

TORONTO **FRINGE**

**AN EXTRAORDINARY LINE-UP OF SHOWS BY MANY OF
TORONTO'S LEADING ARTISTS AND PRODUCERS**

INCLUDING TONS OF KICKASS NEW WORK CREATED AND PERFORMED BY WOMEN

**ARTISTS INCLUDE JAKE EPSTEIN, NINA LEE AQUINO, SARAH GARTON STANLEY, MICHAEL
ROSS ALBERT, JEFF LILICO, KEVIN WONG, STEVEN GALLAGHER, TRACY ERIN SMITH
AND MORE**

**FEATURING POSTSCRIPT TORONTO'S LARGEST POP-UP PATIO
IN THE SCADDING COURT HOCKEY RINK**

JULY 3 – JULY 14, 2019, ACROSS TORONTO

Toronto (May 27, 2019)- **THE TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL** proudly returns this summer with an extensive line-up of productions by award-winning artists, the popular **POSTSCRIPT** pop-up patio, and for the first time, will venture to the East End with 16 shows presented at main venue Streetcar Crowsnest. The **TORONTO FRINGE** takes place July 3 – July 14, 2019 with 151 shows at 46 venues presented across the city, and all venues are fully accessible.

In its 31st year, **TORONTO FRINGE** continues to grow and thrive with one of the most notable line-ups to date, featuring some of Toronto's top artists. Legendary Canadian actor **Jake Epstein** will be presenting *Boy Falls From The Sky: Jake Epstein Live at Supermarket*, about the ups and downs of pursuing a successful career on Broadway; Factory Theatre Artistic Director **Nina Lee Aquino**, winner of the Margo Bindhardt and Rita Davies Award for Cultural Leadership, directs a play for young audiences called *Through the Bamboo*; solo performer **Tracy Erin Smith** and Associate Artistic Director of English Theatre at the National Art Centre **Sarah Garton Stanley** present *The Big House*, Tracy's most personal show to date; and the popular comedy troupe **Tita Collective** presents *Tita Jokes*, a spice girls comedy with a Filipina twist.

In addition to this excellent line-up, the **TORONTO FRINGE** continues to celebrate its success with its free for all pop-up patio, **POSTSCRIPT** in the hockey rink at 275 Bathurst St (Dundas and Bathurst). The patio is for everyone - a lounge, an artistic hub, a community space, a full-service bar, and delicious food. **POSTSCRIPT** is open July 3 to 14 from noon until 2am each evening, (and 4am on Saturdays) and will feature a free for all schedule of music, art installations, and surprise guests.

"I took a moment to browse through our beautiful program and I couldn't stop smiling. It delights me to see the hard work of all of our artists laid out in technicolour and I think you are all in for such a treat in just a few weeks' time! So, take a look now to start planning your schedule to make the most of the 12 days, and be sure to check out all our fun programming and refreshments at **POSTSCRIPT**, our patio. Keep your fingers crossed for sun and we will see you out there soon." - Lucy Eveleigh, Executive Director, **TORONTO FRINGE**

The **TORONTO FRINGE** is getting even more savvy and technical this season, with its first ever podcast, presented by CBC's **PlayME Podcast** hosts Laura Mullin and Chris Tolley, which will take guests from venue to venue, and reveal wonderful anecdotes about the Festival's 31-year history. In addition, the **TORONTO FRINGE** has launched a new campaign *Fringe My Way*, which will have a series of cultural *influencers* who will be sharing their best bets on how to Fringe, including Aurora Browne, Sean Lee and Yousef Kadoura, Catherine Hernandez, Jason Murray, and Mitchell Marcus. Their Fringe My Way lists will drop on June 19.

The **TORONTO FRINGE** will again feature **KIDSFEST**, with 7 shows for young audiences all at the George Ignatieff Theatre. Right next door to the theatre, kids and their families can play at the **KIDSFEST CLUB**, a free outdoor clubhouse with creative play stations, workshops, a bouncy castle, and more.

THE TORONTO FRINGE LINEUP HIGHLIGHTS:

This year, once again, **TORONTO FRINGE** features outstanding new musicals by leading artists, including the site-specific audio/musical play *Scadding*, by renowned Toronto theatre company **Common Boots Theatre**, created by **John Gzowski, Jennifer Brewin, and Alex Bulmer**; the original love story *Unraveled* by **Andrew Seok**, and starring award-winning actor **Jeff Lillico**; a story of illness, grief and resilience, *Every Silver Lining*, directed by **Jennifer Stewart**, and composition and lyrics by **Allison Wither**; the award-winning comedy *High School High*, directed by **Al Connors**, and produced by **Toasted Theatre**; an examination of mental health and anxiety in adults, *The Huns*, by Dora nominated musical theatre writer **Michael Ross Albert**, and directed by the Associate Artistic Director of Crow's Theatre, **Marie Farsi**; and last but not least, **Drama 101**, by Fringe veterans **Steven Gallagher**, and **Kevin Wong**, a true to life story told by young artists aged 13 – 19.

TORONTO FRINGE continues its tradition of presenting powerful productions created and performed by women, based on current topics, including *The Weight of it All*, a new play about the lack of understanding or focus on women's reproductive health, created by **Gillian Bartolucci**, and directed by **Carly Heffernan**; *Clotheswap*, made up of an entire female cast and crew, celebrating women through fact, fantasy and fabric, featuring **Amanda Barker, Dale Boyer, and Ashley Comeau**; *Emotional Labour*, a show for outspoken women and non-binary people who are exhausted by interactions with the men in their lives, created by **Luis Fernandes**, and **Jess Beaulieu**; and a feminist adaptation of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, *Molly Bloom*, produced by **Fourth Gorgon Theatre**.

And of course, **TORONTO FRINGE** features a slew of powerful comedies, including *Moving On*, set in a one-bedroom Toronto apartment moments before the 2018 Cannabis Act by **Elmar Maripuu**, and directed by **Helly Chester**; *Carpe Into My DMs*, a post-apocalyptic sketch comedy revue, directed by Second City Alumnus, and multiple award winner, **Alastair Forbes**; Fringe veterans **Aaron Jan** and **Madeleine Brown** present *News Play*, the story of a small town newspaper in the modern age of fake news; and the musical comedy *Death Ray Cabaret*, by Fringe veterans and Dora Award nominees **Jordan Armstrong** and **Kevin Matviw**.

THE SWEET CANADIAN MUSICAL:

BE KIND REWIND

COMPANY / CREATOR: EDGE OF THE SKY

VENUE: RANDOLPH THEATRE

Judy Blume meets *High Fidelity* in this funny, heart-warming coming-of-age story.

BOY FALLS FROM THE SKY: JAKE EPSTEIN LIVE AT SUPERMARKET

COMPANY / CREATOR: PAST FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

VENUE: SUPERMARKET

He's been "that guy from Degrassi", then starred on Broadway in *Beautiful* and as *Spider-Man*. Now through funny and revealing stories and songs, he shares the rejection, stage fright and heartbreak behind a seemingly successful career.

CLITORIA: A SEX-POSITIVE SUPERHERO!

COMPANY / CREATOR: LAURA BAILEY MUSIC

VENUE: THEATRE PASSE MURAILLE MAINSPACE

A sexually-repressed high school science teacher accidentally turns herself into a sex-positive Vixen of Kink through a science experiment gone wrong. As the Ontario sex-ed curriculum is scrapped, Clitoria's transformation wreaks havoc on her square life and her square fiancé.

DRAMA 101, A NEW MUSICAL

COMPANY / CREATOR: BRAVO ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

VENUE: ROBERT GILL THEATRE

You gotta start somewhere. When the students of Roselawn High School gather to reminisce about their favourite drama teacher, secrets are revealed, old rivalries resurface, and love blossoms.

EVERY SILVER LINING

COMPANY / CREATOR: SILVER LINING PRODUCTIONS

VENUE: AL GREEN THEATRE

An original, dramatic, coming-of age musical about illness and the perseverance of life; juxtaposing the joyful naiveté of youth, and the crushing discovery of mortality.

HIGH SCHOOL HIGH

COMPANY / CREATOR: ALLI HARRIS

VENUE: FACTORY THEATRE STUDIO

From the team who brought you Lauren and Amanda Do It at 2019's Next Stage Theatre Festival comes a solo-musical-comedy about how much high school freakin' SUCKS, MAN.

UNRAVELLED - A NEW MUSICAL

COMPANY / CREATOR: CHAOS & LIGHT

VENUE: GRACE TORONTO CHURCH

"Romeo & Juliet," "Orpheus & Eurydice," and "The Gift of The Magi" are brought together in this new musical by Andrew Seok - writer of the 2016 Fringe hit, "ECHOES."

COMEDY CRAZE:

THE BALLAD OF FRANK ALLEN

COMPANY / CREATOR: WEEPING SPOON PRODUCTIONS

VENUE: VALDIMIR INSTITUTE

Weeping Spoon Productions From the bizarre mind of Aussie Fringe-favourite Shane Adamczak (*Zack Adams*) and Al Lafrance (*I Think I'm Dead*) comes an award-winning sci-fi buddy-comedy about a tiny man who lives in another man's beard.

CARPE INTO MY DMS

COMPANY / CREATOR: WE ARE SPORTS

VENUE: AL GREEN THEATRE

In a post-apocalyptic world, only a few millennials-and their smartphones survive.

DANDELION

COMPANY / CREATOR: ALASTAIR KNOWLES

VENUE: RANDOLPH THEATRE

Jaw-dropping physicality, spot-on comedic timing, and live science experiments, Malkin dives into the boundless imagination of his 5-year old child.

DEATH RAY CABARET

COMPANY / CREATOR: DEATH RAY CABARET

VENUE: THE MONARCH TAVERN

Second City veterans Jordan Armstrong and Kevin Matviw are back from the Edinburgh Fringe with a quick-witted musical comedy show that explores everything from libraries to a graveyard bash.

THE HUNS

COMPANY / CREATOR: ONE FOUR ONE COLLECTIVE

VENUE: STREETCAR CROWSNEST GULOIEN THEATRE

The morning after a break-in at a tech company, a professional conference call devolves into a brutal showdown between three co-workers.

MIDDLE RAGED

COMPANY / CREATOR: GARY PEARSON

VENUE: ROBERT GILL THEATRE

Middle Raged is a hilarious sketch comedy, starring Geri Hall (22 Minutes, Second City), and Gary Pearson (MadTV, Sunnyside), that explores the ridiculous nature of life from 30 to 65, when the bloom is off the rose, but the thorns are sharper than ever.

MOVING ON

COMPANY / CREATOR: STONE BAY PRODUCTIONS

VENUE: THEATRE PASSE MURAILLE MAINSPACE

Limes vanish, plants move, Kyle's ex-girlfriend hides all over his apartment. Her brother's traditional grow-op faces the challenge of legal cannabis.

NEWS PLAY

COMPANY / CREATOR: LAL MIRCH PRODUCTIONS

VENUE: ANNEX THEATRE

After botching a major publishing deal, two estranged children's book writers return to their hometown to revitalize the local newspaper.

OLD FART

COMPANY / CREATOR: THEATRE PRAXIS
VENUE: FACTORY THEATRE MAINSPACE

Old Tom is a quirky Old Fart who takes you through the joys and challenges of living long, laughing hard and loving deeply. Stories, jokes, songs, tears and mostly laughs.

THREE MEN ON A BIKE

COMPANY / CREATOR: PEA GREEN THEATRE GROUP
VENUE: TARRAGON THEATRE MAINSPACE

From the company that brought you the award-winning Toronto Fringe smash hit *Three Men in a Boat*. Based upon the further writings of Victorian author Jerome K. Jerome.

PROUDLY FEMINIST:

AN ATLAS, A NECKTIE & OTHER CONCERNS

COMPANY / CREATOR: PERIOD. PRODUCTIONS
VENUE: TARRAGON THEATRE MAINSPACE

A peculiar escape room. Trapped inside, four 30-something friends with very different takes on the best life path: the sensible nine-to-fiver, the party fiend, the ambitious artiste and the gentle peacekeeper with a life-changing secret.

CLOTHESWAP

COMPANY / CREATOR: LADYBROS
VENUE: TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA

An empty house, a dead grandmother, and too many clothes. This coproduction with The Textile Museum of Canada examines the seams of empathy among women, the high cost of fast fashion, and the stories our bodies tell.

ELBOW ROOM

COMPANY / CREATOR: GLORIA GRETHEL PRODUCTIONS
VENUE: ANNEX THEATRE

Saada, Nancy, and Kia are forced to holdup in a room with casting assistant Hanna, awaiting the start of a callback audition for the female lead in a Black action film.

EMOTIONAL LABOUR

COMPANY / CREATOR: CRIMSON WAVE PRODUCTIONS
VENUE: FACTORY THEATRE STUDIO

Women far too often have to carry the emotional load in their relationships with men. And it's a load of exhausting, rage-inducing bullshit.

HERBEAVER

COMPANY / CREATOR: HERBEAVER
VENUE: FACTORY THEATRE STUDIO

Herbeaver is an all-female, sketch comedy troupe from Toronto, ON. In this show they indulge in mocking the world around them at every opportunity, using musical comedy, satire, and absolute idiocy; and they always keep it fast-paced, feminist, and in your face.

IT GIRLS

COMPANY / CREATOR: EMILY RICHARDSON
VENUE: FACTORY THEATRE MAINSPACE

15 years after their dramatic split, the It Girls are reuniting for one night only! But can the band put their issues aside and just focus on the music? The answer is no. 100% no.

MOLLY BLOOM

COMPANY / CREATOR: FOURTH GORGON THEATRE
VENUE: HELEN GARDINER PHELAN PLAYHOUSE

"Genius." "Bawdy." "Nothing but praise." Molly Bloom is an original adaptation of James Joyce's *Ulysses*' final chapter.

SARAH AND LUCY

COMPANY / CREATORS: RUNAWAY HOTEL KOLLECTIVE
VENUE: TARRAGON THEATRE EXTRASPACE

Inspired by the acclaimed series, these Trailer Park gals, Sarah and Lucy, come into the limelight and speak up for themselves. Yeah, that's right, boys! We got something to say!

TITA JOKES

COMPANY / CREATOR: TITA COLLECTIVE

VENUE: TARRAGON THEATRE MAINSPACE

Meet the Spice Girls of Comedy with a Filipina Twist. They sing, they dance, and they're going to make you snort your halo-halo through your nose in laughter.

THE WEIGHT OF IT ALL

COMPANY / CREATOR: HAGGARD B PRODUCTIONS

VENUE: THEATRE PASSE-MURAILLE BACKSPACE

Comedian Gillian Bartolucci balances the pressures of diet culture, fertility issues, and the ongoing struggle for self-acceptance through full bodied comedy, characters, truths, songs, dance and fibroids.

NOTABLE PICKS:

HEART OF MATTER

COMPANY / CREATOR: FROG IN HAND

VENUE: TRINITY-ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH GYM

Heart of Matter is a dance meditation on memory and the special artifacts that spark recollection. It is dedicated to the objects we keep or forget. Choreographed by Colleen Snell.

OUVRE LE PORTE, FERME LE BOUCHE

COMPANY / CREATOR: FMV THEATRE CO

VENUE: FACTORY THEATRE STUDIO

A story of vulnerability and connection. *Ouvre Le Porte, Ferme Le Bouche* is a relatable exploration of the challenges of communication directed by Kevin Vidal (*Come from Away, Second City Toronto*) and Ashley Botting (CBC's *Because, News*).

SCADDING

COMPANY / CREATOR: COMMON BOOTS THEATRE

VENUE: SCADDING COURT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Grab your headphones and favourite pair of shoes for this walkabout audio play. 5 mini-plays (produced with binaural recording, music and sound effects) bring to life the hidden, hilarious life of Scadding Court. This immersive audio play bursts open the box of radio drama.

THE BIG HOUSE

COMPANY / CREATOR: SOULO THEATRE

VENUE: FACTORY THEATRE MAINSPACE

When you're a little kid and your Dad goes to jail, does a part of you go with? Fringe favourite Tracey Erin Smith is back in her most personal show yet.

THE KNITTING PILGRIM

COMPANY / CREATOR: ERGO ARTS THEATRE

VENUE: BLOOR STREET UNITED CHURCH

THE KNITTING PILGRIM explores Kirk's artistic and spiritual journey knitting *Stitched Glass*, 3 large tapestries, designed in the style of stained glass windows. What he thought would take 10 months to finish, took 15 years. Bring your own knitting to knit while you watch.

THROUGH THE BAMBOO

COMPANY / CREATOR: UWI COLLECTIVE

VENUE: FACTORY THEATRE MAINSPACE

Inspired by Philippine mythology, and directed by Nina Lee Aquino, THROUGH THE BAMBOO is an action-packed adventure about family, grieving and the value of storytelling.

2019 NEW PLAY CONTEST WINNER:

CHECKPOINT 300

COMPANY/ CREATOR: Tamaya Productions

VENUE: FACTORY THEATRE MAINSPACE

Inspired by true events. The first female soldier protecting the border, one relentless reporter looking for the truth. Two families living in ongoing conflict on different sides of the Checkpoint, one life changing incident, loved ones lost will haunt their choices forever. The New Play Contest is generously supported by the Aubrey and Marla Dan Charitable Foundation.

2019 24 HOUR PLAYWRITING CONTEST WINNER:

LET'S TALK

COMPANY / CREATOR: ILANA LUCAS

VENUE: THEATRE PASSE-MURAILLE MAINSPACE

It's 2029, and Bell is removing the last payphone in Toronto. Annie can't let that happen, because there's a very important call she has to make. A love story. This show will be presented as a staged reading. The 24 Hour Playwriting Contest is generously supported by Centennial College – School of Communications, Media, Arts & Design.

2019 ADAMS PRIZE WINNER:

THE BREAK-UP DIET

COMPANY / CREATOR: ANGUS BLUE

VENUE: ROBERT GILL THEATRE

"That moment his eyes flitted to his cell phone on the desk beside me. And I knew." Betrayal, lies, truth, online dating! Poor life choices punctuated with original alternative songs. The Adams Prize is generously supported by the Pat & Tony Adams Freedom Fund for the Arts.

POSTSCRIPT (TORONTO FRINGE POP-UP PATIO) HIGHLIGHTS

July 3 – OPENING NIGHT FESTIVITIES

Fringers don their costumes, hold their posters up high, and parade through Trinity Bellwoods Park to POSTSCRIPT to kick off the 31st festival! In addition, speeches by MPP Chris Glover and City Councillor Joe Cressy

July 3, 10, 14 – STORIES FROM THE FRINGE

Artists, staff, volunteers, friends, and more share their stories from Fringe's past.

July 6 – THE MAIN INGREDIENT SILENT DISCO

Back by popular demand! Party until the early morning without annoying the neighbours. Grab a pair of free headphones and dance to DJ sets only you and your friends can hear.

July 3, 11 – SIGNATURE QUEEN COCKTAIL SERIES

Nickel9 Distillery brings their popular series of signature cocktails inspired by local drag queens to POSTSCRIPT.

July 9 – COMEDY NIGHT

A free night of stand-up comedy by some of Toronto's funniest folks, featuring Hisham Kelati, Allie Pearse, Carol Zoccoli and headliner Arthur Simeon.

July 10 – NEXT GEN NIGHT

Discover some of Toronto's newest writers and performers. Talented youth from The AMY Project and The Paprika Festival take over the POSTSCRIPT stage and perform their latest work – Generously supported by Neville Austin.

July 11 – FUCK SHIT UP CABARET

Hell no, you can't erase us! Hosts Babia Majora and Fluffy Soufflé bring their cabaret to the patio, featuring a killer line-up of trans and non-binary performers.

July 12 – AWARDS NIGHT

Raise a glass to this year's award winners, including Patron's Picks, various Best of Fringe lists, Tosho Cutting Edge Award, Second City and Comedy Bar Award, David Seguin Memorial Award for Accessibility in the Arts, and many more.

WEEKENDS - P.S. MUSIC FEST

Free, all-ages outdoor concerts, featuring Moneka Arabic Jazz, Maylee Todd, SATE, Moscow Apartment, BS4TO, LOLAA, Cyber, New Chance, and more.

TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL INFORMATION:

31TH ANNUAL TORONTO FRINGE runs July 3 to 14, 2019, with live performances at venues across the city, and featuring Toronto's largest pop-up patio, **POSTSCRIPT** at the Scadding Court hockey rink. This year's programming features live theatre, music, dance, comedy, and more. To purchase tickets, or for more information visit the Toronto Fringe website: <http://www.fringetoronto.com/>.

POSTSCRIPT AT SCADDING COURT LOCATION:

POSTSCRIPT, the TORONTO FRINGE'S POP-UP PATIO is located at 275 Bathurst Street in the hockey rink just south of Scadding Court at Dundas and Bathurst. The patio is open July 3 – July 14 from noon – 2am, with a special extended license to 4am on each Saturday.

KIDSFEST

A festival within a festival for the littlest of Fringers and their families. Featuring 7 shows for young audiences. \$5 tickets per child, at the George Ignatieff Theatre, 15 Devonshire Place, Next door to the theatre is the KidsFest Club, a FREE outdoor clubhouse with creative play stations, workshops, a bouncy castle, and more. Open from July 3-14th.

TICKET DETAILS:

Tickets will be available as of June 6. Advance tickets - \$11 (+ \$2 service charge). Available online or by phone at 416-966-1062 (Subject to a \$3 per order fee).

Tickets will be available in person as of July 3 at the **TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL** Box Office located at POSTSCRIPT (in the hockey rink at 275 Bathurst Street) from noon – 10pm.

A selection of shows have designated their first performance to be a preview. These tickets can be purchased in advance or at-the-door - \$6 (+ \$2 service charge). Preview performances are printed in bold in the Fringe Program Guide.

Daily discount tickets - \$6 (+ \$2 service charge). Check the daily discount listings online. These tickets can only be purchased day-of by phone, online, or at-the-door.

KidsFest - \$5 discounted tickets for kids 12 and under, babes-in-arms are free! Valid only for KidsFest performances. Can be purchased in advance or at-the-door of the George Ignatieff Theatre.

GET IN TOUCH:

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SHARE YOUR FRINGE STORIES WITH **#FRINGETO**

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