



CANADIAN STAGE 20.21 SEASON UPDATE

SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT IN ARTISTS THE TOP PRIORITY FOR CANADIAN STAGE'S RESPONSIVENESS TO THE PANDEMIC CRISIS

CANADIAN STAGE ANNOUNCES SUMMER 2020 PROGRAMMING INCLUDING ARTIST AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

CANADIAN STAGE WILL ANNOUNCE NEW, ALTERNATIVE FALL AND 20.21 PROGRAMMING BY MID-AUGUST 2020

The fight to contain the spread of COVID-19 has created an unprecedented challenge to the performing arts. It is with regret that Canadian Stage announces the suspension of its Fall 2020 productions of *Fairview* by Jackie Sibblies Drury (a Canadian Stage and Obsidian Theatre co-production), *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Ursula Rani Sarma, based on the book by Khaled Hosseini (a Canadian Stage production in association with The Citadel Theatre), *Little Dickens* by Ronnie Burkett, and the *CS Platform* series. We wish to thank our artists, partners, and audiences for their understanding, and we look forward to the moment when we can bring these shows back to our stages.

In mid-August we will release the details of our alternative season programming which will uphold our mission of developing and presenting local, national, and international contemporary performance, but in formats that do not compromise the health and safety of our artists, patrons, and staff. Furthermore, we will be announcing additional programs that are responsive to the current pandemic and the social, economic, and political changes that it is precipitating. In advance of this announcement, Artistic Director, Brendan Healy, shared the organizational guiding principles that are shaping how Canadian Stage is prioritizing its use of resources in the coming months.

<https://csgrid.canadianstage.com/home/guiding-principles>

The continuity and survival of arts organizations through the COVID-19 pandemic must occur in lockstep with the continuity and survival of Canadian artists. Although our physical theatres are closed, Canadian Stage has been navigating the pandemic by engaging in this work by heavily investing in artists and our local community. Since the beginning of the pandemic in March, Canadian Stage has involved more than 85 artists through newly commissioned work, experiments with new forms of performance, and partnerships.

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BRENDAN HEALY, Artistic Director

MONICA ESTEVES, Executive Director

ALEXANDRA BAILLIE, Chair

Our mid-August announcement will contain details about the significant investments that the organization will continue to make into supporting Canadian performing artists and arts workers as they adapt their artistic approaches to the realities of the pandemic. In the meantime, we remain energized and very active with a summer of programming that highlights some of the inspirations of our artists and community members during the pandemic.

“The need for stories, for artists, and for live encounters continues despite COVID-19 and Canadian Stage will continue to meaningfully support these artists, stories, and encounters,” says Canadian Stage Artistic Director Brendan Healy. “I hope you will enjoy our summer programming and I look forward to sharing more of the exciting work we have coming up with you soon.”

CANADIAN STAGE SUMMER 2020 PROGRAM (July and August)

From a meditative audio experience, a film that reflects how the lockdown is impacting our community, a multi-disciplinary anthology series that examines our past, present and future, to a roaming neighbourhood based theatre experience, the diverse range of voices heard in these stories reaffirms Canadian Stage’s ongoing commitment in local artists and community.

***What Happens to You, Happens to Me* (July 20 – August 1)**

The previously announced ***What Happens to You, Happens to Me*** by award-winning playwright Susanna Fournier is a unique participatory storytelling experience that captures responses to how people are feeling after months of isolation. Voiced by award-winning actor and playwright Kristen Thomson, this meditative audio experience asks the listener to respond to a set of questions that delve into one’s inner self to examine isolation and our innate need for connection. The work will be available, for free, on <https://csgrid.canadianstage.com/what-happens> until **August 1**.

***Unlocked* (July 24-25)**

Canadian Stage is proud to be a frequent partner with Jamii Esplanade, a St. Lawrence Neighborhood-based arts organization focused on building community and nurturing young women in leadership. With the support of Canadian Stage, the *Kisanii Hub*, a mobile theatre on wheels, has travelled the residential streets of the St. Lawrence Neighborhood for a series of free live performances. We are thrilled to partner with Jamii once again to present ***Unlocked: A Flow of Colourful Connections in Lockdown***, a film/art video that captures eleven St. Lawrence Neighborhood residents’ personal journeys through the COVID-19 pandemic. Filmed entirely in the neighbourhood, *Unlocked* is an abstract symphony of thoughts, emotions, and reflection, that interweaves stories through poetry, song, dance, sculpture, painting and photography. The film will be streamed online for two nights only: **July 24 and 25** at 9 PM at csgrid.canadianstage.com/jamii

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We Were, We Are, We Will Be (August 18-23)

Canadian Stage is also excited to partner with SummerWorks to co-present ***We Were, We Are, We Will Be***. Contemplating what performance can be in this time of crisis, *We Are, We Were, We Will Be* is an anthology of 10 artistic responses to our past, present, and possible futures, through the lens of the pandemic. Co-curated by Daniele Bartolini (Dopolavoro Teatrale) and Luke Reece (Obsidian Theatre, Little Black Afro) the anthology will unfold over the course one week, beginning **August 18**, with digital and analogue projects that take audiences from their living rooms to hidden parts of the city for safe encounters with others. Each project is designed to be experienced on its own or as part of the larger anthology and will reflect a variety of disciplines. The anthology artists and projects will be announced, and tickets will be available to book on **July 30**.

<https://csgrid.canadianstage.com/we-were>

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.

**To receive further information, please contact
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