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NEW OUTDOOR STAGE, SLAIGHT MUSIC SPONSORED MUSIC SERIES, TORONTO'S GOT TALENT, WORLD FRINGE DAY CELEBRATION, AND MORE

**TORONTO FRINGE ANNOUNCES JAM-PACKED LINE-UP
FOR INAUGURAL YEAR AT NEW FRINGE CLUB LOCATION
SCADDING COURT**

July 5 – July 16, 2017

All Fringe Club events are FREE and open to the public!

Toronto (May 31, 2017) Every summer for 29 years, festivalgoers from across the globe have experienced the thrill of live theatre, music, and art at the Toronto Fringe Festival. This beloved international theatre festival is about to enter its fourth decade and in 2017 celebrates their largest program ever, new community partnerships, and a **newly located Fringe Club** with a substantially increased footprint and schedule.

Just prior to the kick-off of last year's festival the Toronto Fringe announced, due to the closure of Honest Ed's, that the beloved Fringe Club would be moving from the Honest Ed's alley, down Bathurst Street to **Scadding Court at Bathurst and Dundas**. Perfectly situated in the center of the four main Fringe venues (Factory Theatre, Tarragon, Theatre Passe Muraille, and the newly added Theatre Centre) the Scadding Court Community Centre is a natural partner to the festival due to its strong commitment to the arts, and dedication to community building activities including hosting a series of creative classes for newcomers, as well as Senior's Ballroom Dance, Asian Senior's Choir, and a Drama InterAct Program for people with disabilities.

The Festival is thrilled to now announce an amped up line-up of free performances and events at the Fringe Club that will keep Fringe regulars and newcomers, young and old, entertained and inspired throughout the twelve-day festival. The new Scadding Court Fringe Club will transform the corner of Bathurst and Dundas into an urban playground easily accessible to regular festivalgoers and intrepid city wanderers wanting to come and discover the Fringe for the first time.

The Scadding Court Fringe Club will feature a **new, licensed Outdoor Stage venue** in the outdoor rink, **Fringe After Dark in the Fringe Tent** returns, now **re-named Neville's Nook** after long-time festival supporter **Neville Austin**, and the popular **beer garden and patio** that Fringers flock to during the festival is back and bigger than ever. The Fringe Club also hosts the festival box office.

*"Scadding Court is in the heart of Fringe Festival country," says **Fringe Executive Director Kelly Straughan** "the expansive space allows for more free programming including the inaugural Fringe Music Series on the Outdoor Stage. These free, walk-up experiences are often the gateway for new audiences to discover the festival, which itself is a gateway to discovering the love of live performance. With the international celebration of the 70th anniversary of Fringe Festivals worldwide added into the schedule, it is going to be an exciting festival."*

Throughout the festival, the **Outdoor Stage** will feature music and performance acts including returning favourites like **SINGular Sensation** (a night of musical theatre karaoke) and **Fringe Cabaret** (returning after a seven year hiatus), alongside brand new music programming sponsored by Slaight Music including **Slaight Music Night** on **Saturday, July 15th** featuring Slaight Artists **Tomi Swick** and **Kayla Diamond**. Also new to

the Fringe on the outdoor Stage are **Slay Day** featuring **Beyography** and **Beardoncé**, a live group **Ukelele** lesson, **Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night**, and Fringe's famous **dance parties**.

Along side the open-air programming, **Fringe After Dark in Neville's Nook** will feature it's usual adventurous and surprising mix of interactive art happenings like **Body Art with Human Canvas Initiative**, **Glow in the Dark Carnival Games**, **adult colouring**, and a **Stitch 'n Bitch**.

On the **weekends from 12pm – 5pm on the Outdoor Stage** audiences can discover a **non-stop array of circus acts, music, dance, magic, jugglers, acrobats and more** – and it's all **FREE**.

And for the first time, on **July 11**, the Toronto Fringe Festival will coincide with **World Fringe Day**, celebrating **70 years of the Fringe**, and the Fringe Club will be hosting a massive **World Fringe Birthday Party**.

To kick things off, on **Wednesday, July 5**, patrons are invited to join the Fringe's **unifying walk** (in typical Fringe style, costumes, banners, and balloons) from Honest Ed's, to the new Fringe location, Scadding Court. Then, on the Outdoor Stage, Executive Director Kelly Straughan and special guests will officially usher in a new era of the Fringe and then hand the stage over to **Sly Fox** – an 8-piece pop, rock, funk cover band that plays all your guilty pleasures.

In 2017, the Toronto Fringe Festival also introduces new partnerships that enhance the Fringe Club experience. In addition to the **Slaight Music** sponsored music series, the Toronto Fringe is thrilled to have **Bike Share Toronto** as the Official Transportation Partner, offering a **12-day bike share pass for only \$15** to Fringers. A great deal and a great partnership based on mutual goals of going green, getting around, and seeing more of the city.

As previously announced, the Toronto Fringe has also partnered with acclaimed **Edge of Sky Productions** to launch **Teen Fringe** – the festival's first ever performing arts bootcamp for teens.

TORONTO FRINGE CLUB Line-Up:

- Join Fringe festivalgoers, participants, volunteers and staff as they celebrate the Fringe opening night. Starting with the **Honestly Best Parade**, walking together in a unifying spirit from Honest Ed's to the new TORONTO FRINGE CLUB location at Scadding Court. Then TORONTO FRINGE CLUB will host the official opening celebrations on the outdoor stage with Fringe's Executive Director Kelly Straughan and special guests, ushering in a new era of the Toronto Fringe - **Wednesday, July 5 at 5:30pm**
- For the very first time, the Toronto Fringe will have an official outdoor stage that will host a slew of talented evening acts, including **Sly Fox**, an 8-piece pop/rock/funk band, **SINGular Sensation**, a musical theatre karaoke party with host **Jennifer Walls**, popular local 10-piece funk band **Yasgurs Farm**, choreography experts **Beyography**, and buzz-worthy drag performer **Beardoncé**, local DJ **DonPablo**, amongst others - **Wednesday, July 5 – Saturday, July 15 at 8pm**
- Every Fringe weekend, **Live at the Fringe on the Outdoor Stage**, will host afternoons filled with non-stop entertainment. Enjoy music, dance, jugglers, acrobats and more! **Weekends – July 8 – 9, and July 14 – 15, from 12 – 5pm.**
- Neville Austin is sponsoring the nightly Fringe After Dark Tent at the TORONTO FRINGE CLUB. **Fringe after Dark in Neville's Nook** will be a relaxing area to unleash the inner artist. Neville is a longtime supporter and donor of the Toronto Fringe, and a strong believer in creating safe spaces for artists to develop new work – **July 5 – July 15 at 8pm**
- Due to popular demand **#UrgentExchange** will be presented as part of Neville's Nook, and will be hosted by Generator. This is a panel discussion based on controversial arts related topics – **July 10 at 5pm, and July 13 at 5pm**

- The **Annual Fringe Cabaret** is back! Hosted by James Gangl, Fringe artists from past and present will dazzle spectators with entertaining, funny and risqué acts, anything goes – **Monday, July 10 at 8pm**
- 70 years ago, the Fringe movement was born in Edinburgh, and on July 11 over 200 Fringe Festivals around the world are coming together to spread its importance, and this is the first time it coincides with the Toronto Fringe. TORONTO FRINGE CLUB will host the **World Fringe Day Celebration** with a live stream of the Birthday Party – **Tuesday, July 11 at 7pm**
- **YogaTree Flow in the 6ix** is an open level yoga class, that is energetic and urban, with a carefully curated playlist of Toronto artists - **Tuesday, July 11 at 8:30pm**
- Join executive director **Kelly Straughan** as she announces the winners of the Patron's Pick and various festival awards at the **Toronto Fringe Award Ceremony** – **Thursday, July 13 at 8pm**
- New this year, get ready to laugh with the **Yuk Yuk Stand Up Comedy** on the outdoor stage, this hilarious show will be hosted by Keith Pedro, and featuring stand up by comedians Kyle Hickey, Christopher Davidson, and Adrienne Fish – **Friday, July 14 at 8pm**
- New this year, **Slaight Music** is sponsoring the Fringe Music Series, and will present a **Slaight Music Night** on the outdoor stage, featuring Juno Award winning **Tom Swick**, and Toronto based Singer / songwriter **Kayla Diamond**, who also won first place in Slaight Music's *It's Your Shot* contest – **Saturday, July 15 at 8pm**
- Scadding Court will host a local food and arts market featuring a group of talented up and coming crafters, chefs, and bakers. The Fringe Open Air Market will feature diverse street food, local handcraft goods, and fresh produce – **Sunday, July 16 at 11am**
- Local talent will shine at the Toronto Fringe's very own **Toronto's Got Talent** - **Sunday, July 16 from 2pm – 5pm, and finalists at 8pm**

FESTIVAL INFORMATION:

The Toronto Fringe runs July 5 to 16, 2017, with live performances at venues across Toronto. This year, the TORONTO FRINGE CLUB will be presented at a brand-new location, Scadding Court, in celebration of presenting four decades of live original theatre. This year's program features live theatre, music, dance, comedy, and more, all free of charge. To purchase tickets, or for more information visit the Toronto Fringe brand new website: www.fringetoronto.com.

SCADDING COURT LOCATION:

Scadding Court is located on the southeast corner of Bathurst St./ Dundas St. West and across from the Toronto Western Hospital.

GET IN TOUCH:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/torontofringe

Twitter: www.twitter.com/torontofringe

Website: www.fringetoronto.com

MEDIA CONTACT:

Suzanne Cheriton, RedEye Media, Suzanne@redeyemedia.ca,

Ashley Belmer, RedEye Media, Ashley@redeyemedia.ca, 514-627-5151