

TORONTO  
**FRINGE**

# NEXT STAGE



# TALLBOYZ - LIVE!

Presented by:  
**TallBoyz II Men**

# MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Our donors believe wholeheartedly in the relentless pursuit of self-expression. We thank our community of supporters, partners, volunteers, and artists who are paving the way for a new decade of innovation at the Toronto Fringe.

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### VISIONARY \$5,000

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Maureen Simpson  
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All donations of \$25+ receive a tax receipt and various Fringe benefits. The above list includes gifts of \$125+ between December 12, 2018 and December 9, 2019.

# NEXT STAGE

## TALLBOYZ - LIVE!

Presented by  
TallBoyz II Men

Created by and featuring

**Guled Abdi**  
**Vance Banzo**  
**Tim Blair**  
**Franco Nguyen**

## #STARTEDATTHEFRINGE: TALLBOYZ

In 2012, Toronto Fringe launched the **Culturally Diverse Artist Project (CDAP)** with the goal of encouraging IBPOC\* and other folks from marginalized ethno-cultural backgrounds to participate in the Fringe. We created a CDAP lottery category to hold space for these artists, and began offering free participation in the festival, as well as mentorship. Among the many successful alumni of this program are the artists you see on stage tonight, who performed in Fringe through the CDAP lottery in 2018.

Support from donors is essential in keeping programs like CDAP alive at the Fringe. If you have not already, **please consider joining our family of donors** by visiting the Next Stage Box Office or going online to [fringetoronto.com/get-involved/donate](http://fringetoronto.com/get-involved/donate). You can also contact our Development Manager, Morgan Norwich, at [development@fringetoronto.com](mailto:development@fringetoronto.com) with any questions you may have about our donor benefits program.

*\*Indigenous, Black, People of Colour*

## **Vance**

Vance Banzo is a Saulteaux/Cree actor, writer, and comedian who has been performing for over a decade. A band member of Fishing Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan, Vance was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta. Currently, he's living the dream in Toronto, Ontario. He made his feature film debut in the critically acclaimed *Indian Horse* (2018), and can be seen most recently in *The Incredible 25th Year of Mitzi Bearclaw* (2019) written and directed by Shelly Niro. As a comedian he has performed on many stages across the country, including the Next Stage Theatre Festival and the Gchi Dewin Indigenous Storytelling Festival. He's a very proud member of award-winning sketch comedy troupe, Tallboyz II Men.

## **Tim**

Tim Blair was born and raised (in that order) in Toronto, Ontario. At the age of 15, he fell in love with comedy after being forced to do stand-up for a school assignment. Since then he's graduated from Humber College's Comedy program and been part of the casts of Second City's House Company, The Bad Dog Featured Players, and The Sketchersons. He has performed at festivals such as JFL42, OFF-JFL, and the NBC Breakout Festival. In 2016 he formed the multi-award winning sketch troupe TallBoyz II Men, who now star in the sketch comedy series *TallBoyz* on CBC. Tim regularly does stand-up, sketch, and improv around Toronto.

## **Guled**

Guled Abdi is a comedian, writer and 1/4 of the multi-award winning sketch troupe TallBoyz II Men. He's performed at OFF-JFL, Montreal Sketchfest and the Toronto Fringe Festival. You can catch Guled on *TallBoyz* on CBC Gem or at random bar you didn't know had a comedy show.

## **Franco**

He is a co-creator, writer and star of the critically acclaimed sketch comedy TV series, *Tallboyz* on CBC. He is a proud Bob Curry fellow, a Tim Sims finalist, an alumnus of Toronto's Second City Touring Company and has showcased in Chicago for the NBC Breakout Fest and StandUP NBC. His one-person show *GOOD MORNING VIET MOM* received critical acclaim and sold-out runs at the Toronto Fringe Festival, the Next Stage Festival and was picked up by Cahoots Theatre for a cross Canada tour. He has also been featured in the Huffington Post, CBC's Exhibitionist and Thời Báo Media (hay quá!).

# TORONTO FRINGE

## OUR MANDATE

The Toronto Fringe is a platform for everyone to access, discover, and experiment with the arts. By valuing creative experiences, we contribute to a healthy arts economy and, ultimately, a thriving society.

## OUR VALUES

**Access** – in every sense of the word

**Accountability** – we work with integrity and respect

**Creativity** – freedom of expression permeates everything we do

**Exploration** – we let curiosity be our guide

**Support** – empowering you to take a chance

## OUR STAFF

Executive Director **Lucy Eveleigh**

Managing Director **Laura Paduch**

Communications Manager **Claire Wynveen**

Development Manager **Morgan Norwich**

Projects & Operations Manager **Tessa Cernik**

Accessibility Manager **Susan Wolf**

Accessibility Consultant **Christine Karcza**

Festival Management Intern\* **Jules Vodarek Hunter**

Development & Communications Assistant **Luke Barclay**

Finance Coordinator **Scratch Anderson**

Assistant Office Coordinator **Michael Magnussen**

IT Assistant **Samer Riyad**

Production Manager **Bryan Steele**

Associate Production Manager **Bonnie Thomson**

Design Consultant **Noah Feaver**

Front of House Coordinator **Hannah MacMillan**

Volunteer Coordinator **Sarah Brooks**

Box Office Manager **Jennifer Peterson**

Patron Services Representatives **Todd Davies, Alison Ho, Bran Ramsey**

Festival Publicist **Ashley Belmer, B-Rebel Communications**

Graphic Design **Trajectory Brands Inc.**

Photography **Tanja-Tiziana**

Make-Up **Sarah Campbell**

Web Developer **Tom Dearden**

Eventotron Developer **Chris Perkin**

Social Media Consultant **Joanna Campbell, Show + Tell Consulting Inc.**

Videography **Primitive Replica**

## OUR BOARD

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Vice President **Nancy Madonik**

Treasurer **Efrim Boritz**

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Directors **Barry Peters, Laura Salvatori, Arjun Doshi, Steven Smits, Douglas Steiner**

## FOR FACTORY THEATRE

Interim Production Manager **Alanna McConnell**

Patron Services Manager **Himanshu Sitlani**

Mainspace Head Technician **Corey Waters**

Studio Head Technician **Lauren Dowell**

# THANK YOU

Our families and friends, the Next Stage Theatre Festival staff and volunteers, the Next Stage Jury (Lucy Eveleigh, Laura Paduch, Derrick Chua, Owais Lightwalla), Factory Theatre patron services and bar staff, Lindsey Cassel at Steam Whistle, Jason Maghanoy at Toronto Life, Christian Ismodes at Now Magazine, Philip Riccio and Janice Peters Gibson at Intermission Magazine, Sean Lee and Kristina McMullin at Tangled Arts, Celeste Sansregret, Rebecca Vandavelde, Kat Germain, Peter Tsatsanis.

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