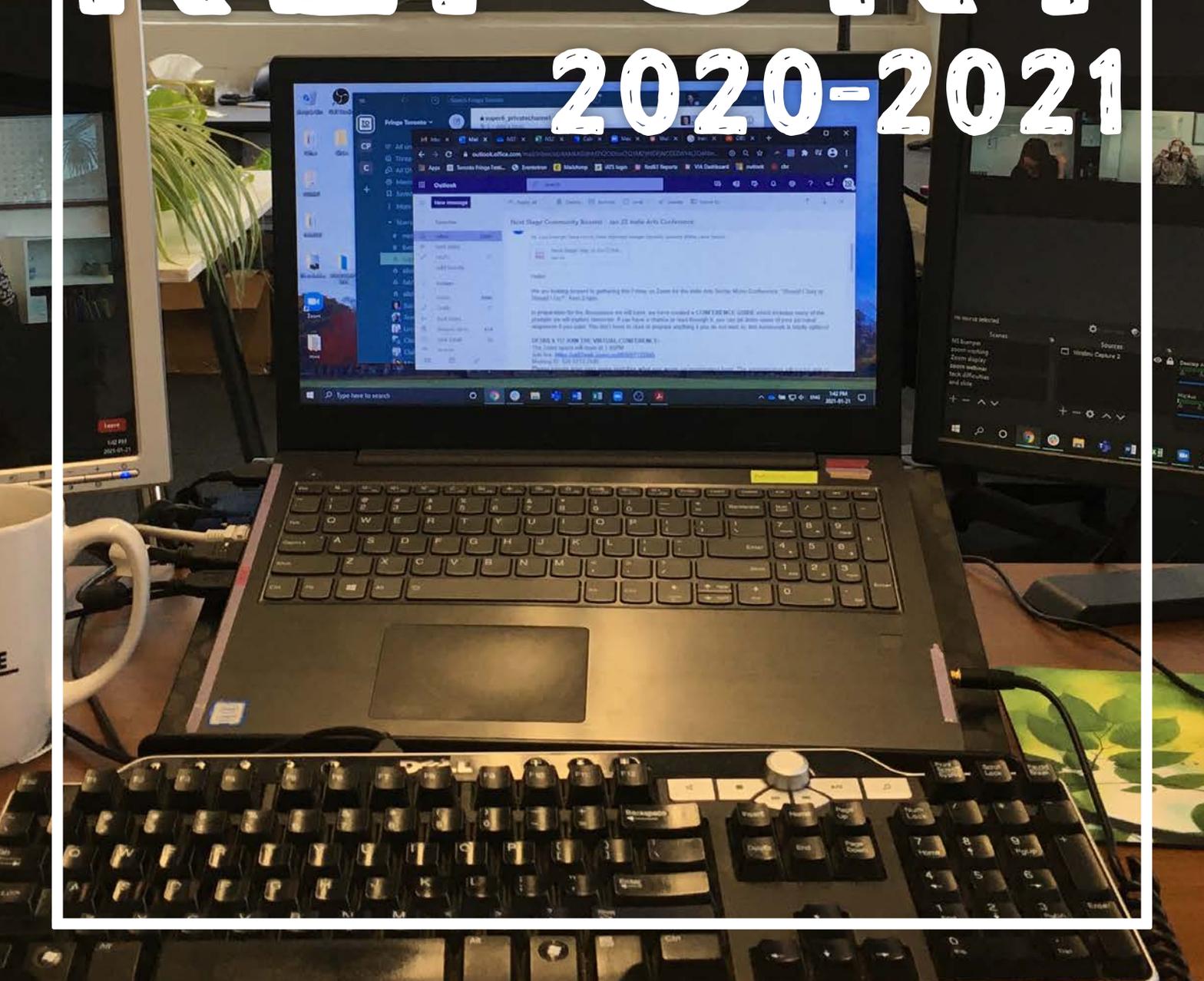


TORONTO
FRINGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



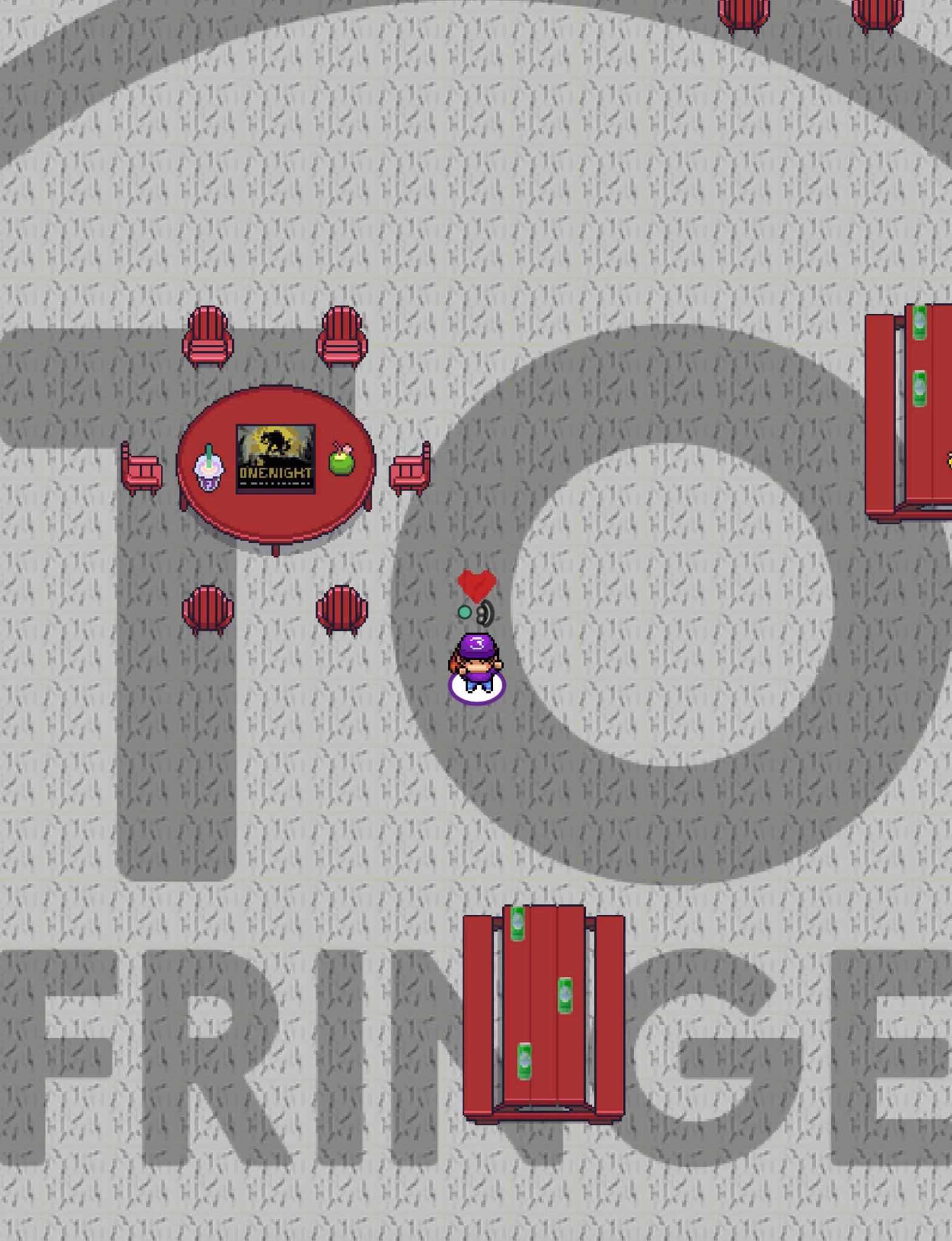


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission and Values	2
Executive Director’s Summary	3
Update on Strategic Plan	4
Highlights / Challenges.....	5
Financial Position.....	6
Next Stage Community Booster	7
The Digital Toronto Fringe Festival	10
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Audit	14
Indie Arts Network.....	14
TENT Program	15
New Young Reviewers Program	15
Teen Fringe	16
My First Fringe	16
Future Makers.....	16
Staff.....	17
Board of Directors.....	18
Artist Advisory Committee.....	18
Volunteers	18
Donors	19
Sponsors and Partnerships.....	20
Future Planning	21

MISSION

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.

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



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY

The 2020–2021 year continued to be filled with uncertainty and difficulty due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but again I was humbled by the tenacity of our artists and the team that runs the Toronto Fringe. We knew early on that it would not be possible to hold an in-person Next Stage Theatre Festival in January 2021. Instead we created the one-off, digital **Next Stage Community Booster**, generously supported by the Reconnect Program, Ontario from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. The digital theatrical offerings in the Booster would not have been possible without the incredible support of our partners TO Live and Steam Whistle Brewing. With them we presented the TO Live Theatre Shorts and Storytelling with Steam Whistle series, two very well received online events that funded artists directly rather than have them rely on uncertain box office revenues.

With cautious optimism, we began planning for an outdoor 2021 Toronto Fringe Festival, and met with many outdoor venues to begin this plan in earnest. However, by February 2021 we felt this was no longer a viable option and opted to present the **Digital Toronto Fringe Festival**. This decision offered stability to the artists, as they did not have to create their outdoor production plans as well as a back up plan for a last-minute pivot to digital if the need arose. In the Digital Fringe Lottery, we offered slots to artists drawn in the 2020 lottery, and ran a small lottery for new 2021 artists. We piloted our new two-phase approach to the lottery where we reserve at least 50% of slots for artists from IBPOC communities. We saw over 200 companies apply, and a third self-identified as being from IBPOC communities. We still have a way to go in creating true equity at the Toronto Fringe, and we are encouraged that we are moving in the right direction.

I am so proud of all the artists who created such wonderful work in the Digital Toronto Fringe Festival, and of our use of the online space, called Gather, for virtual social events, including our awards night. It was also heartwarming to see many of our partners coming back to support digital work.

We also applied and received funding for a new digital festival, Primetime, that will run in Fall of 2021 as an extension of the digital structures we built in the Digital Toronto Fringe Festival. Primetime will be included in the 2021–2022 annual report.

Overall, the year was a success: we did not stop or slow down, and we stayed true to our mandate and continued to offer a platform for our artists. We maintained connection with our team despite not being together in the same room, or in some cases, the same city or country. We as a team, and I as a leader, have learned so much from this last year and we are going into our next fiscal with the continued optimism but also a chance to reflect, slow down and go back in a more balanced and purposed direction.



 Lucy Eveleigh
Executive Director

UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN

August 2021 concluded the third and final year of our current strategic plan.

Our goals were:

1. A Welcoming, Accessible, Multi-Purpose Space (completed September 2019)
2. A Highly Resourced Operation with Robust Revenue Streams
3. Increase Awareness, Participation and Representation
4. Expanded Industry Partnerships and Ongoing Artistic Development

The staff and board intended to meet in Spring 2021 but we felt it was pertinent to complete our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Audit to allow it to have a direct impact on our next strategic plan. We therefore decided to push the 2021-2024 strategic planning to the Fall of 2021.

For fuller updates on our Strategic Plan please see our Strategic Plan document on our website. fringetoronto.com/about/strategic-plan



HIGHLIGHTS

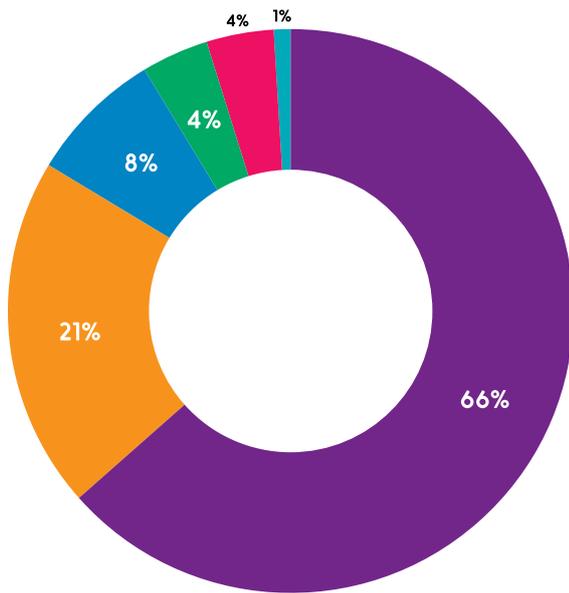
- The senior management team continued to steer the organization through the pandemic, offering a platform for artists to stay connected, and for staff to contribute meaningfully to the performing arts industry
- Presented a very successful Next Stage Theatre Festival iteration in the Community Booster in January 2021, which saw funds being returned to multiple artists
- Created an improved digital experience for artists and audience alike with the Digital Toronto Fringe Festival, in July 2021
- Continued strengthening our accessibility values and offered our services as consultants to the Ottawa Fringe
- Maintained our strong partnerships with Steam Whistle Brewing, TD Bank, RBC and other organizations and donors
- Continued the Artist Advisory Committee, made up of established and emerging independent theatre and performance creators
- We successfully recruited another intern through the Metcalf Foundation, securing our position as valued leaders and mentors within the sector
- The Executive Director was asked to be on the Steering Committee of Balancing Act with Theatre Direct
- The Executive Director was selected as one of twelve professionals for the Business/Arts Executive Leadership Program
- Continued to report a surplus at the end of the 2020–2021 fiscal year, which allowed us to create a sustainability fund for the future

CHALLENGES

- We had to again pivot all in-person events from September 2020 to August 2021 to digital offerings, including both the 2021 Next Stage Theatre Festival and Toronto Fringe Festival.
- Our Access Manager fortunately found full time work with another company so moved on from the Fringe. Susan Wolf was responsible for making so much progress within the accessibility mission at Fringe and continues to consult with us as needed.

FINANCIAL POSITION

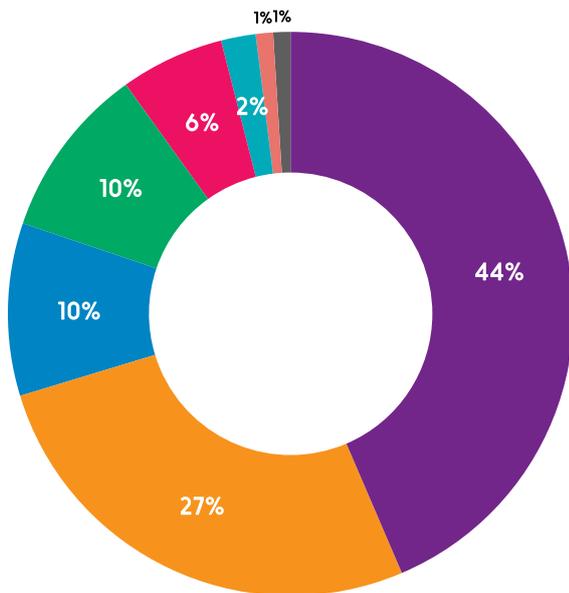
Our fiscal year runs from September 1–August 31. The Fringe generated just over \$1 million CAD in revenues this year and our expenses were just under \$800,000. Much of this was because we were able to receive additional government support to help us through the pandemic. Our costs were very similar to the previous year but we doubled our expense on outreach and community partnerships and increased our marketing and advertising budget.



OVERALL REVENUE BREAKDOWN 2020–2021

- Government Grants
- Sponsorship & Fundraising
- Earned revenue (patio sales, participation fees)
- Box Office Revenue – paid to artists
- Box office fees
- Marketing Income

Our revenue was similar to the previous year except we saw even more support from government funding and subsidies available to us.



OVERALL EXPENSES BREAKDOWN 2020–2021

- Personnel (Full Time and Festival-specific)
- Administration
- Box Office and Artist Fees (This is the return of 100% box office revenue to the Fringe artists and 70-75% Next Stage artists)
- Marketing & Advertising (i.e. TTC, Radio, Print & Social Media costs)
- Outreach and Community Partnership Costs (i.e., our TENT program, My First Fringe, etc.)
- Technical Costs
- Artist Refunds
- POSTSCRIPT Live(stream) costs

NEXT STAGE COMMUNITY BOOSTER

JAN 21–24, 2021
FRINGETORONTO.COM

To combat the blues of winter 2021 and the continued isolation to our community caused by COVID-19, the Toronto Fringe created the **Next Stage Community Booster** to replace the 14th annual Next Stage Theatre Festival. This four-day event was a boost of energy, ideas, creativity, and friendship, and featured a smorgasbord of digital offerings. The programming of the Booster reflected the desire from the indie arts community for clarity on the current state of the industry and connection with their peers.

Toronto Fringe paid over 100 artists for their work in this festival. All artists in the **TO Live Theatre Shorts** series, **Storytelling with Steam Whistle** series, and **Audio Offerings** series were paid a commission. The hosts, panelists, instructors, and performers that contributed to the **Self-Care Hub** and the **Live Digital Events** were paid for their expertise and engagement.

The Community Booster's digital performance packages welcomed 1,500+ viewers onto fringetoronto.com to see the nimble and innovative ways that indie theatre artists have pivoted into the digital sphere. Viewers commented on the wide-range of offerings, and the surprising hidden gems found in these digital packages.

The **Should I Stay or Should I Go?** Micro-Conference engaged over 50 participants into a Zoom conversation. Co-hosted by Toronto Metropolitan University's Creative Innovation Studio at FCAD, this half-day, free conference invited participants to share their perspective on the past, present, and future of the indie arts sector. Many indie artists in attendance are contemplating a career shift, as they are not seeing a path forward in a pandemic and post-pandemic era. This was the focus of the conversation.

Bake Your Heart Out with Morro & Jasp welcomed over 100 households into the Fringe's Zoom room on Saturday, January 23. Clown sisters Morro (Heather Marie Annis) & Jasp (the 9-month pregnant Amy Lee) hosted a baking show to help beat their lockdown blues. Certain members of the audience had an ingredients package delivered to their homes in advance, and these folks were invited into the Zoom space to participate in this baking class with the clown sisters. These participatory moments had many people commenting on how similar the experience was to live theatre. There were many belly laughs, a great deal of mess, and a joyful amount of conversation in the Zoom chat.



TICKETS & PASSES

- Community Booster Membership - \$100
- Theatre Shorts - \$25
- Storytelling with Steam Whistle - \$25
- Audio Offerings - \$15
- Bake Your Heart Out with Morro & Jasp - \$30/\$60
- Self-Care Hub - Tip What You Can
- Live Events (Livestreamed workshops and panels) - FREE

FUNDRAISER

Bake Your Heart Out with Morro & Jasp

Saturday, January 23, 8:30pm

Patrons had the option of purchasing a \$60 VIP Package (interactive participation in the Zoom room, and a home-delivered package including the Morro & Jasp cookbook and ready to bake cookie dough from Courage Cookies) or a \$30 All-Digital Package (access to watch the show only). Over \$3000 was raised from this event.

THEATRE SHORTS

Shorts were shot on location at the Jane Mallett Theatre in December 2020. Co-presented by TO Live.

- *Begin Again* Begin Again Collective
- *Choreography for a Trio* Nostos Collective
- *In Search Of* Animacy Theatre Collective
- *The Kindness of Murder* Minmar Gaslight Productions
- *Lacuna* Lacuna Collective
- *Mary Henderson* Act 3 Theatre

STORYTELLING WITH STEAM WHISTLE

Filmed on location at Steam Whistle's Locomotive Hall in early January 2021. This program would not be possible without the partnership of Steam Whistle Brewing.

- *Blind Confidence* Graham Isador
- *Fish Water* Mara Da Costa Reis
- *I Didn't Ask For This* Marc-André Blanchard, Sana Asad
- *Love So Far: The Pin Drops* Anto Chan
- *Miracle on Avenue Du Parc* Thea Fitz-James
- *The Night Apple* Tamyka Bullen
- *The Send-Off* Johnnie Walker
- *Someone Will Save Us?* Aliya Kanani
- *Thou Shalt Not COVID Thy Neighbour's Wife* Christine Estima

AUDIO OFFERINGS

- *The Chit Chat Never Ends...* Lucy Eveleigh, and her daughter
- *Hot Broth* Red Peacock Theatre
- *I've Been Thinking About Vanishing* Julia Lederer
- *The Light Goes Round* Ben Kopp, Jake Schindler, Margot Greve, Ben Yoganathan
- *Lovingly Yours*, Olive Erin Jones
- *Nine-Night* K.M. McKenzie

SELF-CARE HUB

- *ASL for Fringers* Gaitrie Persaud (*advertised but was not completed in time)
- *Crochet Critters* Melanie Leon
- *Financial Literacy Resources* Generator
- *Calming Calligraphy* Cody McCallum

- *Boostify Playlist* Fringe Staff
- *Live Scream* Morgan Norwich
- *Movement Meditation* Murray Ultas
- *Wake Up and Dance* Byron Abalos, Andrea Mapili
- *Mental Heath Resources* Fringe Staff
- *Get Your Kids Outside!* Claire Wynveen
- *Hip Hop For Everyone* Ashley Perez

LIVE DIGITAL EVENTS

Thursday, January 21

- 3:00pm – **Metcalf Creative Strategies Incubator 2017 Cohort Public Sharing**
- 7:00pm – **Community Booster Launch Party**
Host: Lucy Eveleigh

Friday, January 22

- 11:30am – **Digital Theatre: How is it Working?**
Presented in partnership with Intermission Magazine
Panelists: Rob Kempson, Isaac Thomas;
Facilitator: Aisling Murphy
- 2:00pm – **Should I Stay or Should I Go? A Micro-Conference for the Indie Arts Sector**
Presented in partnership with The Creative Innovation Studio at Toronto Metropolitan University
Host: Steven Smits

- 5:30pm – **Digital Next Stage Tent**
Saturday, January 23
 - 1:00pm – **Crip the Script Workshop for Paprika**
Presented to Paprika participants
Facilitator: Ophira Calof
 - 2:00pm – **Paprika #HotTopic: Access in the Arts**
Presented in partnership with the Paprika Festival
Panelists: Ophira Calof, Yousef Kadoura, Cyrus Marcus Ware;
Moderator: Susan Wolf
 - 6:00pm – **The Value of Criticism**
Panelists: Alia Rasul, Marjorie Chan, Robyn Grant Moran;
Facilitator: Ali Hassan
- Sunday, January 24
- 9:30am – **Wake Up and Dance Family Jam**
Hosts: Byron Abalos, Andrea Mapili
 - 12:00pm – **Fringe Annual General Meeting**
 - 2:00pm – **Where We're At: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Town Hall**
Facilitators: Sedina Fiati, Candice Frederick (Where You Are Consulting)
 - 4:30pm – **TENT Talk: Surviving and Thriving**
Facilitator: Tanisha Taitt;
Panelists: Chase Lo, Erika Morey, Alec Toller, Monique Danielle, Warren Bain

THE DIGITAL TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL

JULY 21–31, 2021
EXTENDED TO AUGUST 22
FRINGETORONTO.COM

The 33rd annual Digital Toronto Fringe Festival was an 11-day online festival that featured four series: **Fringe On-Demand**, **KidsFest On-Demand**, **Fringe Primetime**, and **POSTSCRIPT Live(stream)**. During the festival, Fringe companies presented pre-recorded video, audio, and written pieces for audiences to enjoy as part the Fringe On-Demand series. Audiences accessed content on fringetoronto.com with the purchase of an affordable and accessible membership pass. The additional Fringe Primetime series offered audiences a chance to experience the thrill of a live and interactive Fringe shows online.

All artists who were selected to be a part of the 2020 festival were offered the chance to opt-in to the 2021 Digital Fringe Festival. Some accepted a slot, while others decided to defer to a planned in-person 2022 festival. New applications were accepted in two categories: Main Digital Lottery and KidsFest Digital Lottery. Companies that were

selected in either Digital Lottery were offered a slot in the On-Demand series. The winners were selected by random draw during the Lottery Livestream on Facebook Live, at noon on March 31, 2021.

For the 2021 Digital Fringe, the festival committed to reserving at least 50% of available Fringe On-Demand slots for artists who are Indigenous, Black, or Persons of Colour. A two-phase lottery draw was piloted to achieve this goal and to strengthen equity, diversity and inclusion at the festival.

- **PHASE ONE:** Applicants who identify as Indigenous, Black, or Persons of Colour will be entered into the draw exclusively for the first 50% of all digital slots in the category.
- **PHASE TWO:** Once at least 50% of total digital slots are filled by IBPOC applicants, or if no more IBPOC applicants remain to draw from (whichever comes first), the remaining slots will be drawn from all applicants in the category.



fringetoronto.com was a hub of activity and creativity, earning more than 180,000 page views in under two months. The website saw traffic from 48,000 unique users in July and August alone, with 79% of those being new users. The Digital Toronto Fringe Festival was an international festival. 17% of website visitors were from countries outside of Canada, with audiences tuning in from the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Ireland, India, South Korean, Iran, Pakistan, Australia, and many more. We asked audiences to “Fringe Where You Are” and they did from around the world.

There was great support for the Fringe and KidsFest On-Demand series. The videos in those series were watched 5,750 times.

Over the course of the festival, the total time watched for the videos in Fringe On-Demand was: 72 days, 19 hours, 26 minutes, 18 seconds. That’s a lot of Fringing!

We also had 339 viewers tune in for the live digital theatre experiences in our Fringe Primetime series. And finally, the shows in our POSTSCRIPT Live(stream) series of free online events were viewed 1,851 times.

We were so grateful to our community for their support of the artists in this festival. Thanks to their generous contributions to each show they watched, and combined with our decision to give 100% of Membership fees back to our artists, we are able to pay \$35,595.35 back to the artists in this festival.

TICKETS & PASSES

- Fringe On-Demand: \$5 Membership to access the On-Demand programming, then Pay What You Can for each show. Suggested price of \$13 per show.
- KidsFest On-Demand: \$5 Membership to access the On-Demand programming, then Pay What You Can for each show. Suggested price of \$13 per show.
- Digital KidsFest Club: activities were free
- Fringe Primetime: \$13 tickets
- POSTSCRIPT Live(stream): free

AWARDS

Best Digital Pivot Award, presented by TO Live, First prize: \$1,000, Honorable mention: \$500

- Winner: *At the End of the Day* (End of Day Productions)
- Runner Up: *Broken Hearted Girl* (She’s So Vyle)

Second City Comedy Award

Two free regular, full-term classes (online or

in-person) with the Toronto Training Centre
10 hours of professional development/
dramaturgy with the Second City’s Creative
Director, Carly Heffernan and/or Artistic
Director (Education), Julie Dumais Osborne
10 hours of free rehearsal space in new
Toronto location

- Winner: *CRINGE* (Champagne Boyfriend)
- Honourable Mentions: *Orange Chicken: A Sketch Show* (Send Noods), *Good News Toronto* (Good News Toronto)

New Young Reviewers Award, supported by the Jon Kaplan Legacy Fund Prize: \$250

- Winner: *At the End of the Day* (End of Day Productions)

David Seguin Memorial Award

An honourarium of \$300 was presented to each eligible production in the festival that featured the work of an artist or artists with disabilities. Award Dispersed To: *ComMUTE* (Deaf Spirit Theatre), *Sound of Space* (Morgan Touch), *Time Limit Drops on Easter Sunday* (Wonder Jones Productions)

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS

Prize: \$250 each

- KidsFest On-Demand Winner: *Ship-Shape* (Playtime Playhouse)
- Fringe On-Demand Winner: *Circle Back* (Good Idea Bad Show)
- Primetime Winner: *My Korean Canadian Friend* (Lunar Way Studio)

FRINGE PRIMETIME LISTINGS

- *My Korean Canadian Friend* (Lunar Way Studios), Zoom – Digital New Play Contest 2021 Winner
- *As You Lay Sleeping* (Diapause Collective), Zoom and YouTube Premiere – Digital Adams Prize for Musical Theatre 2021 Winner
- *Empty* (Natalie Axon), Zoom – Digital 24 Hour Playwriting Contest 2021 Winner

FRINGE ON-DEMAND LISTINGS

- *Antigone, presented by the girls of St. Catharines (an Excerpt)* (Monologue Slam Canada), video
- *Arthur J. Peabody* (Amanda Dempsey-Laughlin), video
- *Asylum* (New Story Productions), video
- *At the End of the Day* (End of Day Productions), video
- *Balance* (Pickles), video
- *Bannock Republic* (Centre for Indigenous Theatre), video
- *Bath Talk* (Nipple Hair Productions), multimedia
- *bloodrite* (Other He/Arts), video
- *Broken Hearted Girl* (She's So Vyle), video
- *But That's Another Story – Festival Favourites* (No Fixed Address Productions), video
- *Captain Condom & The COVID-19 Conundrum* (SExT: Sex Education by Theatre), video
- *Chronicles of a Black Woman: A Sketch Comedy!* (Chocolate Dollz Productions), video

- *Circle Back* (Good Idea Bad Show), video
- *ComMUTE* (Deaf Spirit Theatre), video
- *CRINGE* (Champagne Boyfriend), video
- *Dance of Torn Papers* (NOWADAYS THEATRE), video
- *Daphne's Inferno* (Bad See Productions), video
- *The Death and then Life of Douglas Perish* (Liam Grunte Theatre), video
- *The Destiny of Special Agent Ace Galaski* (Space Junk Productions), video
- *The Drinking Gourd* (Jazz Haz Productions), video
- *Every Young Adult Novel Ever: The Musical* (Isolation Creation), video
- *Evil Hot Rod – a Psychobilly Rock Musical* (Cat Crew Inc.), audio
- *(Exploring/An in Depth Look at) A Totally Sick Online Show* (Looe Box Media), video
- *Good News Toronto* (Good News Toronto), video
- *Honeymoon: Played Out* (Ok, theatre), video
- **THE INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES OF THAT NICE CANAJUN GIRL** (EclecticEncounters), video
- *In Transit* (Von Hunt Productions), video
- *Insomniac* (Blue Glass Theatre), video
- *Just Pervs* (Perverted Assemblages), video
- *kiskisiwin nimihko (remembering my blood)* (Nimihko Productions), multimedia
- **LOVE AS A VIRUS** (Mark Mywords-Ink), video
- *Mangoes from the Valley* (Junebug Productions), video
- *nobody asked for this: a musical comedy* (Missy Peppers Presents), video
- *North of Smokey* (DaVid Studios), video
- **ODD SEED** (Nostos Collective), video
- *One of the Good Ones* (YX Productions), video
- *Orange Chicken: A Sketch Show* (Send Noods Productions), video

- *Our Exes Are Dead: Vol. 1* (Our Exes Are Dead), video
- *Play Mas' with Shakespeare: A Carnival Rebellion* (Brown Cotton Outreach), video
- *POST-HUMANUM* (Collectif BUS 1.2.3.), video
- *Rooted in Roux* (Mia Raye Smith), audio
- *Sound of Space* (Morgan Touch Productions), video
- *Space Girl* (Hyperloop Theatre), video
- *Standing in the Miraculous Field* (Terra Storyteller/Studio Brandsof), video
- *Steel Traps Don't Rust* (Nicole Faull Productions), video
- *Success Horizon* (Gavilán Theatre), video
- *Swallow This Skin* (Unhushed Theatre Collective), audio
- *Tech Time with Corey* (Mind of a Snail Puppet Co.), video
- *Time Limits Dropped on Easter Sunday* (Wonder Jones Productions), video
- *The Trying Times of Sister Bunny* (Alt255 Collective), video
- *UnTuned* (Golvareh), video
- *Venus & Adonis* (Theatre Oculus)
- *War of the Worlds Reimagined: Part 1, The Algonquin Tapes* (Frog in Hand Productions Inc.), audio
- *WE KNEW EACH OTHER ONCE BEFORE* (Sheridan College), video
- *What Are You Supposed to Be?* (All Day I Dream About... Theatre), video
- *You Can Do It, Put Your MASK Into It!* (Potato Potato), video

POSTSCRIPT LIVE(STREAM)

In support of the Fringe Collective and to keep the spirit of Fringe alive, the Fringe staff programmed and live streamed POSTSCRIPT events and hosted a virtual Fringe patio on gather every night of the festival from 9pm-11pm. All events were hosted on Zoom and streamed to Facebook Live. All events were live captioned and ASL interpreted. They can

still be viewed on our Facebook page and on our website.

- A Dose of On-Demand (8:00pm on July 21, 2021), Zoom streamed to Facebook Live
- Opening Night Party (9:00pm on July 21, 2021), Gather
- Fringe Artist Cabaret (8:00pm on July 26, 2021), Zoom streamed to Facebook Live
- Teen Fringe Performance (1:00pm on July 30, 2021), Zoom streamed to Facebook Live
- Comedy Night (8:00pm on July 30, 2021), Zoom
- Closing Night Party (9:00pm on July 31, 2021) Gather (included the awards ceremony)

KIDSFEST ON-DEMAND LISTINGS

- *dougiEworld Real Food Puppet Theatre* (DougiEworld), video
- *Ganapati Stories* (Broken Tusk Creations), video
- *Nookie and the Big Wind* (Runaway Hotel Kollektive), video
- *Ship-Shape!* (Playtime Playhouse), video
- *The Shoe-String Magic Flute* (SHOESTRING OPERA), video
- *To Bee or Not to Bee* (Piti Theatre Company), video

DIGITAL KIDSFEST CLUB:

To keep the littlest Fringers engaged with another digital festival, and to keep the KidsFest Club spirit alive, a series of videos of KidsFest Club Coordinator Kelly Winger demonstrating crafts and activities were uploaded to the KidsFest Facebook page and web page throughout the 12 days of the festival.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION AUDIT

Since August 2020, Toronto Fringe has been involved in a systemic, organization-wide analysis of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. This began with a thorough EDI Audit, conducted over the Fall and Winter of 2020/2021. This audit was submitted to the board and staff of Toronto Fringe in Spring of 2021. In June 2021, Toronto Fringe staff shared action points and key takeaways/recommendations from the audit report. In the fall of 2021, staff and board will begin work on a three-year strategic plan, using the EDI Audit as a backbone for all future planning, and renewing our core values through a lens of social justice. Action items from the audit report will be folded into each department's work plan moving forward. Please see our website for the report summary fringetoronto.com/equity-diversity-and-inclusion-audit

INDIE ARTS NETWORK

During the Next Stage Community Booster in January 2021, we hosted a micro-conference in partnership with the The Creative Innovation Studio at FCAD, where we invited many from the indie arts community to come together to answer the question: *should I stay or should I go?* We broke out into smaller groups to create responses to multiple prompts and this resulted in a report, which we followed up with a survey. Following this, we had another conference at the end of June to continue the conversation and ask ourselves how we can support one another and how we can build back in a healthy and productive way. Stay tuned for future events and conversations.

TENT PROGRAM

July 2021 virtually via Zoom

TENT (Theatre Entrepreneurs' Network and Training) invests in the future of arts and culture in Toronto by creating, training, and cultivating a community of "artpreneurs." We equip emerging artists with the skills and human connections to empower them to create meaningful art on their own terms. The 2021 TENT program took place virtually throughout the month of July. Generously supported by RBC.

TENT Program Director: Ali Joy Richardson

2020 Participants:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| → Laith Al-Kinani | → Reva Lokhande |
| → Zoë Barrett-Wood | → Caitlyn MacInnis |
| → Em Burke-Kleinman | → Emily Maxwell |
| → Alex Cameron | → Yago Mesquita |
| → Christine Cortes | → Elena Reyes |
| → Theresa Cutknife | → Jade Silman |
| → Michael Lilac Derworiz | → Maher Sinno |
| → Rose Goodwin | → Natalie Skov |
| → Kelsi James | → Tan Vu |

NEW YOUNG REVIEWERS PROGRAM

The New Young Reviewers Program (previously, Teenjur Young Critics), supported by the Jon Kaplan Legacy Fund, is a workshop series and writing group for emerging theatre and performance reviewers Canada-wide, ages 15 and up. The 2021 New Young Reviewers Program had its inaugural session this summer.

New Young Reviewers Program Directors: Signy Lynch and Stephanie Fung.

TEEN FRINGE

Teen Fringe is a youth arts initiative for teens aged 12-17. The program was created by the Toronto Fringe in partnership with Edge of the Sky. The program invites young artists to train with leading professionals in acting, singing and dancing. These young artists then formed a youth ensemble and took to the digital stage at the end of the festival. The online 2021 Teen Fringe program ran during the 2021 Digital Toronto Fringe Festival and culminated with a live digital performance on Friday, July 30 at 1:00PM. Generously supported by Neville Austin.

Artistic Director: Ann Merriam, Edge of the Sky

Coaches: Shannon Hamilton (Drama), Jeff Newberry (Music), Nicko Giannakos (Dance)

Video Production: Eric Andrews

MY FIRST FRINGE

My First Fringe is a theatre production and creation workshop series for young theatre makers ages 15-18. In this program, participants took part in a series of workshops led by established artists, geared towards equipping them with the skills needed to successfully create and produce independent theatre. This program took place in late August 2021.

My First Fringe Program Directors: Isabela Solis-Lozano, Suzanne Wilkie.

FUTURE MAKERS

We were fortunate to work with the City of Toronto and the Toronto Metropolitan University to bring Ellen Reade into our team as our Future Makers Intern, from the beginning of May 2021 until the end of August. Ellen was instrumental in the creation of the digital offerings and community spaces of the Digital Toronto Fringe Festival. She found volunteers to help support artists in the festival with new digital platforms and was really excited to create POSTSCRIPT on the virtual platform gather. Because of additional funding, we have extended Ellen's involvement to continue researching and developing digital practices that the Fringe will integrate into our future plans.

STAFF



Executive Director Lucy Eveleigh
Managing Director Laura Paduch
Communications Manager Claire Wynveen
Development Manager Morgan Norwich (until April 2021)
Projects & Operations Manager Tessa Cernik
Accessibility Manager Susan Wolf (until August 2021)
Finance Coordinator Scratch Anderson
Administrative Assistant Neusa Kaculo (began August 2021)

Metcalf Festival Management Intern Suzanne Wilkie
TD Outreach Coordinator Isabela Solis-Lozano
TD Emerging Festival Producer Tiffany Ledesma
Publicity Assistant Mia Hammond
TENT Program Director Ali Joy Richardson
Future Makers Intern Ellen Reade

Fringe On-Demand Digital Technical Co-Facilitators The Fénix Project
and Matteo DeSimone, Night Owl Studio
Primetime Digital Technical Coordinator Caitlin Farley
Digital KidsFest Club Coordinator Kelly Winger
Patron Services Coordinator Hannah MacMillan

Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Brooks
Festival Publicist Damien Nelson

Web Developer Tom Dearden
Eventotron Developer Chris Perkin
Program Guide & Graphic Design Trajectory Brands Inc.
Illustrations Paul Dotey

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Jason Murray
Vice Chair Nancy Madonik
Treasurer Efrim Boritz (until April 2021)
Interim Treasurer Steven Smits
(April 2021 – August 2021)
Secretary Boyd Neil

Directors

Enza Anderson (until Jan 2021)
Arjun Doshi (until May 2021)
Nicole Biros-Bolton (joined June 2021)
Cindy Gouveia
Sage Paul (joined Sept 2020)
Barry Peters
Laura Salvatori (until Oct 2020)
Garth Sheriff (joined June 2021)
Steven Smits
Douglas Steiner
Kate Supleve (joined June 2021)
Denise Ruzage

ARTIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ophira Calof
Joan Jamieson
Rob Kempson
Amy Lee
Ashley Perez
Miquelon Rodriguez
Andrew Seok
Kevin Vidal

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers continued to work with us and stayed connected throughout the year through monthly virtual socials and the digital festivals. We also worked with multiple student volunteers to help artists and audiences navigate new digital platforms.



photo: Ashley Perez during her dance workshop for the Community Booster event

DONORS

VISIONARIES

(\$5,000-9,999)

Cindy Blakely in support
of Ashley Botting
Neville Austin

PRODUCERS

(\$2,500-4,999)

Anonymous

LUMINARIES

(\$1,000-2,499)

Harry Arthurs
Doug Ewart & Judith Keene
Gideon Arthurs &
Erin Shields
Jason Murray
Robert Sherrin
Douglas Steiner &
Jasmine Herlt

INNOVATORS (\$500-999)

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Laurie Hutchinson
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Wendy MacKeigan
Boyd Neil
Barry Peters
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Michelle Tocher
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Cherie Daitchman
Anne Fleming
Sandra Fleischer
Elizabeth Howson
Andrew Johnston
Ilana Lucas
Robert McGregor
Eleanor & Terry O'Connor
Christopher Oldfield
Kelly Straughan
Darlene Varaleau

DESIGNERS (\$125-249)

Rysia Andrade
Ben Bain
Anne Christie
Gail Cooper
Christopher Diehl
Sam Festino
Richare Gotlib
Hakan Gustafsson
Sonia Hameed
Susan Hammond
Ruth Hull
Clark Johnson
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Brent Vickar
Sebastiano &
Angelina Pizzirusso



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Ontario Arts Council
Toronto Arts Council
Reconnect Program, Ontario
from the Ministry of Heritage,
Sport, Tourism and Culture
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Canada Council
Show Love TO
City of Toronto

Foundation Supporters

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Fund for the Arts
The Aubrey & Marla Dan Family
Foundation

Fringe Festival Partners

TD Ready Commitment
Steam Whistle Brewing
Intermission Magazine
Jon Kaplan Legacy Fund
Roseneath Theatre



FUTURE PLANNING

The Primetime Festival:

We received funding from Canadian Heritage to be able to give funds directly to artists and we are planning a small curated digital festival in November 2021.

Next Stage 2022:

We have curated a line up of shows to present a hybrid festival of both in-person and digital work in January 2022. Live theatrical pieces will be presented at Ada Slaight Hall, in Daniels Spectrum. We will continue to follow public health guidelines and will have a secondary plan in place should things change.

Toronto Fringe 2022:

We hope that we will be able to host an in person festival for the summer of 2022 and will hold a lottery once we know how many of our original 2020 artists wish to perform in 2022.



TORONTO FRINGE

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