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## x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əỷəm // Skwxwú7mesh // Səlilwəta4 // Stó:lō

PuSh's work primarily takes place on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwəta First Nations. This year, we are grateful to also be hosting an event in Ts'elxwéyeqw, the ancestral territory of the Stó:lō people. It is our duty to establish right relations with the people on whose stolen territories we live and work, and with the land itself.

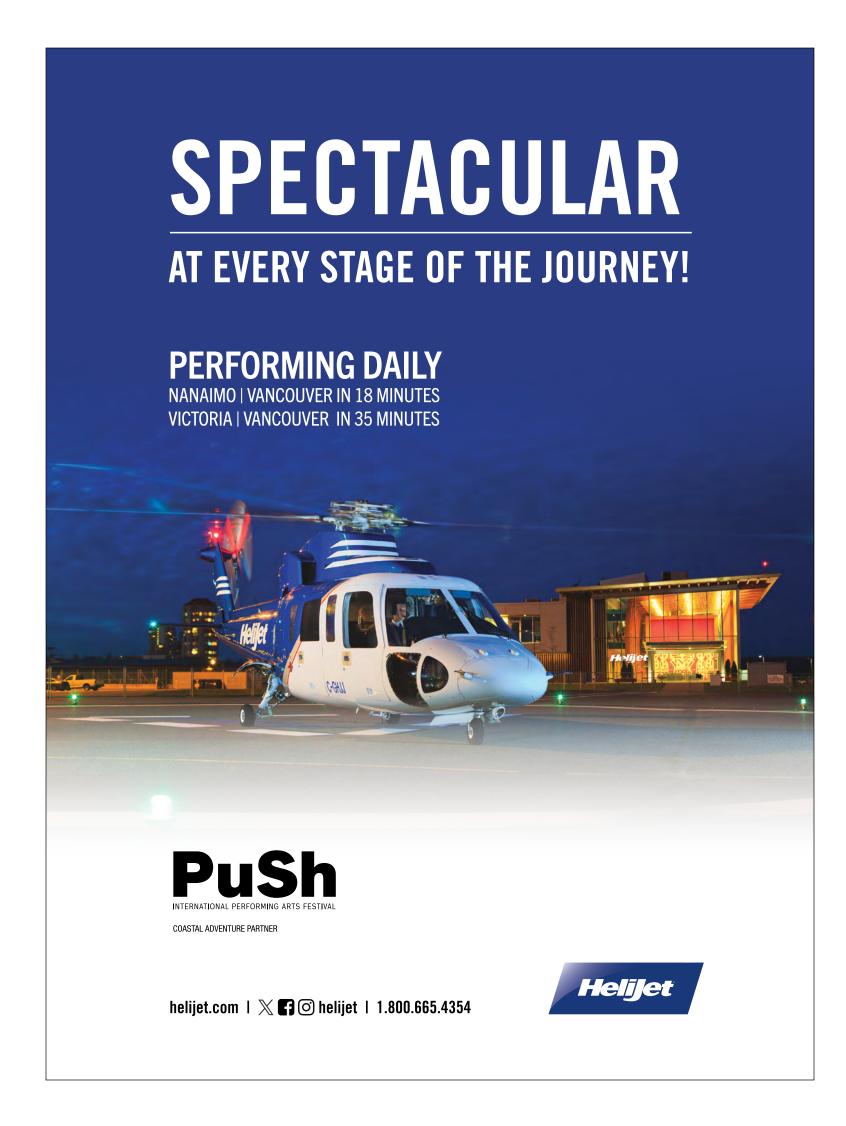
The territories on which our work takes place have been stewarded since time immemorial by numerous Coast Salish peoples. We know from available resources and stories shared by xwmə\textit{w}mə\textit{d}kwa\textit{g}yam, Skwxw\textit{w}myamə, and səlilwəta\textit{e} elders and knowledge keepers some of the history of these remarkable lands. One of the names for the area on which we primarily gather for the PuSh Festival was k'emk'emelai, though this large territory contained many villages and seasonal gathering places. k'emelai is the Skwxw\textit{w}mesh word for maple tree, and the k'emk'emelai referred to a place of many maple trees, a forest full of traditional medicines, food sources and spreading canopies.

On False Creek, near where we host performances at the Granville Island Theatres, the Seňákw proj-

ect is currently under construction. An exercise in meaningful self-determination and a leader in socially and environmentally conscious development, that community is named for the Skwxwú7mesh village that was a seasonal base for fishing, hunting and gathering food and medicines.

As we reflect on our presence on these lands and our role in reconciliation there is value in remembering that our 20 year history is a tiny dot on a timeline of these territories that stretches back for thousands of years of peaceful cohabitation and environmental stewardship by our host nations. We are grateful to our host nations in their land defense efforts and support the re-storying and re-placing of these unceded territories.





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## Welcome to the Festival



Welcome to the 2025 PuSh International Performing Arts Festival!

This year's 20th anniversary celebration is a great opportunity to experience groundbreaking arts performances throughout Vancouver. Whether you're a fan of theatre, dance, music,

circus arts or multimedia arts, there is something inspiring and captivating for everyone to enjoy.

Our government knows that the arts play a powerful role in building bridges between cultures and encouraging diversity in our communities. This festival, which showcases artists from here and around the world, is a wonderful reflection of this embrace of openness and inclusion.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I'd like to thank everyone who helped bring this year's PuSh to life.

The Honourable Pascale St-Onge



On behalf of the residents of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2025 PuSh International Performing Arts Festival.

As Mayor, I would like to commend the

PuSh Festival for their contribution to the cultural and artistic landscape of Vancouver. For twenty years, the PuSh Festival has provided a meaningful platform for local, national, and international artists to showcase visionary, genre-bending, and original works that inspire our communities and facilitate essential conversations.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the performers, organizers, and participants of this annual festival. Thank you for your dedication, hard work, and invaluable contributions to enhancing the diversity and cultural vibrancy of our city.

The PuSh Festival's impact on arts and culture is truly inspiring, and we look forward to witnessing the continued contributions in the years ahead. Enjoy the Festival!

Sincerely,

Mayor Ken Sim



I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the 20th anniversary of the PuSh Festival. BC Arts Council has been a supporter of this dynamic festival since its inception.

Each year, Vancouver's mid-winter festival features inventive art for you to

discover. With a focus on diversity, risk-taking, and connection, the festival brings together international and local works that push boundaries and feed your mind and heart.

A team of incredible artists, arts workers, and volunteers work tirelessly to put on a festival that both challenges and brings community together. Thank you for your commitment to show-casing groundbreaking art to the province – and the world - year after year.

Congratulations on 20 years of PuSh!

Sincerely,

Dr Sae-Hoon Stan Chung

Chair, BC Arts Council

7



# Nelcome to the Program Guide for the 2025 PuSh Festival!

Celebrating 20 years as a fully-fledged festival and building on the legacy of founders Norman Armour and Katrina Dunn, PuSh remains artist-driven. Through our festival programming, our Club PuSh nights, the Industry Week, PuSh Dramaturgy Clinics, and long-standing partnerships, we've made great strides in amplifying the presence of those historically underrepresented. We remain deeply committed to connecting Canadian audiences with diverse perspectives.

As the performing arts sector continues to navigate the post-pandemic landscape, we applaud our staff for their tenacity and innovation during these times. At the Board level, we too have been navigating our own transformation, and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from Dr Margo Kane for several years. Under Margo's guidance, and in collaboration with Lisa Cooke Ravensbergen, PuSh has started a process of building good relations with local Indigenous Host Nations. Margo and Lisa have brought PuSh staff and board together with elders, artists and knowledge keepers from a variety of Indigenous communities. During that process, one

of the requests made of PuSh was that we step back from our Indigenous programming for this year's Festival and reflect on how we can better engage with Indigenous artists and communities in ways that are fuelled by practices of care and respect. We were advised to take the time to focus our efforts towards establishing more meaningful relationships. This is a request that we have honoured, and we are looking forward to growing our understanding of our role in reconciliation. We are deeply appreciative of Margo's role with PuSh since 2021, and we are committed to the work that she has guided us towards.

Thank you also to you, our community, for your vital contributions. You are our audience members, our donors, our ambassadors, and our volunteers. We could not exist without your generosity. We share this 20th-year milestone with you all. We are dedicated to bringing you more invigorating performances from these lands and around the world.

**PuSh Board of Directors** 

## PuSh Festival Mission, Vision and Values 2024 Update!

Over the past four years, the PuSh board and staff have been working on an organizational review with the aims of creating a just and equitable creative structure for governance, leadership, and programming; to build respect and trust; and to ensure PuSh has a well-articulated vision to support its transformation. This work was based on community consultation and done collaboratively between board, staff and contractors. We are thrilled that it has led to a new mission, vision and values for the PuSh Festival, which will form the foundation for strategic and organizational planning moving forward.

## Vision

We envision a society fully engaged in empathy and the arts, and activated by a festival that expands our sense of the world.

## **Mission**

The PuSh Festival creates new possibilities for artistic expression and how we relate to one another. We present a performing arts festival that challenges our assumptions, facilitates deeper understanding, inspires the imagination, and fosters meaningful connections.

## **Values**

## Inter-cultural connection:

We connect locally and globally across cultures and contexts to promote collaboration, creative and political stimulation, knowledge transmission, and empathy.

## Transformative experiences:

We curate culturally urgent and rigorously realized performing arts to create transformative audience experiences.

## Innovation & experimentation:

We celebrate creative risk with artistic programming that pushes the possibility of live art, and organizational practices that are adaptive and forward-thinking.

## Social justice:

In our operations and programming, we use our power and privilege to challenge systemic inequities and to amplify the voices of those who are, or who have been historically, marginalized.

## Care & reciprocity:

We engage with people as humans first, nurturing connections built on mutual respect, dignity, and understanding. We strive for sustainable and reciprocal relationships.

## Accountability:

Recognizing that innovation carries risk and that we will make mistakes, we foster a culture of psychological safety, continuous learning and accountability.

Start the new year with stories that ignite your spirit! Get tickets for these shows and more from \$29\* at ArtsClub.com



\*Facility fees, service charges, and GST apply to all ticket purchases. See terms and conditions at artsclub.com for details





FEB 6-MAR 2, 2025 Granville Island Stage





MAR 6-APR 6. 2025 Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage



ArtsClub.com



Sandman











## Staff

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Gabrielle Martin

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS Keltie Forsyth

ADMINISTRATION & PATRON SERVICES MANAGER Luka Kawabata, Sarah Sum (outgoing)

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Tricia Knowles

Alex Grigg

FESTIVAL PRODUCER Lindsay Nelson

ACCESSIBLE PUSH COORDI Andrea Cownden

PRODUCTION MANAGER David Kerr

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Jessica Han

Crystal Passmore

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR Rose Senat

Brian Postalian

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATO Frankie Brave

Chipo Chipaziwa

Steve Chow

Trevor Battye

BOX OFFICE COORDINATOR River Kero

EVENTS & HOSPITALITY COORDI

Jenny Lee Craig

Jordan Coulombe

DIGITAL MARKETER Jesse Tanaka

Jodi Smith

WEBSITE DESIGNER & DEVELOPER

Denim & Steel

## **Board of Directors**

Selena Couture Dale Darychuk Thea Easton Marlene Ferhatoğlu Erika Latta Camilla Tibbs Johnny Wu

## Thank You

The PuSh staff extends a special thanks to their loved ones for their unwavering support. PuSh Festival also gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contributions of former staff and the arts and cultural community in the Lower Mainland who support our work as partners, contribu-

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

We would also like to thank our outgoing board members:

Jorge Amigo Kimberly Ho Jei So Sadira Rodrigues

## Welcome



This year we are celebrating 20 years of PuSh. 20 years of embracing the strange and experimental. 20 years of defying borders to create intercultural connectivity. 20 years of radically reframing our cultural landscape. 20 years of sheer audacity.

Looking back at the history of PuSh, the Festival has had a remarkable impact on our city, driven by the many staff, artists, donors, partners, audiences and volunteers who've been dedicated to PuSh over two decades. Looking toward the future, we dream of a PuSh that is essential, electric and responsive to a changing world.

This is a year of change, of intermediacy. We are embarking on a leadership transition, and with that change comes both the grief of goodbyes and the excitement of new horizons. At the same time, we celebrate new faces and the growth of the PuSh community.

Caught in the liminal space between dreams of a past echoed in newsprint and a future we envision but can't see, PuSh 20 is an opportunity to sit together in the tenuous joy of unknowing.



Keltie Forsyth and **Gabrielle Martin** PUSH LEADERSHIP TEAM



In 2003, Norman Armour, then founding Artistic Director of Rumble Productions and Katrina Dunn, then Artistic Director of Touchstone Theatre envisioned a vibrant, mid-winter event series where Vancouver artists could forge relationships and opportunities with the rest of Canada and beyond. They saw the potential benefits of a dynamic interplay between disparate disciplines, between arts patrons, and between the city's venues and creative communities.

Beginning as a presentation series in 2003 and 2004, the inaugural PuSh International Performing Arts Festival kicked off in January 2005, co-presented by Rumble and Touchstone and supported by their teams. For a month, the Festival animated venues across Vancouver, bringing audiences together

for a mainstage series, four satellite shows and the first international PuSh evolved conference that would grow into the from a modest PuSh Industry Series.

After that first Festival, PuSh incor- indispensable porated and Norman took over as cultural PuSh's Artistic and Executive Director, though the partnership with Touchstone continued through Katrina's tenure and is still vibrant today.

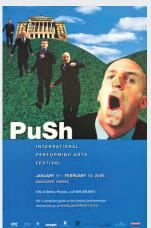
start-up into an institution on Vancouver's calendar.

Under Norman's leadership, PuSh evolved from a modest start-up into an indispensable cultural institution on Vancouver's calendar. Norman's dedication and passion for connecting audiences to artists, fostering global-local collaborations, and pushing the boundaries of creative expression have left an indelible mark on our city's cultural scene. His commitment to providing a platform for contemporary performance, cultivating partnerships, and maintaining cultural relevance was unparal-

The Festival has lent its support to countless new commissions from an eclectic range of Canadian theatre, music and dance artists. Highlights include: "A Craigslist Cantata" (Veda Hille/ Ami Gladstone), "A Suicide Site Guide to the City" (Mammalian Diving Reflex), "Crime and Punishment" (Neworld), "Some Hope for the Bastards" (Frédérick Gravel), "Nanay" (Urban Crawl), "monumental" (Holy Body Tattoo / Godspeed! You Black Emperor), "This Riot Life" (Veda Hille), "Foxconn Frequency (no. 3)" (Hong Kong Exile), "Frontera" (Animals of Distinction), "An Undeveloped Sound" (The Electric Company Theatre), "The Seventh Fire" (Lisa Ravensbergen), and more.

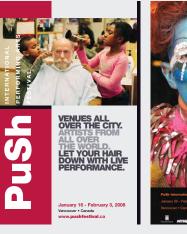
We have presented work in public spaces and venues ranging from 150 - 2,700 seats, realized intimate immersive performances, and established a highly performative experimental platform in a dynamic nightclub setting. We have commissioned Leo Award-winning documentaries that reflect upon the Festival's interests, values and signature presentations.

We have teamed up with local colleagues to undertake ambitious large-scale projects from the international repertoire such as "100% Vancouver," "Do You See What I Mean?," "That Night Follows Day," "Sometimes, I Think I Can See You," and "La Marea." Re-situated to a local context, these groundbreaking productions introduced Vancouver audiences to bold and compelling new aesthetics. They also inspired and informed the creative imagination and aspirations of a new generation of local practitioners.







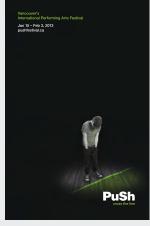














## Celebrating 20 Years of PuSh









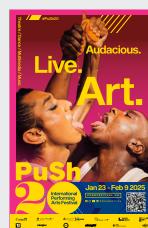












## Ticketing Info

## **Passes**

## A PuSh Pass is the best way to experience the PuSh Festival!

FOUR-SHOW PASS......\$120 SIX-SHOW PASS......\$165

See four or six different PuSh presentations and enjoy savings of up to 30% 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.

### YOUTH PASS .....

A Four-Show Pass is available for patrons 16 to 24 years old. Quantities limited.

## STANDARD INDUSTRY PASS... \$250

Earlybird price of \$195 until Dec 20

For artists and arts workers, an Industry Pass provides access to Industry Series events with discounted tickets to PuSh programming.

### FULL INDUSTRY PASS ......\$520

Earlybird price of \$470 until Dec 20

A pass to all industry series events and all 11 performances and immersive events held during the Industry week.

See more information on page 47.

All PuSh Pass Holders receive free admission to Club Push (p 28).

## **Packages**

## **Double Feature Packages**

Make it a night to remember! See two select shows in one night and get a 25% discount.

- BLEU NÉON & Habitat
- SEEING DOUBLE: K BODY AND MIND & Walking at Night by Myself
- Transpofagic Manifesto & OUT

## **Trio Packages**

Enjoy a curated bundle of three of our dance or theatre shows and save 30% off the regular ticket price.

## Dance Trio

All That Remains, Habitat, OUT

Add *Bogotá* to your Dance Trio Package and save 30% off your Playhouse ticket.

### **Theatre Trio**

L'addition, Géométrie de vies (Geometry of Lives), Lasa Ng Imperyo

## **Tickets**

## **Group Tickets**

Become an ambassador for PuSh and gather your favourite people to share in transformational performances. Buy three tickets to the same performance and get the fourth free! Collect your community and call our box office or email tickets@pushfestival.ca.

## **Single Tickets**

Single tickets are your best bet if you can't commit to a PuSh Pass! Some shows have limited capacities. Purchasing tickets in advance is recommended.

Tickets for *Bijuriya*, *SWIM*, *De glace/From Ice*, *The Afternoon of the Faun and Rite of Spring*, and *Dimanche* will be available via co-presenters' box offices. Find a direct ticket link on the individual show pages at **pushfestival.ca**.

## Pay It Forward!

If you would like to donate the cost of a ticket, look for the add-on donation button in your cart, or mention that you would like to donate a ticket to a Patron Services representative when purchasing tickets by phone.

## **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 accessible 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
- Get assistance choosing a show that meets your access needs

For more information on PuSh's Accessibility initiatives, see page 57.

## Accessible Ticketing

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 tickets@pushfestival.ca.

## How to Buy

## ONLINE: pushfestival.ca

PuSh Festival Patron Services **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 23, 2024 – Jan 1, 2025

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

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 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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## From everyday errands, big hauls, to multi-day roadtrips...





Modo's got you covered!

Start carsharing with Modo and get \$50 in driving credit!











Thu 23 Jan 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Fox **Cabaret** 



## **Curatorial Statement**

The 20th anniversary PuSh Festival is a celebration of audacious live art. These are performances and immersive experiences that shift our paradigms for creative expression and land of snowy obscurity and audiovisual blitz that underhow we relate to one another. In a world increasingly dominated by generative AI, they underscore live performance as shifting between fiction and reality, real and imagined a sanctuary of authenticity in an age that risks losing touch with the real. They invite us into the wilds of untethered desolation. imaginations and the liberatory spaces of play. Accept the invitation and be transported from the brutalist landscape and inherited mythologies of Bogotà to the astro-glam extravaganza of a Dune wars kiki ball, to the 8-kilometres passage between Güzelçamli and Samos, to the blue neon structures, hybrid creatures, and performative rice-cookers. luminescence of an imagined Saigon... and beyond.

This 2025 Festival is a celebration of alterity, of indeterminacy, or things that refuse to be fixed, of transcultural perspectives and transpofagic manifestos. It holds radical expressions of gender empowerment and self-reflexive drag. It reflects the fluidity of human experience and camps at the crossroads of contradictions.

It invites us to sit with troubling questions over a dish of rellenong bangus (stuffed milkfish); to chew on how colonial legacies shape today's global food market; to remove the veil of normalcy as catastrophe encroaches; to find humour in the directionlessness of the modern world; and to meditate on possible futures from our bathtubs.

It's a social experiment incubating new sensibilities and new experiences of subjectivity. It is ethereal voices in a mines the reliability of perception. It's an exercise in shaperemembrances, and the disparate states of ecstasy and

It's a resonant affirmation of bodily self-possession manifested in the electric intimacy of a charged nightclub haze.

It's an animist ritual conjuring deep-sea entities, sentient

This celebration-invitation-experiment-affirmation-ritual beckons what posthumanist thinker Báyò Akómoláfé terms a "more generous cosmology" replete with new strategies for "locating ourselves".

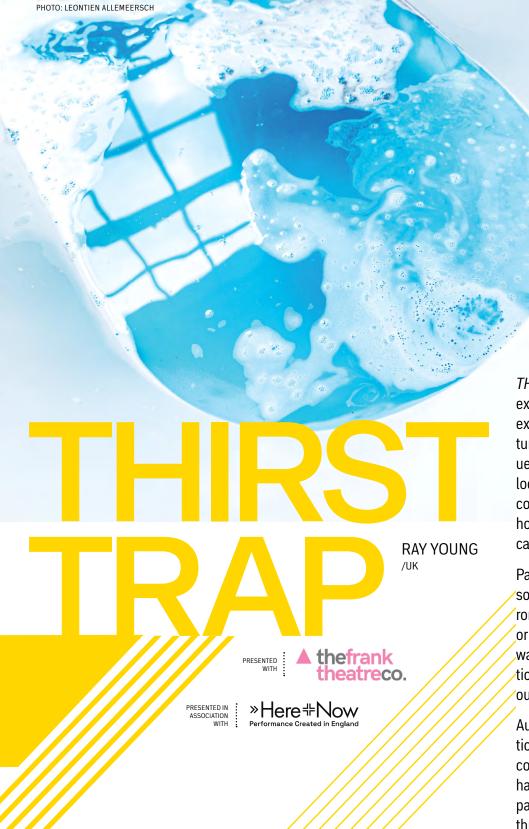
It promises something emergent and fugitive.

And it promises the bittersweet fragrance of oranges.

**Gabrielle Martin** ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# ERICES ANCES

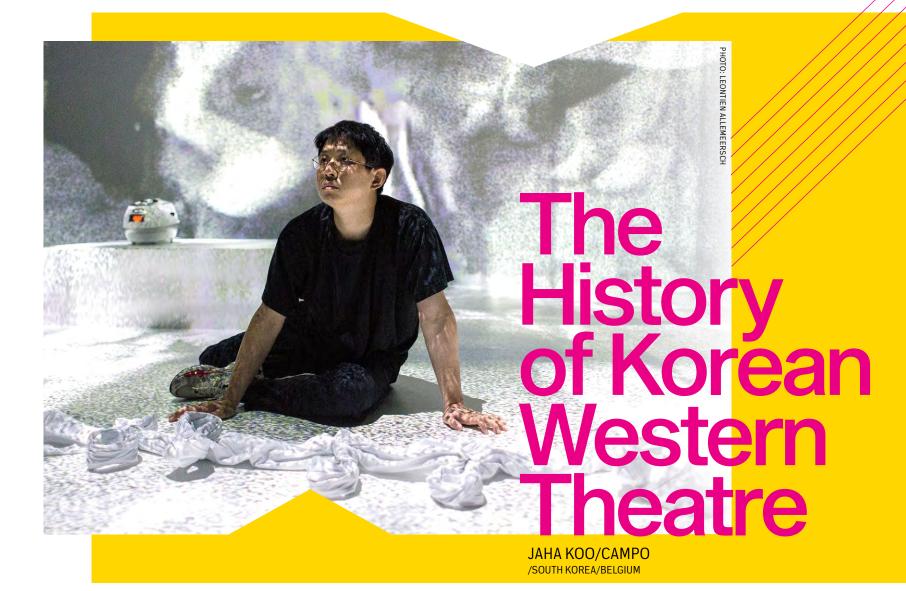




THIRST TRAP is a sound piece that audiences experience from the comfort of their bathtubs, examining the potential consequences the future might hold if the world's resources continue to be plundered. Originally conceived during lockdown, the piece bridges distance and fosters connection through shared action, emphasizing how self-care and environmental care are inextricably linked.

Participants receive a curated pack of multi-sensory materials to transform their bathing environment into a site of reflection, all handmade or sourced from small businesses to minimize waste and postage. Part-narrative, part-meditation, the work encourages us to reconnect with our bodies, minds and surroundings.

Audiences are invited to contemplate the correlation between climate and social justice within the context of colonialism, greed and ownership that have driven environmental destruction. Far from passive rumination, the work reminds us that only through collective action can we begin reshaping a future built on equity and sustainability.



What happens when a nation's artistic spirit is undermined by the weight of Western influence? This question drives Jaha Koo's visionary documentary theatre performance, which examines how the suppression of local culture under Western assimilation has shaped Korean theatre—and by extension the national identity of South Korea.

Koo returns to PuSh by critical acclaim with the final act of his Hamartia Trilogy (hamartia meaning 'tragic error' in Greek), following the much-celebrated works Lolling and Rolling and Cuckoo. In this concluding piece, he examines the far-reaching repercussions of imperialism-past and present-while uncovering subtle ruptures in the Confucian moral framework of South Korea and its intergenerational relationships.

Through a visually striking patchwork of archival materials and vibrant, cutting-edge projections, Koo interweaves personal narratives with historical and socio-political analysis, reflecting on the colonial history and identity of East Asia. He breaks from traditions of self-censorship to offer a deeply authentic perspective on the past and defiantly imagines a future free from cultural erasure.





Thu Sun Your 23 09 bathtub Jan **Feb** Materials provided with purchase.

Please visit PuShFestival.ca for details

ACCESSIBILITY

[BLV] RP

Extra Live (Always Relaxed) Delivery available for people with

access needs

\$39 60 min

Available for purchase at the PuSh office and select Festival events and performances

Fri Thu 24 Jan Jan 7:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

Roundhouse **Community Arts** & Recreation Centre

ACCESSIBILITY [ST] In Korean with **English surtitles** 

\$39 60 min

Post-show talkback: 23 Jan

Theatre // Multimedia 21 20 Immersive Experience



This choreographic work unfolds across a desolate terrain, scattered with assemblages of industrial debris and organic matter, where the stage becomes a space of hybridization, a threshold between inner landscapes and external realities. Suspended in this liminal space, the performers engage with their sculptural surroundings in fleeting moments of playfulness, resignation, ecstasy and abandonment, forming a corporeal topography that collapses the boundary between dancer and environment.

Vocal vibrations emerge as visceral responses that resist containment, reverberating outward into a living soundscape where

wounds resonate between the physical and emotional planes. Just like cells synchronizing to regenerate damaged tissue, dancers reweave connections and entanglements between themselves and the world around them in a transformation from rupture to repair. This richly textured work at the crossroads of dance, installation and sound performance asks how we, as a species that has fallen out of sync with our natural environment, can open up new potentialities of relation and becoming.

SUPPORTED BY



Thu Fri 23 24 Jan Jan 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

Post-show talkback: 24 Jan

Centre an Arts

| SFU Goldcorp | Centre for the | Arts **IDHH**Deaf/hard-of-hearing friendly

\$39
60 min

CONTENT NOTE
Flashing lights,
haze

SFU



Géométrie de vies (Geometry of Lives) is a vibrant narrative poem brought to life through theatre, song and dance. Its lyrics link two young lives on a journey across the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a land fertile with hopes and dreams. On this path, we follow the footsteps of a quiet, introverted boy and a young girl who takes cover from mortar fire under her mother's bed. Between working in the fields and fleeing combat, a father and his family navigate the long road of the displaced as refugees in their own country.

On stage stands the memory box, a wall where each window opens to the past, conjuring up real or imagined remembrances. Superimposed voices and juxtaposed narratives, interwoven, sometimes intersecting, often intertwining, arise under a torrent of resonant words. Crafting a contemporary history, performers trace curves, straight lines and broken lines as they strive to uncover sense from the past of a nation scarred by colonization.



Granville Island



**ACCESSIBILITY** 

Sat Sun 25 26 Jan Jan

7:30 p.m.

Performance Works

Sat Sun 25 — 09 Jan Feb

**Online** 

[**ST]** In French with English surtitles \$39 \$29 online

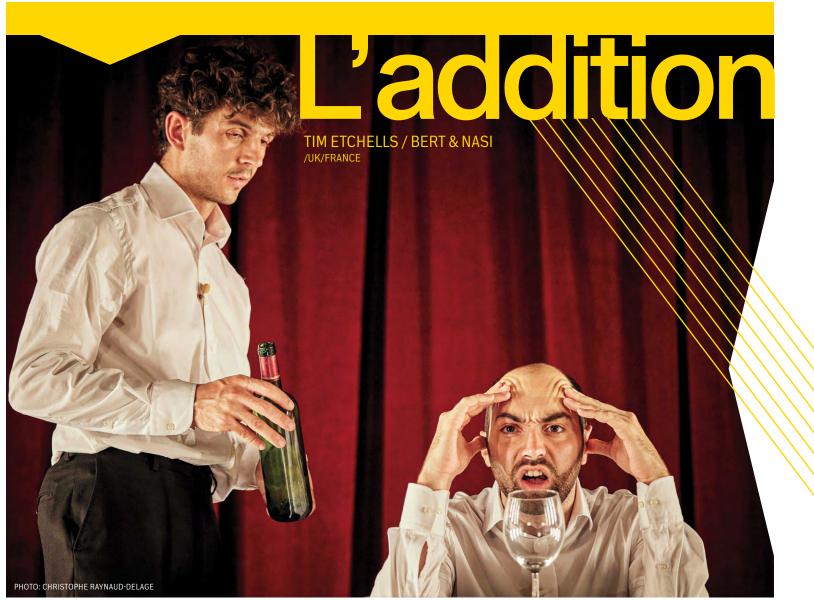
Save 30% when purchased as part of the Theatre Trio Package

80 min

Post-show talkback: 25 Jan

2:00 p.m.

22 Dance / Multimedia // Visual Art Theatre 23



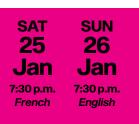
Two men at a restaurant. One is a waiter. The other, a customer. Perfectly normal. Or so it seems. The customer orders a drink. The waiter pours. What follows is an unpredictable descent into chaos, where a seemingly commonplace interaction is fractured into to misunderstandings that call communication into question an absurdist kaleidoscope of angles.

The comedic duo's contrasting personalities create an interplay of synergy and discord, illustrating the shifting balance between cooperation and conflict. Trapped in a single scene with no clear logical progression or linear narrative structure, the two performers begin to reflect something altogether disorienting about the directionlessness of the modern world.

The perfectly timed rhythm of their banter and cyclical choreography of gestures create a musicality that surpasses the stark stage. The relentless tug-of-war in power dynamics leads as a vehicle for meaning and reveal the incoherent, nonsensical, yet utterly comical nature of life.







Alliance **Française** Vancouver

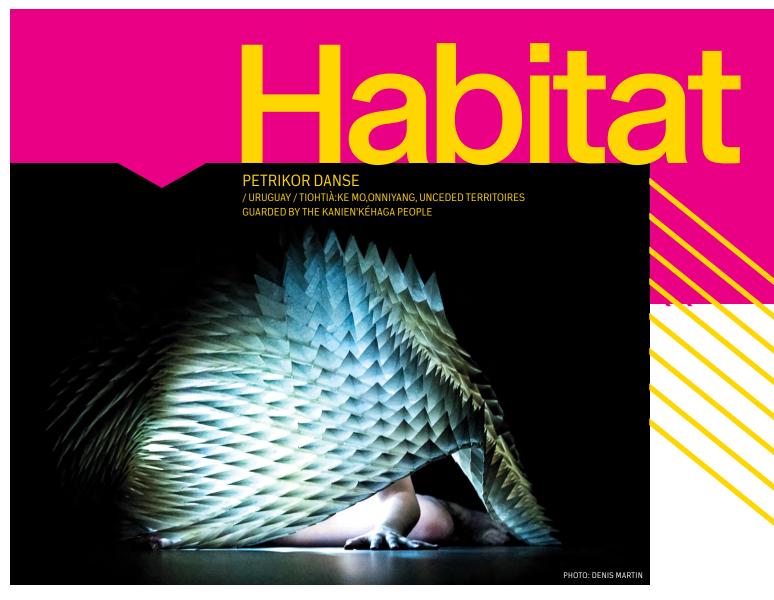
Post-show talkback: 25 Jan in French; 26 Jan in English

### ACCESSIBILITY

[ST] In French with English

RP Relaxed Performance surtitles on on Jan 26 Jan 25

\$39 Save 30% when purchased as part of the Theatre Trio Package 75 min



Hermit crabs don't have shells. Instead they improvise homes from objects that catch their eye, then migrate to new and more hospitable residences as they outgrow their makeshift dwellings. Drawing inspiration from the resourceful adaptability of these enigmatic creatures, Habitat presents a hypnotic meditation on resettlement and the search for home.

Merging biotechnologies that blur the line between organic and synthetic with an amorphous textile of articulated paper cones, this piece unveils an entrancing interaction between the performer and the fractal structure she inhabits. Its network of illuminations appears to possess a sentience of its own, responding to her intuitive movements in a visual symphony recalling the bioluminescence of deep-sea entities.

Accompanied by an oceanic abyss soundscape, Bettina Szabo's protean contortions engage in a choreographic duet with the eerie shell-like form. As she melds with this new shelter, we are drawn into a space of empathy for the unfamiliar amidst the impermanence of survival.





Québec 🛣 🛣

Wed Tue 28 29 Jan Jan 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.

Post-show talkbacks: 28, 29 Jan

**Scotiabank Dance Centre** 

Wed Sun 09 29 **Feb** Jan **Online** 

\$39 / online \$29

Save 30% when purchased as part of the Dance Trio Package OR combine this show with *BLEU NÉON* on the same night and save 25%!

45 min

**CONTENT NOTE** Flashing lights

Dance / Multidisciplinary 25 Theatre

CHÂU KIM-SANH/MIDLAND /CANADA

Bathed in luminescence that evokes the glowing urban nightscape of a distant and imagined Saigon, Châu Kim-Sanh beckons the senses through fluorescent haze to her ancestral land. At home in this intimate space, she explores its perimeter with meticulous motions, entirely from the squat position, a posture deeply ingrained in Asian daily life and culture. Hips, knees and ankles articulate their own bodily language as she lends her percussive rap lyrics to a soundtrack of Vietnamese pop music reverberating from cassette tape.

These melodious incantations vocalize the embodied yearning and fantasized nostalgia widely experienced within the Asian diaspora. Giving voice to communities marked by silence and objectification, rap music forms a prayer that eclipses loss of language and replaces it with self-possession.



8:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.





Left of

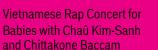
Main





### RELATED EVENT ACCESSIBILITY

PHOTO: KINGA MICHALSKA



29 Jan 2:00 p.m // 30 min The Roundhouse

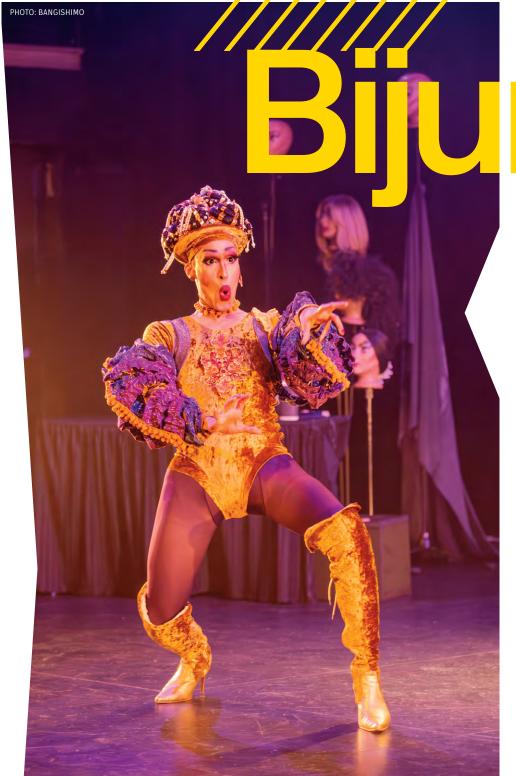
For babies aged 0-2 and their aregivers. Registration required Extra Live (Always Relaxed) Mostly cushion seating, limited chairs available. This venue is only accessible by stairs.

RP

Combine this show with Habitat on the same night and save 25%!

60 min

**CONTENT NOTE** Haze



GABRIEL DHARMOO /CANADA

Gabriel Dharmoo is an innovative music composer and vocalist who thrives on experimentation. Bijuriya, his drag persona, channels the vibrancy of South Asian culture to touch the hearts of fellow brown queers. Together, Gabriel and Bijuriya embody different facets of the same individual, engaging in an interplay of duality that delves into the hybrid, multifaceted layers that coexist within their identity.

In this quirky yet poignant examination of the intersections between queerness and brownness, Gabriel and Bijuriya explore the power of their voices. Through an exuberant medley of drag and humour, as well as an eclectic array of musical genres—ranging from original pop tunes to experimental soundscapes and Bollywood soundtracks—this performance playfully examines the role of vocality in self-expression, utilizing song, speech and lip-syncing as tools for exploring cultural identity. An homage to drag's roots as a subversive medium for socio-political commentary, Gabriel and Bijuriya's self-reflexive dialogue offers profound insight into the fluidity of human experience.











Wed Tue 29 28 **Jan** Jan

7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

Post-show talkback: 28 Jan

### RELATED EVENT **ANNEX**

Slow Social: Around Sound (and Music and Drag) 1 Feb 10:00 a.m. 120 min The Post at 750

\$49 80 min

pushfestival.ca/push-in-the-community to register.

Post-show talkback: 28 Jan

Wed

29

Jan

26 Dance // Music

Tue

28

Jan

Theatre // Music // Dance // Drag 27



Club PuSh is teaming up once again with QT Cabaret on Wednesday, January 29th! This annual party, curated by the frank theatre's Fay Nass, Anais West and Adonis King, will be held at the iconic Fox Cabaret—once a notorious adult cinema, now a hub for independent culture and nightlife. Join us for a spellbinding evening celebrating the vibrant creativity of 2SLGBTQIA+ artists through an unforgettable mix of electrifying dance, outrageous drag and heart-thumping music.

Part dance party, part variety show and all queer joy, the night offers fearless performances that will leave you breathless and buzzing. Get ready to let your hair down and dance the night away to a swoon-worthy lineup of talent that radiates self-expression and experimentation. Why miss out? This night promises to be an explosion of gueer brilliance you won't want to miss!



Wed 29 Cabaret \$10; free with any PuSh pass Content Nudity, 19+



What are the blueprints of sexual desire and fantasy? In this unapologetic investigation of power dynamics and identity, Clayton Lee invites the audience to confront that very question through an intimate and unfiltered reckoning of his sexual and romantic history. With deadpan humour and mischievous wit, Lee explores his childhood obsession with the professional wrestler Bill Goldberg and its lasting impact on him.

Entangling queer diasporic sexuality and Bach's classical compositions, this ever-evolving piece sets an unexpectedly tender stage where desires are both indulged and deconstructed, and the perplexing crossroads between dominance, submission, heartbreak and vulnerability are laid bare. At times unhinged, and always deeply personal, Lee takes audiences through the fixations and speculations of sexual fantasy in a candid and thoroughly unconventional performance.



28 Cabaret // Dance // Drag Theatre 29

## 

THEATRE CONSPIRACY/PANDEMIC THEATRE /CANADA

It is 8-kilometres from Güzelçamli, Turkey to the Greek island of Samos, or 160 lengths of an Olympic-sized swimming pool. That's the distance many must swim in search of asylum in Europe. SWIM is an immersive sensorial experience that imagines the physical, mental and spiritual challenges of this treacherous passage as it meditates upon the emotional toll of displacement. Harnessing cutting-edge technologies to simulate audio and tactile sensations, the audience experiences much of the piece in darkness.

Drawing loose inspiration from the epic Arabic story of Laila and Majnun, SWIM invites audiences to imagine what feelings one moves through as they endure the fatigue of this perilous crossing. It meditates on the question: When one is driven to leave their love, their life, their home — what parts of oneself and one's old life must be sacrificed in pursuit of a new beginning?

SWIM is a PuSh Festival commission.







**Vancity Culture Lab**  **ACCESSIBILITY** Ø

Blind/ low-vision accessible 90 min CONTENT NOTE haze

\$39

Lasaly Imperyo (A Taste of Empire) Imperyo RICE & BEANS THEATRE /CANADA



In a surprising fusion of theatre and gastronomy, this adaptation of Lasa Ng Imperyo (A Taste of Empire) reimagines Jovanni Sy's acclaimed play about the effects of global imperialism on how we produce, prepare and consume food. Presented in Tagalog with English surtitles, the performance guides audiences across the layered history of Philippine cultural heritage through a live cooking demonstration.

This new version brings a fresh female perspective to the piece by replacing the original Sous-Chef Jovanni with the witty and intrepid Sous-Chef Mela. Her task? To cook rellenong bangus.

Tue

04

Feb

7:00 p.m.

or stuffed milkfish, a dish whose intricate preparation process takes its roots from the country's culinary traditions and colonial past.

As the dish is brought to life, so too are the stories embedded within its ingredients. Sous-Chef Mela's insights connect the flavours and techniques to broader themes around globalization, cultural identity and resource exploitation, inviting viewers to consider how the global food market continues to be shaped by imperialist legacies.

Wed

05

**Feb** 

7:00 p.m.



Sat

08

**Feb** 

2:00 p.m

Thu

06

**Feb** 

7:00 p.m.





Fri Sat Sun Thu 31 30 01 02 Feb Jan Feb Jan 5:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:30 p.m.

Post-show talkback: 31 Jan, 5:00 p.m.

Flashing lights,

Post-show talkback: 4 Feb, 6 Feb

31

Jan

6:00 p.m.

Thu

30

The **NEST** 

[ST] In Tagalog with **English surtitles** 

**ACCESSIBILITY** 



**ASL-interpretation** 

\$39 75 min **CONTENT NOTE** Food will be served

Theatre // Multimedia Theatre 31



Géométrie de vies

7:30 p.m. Performance Works

L'addition

2:00 p.m. English Alliance Française Vancouver

02 Feb

**SWIM** 

2:00 p.m. Vancity Culture Lab

De glace (From Ice) 2:00 p.m. French + 7:30 p.m. English The Roundhouse

**Dune Wars Kiki Ball** 

3:00 p.m. The Birdhouse

SEEING DOUBLE K BODY AND MIND

7:00 p.m. Scotiabank Dance Centre

SEEING DOUBLE Walking at Night by Myself

9:00 p.m. Scotiabank Dance Centre

Renata Carvalho Film

SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

09 Feb

Marathon

Performance Works

**Inner Sublimity** 

Vancouver Art Gallery

12:00 p.m.

**OUT** 5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun and The Rite of **Spring** 7:30 p.m.

03 Feb

Dances for a Small Stage

Lasa Ng Imperyo (A Taste of Empire) 7:00 p.m.

Bijuriya ANNEX

**BLEU NÉON** 8:30 p.m. Left of Main

Club PuSh 9:00 p.m. Fox Cabaret

05 Feb

06 Feb

7:00 p.m. The NEST

Vancity Culture Lab

Lasa Ng Imperyo

(A Taste of Empire)

The Goldberg Variations Waterfront Theatre

**BOGOTÁ** 8:00 p.m. Vancouver Playhouse

De glace (From Ice)

07 Feb

Lasa Ng Imperyo (A Taste of Empire)

7:00 p.m. The NEST

7:30 p.m.

**Born in Flames** 

7:30 p.m. French The Roundhouse

6:00 p.m.

The NEST

Dimanche

7:30 p.m. Vancouver Playhouse

Transpofagic Manifesto 8:00 p.m. Waterfront Theatre

LASA NG IMPERYO. PHOTO: EMILY COOPER

**Inner Sublimity** 9:00 p.m. Vancouver Art Gallerv

2:00 p.m. English + 7:30 p.m. English

1:00 p.m. + 3:30 p.m.

Vancity Culture Lab

25 Jan

7:30 p.m. Performance Works

L'addition

01Feb

SWIM

Géométrie de vies

7:30 p.m. French Alliance Française Vancouver

De glace (From Ice)

SEEING DOUBLE Walking at Night by Myself

Scotiabank Dance Centre

**BOGOTÁ** 8:00 p.m.

08 Feb

2:00 p.m. The NEST

7:00 p.m. Waterfront Theatre

7:30 p.m. Vancouver Playhouse

Inner Sublimity

9:00 p.m. Vancouver Art Gallery

Performance Works

OUT

9:00 p.m.

Dimanche

Vancouver Playhouse

SEEING DOUBLE K BODY AND MIND

8:30 p.m. Scotiabank Dance Centre

Lasa Ng Imperyo

(A Taste of Empire)

Transpofagic Manifesto

The Post at 750 750 Hamilton St #110

Venues

Alliance Française

Vancouver 6161 Cambie St

823 Seymour St

44 W 4th Ave

Fox Cabaret

**Left of Main** 

1398 Cartwright St

1218 Cartwright St

222 W 5th Ave

**Performance Works** 

Please! Beverage Co.

2321 Main St

211 Keefer St

The NEST

Centre

The Birdhouse

Chilliwack Cultural

9201 Corbould St, Chilliwack

**ANNEX** 

The Roundhouse 181 Roundhouse Mews

**Scotiabank Dance** Centre

677 Davie St

**SFU Goldcorp Centre** for the Arts 149 W Hastings St

Vancouver Art Gallery 750 Hornby St

Vancity Culture Lab 1895 Venables St

Vancouver Playhouse 600 Hamilton St

Waterfront Theatre 1412 Cartwright St

PUSHFESTIVAL.CA

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

6:30 p.m. Please! Beverage Co.

7:00 p.m.

Bijuriya

**BLEU NÉON** 

ANNEX

8:30 p.m.

Left of Main

04 Feb

Scotiabank Dance Centre

The NEST

Dances for a Small Stage 6:30 p.m. Please! Beverage Co.

Lasa Ng Imperyo (A Taste of Empire) 7:00 p.m. The NEST

Dimanche

Vancouver Playhouse

6:00 p.m. SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts







## 

## ANDREA PEÑA & ARTISTS /CANADA

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 mythol-

Visceral, transgressive and magnetic, BOGOTÁ constructs a ogies in order to consider how origins are embodied and mortality is expressed through the endless cycles of existence and death.

> This powerful work employs movement as a vehicle for storytelling, embarking on an esoteric journey through a universe charged with magic realism. It uncovers passageways to transcendence, honoring the rebellion of deviant bodies and paying tribute to resilience within the post-colonial era.



















Fri Sat 01 31 Jan

**Feb** 

8:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.

Post-show talkback: 31 Jan

Vancouver **Playhouse** 

> pushfestival.ca/push-in-the-community to register.

RELATED EVENT

with Andrea Peña

**Community Discussion** 

Times and Location TBA

## ACCESSIBILITY

[DHH]

Deaf/hard-ofhearing friendly Available as a discounted add-on to Dance Trio

80 min

\$39

**CONTENT NOTE** Flashing lights, nudity



Fri 31 Jan

Sat 01 **Feb** 

2:00 p.m. English 7:30 p.m.

2:00 p.m. French

7:30 p.m. English

Sun

02

Feb

Roundhouse

Community

Recreation

Arts &

**Centre** 

Post-show talkbacks: 31 Jan, 1Feb 2:00 p.m.

## RELATED EVENT

The Soundscape Workshop

English: 1 Feb 4:00 p.m. French: 2 Feb, 4:00 p.m. 60 min

The Roundhouse

For ages 8+. Registration required. Visit pushfestival.ca/push-in-the-community to register.

ACCESSIBILITY [BLV]

Blind/lowvision friendly \$36.20 60 min CONTENT NOTE Flashing lights, dense haze

34 Dance Theatre 35

## SEING

SEEING DOUBLE is an homage to spooky late-night double features, a cerebral marathon that keeps the audience on edge through vivid surround sound and optical illusion. These two performances are strange sisters that sneak pulpy speculative fiction aesthetics into uncharted conceptual territories.

## DOUBLE

A WAKE OF VULTURES

/UNCEDED COAST SALISH TERRITORIES



PHOTO: A WAKE OF VULTURES

K BODY AND MIND

PPORTED BY

Validition Stripping psyc at Night by My blitz that under forms a nightting of the company of th

Stripping psychological horror down to its bare bones, *Walking at Night by Myself* confounds the senses with an audiovisual blitz that undermines the reliability of perception and transforms a nighttime walk into something far more sinister.

K BODY AND MIND is a maximalist sci-fi odyssey brought to life through minimalist and machinelike theatricality. Set in a dystopian future, a security specialist yearns to escape the ravages of sickness and war by starting life over in a bioengineered body. But when a hostile entity invades, she must confront a ghost from her past in this cyberpunk multimedia experience.

Fri Sat
01 02
Feb Feb
7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

| Scotiabank | Dance | Centre

\$39
Combine this show with *K BODY & MIND* on the same night and save 25%!
50 min

**CONTENT NOTE**Flashing lights

Sat Sun
01 02
Feb Feb
8:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.

Scotiabank
Dance
Centre

Sat Sun 09 Feb Feb Online

Blind/low-vision friendly

ACCESSIBILITY

[BLV]

\$39 / online \$29

Combine this show with Walking at Night by Myself on the same night and save 25%!

75 min

CONTENT NOTE
Flashing lights, discussion of

Post-show talkback: 01 Feb (after K BODY AND MIND)

36 Theatre // Multimedia 37



On February 2, the cosmic forces of Van Vogue Jam and PuSh Festival converge for a showdown of galactic proportions: *Dune* Wars Kiki Ball. Hosted by the Kiki Legendary Overall Mother Posh Gvasalia, this astro-glam extravaganza celebrates the creativity and resilience of the QTBIPOC community through Ballroom—a culture founded by Black, Latinx, Queer and Trans folk in NYC, Harlem in the 60's. The most fab children of Vancouver's Ballroom scene will compete for cash prizes—and interstellar supremacy—across categories where space-age voque, fashion and attitude bring the planets of Arrakis and Tatooine into alignment.

Walkers will storm the runway in extraterrestrial hair sculptures, metallic robot chic and sandworm couture, channeling influences from the iconic Houses of Ballroom all the way to the noble

Sun

02

**Feb** 

3:00 p.m.

-9:00 p.m

House Atreides. Witness Jedi voque precision with lightsabers in hand, as they walk the line between Real and Bizzare, while Bene Gesserit sisters wield the Voice to deliver reads that echo through the galaxy.

In this climactic face-off, it's do or do not. There is no try. Fear is the mind-killer and serving supreme Fremen furocity is their only hope. Will performers harness their artistry to restore balance to the universe or to assert celestial dominion? One thing is certain: as prophecies are fulfilled and legends unfold, it's going to get spicy. May the shade be with you!







## ACCESSIBILITY

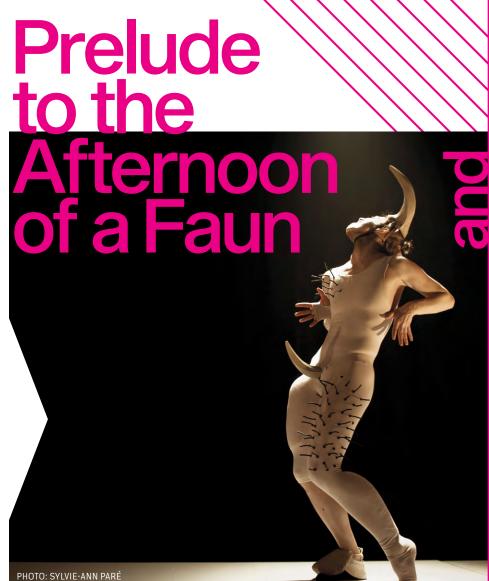
Standing show (limited seating available)

\$15-\$20 advance \$30 at door

6 hrs

Exit and re-entry as

CONTENT NOTE All ages welcome





COMPAGNIE MARIE CHOUINARD /CANADA

Choreographer Marie Chouinard presents two unorthodox performances that mark pivotal moments in her trailblazing career, both inspired by iconic Ballets Russes masterpieces by Vaslav Nijinsky. The original works were revolutionary for their departure from classical ballet, and Chouinard extends their avant-garde impact, reimagining them through her contemporary lens and transforming each into a viscerally provocative experience.

Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun is a solo set to Claude Debussy, interpreting the lustful flirtations of a half-goat creature, which amplifies the erotic undertones of Nijinsky's version with a raw sensuality and primal physicality.

The Rite of Spring holds a special place in Chouinard's repertoire as her first work based on a musical score—Igor Stravinsky's radical hymn to life, whose dissonant rhythms famously sparked scandal when first premiered. Stripping down the original narrative of Pagan spring rituals, an ensemble constructed around solos distills the composition to its raw elemental force, capturing the explosive energy of creation. A vivid celebration of dance as it bursts into modernity, evoking the moment following life's first pulse.









Mon 03 Feb 7:30 p.m. Chilliwack **Cultural Centre - HUB International Theatre** 

\$49 80 min **CONTENT NOTE** Nudity, flashing lights, haze

Vogue // Music // Dance Dance 39



Works by: Nicole Rose Bond • Burgundy • Cori Caulfield • Jessica Dawn Keeling • Andréane Leclerc • Rebecca Margolick • Claudia Moore • Nasiv Kaur Sall • AJ Simmons Bettina Szabo • Ray Young // Artistic Director + Curator: Julie-anne Saroyan

PuSh Festival and Small Stage are teaming up to bring back this critically acclaimed and wildly popular Vancouver institution—and this time, it's bolder and braver than ever. With a spotlight on the power of intersectional and intergenerational performers, the lineup explores a wide range of dance practices, showcasing a vibrant mix of eclectic works by visionary local, national and international artists.

This collection of 12 original pieces spans a dynamic range of dance from ballet to jazz, contemporary to contortion, flamenco to performance art, musical -theatre and more. Featuring emerging to senior artists embracing the short form, Dances for a Small Stage provides a platform for some of today's most exciting dance and performance art makers to push the boundaries of artistry and innovation while challenging convention.

Wed

05

Feb

6:30 p.m.

Post-show talkback 05 Jan

Tue

04

**Feb** 

6:30 p.m.

Expect edge-of-your-seat short works with power, precision and exuberance that represent a generational shift, blending traditional styles with contemporary influences. Each piece is just five to seven minutes long, unfolding on the company's signature 12ft by 10ft stage, which turns minimal space into a canvas for posing thought-provoking questions.

Held in an off-beat, intimate cabaret setting, this show offers a unique experience designed to ignite your senses. Come prepared for an evening of stirring, provocative and truly unforgettable dance performances. Word on the street is this event holds unexpected delights—surprises await, but only those who join will discover all that the night has in store.





Please! **Beverage** Co

\$31 110 min CONTENT NOTE Nudity



Born in Flames is a pioneering work of feminist sci-fi cinema shot in 1983 with low-fi guerrilla filmmaking aesthetics that combine experimental docufiction techniques and archival news footage in a gritty, unvarnished portrayal of activism and rebellion. This genre-defying indictment of patriarchy unfolds in an alternate United States, a decade after a socialist revolution. Disillusioned by its unfulfilled promises, groups of militant women band together to rise against lingering injustice through non-violent protest and radical uprisings. Their primary target: the mainstream media, which they seek to commandeer as a tool for liberation in a dramatic act of resistance.

Heralded as a time capsule of pre-gentrification New York, Born in Flames exposes the shortcomings of progressive movements that ignore intersectional oppression, crafting a punk-rock manifesto that continues to resonate as an incisive critique of institutional power and systemic inequality.

The screening will be followed by an in-person Q&A with Lizzie Borden, offering audiences a rare opportunity to engage with the visionary filmmaker.



Thu 06 **Feb** 6:00 p.m

**SFU** Goldcorp **Centre for** the Arts

\$10 90 min

> CONTENT NOTE Police violence, police murder

Post-show talkback with director, followed by reception

Film 41 Dance



In a world teetering on the edge, a family gathers for a seemingly ordinary Sunday. Yet little by little, everything around them crumbles under the devastating effects of natural disasters. Regardless, they cling to their day-to-day routines, convinced that an imminent collapse is only a distant possibility. Meanwhile, three wildlife reporters race against time to document Earth's last remaining species on the brink of extinction, hoping to preserve a trace of the world slipping away before their eyes.

Between dreamlike fiction and stark reality, Dimanche paints a sharp yet tender portrait of humanity caught off guard by the uncontrollable forces of nature. It depicts the ingenuity and stubbornness of humans as they neglect the chaos of ecological catastrophe and go to absurd extremes to maintain their habits and keep up a sense of normalcy. Dimanche compels us to ask ourselves: how much longer can we turn a blind eye to the storm that's already pounding at our door?



Fri

07

Feb

7:30 p.m.

Thu

Sat

80

Feb

7:30 p.m.







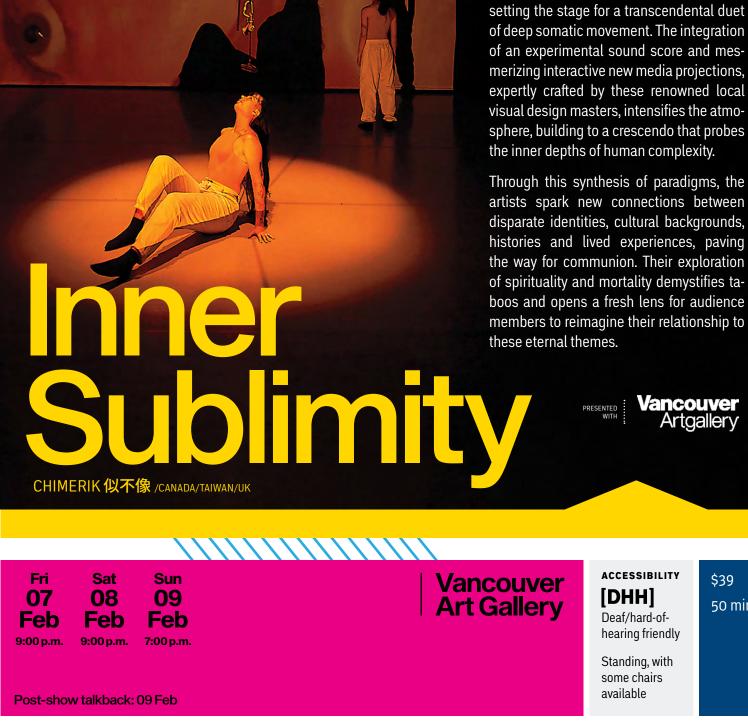
Vancouver **Playhouse** 

ACCESSIBILITY [DHH] Deaf/hard-ofhearing friendly

\$39 - \$79 75 min

CONTENT NOTE Flashing lights

Post-show talkback: 07 Feb



Inner Sublimity traverses currents of Eastern and Western philosophy through dance,

creating a dynamic dialogue between traditions preserved across generations. This cross-pollination bridges Taiwan's heritage, grounded in reverence and ritual, with Europe's tapestry of religious practices, carv-

ing an artistic approach that challenges colonial narratives and enriches contempo-

Creatively imagined for the unique space of the Vancouver Art Gallery, the performance begins with a meditative ritual and poem,

ACCESSIBILITY

[DHH]

Deaf/hard-of-

hearing friendly

Standing, with some chairs available

\$39

50 min

rary explorations of spirituality.

Dance // Multimedia // Performance Art 43 Theatre



*Transpofagic Manifesto* is a courageous and thought-provoking work that challenges commonly-held views around gender diversity. Renata Carvalho, a Brazilian human rights activist, reclaims the term "travesti" to describe a distinct transfeminine identity with a history of marginalization and resilience in Latin America. Embracing her travesti identity, she invites the public to behold her, stripped of gender-enforcing constraints, and engage in a conversation on how harmful perceptions of trans people are constructed and reproduced.

"My body came before me, without my asking," she reflects, describing her journey of gender self-affirmation and bodily autonomy as a rebirth. She offers herself and her story in a radical expression of empowerment that subverts the obsessive scrutiny and hypersexualization of trans bodies, distilling this gaze and transforming it into art, literature and education.













Fri Sat 07 08 **Feb** Feb 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.

Waterfront **Theatre** 

ACCESSIBILITY [ST]

In Portuguese with English surtitles followed by live **English translation** 

Combine this show with OUT on Feb 8 and save 25%!

100 min

**CONTENT NOTE** Nudity, scents, discussion of gender violence

## Renata Carvalo Film Marathon

Spend a day immersed in Brazilian queer cinema with a lineup of films that explore themes from forbidden desire and sexual health to transphobia and the struggle for equality amidst the rise of far-right politics. Facing some of the world's highest rates of transphobic and homophobic violence, Brazil serves as the backdrop for these compelling stories of resistance and resilience, offering insight into the realities of queer experience in South America's most populous country.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to view five acclaimed films, each featuring Renata Carvalho-an actress, playwright, activist and leading voice for trans advocacy in Brazil and beyond. Complementing her Transpofagic Manifesto performance at the Festival, Carvalho will host an in-person discussion around her film Body Your Autobiography, where she will explore cinema's unique significance for queer communities, focusing on its ability to provide empowering self-representations that dismantle oppressive narratives. Each of these films act as a lifeline, countering cultural erasure and inviting audiences to experience queer love, heartbreak and joy through shared experience and emotional connection.





## 12:00 p.m. Dry Wind (Vento Seco)

Daniel Nolasco | 2020 | 110 min

Sandro's routine of work, soccer and parties is disrupted when Maicon, a mysterious newcomer, captures his curiosity.

## 2:00 p.m.

## The First Soldiers (Os Primeiros Soldados)

Rodrigo de Oliveira | 2021 | 107 min

The First Soldiers follows young biologist Suzano as he navigates the first wave of the AIDS epidemic, forming connections with trans artist Rose and videomaker Humberto.

### 4:00 p.m.

## Who's Afraid? (Quem Tem Medo?)

Dellani Lima, Henrique Zanoni and Ricardo Alves Jr.

Who's Afraid? examines the rise of the farright in Brazil through the lens of artists and their censored works.



## If Trans Is Sea (Se Trans For Mar) Cibele Appes | 2022 | 25 min

lara seeks to shed her haunting past in the sea, where a new passion stirs her life, revealing that romantic love can offer a place of possibility.

### 6:00 p.m.

## **Body: Your Autobiography** (Corpo Sua Autobiografia)

Renata Carvalho and Cibele Appes | 2020 | 41 min

This documentary explores how society and media have shaped the identity and corporeality of travestis—a transfeminine gender expression-through stereotypes and marginalization, revealing harmful impacts across personal and social spheres.

### 6:45 p.m.

Post-show talk with Renata Carvalho

09

2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.

Dry Wind (Vento Seco) The First Soldiers (Os Primeiros Soldados) Who's Afraid? (Quem Tem Medo?) If Trans Is Sea (Se Trans For Mar)

**Body: Your Autobiography** (Corpo Sua Autobiografia)

**SFU Goldcorp** Centre for the **Arts** 

ACCESSIBILITY

In Portuguese with English subtitles

Post-show talkback 6:45 p.m.

Theatre Film 45 Under a charged nightclub haze, two performers move with electric intimacy, flirting, teasing, shape-shifting. Immersed in the bittersweet fragrance of oranges, *OUT* is a defiant challenge to the status quo that bravely carves out a new kind of space, reclaiming and celebrating our queer future.

It's about embodying authenticity, a resistance against homophobia and transphobia that embraces various political and cultural inspirations such as voguing, dancehall and Black liberation. The performers dance in solidarity alongside global LGBTQIA+movements, breaking down violent histories to imagine something new. Something liberated. Something delicious.



Sun

09

**Feb** 

5:00 p.m.

Post-show talkback: 09 Feb

Sat

08

**Feb** 

9:00 p.m.





\$39

Save 30% when purchased as part of the Dance Trio Package or combine this show with Transpofagic Manifesto on Feb 8 and save 25%!

100 min

CONTENT NOTE

Flashing lights, haze, slurs used against LGBTQIA+ people



Jan 28 - Feb 2, 2025

The PuSh Industry Series is an opportunity for curators, presenters, producers and self-producing artists to collectively dialogue industry issues, to spark ideas, to make new connections, and to be transformed by live performance. Each year, we bring together over 200 visionary arts workers, including over 30 international performing arts presenters, to engage in professional development and curatorial research activities alongside the artistic Festival program.

Register for the 2025 Industry Series and buy your Industry Pass at **pushfestival.ca/industry**.

The Standard Industry Series Pass provides access to all PuSh Industry sessions, catered social events, the Festival Lounge Bar, a 20% discount code to purchase Festival tickets, and complimentary access to Club PuSh and Dune Wars Kiki Ball. Purchase a Full Industry Pass to include all 11 performances and immersive events held during the series. Save \$65 with an Early Bird discount if you purchase your pass by Dec 20, 2024.

## **Program Highlights**

- Roundtable Discussions and Talks on topics including:
- Indigenous futurism
- Curating Live Art: Crosscurrents of thinking on identity
- Solidarity practices
- Decolonizing organizational practice
- Expansive approaches to dramaturgy
- Theatre as an anteroom to social action
- Navigating the Big Divides: understanding our role in divisive times
- Studio Visits and and Artist Walks
- Curated Pitch Session
- Social Events
- Off-programming by Dance West Network, Odd Meridian and Left of PuSh/plastic orchid factory





46 Dance // Theatre

## In Development/Residencies

Residency 1



JOSEPH K. KASAU WA MAMBWE // MAJULA DRAMMEH /DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) // SWEDEN

// THABIASO KUBHEKA PERSSON /SWEDEN

In a world fixated on the unvielding acceleration of technological progress, this interactive theatre installation in-development urges audiences to reconnect with the tangible through a resounding affirmation of collective belonging. Deep within a dystopian assemblage of electronic waste discarded cables, defunct screens and obsolete motherboards—audiences enter a subterranean laboratory, both relic of the present and forewarning of the environmental degradation shaping our future.

The piece draws on ancestral wisdom and Afrofuturist visions to question the virtual megastructures that define our age. The performers invite participants to become co-creators of the unfolding narrative and resist digital dependencies that erode freedoms and fuel disconnection. Together, they trace new trajectories for unlearning the automations of modern existence in an immersive experience that challenges audiences to 'hack the code' and rediscover what it means to be fully human in a time of digital alienation.





RELATED EVENT

What is already here? Studio Showing and Discussion

Fri 07 **Feb** 5:00 p.m.

VIVO Media **Arts Centre**  For general public. Drop in. 120 min

## **Dramaturgy** Clinics

03 Feb

04 Feb various times

Andréane Leclerc is one of the 2025 Dramaturgy Clinics' dramaturgs, and will be offering consultations from her practice as a circus and interdisciplinary dramaturg, movement consultant and researcher on scenic writing from a somatic and inter-relational perspective. For more information on the Dramaturgy Clinics, please see pg 53.

For professional artists of the performing arts. Application required.



Residency 2

## Andréane Leclerc

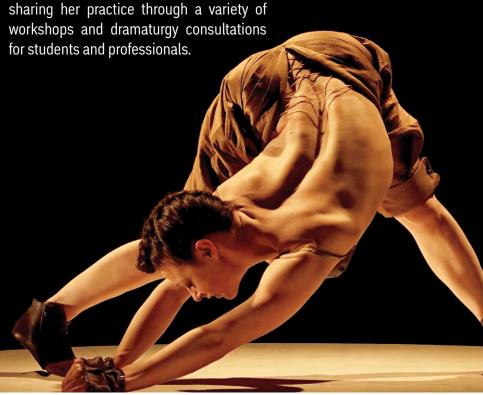
Andréane Leclerc has developed a somatic meaning, and provides access to both hetpractice inspired by contortion for over 25 erotopic spaces and inner territories made years. She deconstructs the physical lanquage of spectacle and explores limits as structure to create transdisciplinary scenic works based on cooperation, listening and relational ecology.

For Andréane, contortion is a way of listening and relating, where everything becomes a process, a movement, a force for creation and regeneration. How does contortion inform non-contortionist bodies? marks the starting point of a transdisciplinary artistic approach that anchors lived experience, both individual and collective, at the heart of the processes. Contortion stimulates the awakening of the senses, of a sense, of

up of stories and new narratives.

Throughout the Festival, Andréane will be

for students and professionals.



RELATED EVENT

Contortion: **Opening Amplitude and** Movement of the Spine

Mon Feb

05 Feb

Wed

Fri

07

**Feb** 

9:30 a.m.

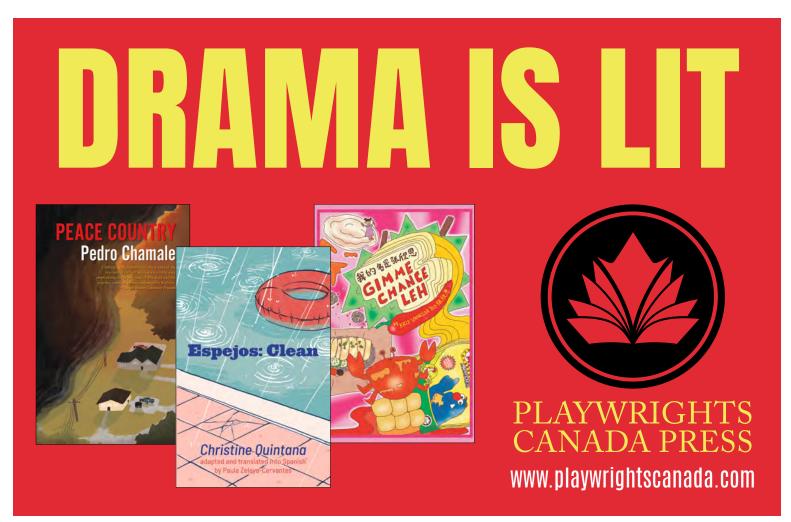
This dance workshop empowers physical performers to develop body awareness and safely explore spinal flexibility.

**Scotiabank Dance** Centre

TheTrainingSociety

For professional dance artists. Drop in. 150 min

Visit pushfestival.ca/ push-in-the-community,











## PuSh in the Community

## Amplifying connection between local communities and festival artists.

Visit **pushfestival.ca/push-in-the-community/** for more information, registration and application.

## FREE Workshops and Events for General Public

Vietnamese Rap Concert for Babies with Chaû Kim-Sanh and Chittakone Baccam

(Montréal, Québec)

29 Jan 2:00 p.m. // The Roundhouse 30 min

For babies aged 0-2 and their caregivers. Registration required.

In this intimate concert for babies, multidisciplinary artist Châu Kim-Sanh raps in a broken Vietnamese learned online. Her imaginary landscape features purple suns and blue Saigonese mountains. Accompanied by her long-time friend Chittakone Baccam, who weaves deep Asian beats into the performance, they explore themes of diasporic nostalgia through various artistic mediums. This concert serves as a tender, rhythmic poem dedicated to babies and second-generation immigrants, like Kim-Sanh, who have lost their language and are finding it again.







## Slow Social: Around Sound (and Music and Drag) with Gabriel Dharmoo (Montréal, Québec)

1 Feb 10:00 a.m // The Post at 750

For general public. Registration required.

Join Gabriel Dharmoo for an artist talk, Q&A, and discussion as part of The Only Animal's Slow Socials and Music on Main's Around Sound series. This event explores how slow practice fosters connections between people and place, envisioning joyful climate futures. Attendees will learn to create simple rope, or 'cordage,' from local materials like fabric scraps and garden waste. All materials and a beginner's lesson will be provided.







## Soundscape Workshop with L'eau du bain (Chelsea, Québec)

In English: 1 Feb 4:00 p.m. In French: 2 Feb 4:00 p.m. The Roundhouse

60 min

For ages 8+. Registration required.

During this workshop, the artists behind L'eau du bain invite you to plunge into magical Northern landscapes through the art of listening. L'eau du bain's installations and stage works enlist a theatrical and digital language in which sound and light are designed to connect with the inner self of the spectator, whether adult or child. This workshop is an opportunity to experience the impressive sound design techniques used in their show *De glace (From Ice)*.







## Workshops, Talks and Consultations for the Arts Community



## New Works In Practice with Majula Drammeh

## 2 Feb 12:00 p.m. // Scotiabank Dance Centre

For dance artists. Registration required.

In Practice is a workshop series for continued education, peer to peer exchange, and knowledge sharing for dance teachers and leaders. This workshop with PuSh Artist in Residence Majula Drammeh will explore how to create inclusive spaces that prioritize visibility, agency, and transparent power dynamics, while honoring the knowledge that everyone brings. Participants will reflect on their own experiences, learn to recognize individual challenges within group settings to foster more effective facilitation and connection.

Majula Drammeh (b. 1982) is a Swedish-Gambian-Finnish interdisciplinary dance and performance artist based in Stockholm. With degrees from London's Laban Center and Stockholm School of the Arts, her work explores vulnerability and societal norms, blending choreography and participatory performance. Her projects span galleries, streets, and video installations.







## **Dramaturgy Dialogues**

## 1 Feb 3:30 p.m. // The Roundhouse 120 min

Drop in.

The Dramaturgy Dialogues is a forum for local, national, and international dramaturgs and performance-makers to share their formal and philosophical approaches to dramaturgy. Participants will engage with a curated series of provocations that go beyond standard play development or academic applications to expand their dramaturgical toolkits and working methods. This collaborative space is intended to honour the diverse contexts that shape each participant's practice and welcome a broad range of perspectives.







## **Dramaturgy Clinics**

### Various times // The Post at 750

For professional artists of the performing arts. Application required.

The Dramaturgy Clinics are free dramaturgical consultations for local artists of any performing arts or interdisciplinary practice currently engaged in a creative process. Consultations are offered by visiting national and international dramaturgs representing diverse artistic points of view and cultural contexts. Inspired by Festival TransAmériques Cliniques dramaturgiques, this program nourishes individual practices while enriching our collective definitions and applications of dramaturgy.







## Contortion: Opening Amplitude and Movement of the Spine with Andréane Leclerc

(Montréal, Québec)

## 3, 5, 7 Feb 9:30 a.m. // Scotiabank Dance Centre 2.5 hrs

For professional dance artists. Drop in for one, two or three classes.

Contortion: Opening Amplitude and Movement of the Spine empowers physical performers to develop body awareness and safely explore spinal flexibility, using tools for breathing, posture, and endurance to deepen movement possibilities.



## Studio Showing and Discussion with Joseph K. Kasau Wa Mambwe, Majula Drammeh, Thabiaso Kubheka Persson

(Democratic Republic of Congo, Sweden)

## 7 Feb 5:00 p.m // VIVO Media Arts Centre

For general public. Drop in.

This studio showing culminates two weeks of audiovisual experimentation for the futuristic (Afro)play What is already here? Participants will experience this work-in-development and join the artists in discussing key conceptual themes including: the dematerialization of social relations; surveil-lance; and green colonialism. Joseph K. Kasau Wa Mambwe (Democratic Republic of Congo), Majula Drammeh (Sweden) and Thabiaso Kubheka Persson (Sweden) are 2025 PuSh Festival Artists in Residence.





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## SPARK YOUR CREATIVITY HERE

Programs for ages 2-22 in Art & Design, Dance, and Theatre, Music & Film

ARTSUMBRELLA.COM

Symposia Presents:

## The Elevate Program



PuSh continues to support youth in the arts through its partnership with Surrey-based Solid State Community Industries, and the event-planning co-op Symposia.

Symposia presents its first iteration of the Elevate Program, a cohort of racialized youth eager to develop their artistic practice who will receive mentorship from local creative professionals and produce a showcase event in July 2025. The Elevate cohort will have the unique opportunity to participate in workshops and conversations with Festival artists, and experience a slate of exciting PuSh shows!

For information on the Youth Program, contact Youth Coordinator Chipo Chipaziwa at **youth@pushfestival.ca** 

## Did you know?

Youth 16-24 can access PuSh Festival programming at highly discounted rates!

For \$20, the Youth Pass provides tickets to four select Festival shows. Supplies are limited, so get them while they last at **pushfestival.ca**.







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## Supporting change, nurturing progress, and investing in local communities





## Accessible PuSh - The Journey



For over 10 years, Accessible PuSh has proudly connected consultants, artists, volunteers, and service providers to raise the standard for how accessibility can be integrated into the experience of live art. Our goal is to follow the lead of d/Deaf and disabled advocates by contributing to the ongoing process of addressing access barriers faced by audiences who have been historically, systemically, and continuously excluded from live performance spaces. In doing this work, we are honoured to contribute to vital conversations about who art is made by and for, and how we can build more just and expansive futures.

This year, Accessible PuSh continues to work with consultants to identify highly visual shows that are accessible to d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons, audio-dominant shows that are accessible to blind and low-vision patrons, and "Extra Live" shows with relaxed performance environments that are more accessible to patrons who have sensory sensitivities. Our consultants guide us in choosing which shows to program with certified ASL-interpretation, live description, and which to program as relaxed performances. In addition, we continue to provide special training to Festival volunteers to build competency in meeting the access needs of artists and audience members; create vlogs in ASL about d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing friendly shows; offer sighted guides for blind and low-vision patrons: offer free tickets for support people; create visual stories for many of our shows and venues; create descriptive introductions for some shows; and make a selection of our programming available online for those whose access needs are best met in their own homes. Please visit the website for the most complete and up to date information about Accessible PuSh.

Many thanks to past staff, volunteers, consultants, audience members, artists, and community partners whose myriad contributions have shaped this work, and special thanks to this year's consultants, Deaf consultant Ladan Sahraei, low-vision consultant Kristy Kassie, and relaxed performance consultant Jake Anthony for their ongoing support. We look forward to many more years of growth and learning together.

The Festival Programming is exciting, challenging, diverse, and sometimes overstimulating! As we strive to communicate clearly about the unique accessibility considerations of each show, do not feel you need to navigate this program alone. For more information, to discuss your access needs, or for support in deciding which shows are best for you, please reach out to Andrea Cownden, our Accessible PuSh Coordinator, at access@pushfestival.ca or call 604.605.8284 x204.

## Accessible PuSh Legend

Accessible Push Legend	
Ég	American Sign Language (ASL) for events (not shows) can be requested
[DHH]	A highly visual show that's accessible to d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons
[ST]	Surtitles (like subtitles but for theatre)
(((	Live audio description by VocalEye. Visit our website for information about described programming.
Ø	A show created with blind & low- vision access in mind
[BLV]	An audio-dominant show that is blind and low-vision friendly
RP	A relaxed performance where traditional audience etiquette is not enforced, and adjustments are made for people with sensory sensitivities if necessary. When shows are always relaxed, we designate them as "Extra Live".

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## Thank You to Our Patrons Circle Donors

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Laine Slater 地 🛂 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)

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Anndraya Luui Dani Pichie R & J Stern Family Foundation 59

### CURATOR (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Kemo Schedlosky & Mark Gatha Lightburn Family Fund held at the Vancouver Foundation Rudy and Allison 🚭 😉 Fei Wong In Memoriam of Norman Armour

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In Memory of John Wood 15

Elizabeth Jauk 🕪 📴

Robert Lange 🐵

David A Main

Linda Rosas

Camilla Tibbs 🐏 🍱

Rita Wong

Susan Mertens & Max Wyman, OC 15

### FRIEND (\$20-\$149)

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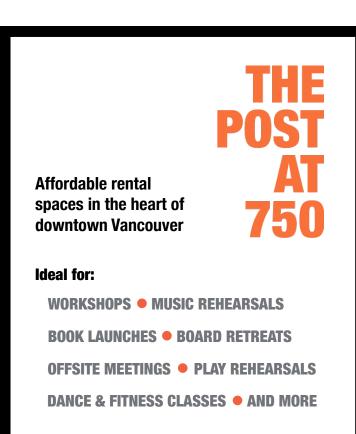
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## 3,194 Volunteers have given 49,096 hours over 20 years





thepostat750.ca



# 20 Years of Audacious Live Art Supp



## Support PuSh today!

For the past 20 years, PuSh Festival has been dedicated to bringing you exciting new forms of performance from around the world. As we mark this milestone, we're launching a special campaign to raise \$20,000 to support our continued efforts.

## Where does your support go?

For just \$20 a month or just .66 per day you're providing:

- Four \$5 Youth Tickets for PuSh Festival performances
- Two \$10 Youth Passes to the PuSh Industry Series
- A discounted ticket for a low-income patron
- Volunteer T-Shirt for one of the 100+ people who contribute 1,200+ hours of their time
- A portion of accommodations and travel for our 200+ visiting artists

## Become a Festival Supporter and take advantage of the benefits:

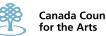
- Invitation for two to our annual Donor Reception
- Newsletter from our Director of Programming
- A charitable tax receipt for the full amount of your donation
- Recognition on the PuSh website

- Recognition in the PuSh Festival Impact Report
- Recognition in the PuSh Festival Program Guide
- Sneak Peek at Festival Programming
- Early access for single show tickets



## PuSh would like to thank:





Canada Council Conseil des Arts





































































