

For Immediate Release

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National and local stories collide as ten-day national theatre festival comes to Yukon

(Whitehorse, YT) – Celebrating contemporary Canadian artists alongside innovative homegrown talent, Canada’s Magnetic North Theatre Festival is pleased to announce the 2016 Festival line-up in Whitehorse, June 9-18.

Canada’s only national theatre festival, Magnetic North Theatre Festival is entering its 14th year. The annual festival alternates its home between Ottawa and a new Canadian city every second year. With the theme of Navigating New Dimensions, which challenges audiences to open their hearts and minds to new perspectives, views, and worlds, Yukon was the perfect destination to host this year’s festival.

“The stories being told at the 2016 Festival in Whitehorse encourage audiences to explore new ideas and dimensions within and outside of themselves,” said Brenda Leadlay, Artistic Director of the Magnetic North Theatre Festival. “From the unnerving and undeniable universal experience of isolation, to the quest for our inner heroes, to using technology to meet strangers across space and time, these plays are about opening ourselves to a new way of seeing, thinking, and being.”

For ten full days, audiences will enjoy unique theatrical experiences alongside workshops, talk back sessions, and engaging community events. Infused with the magic of the midnight sun, this year’s festival will see everyday Yukon places – forests, restaurants, and more – transformed into other worlds.

The festival will also bring its one-of-a-kind Industry Sessions to Whitehorse. A vital part of the Canadian theatre landscape, it will offer a rare opportunity for local and visiting artists to network and develop connections with theatre industry leaders and presenters from across the country and the globe.

2016 Festival Presentations:

LEGEND HAS IT

Legend Has It is a fantasy improv adventure. Featuring Rebecca Northan and her merry band of improvisers, an audience member joins the cast as the hero of this epic tale. Equal parts funny and moving, each show is 100% unique every time. Mature content, family-friendly matinee on June 12.

Company: Spontaneous Theatre (Toronto/Calgary). Co-Presented by Yukon Arts Centre. Originally produced as part of the Enbridge playRites Festival 2014.

The show runs from June 9-12 at Yukon Arts Centre Theatre. Pay-What-You-Decide Opening Night, \$25.

THEATRE IN THE BUSH

Presented by Ramshackle Theatre and featuring Yukon artists and collaborators from across the country, *Theatre in the Bush* takes the ritual and mad magic of a bush party and distills it into an interactive theatre event. Under the light of the midnight sun, audiences are led through the woods to remote venues deep in Yukon’s boreal forest for a night of playful, daring creations with a healthy dose of folksy northern charm.



NAVIGATING NEW DIMENSIONS
JUNE 8-19, 2016 · WHITEHORSE, YT

Company: Ramshackle Theatre (Whitehorse).

The show runs from June 11-12 at Ramshackle Theatre. Pay-What-You-Decide.

WE ARE NOT ALONE

Featuring multi-award winning performer Damien Atkins, *We Are Not Alone* invites you to experience a funny and moving theatrical ride into one of the most extraordinary and provocative subjects of our time. In a world populated by mysterious sightings and inexplicable crop circles, an obsessed playwright searches for answers.

Company: A 2b theatre company (Halifax) Production. Created by Crow's Theatre and Segal Centre for Performing Arts.

The show runs from June 10-12 at the Old Fire Hall. Pay-What-You-Decide Opening Night, \$25.

POP-UP LOVE PARTY

Pop-Up Love Party pits Zuppa Theatre Co's performers against one another in a contest to explain erotic love. With the arts of theatre, persuasion, and cookery, they bring the ancient ideas of Plato's *Symposium* alive in a 21st century drinking party. And not a single sense is left behind, thanks to a 7-course snack menu by Michelin-starred chef Daniel Burns.

Company: Zuppa Theatre Co. (Halifax)

The show runs from June 13-16 at the Miner's Daughter Restaurant. \$35 (Includes 7-course snack menu, cash bar on-site).

CONCORD FLORAL

Concord Floral is a million square foot abandoned greenhouse and a hangout for neighbourhood kids. Something has happened there. Something that nobody can talk about. In this re-imagining of Giovanni Boccaccio's medieval allegory *The Decameron* in a contemporary Canadian suburb, ten teens must flee a plague they have brought upon themselves.

Company: Suburban Beast (Toronto). Originally created by Erin Brubacher, Cara Spooner & Jordan Tannahill.

The show runs from June 13-15, 17 at Wood Street School. Pay-What-You-Decide.

LANDLINE

LANDLINE is a new kind of theatre, one that transforms the audience into performer. As the audience walks the streets of Whitehorse listening to an audio guide, they will converse in real time with a stranger using text messaging. You are both player and spectator, and you determine how far the conversation will go using technology as your guide. .

Company: xosecret (Secret Theatre, Halifax)

The show runs from June 11-15 at a TBD outdoor location. Pay-What-You-Decide

TOWN CRIERS

Town Criers collects observations from Whitehorse, Old Crow, and the Philippines and filters them through the live body in a unique, oratorical sculpture in one central corner of Whitehorse. 3 town criers receive these observations via a tablet, a modern day version of the trusty scroll, and ring their bells to share this experience of human connection for all to hear.

Company: Theatre Replacement (Vancouver). Co-Presented by Yukon Arts Centre
The show runs from June 17-18 at the Whitehorse Wharf and Rotary Park. Pay-What-You-Decide.

PROPHECY FOG

Prophecy Fog is a personal story of place and identity. Based on a journey to the Mojave Desert to visit Giant Rock, it uses text, video, and music to weave a conscious remembering of ancient prophecies, rock teachings, and star beings. Once home to sacred ceremonies, Giant Rock now stands covered in graffiti and broken bottles. But Giant Rock has stories to share, if we are willing to listen.

Company: Paper Canoe Projects (Toronto)
The show runs from June 14-18 at Yukon Arts Centre Studio. Pay-What-You-Decide Opening Night, \$25.

MY BRAIN IS PLASTIC

From Whitehorse's Arlin McFarlane, this one-woman show weaves together storytelling and interactive media into an emotional and moving piece about hope and healing. A coming of age story about a girl and her troubles, *My Brain Is Plastic* uses the lens of neuroscience to help us realize we all have the ability to re-wire our thinking and change our habits because of our incredibly plastic brain.

Company: Whitehorse Independent Theatre (Whitehorse).
The show runs from June 14-18 at the Old Fire Hall. Pay-What-You-Decide Opening Night, \$25.

MAP OF THE LAND, MAP OF THE STARS

Gwaandak Theatre's newest project in development follows Yukon's rivers, trails, and the people who travel them, from First Peoples to waves of newcomers. Experience the creation of brand-new stories, which acknowledge and honour our rich and diverse history in a collaborative Indigenous-centred process. *A sharing of a work-in-progress.*

Company: Gwaandak Theatre (Whitehorse)
The show runs from June 9 (Preview), 11-13 at a TBD outdoor location. Pay-What-You-Decide Preview, \$20 Adult, \$15 Youth/Elder, 12 & Under Free.

DOGTOWN: THE MUSICAL

Inspired by real events in Whitehorse, Dogtown comes to a standstill when neighbours are set against neighbours, families are split, and the Supreme Court is pitted against Bylaw Services over the fate of Trevor the Dog. *Dogtown: The Musical* will have you laughing, crying, and humming the songs long after the final curtain.

Company: Nakai Theatre, Yukon Circus Society, and DogHouse Theatre (Whitehorse)
The show runs from June 7 (Preview), 8-12 at the Roundhouse. Pay-What-You-Decide Preview, \$25.

For more information and for the latest developments and news, visit magneticnorthfestival.ca and on Facebook: [/MNTFest](#) or Twitter: @MNTF #MNTF16

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