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Canada's Magnetic North Theatre Festival Presents Radical Lessons for a Meaningful Life in 2015

(Ottawa, ON) – Celebrating some of Canada's most innovative theatre artists, **Canada's Magnetic North Theatre Festival** is pleased to announce their 2015 Festival line-up, taking place in Ottawa, ON from June 4-13, 2015.

Magnetic North is Canada's only national theatre festival, bringing Canadian stories to life on stage across the country. The annual event, which alternates between its base of Ottawa and a new Canadian city every second year, promotes talented Canadian artists by showcasing the best touring theatre from across the country.

Co-presented by the National Arts Centre's English Theatre, the 13th Annual Canada's Magnetic North Theatre Festival features a thought-provoking theme for 2015: *Radical Lessons for a Meaningful Life*.

"Whether it's gaining liberation from addiction, taking a leap into nothingness, or transforming heartbreak into hope, all of our 2015 Festival performances remind us that opportunity knocks when we least expect it," says Brenda Leadlay, Artistic Executive Director of Canada's Magnetic North Theatre Festival. Leadlay travels across the country each year to find Canada's best contemporary theatre to feature in the Festival.

Magnetic North also offers a range of supplementary programming during the festival, including their Industry Series, which brings together theatre artists, producers and national and international presenters for professional development opportunities. The festival's *Magnetic Encounters* also encourage audience members to interact and connect with the artists featured in the festival through fun, free public events.

2015 Festival Presentations:

The Global Savages

Debajehmujig Storytellers (Manitoulin Island, ON)

Experience an honest, inspiring journey into the heart of what it means to be human. A sacred fire and open sky surround you as a small Anishnaabeg family share their 18 000 year-old story, one gifted to them through generations of elders. A story for all mankind about the preservation of humanity- who will listen?

Featuring Stories and Traditional Teachings Passed Down by Elder Eddie King

Jun 8-10, 12-13 / Pay-What-You-Can

Outdoor Venue: Rideau Canal Locks (Below Bytown Museum)

Needles and Opium

An Ex Machina Production (Québec) co-production with Théâtre du Trident (Québec),
Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (Montréal), and Canadian Stage (Toronto)

Written and Directed by Robert LePage



English Translation by Jenny Montgomery

Jean Cocteau, Miles Davis, and a tormented Québécois man share the stage in a mesmerizing and brilliantly visual play by Canadian theatrical genius Robert Lepage.

A Co-Presentation with the National Arts Centre's English Theatre and le Théâtre français du CNA

Jun 4-6 / Add-On to Festival Flex Pass Purchase Only (\$55+)

Theatre, National Arts Centre

Fiamma! An Operascape

Mercury Opera (Edmonton, AB)

Edmonton's Mercury Opera lights up the world-famous Rideau Canal with their spectacular brand of opera. Prepare to be enchanted by a unique blend of beloved arias, lavish costumes, and vocal pyrotechnics. This feast for the senses will dazzle the whole family.

Featuring Violinist Vaysl Popadiuk, and the Fire Weavers of Ottawa's Mini Cirque

Jun 7 / Pay-What-You-Can

Outdoor Venue: Underneath Plaza Bridge (West Arch)

Young Drunk Punk

Bruce McCulloch (Toronto, ON)

Comedian, writer, and legendary Kid in the Hall Bruce McCulloch combines stand-up, live music and autobiographical insights in this solo show. Bruce chronicles his journey from wild early days as a 'young punk' in 80's Alberta to a 'pajama-clad dad' living in the Hollywood Hills. Directed by Blake Brooker.

Now a hit Rogers/CBC TV series!

Jun 10-12 / Tickets \$30

Studio Theatre, National Arts Centre

Re:Union

Horseshoes & Hand Grenades Theatre (Ottawa, ON/Vancouver, BC)

"The world doesn't need a lot of martyrs, but it needs a few." In 1965 a young Quaker named Norman Morrison sets himself on fire to protest the Vietnam War, with his baby daughter at his side. Thirty-six years later, in the aftermath of 9-11, will she carry on his legacy?

Jun 5-9/ Tickets \$30

Academic Hall, University of Ottawa

What Happened to the Seeker

STO Union (Ottawa, ON/Wakefield, QC)

Seekers were 1960s youth who went out into the world to find spiritual fulfillment. This is the story of a child of the Seekers, and her quest to recapture a moment of enlightenment from her childhood. A multi-disciplinary experience of exhibit, film and live performance that captures one woman's attempt at living in this world.

Jun 9-13 / Tickets \$30

Arts Court Studio & Arts Court Library



Through the Gaze of a Navel

The Chop (Vancouver, BC)

You've never experienced yoga like this, as self-proclaimed pop psychology expert Emelia Symington Fedy leads a class you can observe or participate in. More than a kiss-and-tell of a lifelong obsession, Emelia takes the sacred journey of a spiritual quest and sets it in hilarious context.

Jun 8-10, 12-13 / Tickets \$20

Arts Court Library

Up to Low

Easy Street Productions & The Ottawa Children's Theatre (Ottawa, ON)

This coming of age story traces a journey from Ottawa to Low, Quebec, through the Gatineau River communities of 1950. It's a rollicking ride that recounts a summer of first love and a quest for healing on a dark river. You won't want to miss this play with music for the whole family.

Based on the Book by Brian Doyle (used with permission by Groundwood Books). Performance recommended for ages 10 and up.

Jun 4-6 / Tickets \$30

Arts Court Studio

Small Stage Canada

MovEnt (Vancouver, BC)

Join us in an intimate cabaret atmosphere as performing artists from across Canada open the doors to an original, inventive approach to live dance theatre. Sit back, relax, and have a drink as you prepare to be wildly entertained.

Jun 9-10 / Tickets \$20

4th Stage, National Arts Centre

The Public Servant

Great Canadian Theatre Company in association with Canada's Magnetic North Theatre Festival (Ottawa, ON)

Co-Developed by Theatre Columbus

Step inside the halls of power as Madge, a young, idealistic and enthusiastic civil servant, gets ready to write her first official memo. It's an auspicious occasion that brings to light all the inner-workings and absurdities of government bureaucracy.

Jun 2-21 / Tickets Available at GCTC Only

Great Canadian Theatre Company

Tickets and full details for all performances, as well details on Festival Flex Passes, are available at www.magneticnorthfestival.ca

Canada's Magnetic North Theatre Festival is produced by the Canadian Theatre Festival Society and co-presented by the National Arts Centre's English Theatre. Major sponsors include: Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, Ontario Arts Council, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, National Arts Centre, University of Ottawa, Arts Court, Downtown Rideau BIA, Friends of English Theatre and The McLean Foundation.



About Canada's Magnetic North Theatre Festival

To keep up-to-date with Canada's Magnetic North Theatre Festival, visit:
magneticnorthfestival.ca on Facebook: [/MNTFest](https://www.facebook.com/MNTFest) and on Twitter: [#MNTE](https://twitter.com/MNTE) #MNTF15

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