

canadianstage

FESTIVAL OF IDEAS AND CREATION

February 28-March 1 at the Berkeley Street Theatre

Toronto, ON – January 15, 2020 – Canadian Stage is pleased to announce the return of the **Festival of Ideas and Creation**. For over seven years, this festival at Canadian Stage brought together incredible artists in our community to engage in vibrant artistic dialogue. Now it's back and better than ever as we once again open our doors at 26 Berkeley Street.

A FREE three-day event for emerging performance arts creators and practitioners, the festival is an opportunity for artists from diverse backgrounds to engage in interactive sharing, workshops, masterclasses and discussions about the evolution of artistic processes and practices that involve intercultural collaboration and exchange within our contemporary artistic landscape.

As one of the country's leading contemporary performance arts organisations, Canadian Stage is a vital artistic force, locally, nationally and internationally. Deeply committed to supporting local artists by providing space, tools and resources, **The Festival of Ideas and Creation** offers artists and creators who are working within intersections the chance to work with peers to develop and promote creative processes that are diverse, inclusive and reflective of the Canadian cultural landscape.

The festival kicks off with an opening night feast hosted by the Canadian Stage Artistic Team followed by two days of active conversations and creation.

The festival is free and requires online registration for access to tickets and events. Attendees can register at www.canadianstage.com. **Registration opens on February 5**. Attendees who register early will have access to a limited number of complimentary tickets to see the hotly anticipated Canadian Stage productions *How to Fail As A Popstar* by visual artist, filmmaker and bestselling author Vivek Shraya and *AF* by Toronto's internationally renowned contemporary Indigenous performance company, Red Sky Performance.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Community Dinner: Breaking Bread – 5-7 PM

An invitation to share a meal as a community and connect with fellow festival participants.

canadianstage

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Land Acknowledgement – 10-10:45 AM

We look to the history of the land as a guide to our processes of creating art. Indigenous Community leader, **Dr. Robert A. Phillips "Dr. Bob the Elder,"** will lead participants in an extended land acknowledgement that will include teaching on the history of this land as a gathering place and the importance of land acknowledgement as an action in our contemporary performance art practices.

Moving Ideas – 11-11:45 AM

Curated by Canadian Stage RBC Emerging Creator **Syreeta Hector (*Black Ballerina*)**, this workshop focuses on intercultural practice and process in dance dramaturge. The workshop is facilitated by choreographer and dance dramaturge **Seika Boye**.

Beyond Language – 12 PM-1 PM

Curated and facilitated by Canadian Stage RBC Emerging Creator **Augusto Bitter**, in this workshop Bitter will lead participants in an exploration of sound and movement as language and share creation exercises that have become instrumental in the development process of his work ***Reina***.

Dramaturgy Now (Indigenous Dramaturgical Framework) – 1-1:45 PM

Curated by Canadian Stage RBC Emerging Creator **PJ Prudat**, and inspired by indigenous work such as *Almighty Voice and His Wife* by David Moses, *Tomb of the Vanishing Indian* by Marie Clement and *Chocolate Woman Dreams the Milky Way* by Monique Mojica, this workshop is an exploration into non-conventional dramaturgical structures and themes, especially in relationship to intersections and divergence of western theatrical practices.

Knowledge Café – 3-6 PM

Three tables, three conversations on how to evolve our performing arts practices to become more reflective of our current artistic landscape. Hosted by Canadian Stage Associate Artistic Director **Mel Hauge**, participants will be divided into three groups. At each table will be a facilitator and a topic for discussion. Every 30 minutes participants will move to another table to begin a new discussion. Once participants have completed the conversations at each table, the facilitators will share with the group what was communicated and learnt at each table composing a communal document of guideline relating to how to address the questions posed at each table.

Table 1: Who gets to tell what story and how do you tell the story of a person from a culture/race/identity other than your own.

Table 2: What is the difference between representation, tokenism and appropriation. How do we navigate that?

Table 3: Practical ways to make rehearsal/creation rooms and processes more inclusive, diverse, intersectional and safe.

canadianstage

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Masterclass Dance Creation: Radical Vulnerability – 10:30 AM-1:30 PM

Dancer, choreographer and movement director, **Esie Mensah**, leads a two-hour creation workshop. Drawing from her experience and process of creating her Dora nominated work *Shades*, the workshop will focus on the importance and necessity of having racial vulnerability when collaborating with artists from diverse cultural experiences.

Following the workshop will be a one-hour conversation between Canadian Stage Artistic Director Intern **Tawiah M'Carthy**, Mensah and participants.

Panel Discussion: Bridging the Gap – 3-5 PM

Donna Michelle St Bernard, an award-winning playwright, director and arts administrator, will moderate a panel discussion on intercultural processes and or practices within creation processes. Panelist include **Keith Barker** (Artistic Director, Native Earth), **Tanisha Taitt** (Artistic Director, Cahoots Theatre), and **Ted Witzel** (Assistant Creative Producer, Stratford Laboratory).

Closing Social – 5-7 PM

Here is your opportunity to connect, network and interact with fellow festival participants. Let's party!

ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE

Canadian Stage's mission is to be the leading contemporary performing arts organization in the country. A collision of disciplines and cultures, Canadian Stage reflects the dynamism and complexity of Canada and is a vital artistic force locally, nationally, and internationally. In its over thirty-year history, Canadian Stage has employed thousands of artists and developed and produced hundreds of new productions. Many of the plays developed by Canadian Stage have been awarded and nominated for Canada's most prestigious literary and performing arts honours, including Governor General's, Chalmers and Dora Mavor Moore Awards. Throughout the theatre season, nearly 100,000 patrons attend performances and workshops in our three Toronto venues. Throughout our history, Canadian Stage has provided outstanding education and outreach programs cultivating a diverse audience demographic.

MEDIA CONTACT

Cathy Paine

Associate Director, Communications

416-367-8243 ext. 250

cpaine@canadianstage.com