. 204 to:

- · Reserve seating that meets your needs
- · Advise staff of your access needs
- Book a complimentary ticket for a companion
- Request a volunteer companion to meet you at nearby transit or support you at the venue

More info on Accessible PuSh initiatives on p. 49

HOW TO BUY

ONLINE

pushfestival.ca

PUSH FESTIVAL PATRON SERVICES

Phone: 604.449.6000

Toll-Free in North America: 1.866.608.8284

IN-PERSON

110-750 Hamilton Street, Vancouver Monday-Friday, 11AM-5PM

Box Office closed Dec 22, 2023 - Jan 1, 2024

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Visit our Frequently Asked Questions page online, or contact PuSh Festival Patron Services. Email is the fastest way to communicate with us: tickets@pushfestival.ca

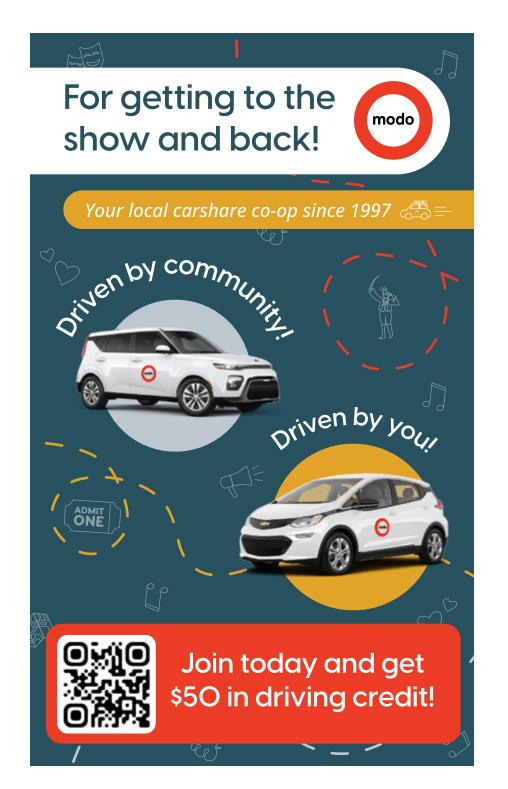
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PUSH PASS AND INDUSTRY PASS TERMS & CONDITIONS: Limited quantities. Passes are non-refundable and non-transferable. Tickets allotted to Passholders for each performance are limited, so book early—at least 72 hours before showtime. Limit one ticket per show. Passholders must always be present, and show valid photo ID, at the venue box office in order to pick up tickets. Additional charges apply for some shows. Full terms and conditions at pushfestival.ca.

YOUTH PASS TERMS & CONDITIONS: Limited quantities. Limit one per person. Youth Passes are non-refundable and non-transferable. Tickets allotted to Youth Passholders for each performance are very limited, so book early—at least 72 hours before showtime. Select shows are not available to be booked on a Pass. Limit one ticket per show. Passholders must always be present, and show valid proof-of-age photo ID, at the venue box office in order to pick up tickets. Additional charges apply for some shows. Full terms and conditions at pushfestival.ca.

SINGLE TICKET TERMS & CONDITIONS: Prices are subject to change. Additional service charges and telephone order fees may apply to the advertised price. Valid photo ID must be presented by the original purchaser at the venue box office in order to pick up tickets. Full terms and conditions at pushfestival.ca.

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SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF PUSH

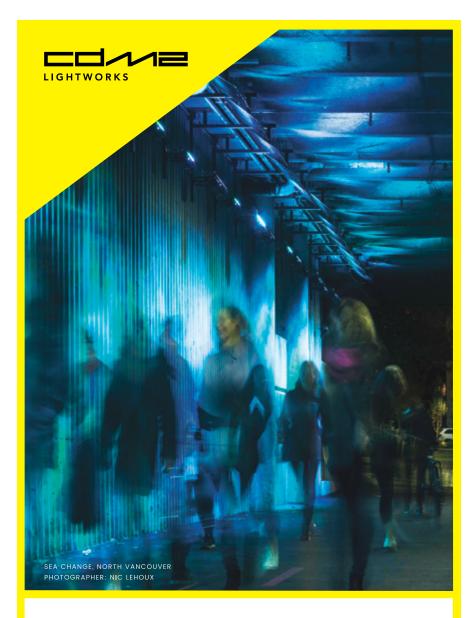
Supporting the PuSh Festival means contributing to the vitality of the local arts community. It brings people together, fosters a sense of belonging, and strengthens the cultural fabric of Vancouver. Your donation plays a crucial role in building a stronger, more connected community through the arts.

You can find a full list of our donor benefits on our website **pushfestival.ca/donor-benefits**. If you have any questions about the Patrons Circle, sponsorship opportunities or want to know more about what your giving accomplishes, please email Development & Engagement Manager Alex Grigg at **development@pushfestival.ca**.

Donors receive exclusive benefits* including:

- Charitable tax receipt for donations
- Early access to Festival programming
- Festival program guide mailed to you
- Invite to Festival Launch Party
- Invitation to a reception with Festival artists
- * Benefits vary by contribution level





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DARREN LUCE, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDING PRINCIPAL

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CURATORIAL STATEMENT

The artistic projects of the 2024 PuSh program are all works that share a sense of cultural urgency. They are works that inspire social change through their what — through content that pushes us to examine contemporary issues and how we situate

ourselves in relation to them: L'amour telle une cathédrale ensevelie examines the familial impacts of migration from "forsaken" towards "promised" lands; The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes speculates on how AI will treat humans given society's treatment of people who are neurodivergent; and Returns investigates production and consumption over the course of a 30-day return cycle.

They are works that centre the why — making us feel more alive with personal accounts of resistance and acts of vulnerability in conversation with liberation and mortality. Aerial acrobatics and paper sculpture meet in *Pli*, evoking fragility and "a different kind of strength". Sound of the Beast reflects on how we are connected to the systems that oppress us, and how we can empower each other to rise up. And the cathartic treatment of death in *Lorenzo* elicits an emotional range that only a comedian can achieve.

The Festival is also defined by works whose creative risk and interdisciplinarity shift our paradigms for expression, or the *how: Same Difference* invites us to encounter ourselves in a whole new way through the dynamic, immersive environment of mirrors, music and video; in *BLOT - Body Line of Thought*, dancers share the stage with their own microbe cultures for a dialogue about nature, affecting, and being affected; and in asses.*masses* a participatory hybrid of gameful performance challenges what "democratic" means in the context of theatre.

Grounded in this sacred trinity of society, self, and form, the 19th Festival edition is set to invoke an alchemy of transformation. Together, the works present a cultural strategy for a diversity that welcomes genera-

tive friction, and the development of narratives that honour the honest complexity of our collective nature. This is beautifully realized in works like *The Runner*, which questions what happens to us when we are pushed to our spiritual, moral and emotional limits; *Dear Laila* and its exploration of how war and exile are experienced through the everyday, and domestic and public spaces; *because i love the diversity* (*this micro-attitude, we all have it*) and its ability to embody the chaos of an unjust society and find humour in the contradictions; and *Deciphers*' physical translation of the evolving nature of human identity.

PuSh 2024 offers a means to rethink our histories and imagine possible futures with several works: Ramanenjana takes the dance "epidemic" of 19th century Madagascar as a site for inquiry into the role of dance as public manifestation; and Inheritances is a legacy in and of itself, conjuring reflections on what we leave behind when we move on; DARKMATTER takes us from post-humanism to Afro-futurism, asking how we speculate about the Black body in the future; and in NOMADA, we are invited into a world where the fragile balance of the earth is restored through acts of renewal.

Collectively, these visionary and experimental projects form a ritual for social change that can only be activated by your participation. I hope to see you there.

Gabrielle Martin
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

PERFORMANCES



Returns

JAN 7-FEB 3

Visit **pushfestival.ca** for daily schedule

SCOTIABANK DANCE CENTRE (STUDIOS)

Free

3 hours/day, come & go



DEAF/HARD OF HEARING FRIENDLY



EXTRA LIVE (ALWAYS RELAXED)

PERFORMANCE INSTALLATION

NELLIE GOSSEN

(UNCEDED COAST SALISH TERRITORIES)

An imaginative convergence of dance, labour and garment fabrication, *Returns* is an innovative experiment and month-long artistic enquiry into the standard 30-day retail return policy.

Moved to unearth the materials and performances already at play within consumer capitalism, interdisciplinary artist Nellie Gossen disassembles retail clothing to create an ever-shifting sculptural installation. Each performance recombines material, choreography, and action, unfurling new iterations of meaning.

On the final day, the clothes are meticulously reconstructed and returned to the store for a full refund, imperceptibly reintroducing the artist's time, labour and artistic intervention into the machine of fast fashion. The traditional garment workers' skillset is repurposed into a practice of social impact.

Returns is a fascinating, inherently political work, offering a new way of engaging with exploitative systems.

PRESENTED WITH



LORENZO

JAN 18-20

.....

7:30PM

ANNEX \$39

722

65min, no intermission



LIVE DESCRIPTION ON JAN 19

CONTENT NOTE

Strobe lights, pyrotechnics, discussion of death and euthanasia

THEATRE

BEN TARGET/SOHO THEATRE (UK)

A life-affirming story about death, conveyed through the popular mediums of storytelling, servitude to the audience and live carpentry, a combination not seen on the world stage since Nazareth, circa AD30.

In 2020, Ben Target gave up his comedy career to look after his irascible octogenarian uncle, Lorenzo, during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this autobiographical hour, he shares acute insights into caregiving, interweaving melancholy and hilarity.

Forthright and funny, Ben unflinchingly documents the reality and the often unspoken aspects of caring for an aging loved one. Through his deeply personal tale we reflect on common preoccupations: what we leave behind in death, who and what shape the way we are remembered, and how to face disappointing ourselves when we are painfully human.

LORENZO is electric with feeling, and a heartfelt ode to what it means to love and to care.

SUPPORTED BY



Ramanenjana

TANGAJ COLLECTIVE (ROMANIA/MADAGASCAR/GERMANY)

Ramanenjana is a witty, captivating docufiction performance about a dance event that made history.

Ramanenjana, in Malagasy, means something that makes you rigid but also makes you strong. Historians pathologized the dance and labeled it part of a "dance epidemic". In fact, the mass dance is rooted in a sacred ritual performed by thousands of people in reaction to Western and Christian influence.

In Madagascar in 1863, thousands of people danced in the capital city for weeks to drums, as if hallucinating. This intriguing show examines the conflicting accounts to demonstrate how colonialism may have spread misconceptions about the extraordinary movement and raises important questions about the role of dance in society.

Informed by years of research, Ramanenjana blends reality and speculation, archived documents and contemporary testimonies, physical gesture and ecstatic motion.

JAN 19-20 **JAN 21 JAN 19-FEB 4** ONLINE

POST-SHOW TALKBACK: JAN 20 ARTIST LECTURE: JAN 21 • 4PM

SCOTIABANK **DANCE CENTRE**

\$37

60 min, no intermission

[ST] IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND MALAGASY WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES

DANCE

PRESENTED



2PM





asses.masses

JAN 20. 27 FEB 3

1PM 1PM

WATERFRONT THEATRE

Pay your wage: \$16.75 and up

Approx. 7.5 hrs, 4 intermissions



EXTRA LIVE (ALWAYS RELAXED)

Includes unvoiced written English

CONTENT NOTE

Flashing lights, audience participation, violence, crude language, simulated donkey

THEATRE MULTIMEDIA

VIDEO GAME

MILTON LIM AND PATRICK BLENKARN (CANADA)

The unemployed donkeys have one demand: the humans must surrender their machines and give all donkeys their jobs back. But revolution is never easy!

asses.masses is a custom-made video game about labour, technophobia and sharing the load of revolution, designed to be played from beginning to end in a live theatre. This is gaming as performance; an immersive, cheeky and highly original work. Brave spectators take turns at the controller to lead the herd through a post-Industrial society, where asses are valued more for their hides than their potential.

Confronting automation driven job loss, nostalgia as a barrier to progress, and the role of technology in adaptation, we are encouraged to find space between the work that defines us and the play that frees us. asses.masses is Animal Farm meets Pokémon meets Final Fantasy: as exciting in form as it is in content. No previous gaming (or donkey) experience required.





Dear Laila

JAN 20-21 12:20-7:20PM JAN 23-27 12:20-7:20PM JAN 30-FEB 3 12:20-7:20PM

Every 20 min.

BOCA DEL LUPO'S STUDIO THE FISHBOWL

\$15

15 min, no intermission



EXTRA LIVE (ALWAYS RELAXED)



LOW VISION FRIENDLY WITH INTRODUCTION

INTERACTIVE INSTALLATION

PRESENTED WITH



BASEL ZARAA (PALESTINE/UK)

"Dear Laila, you are five now and have started to ask me where I grew up, and why we can't go there. This is me trying to give you an answer."

The seeds of this award-winning immersive experience were planted when artist Basel Zaraa's five-year-old daughter, Laila, began to ask him about his childhood home, Al Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus. Unable to take her there, Zaraa decided he would bring the place to her.

Dear Laila shares the Palestinian experience of displacement and resistance through the story of one family, exposing how war and exile infiltrate the everyday and the domestic. In this intimate, interactive installation for one, we explore a model of the home Zaraa grew up in. Open drawers. Leaf through photo albums. Look at the pictures on the wall. Reflect on the stories hidden in plain sight.

Dear Laila speaks to joy, family and the beauty of community.

SUPPORTED BY









Beast

JAN 20, 23 7:30PM **JAN 21**

POST-SHOW TALKBACK: JAN 23

THE REVUE STAGE \$39

90 min. no intermission



CONTENT NOTE Police violence

THEATRE MUSIC

DONNA-MICHELLE ST. BERNARD/ THEATRE PASSE MURAILLE (CANADA)

Urgent, intimate and magnetic, Donna-Michelle St. Bernard gives a performance of profound poetic justice with storytelling, spoken word and rap.

Humour and timing provide sharp contrast to hardened realities. Doughnut cravings, 5 a.m. moments coming home from gigs, and the friendships of the rap scene collide with layered stories of dog whistle racism, over policing, and legacies of slavery in historic and modern times. Comically absurd, this juxtaposition reflects reality for many of us. Sound of the Beast radically takes us for a spin on the treadmill of socially constructed dehumanization through legal systems, police practices, and zombie movies. "If you know, you know."

Part concert, part theatre, this radical work offers a bold, subversively funny perspective on injustice and the joy in nurturing who and what we love.

"I'm not here to tell you how to feel. I'm just here to tell you what happened."

because i love the diversity (this microattitude, we all have it)

JAN 22-24

POST-SHOW TALKBACK: JAN 24

7:30PM

PERFORMANCE WORKS

\$39

80 min

CONTENT NOTE Nudity

DANCE THEATRE

RAKESH SUKESH (INDIA/BELGIUM)

A random encounter with a camera on the streets of Tallinn, Estonia made choreographer and dancer Rakesh Sukesh a momentary poster boy for a right wing news channel's campaign against immigration from Asia and Africa.

What happens to his body when it is rendered into a viral, racist symbol? How does it affect him, and his relationship to the mostly white, deeply loving artists and students he works with?

In because i love the diversity Rakesh tells the story of his own journey through the powerful semi-improvisational, trancelike movement technique that makes him such an in-demand teacher across the world.

What does it mean to make a performance about this for an art festival, which is part of a scene that has only very recently begun to show interest in his work, precisely because of the kind of racism he encountered in Tallinn?

PRESENTED



















BLOT-Body Line of Thought

JAN 22-23

7:30PM

POST-SHOW TALKBACK: JAN 22

LEFT OF MAIN

\$39

45 min. no intermission

CONTENT NOTE Nudity

DANCE

TANGAJ COLLECTIVE / ACTION AT A DISTANCE (ROMANIA/CANADA)

We are strong and fragile, interconnected systems of sweat, muscle and microbiome. In BLOT, our bodies are redefined through an exploration of our coexistence with microbiological beings.

This choreographed performance is inspired by our own anatomy, using the language of the body to create states of repetition, fluidity, compassion, and empathy. Stripped of the social meanings determined by language, movement becomes a transitory presence and an intersubjective experience that opens the way to new understandings. Images of bacteria cultivated from the dancers' bodies and dunes of salt reveal the invisible systems that connect us to our biome.

BLOT asks us to consider how to live within a world of fractured identities, distance from nature and the ongoing climate crisis. The result is a reminder of our interconnectedness despite our differences in both identity and microbiology.

SUPPORTED BY



Inheritances

JAN 24-25

7:30PM

ANNEX

\$42

80 min, no intermission



LOW VISION FRIENDLY

MUSIC

ADAM TENDLER (USA)

Adam Tendler, one of the most celebrated contemporary pianists in the world, didn't expect an inheritance from his father. But, when it happened, the gift was as bizarre as it was unexpected: a wad of cash in a manilla envelope, handed over in a parking lot.

His inspiration for how to spend it came in a flash months later: commission a program of new piano works about inheritance itself. Tendler performs each of the 16 pieces received from sound artists and composers at this Canadian premiere. These diverse compositions are bold and tender in turn. Each holds a depth and emotional resonance. These "bereavement gifts" to the artist can be profound, almost sacred, forays into the meaning of legacy in all its forms.

Woven into one intimate program, the pieces tell a universal story of lineage, loss and place, and become a meditation on confronting our past while moving forward into the future.

PRESENTED MUSIC 5Main



The Runner

HUMAN CARGO (CANADA)

Jacob, an Orthodox jew, volunteers with Z.A.K.A: a group in Israel who collects the remains of those killed in accidents to ensure their proper burial as per religious law. When Jacob, a member of the Z.A.K.A volunteer force, makes the split-second decision to treat a young woman instead of the soldier she may have killed, he must grapple with the political and moral fall out of his choice.

Urgent, visceral and complex, The Runner invites us into a nuanced exploration of our shared humanity and the value of kindness. Daniel Brooks' unsettling, breathless, physical production offers an unexpected, harrowing and ultimately hopeful path.

Winner of the 2019 Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Production, Outstanding Direction and Outstanding New Play. Based on the story of a real-life Z.A.K.A member, *The Runner* is a powerful tour de force.

JAN 24-26

7:30PM

SFU GOLDCORP **CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**

\$39

60 min, no intermission



ASL-INTERPRETATION ON JAN 26



LOW VISION FRIENDLY

CONTENT NOTE

Strobe lights, thick haze, blackout, coarse language

THEATRE

PRESENTED WITH







Same **Difference**

> JAN 24-27 6PM, 8PM **JAN 28** 2PM, 4PM

POST-SHOW TALKBACK: JAN 26

ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE

\$39

65 min, no intermission

CONTENT NOTE

Strobe lights, haze, standing show (limited seating available)

MULTIMEDIA

PERFORMANCE INSTALLATION

DAVID MESIHA/THEATRE CONSPIRACY

(UNCEDED COAST SALISH TERRITORIES)

Immerse yourself in a world of mirrors, projections and digital performances with this fascinating mixed-media performance installation led by David Mesiha. We are plunged into ever shifting cognitive and spatial perspectives as we step into an ethereal space framed by two-way mirrors, bright neon panels and immersive sound. Walk, sit or lie with reflections in this ever-changing studio of identity.

As we look at ourselves through different lenses, we're asked to deconstruct our perception of identity and to explore tensions between our sense of individuality and relationship to culture and place. Interviews with immigrants and refugees are interwoven with sound scapes, shifting architecture and projections, begging the question, "how much sameness and difference do we need to feel like we belong?" The experience is a meditation on a sense of fracturing that emerges when we exist in-between spaces.



Jan 18-Feb 4, 2024

PUSHFESTIVAL.CA

Sat Jan 20

Fri Jan 19

Fhu Jan 18

Returns

-4РМ cotiabank Dance Centre

Sun Jan 21

5-8PM Scotiabank Dance Centre

he Fishbowl

Ramanenjana

LORENZO 7:30PM ANNEX

LORENZO 7:30PM ANNEX

Sound of the Beast

Revue Stage

The Fishbowl

Materfront Theatr LORENZO 7:30PM

Sound of the Beast Revue Stage

Scotiabank Dance Cer

Ramanenjana

Ramanenjana Lecture

Ramanenjana 8PM

Mon Jan 22

because i love the diversity (this micro-attitude, we all have it) 7:30PM

erformance Work

BLOT - Body Line of

Scotiabank Dance Centre

Tues Jan 23

Returns

Scotiabank Dance Centre

Dear Laila

Performances every 20 min First performance: 12:20PM Last performance: 7:20PM

The Fishbowl

Sound of the Beast

Revue Stage :30PM

because i love the diversity (this micro-attitude, we all have it)

Performance Works

BLOT - Body Line of Thought 7:30 PM

Left of Main

Wed Jan 24

Dear Laila

First performance: 12:20PM Performances every 20 min Last performance: 7:20PM The Fishbowl

Same Difference

Roundhouse Performance Centre 6 PM, 8 PM

because i love the diversity (this micro-attitude, we all have it)

The Fishbowl

Performance Works

The Runner

SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

Inheritances

7:30PM ANNEX

Thu Jan 25

Dear Laila

First performance: 12:20PM Performances every 20 min Last performance: 7:20PM The Fishbowl

Same Difference

6 PM, 8 PM Roundhouse Performance Centre

The Runner

7:30PM SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

Inheritances

7:30PM ANNEX

Fri Jan 26

Returns

Scotiabank Dance Centre

Dear Laila

Performances every 20 min First performance: 12:20PM Last performance: 7:20PM The Fishbowl

Same Difference

Roundhouse Performance Centre 6 PM, 8 PM

The Runner

Mon Jan 29

7:30pm SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

Returns

Deciphers

5-8PM Scotiabank Dance Centre

Scotiabank Dance Centre

Talking Stick @ Club PuSh

Tue Jan 30

Performance Works

Sat Jan 27

Returns

Scotiabank Dance Centre

Dear Laila

First performance: 12:20PM Last performance: 7:20PM Performances every 20 min

asses.masses

Materfront Theatre

Same Difference

Roundhouse Performance Centre 6 PM, 8PM

Performances every 20 min First performance: 12:20PM Last performance: 7:20PM The Fishbowl

Dear Laila

Deciphers

Scotiabank Dance Centre

the frank theatre co. @Club PuSh

7:30PM SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

DARKMATTER

Performance Works

Sun Jan 28

Returns

SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

Deciphers

Scotiabank Dance Centre

Same Difference

2 PM, 4PM Roundhouse Performance Centre

NOMADA

7:30PM ANNEX

The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes

7:30PM York Theatre

Fri Feb 2

7:30PM SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

DARKMATTER

2PM, 7:30PM York Theatre

Dear Laila

Performances every 20 min First performance: 12:20PM Last performance: 7:20PM The Fishbowl

Returns

Scotiabank Dance Centre

Returns

Scotiabank Dance Centre 5-8PM

NOMADA

Performances every 20 min First performance: 12:20PM

Dear Laila

-ast performance: 7:20PM

The Fishbowl

7:30PM ANNEX

The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes

fork Theatre 7:30PM

SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

DARKMATTER

7:30PM

Wed Jan 31

Vancouver Playhouse

Thu Feb 1

Sat Feb 3

Returns

Returns

5-8PM Scotiabank Dance Centre

5-8PM Scotiabank Dance Centre

Dear Laila

Dear Laila

Performances every 20 min First performance: 12:20PM Last performance: 7:20PM The Fishbowl

Performances every 20 min First performance: 12:20PM

Last performance: 7:20PM The Fishbowl

Waterfront Theatre asses.masses

NOMADA

ANNEX

The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes

7:30PM

Vancouver Playhouse

L'amour telle une cathédrale ensevelie

7:30PM SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

Sun Feb 4

L'amour telle une cathédrale ensevelie

2PM SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts



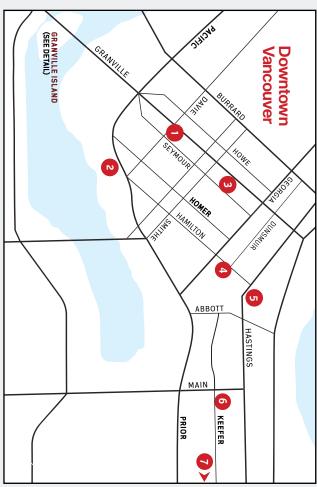


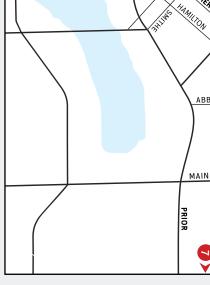
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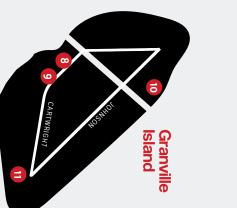
SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts 149 West Hastings Street

211 Keefer Street Left of Main

639 Commercial Dr (notshown)











Deciphers

JAN 26, 27 8PM **JAN 28** 2PM

POST-SHOW TALKBACK: JAN 28

SCOTIABANK **DANCE CENTRE**

\$39

60 min, no intermission

CONTENT NOTE Strobe lights, haze

DANCE

NAISHI WANG AND JEAN ABREU (CANADA / CHINA / UK / BRAZIL)

Deciphers is a conversation of words, movement and stillness. Two artists from migrant backgrounds decipher each other and the languages that ground them through intense, physical performances that embrace elements of Chinese Folk Dance, Brazilian dance styles, spoken word and ink on paper.

These media create and question complexities of communication through the lens of understanding and misunderstanding. Co-performers and choreographers, Naishi Wang and Jean Abreu, use the stage as a blank canvas to highlight the body as a primal source for communication and a carrier of meaning. By shifting identity—through words and movement—Deciphers discovers new languages, devised in different modes of expression and perception.

Centering the immigrant experience, Deciphers addresses translation as a linguistic phenomenon. The result is a mesmerizing, beautiful work by two artists international in talent and scope.

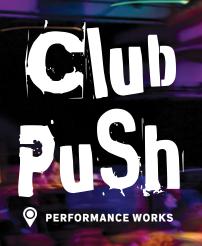




The Fishbowl 100-1398 Cartwright St Waterfront Theatre 1412 Cartwright Street

Red Gate Revue Stage

Performance Works
1218 Cartwright Street



DARKMATTER

the frank theatre co. @ Club PuSh

\$10; free with any PuSh Pass

Granville

JAN 27 • 9PM

Part dance party, part cabaret, all queer joy!

After two sold-out nights in 2022 and 2023, the frank theatre returns to Club PuSh. frank brings you a subversive line-up of queer, trans, immigrant, and BIPOC creators. Foregrounding resistance, experimentation and delight, this evening will challenge and enthrall. An immersive experience within incendiary music, fearless performance art, and boundary-pushing drag. Previous nights featured local legends Kimmortal, Batty Banks, Virago Nation, the Darlings, DJ Softieshan, Kara Juku and more!

PRESENTED WITH

thefrank theatreco.

Get ready for an electrifying night at Club PuSh, brought to you by Talking Stick Festival! Immerse yourself in a captivating performance maelstrom where Indigenous traditions meet with contemporary artistry. A dynamic lineup of artists promises an unforgettable experience.

This evening isn't just an event; it's a tribute to Indigenous culture, reimagined in a modern light that's bound to ignite your senses. You won't want to miss this journey.

PRESENTED WITH TALK NG STICK

Talking Stick

@ Club PuSh

JAN 26 • 9PM

JAN 29-31 7:30PM

SFU GOLDCORP
CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

POST-SHOW TALKBACK: JAN 30

\$39

85 min, no intermission

DHH DEAF/HARD OF HEARING FRIENDLY

CONTENT NOTE

Strobe lights, incense, loud sound, nudity, long black out periods

DANCE

CHERISH MENZO / GRIP & FRASCATI PRODUCTIES (BELGIUM / THE NETHERLANDS)

"Body, can you become hypothetical? A galaxy in full gear acceleration? A liquid star monster, failing to die?"

PuSh @ SFU Woodward's Anniversary Series

Moving with otherworldly intensity through a collision of gritty physicality and metaphysical possibility, two dancers find new ways to examine and detach their bodies from the ways they are perceived and the daily realities in which they move. They peel back layers of socially imposed meaning, entering a complex conversation of attraction and repulsion. Dark matter and black holes meet and collide to give birth to an (afro)futuristic and enigmatic body.

Incorporating tempo remixing techniques from hip-hop music and accompanied by fragments of community-generated rap anthems, Cherish Menzo invents a movement language that reimagines the biased way we look at our own, and others', bodies and the stories we attribute to them.

DARKMATTER transcends dimension and form to expand our vision of the possible.

PRESENTED WITH





BACK TO BACK THEATRE (AUSTRALIA)

When AI takes over from human intelligence, how will people be treated?

Weaving a narrative through human rights, sexual politics, and the projected dominance of artificial intelligence, The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes is a sly theatrical revelation.

This a story about the type of meeting you would hope to happen in a certain kind of democracy. Amid mistakes, mis-readings, mis-leadings and misunderstanding, critical questions arise. How does society stereotype and castigate people with intellectual disabilities, consciously or otherwise? How do we each ethically navigate the complexities of representation and language? How do we come together to make decisions that are in the best interest of a civic society?

Created by PuSh alumna Back to Back Theatre, this raw, honest and deeply funny work reminds us that none of us are self-sufficient and all of us are responsible.

FEB 1-2 FEB 3

7:30PM 2PM, 7:30PM

POST-SHOW TALKBACK: FEB 2 (WITH ASL)

YORK THEATRE

\$39 and up

60 min, no intermission



ASL-INTERPRETATION ON FEB 2

[ST] IN ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES

RELAXED PERFORMANCE ON FEB 3, 2PM

CONTENT NOTE

Mentions of sex and sexual abuse, violence and abuse against people with disabilities, animals, and children

THEATRE

NEWORLD

EULEH

PHOTO: JEFF BUSBY



NOMADA

FEB 1-2 7:30PM FEB 3

POST-SHOW TALKBACK: FEB 3

ANNEX

\$39

70 min, no intermission + 30 min post show interaction

DEAF/HARD OF HEARING FRIENDLY

DANCE CIRCUS

MULTIMEDIA

DIANA LOPEZ SOTO (CANADA / MEXICO)

NOMADA is a journey of the Creator through three worlds; Sky World, Underworld, and Earth. This journey helps maintain harmony of all the earthly and cosmological elements. It is the physical and spiritual act of renewal, affirmation, and restoration.

Inspired by personal stories of displacement, rituals of water, cycles of sustainability and the connections of our bodies to land, this performance is a journey rooted in in-depth research and fieldwork. A restorative process and a gateway to connection, the experience honors the stories of Diana Lopez-Soto's Otomi and Purepecha ancestry, contemporary community, history, and relationship to the land and culture of Michoacan, Mexico.

Combining aerial movement, installation art and projection design with contemporary Mexican Indigenous dance, NOM-ADA is a deeply textured work that reflects the continuously changing balance of the earth.

SUPPORTED



FEB 2-3

7:30PM

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

\$39 and up

60 mins, no intermission

DEAF/HARD [DHH] OF HEARING FRIENDLY

CONTENT NOTE Strobe lights

CIRCUS DANCE PERFORMATIVE

SCULPTURE



SUPPORTED











LES NOUVELLES SUBSISTANCES / INBAL BEN HAIM / DOMITILLE MARTIN / ALEXIS MÉRAT (FRANCE)

A circus artist and two visual artists come together over paper. From the blank page to the crumpled draft, paper carries our innermost thoughts and universal truths: a witness to the everyday.

What else can it tell us?

Seen through the prism of circus and sculpture, a unique conversation unfolds between the suspended body and the paper that has become its rope. Which is more vulnerable, the suspended body or the paper? Between flesh and raw material, the ground and the air, we dive into a landscape that is continually torn down, and rebuilt. Layer by layer, the body and the paper travel together in a fragment of our changing world. At once a captivating beauty and a distressing sound, paper becomes more than a mirror. A projection of our inner worlds, it embodies the poetic expression of life, vulnerable, strong and constantly transforming.

L'amour telle une cathédrale ensevelie

(Love Like a Buried Cathedral)

NOUS THÉÂTRE (FRANCE/HAÏTI)

With staggering subtlety and lyricism, L'amour telle une cathédrale ensevelie tells the story of exiled Haitian families through opera-theatre. Born into just such a family, author and director Guy Régis Jr uses a chorus to sing of the tumultuous, uprooted nature of migration—the journey and the aftermath—in Creole and French, accompanied by Haitian classical guitarist, Amos Coulanges.

A stunning creation that explores exile and dislocation through a portrait of families over sixty years, told in different forms and across different territories. Each fractal in the larger journey evokes those who live in the aftermath of voyages made or lost; each narrative reflects on the social, political and economic realities of a globalized world.

This is a profound work, poetic and political. An interrogation of migration, human rights, social injustice and discrimination, the play is an ode to all those in search of a promised land.



SEU WOODWARD'S

FEB 3 FEB 4 7:30PM 2PM

POST-SHOW TALKBACK: FEB 3 (BILINGUAL)

SFU GOLDCORP **CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**

\$39

85 min

IN FRENCH AND HAITIAN CREOLE WITH ENGLISH

CONTENT NOTE

Strobe lights, video footage of death and struggles of migrants

THEATRE MUSIC

MULTIMEDIA





YOU'VE ARRIVED.



dtvan.ca @downtownvan

PUSH IN THE COMMUNITY

PuSh is stimulating dialogue through local-national-international encounters and fostering knowledge exchange unique to the fertile festival environment. Attend events or explore digital content to go deeper with our programming and help shape conversations that will lead us into a radical future.



WORKSHOPS

Opportunities for embodied engagement with the knowledge and creative practices that shape, and are shaped by, Festival artists and their work.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Talks and gatherings that create space for conversation about the urgent questions raised by Festival artists and performances.

DIGITAL

The PuSh Play Podcast features conversations with Festival artists pushing boundaries and playing with form, and the PuSh Blog highlights partnerships and initiatives energizing our relationship to community.

To find out more about these opportunities visit pushfestival.ca or contact Julian Legere at community@pushfestival.ca

DRAMATURGY CLINICS

PuSh, in partnership with Playwrights Theatre Centre, will offer free artistic consultations with visiting national and international dramaturgs representing diverse artistic points of view and cultural contexts. Taking inspiration from Festival TransAmériques, this new initiative centers process to highlight creative work that is often behind-the-scenes, nourishing individual practice while contributing to collective dramaturgical knowledge systems.

The clinics will open with Dramaturgy Dialogues, a forum featuring local dramaturgs and their long term artistic collaborators speaking on process.

Find out more about the Dramaturgy Dialogues or registering for a clinic session at **pushfestival.ca**



We believe that when people participate in their community, good things can happen.

Proud to support the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival.

As part of our goal to help people feel a sense of belonging in their communities, TD supports arts and culture events, initiatives, and organizations across North America that **amplify diverse voices**.

Learn more at td.com/artsandculture

TD READY COMMITMENT

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ACCESSIBLE PUSH



Find up-to-date access info online on each show page or at **pushfestival.ca/access**. To discuss your specific access needs, please contact Accessible PuSh Coordinator Andrea Cownden at **access@pushfestival.ca**

VISUAL STORIES

Most of our shows have visual stories with very detailed information to help people prepare, or decide if this show is for them. We also have stories available for most venues.

SUPPORT PERSONS / GUIDES

Need support to be able to attend? **Your support person pays no admission.** Or request **support from a trained volunteer** who will meet you at a nearby transit stop or at the theatre.



VENUE ACCESSIBILITY

Detailed audits are conducted for all Festival venues. **Venue visual stories** also provide a lot of information.

DEAF / HARD OF HEARING PATRONS



American Sign Language Interpretation

For events (not shows) ASL-interpretation can be requested.

[ST] Surtitles (like subtitles but for theatre, and usually for shows that are not in English).

[DHH] Accessible to Deaf/hard of hearing patrons, with an **introduction** providing more context.

All this information is available in **Vlogs in ASL** on our website. All decisions were made by and with our **Deaf Consultant: Catherine MacKinnon**

PATRONS WHO ARE BLIND OR PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Live audio description by VecalEye)

Blind/low vision friendly with the support of an introduction.

Sighted guides for reaching venues.

All decisions were made by and with our **Blind and Partially-Sighted Consultant: Kristy Kassie**



RELAXED PERFORMANCES

At **Relaxed Performances** we challenge the necessity of the traditional theatre etiquette (sit still and be quiet) and make adjustments for people with sensory sensitivities.

These shows always have both visual stories.

Some shows are always relaxed. In that case, we call them **Extra Live**.

All decisions were made by and with our RP Consultant: Jake Anthony

REMOTE ACCESS

PuSh is pleased to present digital access to a selection of performances. For more information visit **pushfestival.ca**.

ACCESSIBLE TICKETING

At PuSh, we recognize that there are many different barriers to attending the Festival. If finances or other factors not outlined above are an obstacle for you, contact Julian Legere at **community@pushfestival.ca** to learn more about group rates, community ticketing, and other options available.



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PuSh Industry Series JANUARY 23-28, 2024 The PuSh Industry Series brings together 200+ visionary arts workers to imagine possible futures through exchange that

invites generative friction, collective reflection and creative response.

The Series includes roundtable discussions, artist talks, studio visits, curated pitches, social events and artist walks, alongside off-programming by HOLD ON LET GO (formerly PushOFF), Left of PuSh, and the Dance West Network.

For a third year, PuSh partners with Talking Stick Festival to host Indigenous delegates from Turtle Island and beyond for ceremony, feast and weaving deeper connections

ARE YOU AN ARTIST OR ARTS WORKER?

A \$75 Pass gives you access to:

- All Industry Series Events
- 20% off all PuSh Festival programming
- Free access to Club PuSh

Register today at pushfestival.ca!





PuSh Youth Program

PuSh's Youth Program is our way to engage, support, and uplift a new generation of arts enthusiasts by providing greater access to the performing arts via discounted tickets, unique educational opportunities and stimulating conversation.

YOUTH COHORT

A free program that brings together a dozen racialized youth to experience, examine, and engage with the professional contemporary performing arts community. Produced in partnership with Surrey-based Solid State Community Industries, the cohort has a unique opportunity to participate in workshops and conversations with arts professionals, and to experience a slate of exciting PuSh shows.

Learn more about the program and how to apply at pushfestival.ca/ youth/push-youth-cohort-2024

YOUTH PASS

1

Get access to PuSh Festival programming at highly discounted rates.

For only \$20, the Youth Pass gives access to four select shows for Festival goers aged 16-24.

Info can be found at pushfestival.ca





THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS CIRCLE DONORS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all PuSh Festival donors for their invaluable support, which enriches the cultural landscape and allows us to continue presenting innovative performing arts experiences.

SUSTAINING (\$5,000-\$14,999)

McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund (held at Vancouver Foundation) 15

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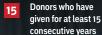
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GIFTS IN MEMORY

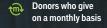
Lola MacLaughlin from Tony Giacinti John Wood from Dr. Evelyn J Harden

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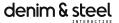




























PUSH WOULD LIKE TO THANK



























































PuSh wouldn't be what it is today without our amazing volunteers! To those of you who've been with us from the beginning, to those who joined us this year, and everyone in between:

Thank You Volunteers!



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with particular gratitude to those who hold us to account.

PuSh wouldn't be what it is without this community, and we are grateful.

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