

Young Audience Pitch Session

2019 Artists

Theatre Direct – *Tale of a T-Shirt*



The Tale of a T-Shirt takes young people on a trip around the world to follow a t-shirt from seed to cotton to cloth. Inspired by actual events, this docu-comedy questions the true cost of our clothing and inspires children to imagine the story of where all our things come from and how they get to us.

Directed by Theatre Direct's Artistic Producer Lisa Marie DiLiberto and featuring an ensemble of clown-trained performers, this theatrical adventure uses live music and zany puppetry juxtaposed with

archival images to dazzle audiences while provoking us to consider how our actions have global reverberations.

Website: www.fixtpoint.com/the-tale-of-a-tshirt

Trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdsViiScbMY

Ariko Musique



Originating from the Lafontaine, Ontario area, Ariko has been an active family band since 2003. Dynamic arrangements of French-Canadian and original repertoire along with unique vocal harmonies, driving fiddle arrangements, and step dance, are signatures of Ariko's performances.

Ariko was selected by representatives from school boards and community centres to tour its show through 30+ elementary/secondary French language schools and community centres across the province during the 2018-2019 season.

Ariko's performances and workshop offerings are well suited to diverse audiences and events. The traditional and cultural aspects of Ariko's performances aim to engage audiences of all ages through interactive rhythm activities, call and response songs and dance activities depending on the occasion. Our work has been well received through a broad demographic and age range.

Website: www.arikomusique.com

Videos: www.arikomusique.com/copy-of-video

Tara Luz Danse – *Les Bâtons*

Les bâtons by Tara Luz Danse is a contemporary dance work inspired by a musical instrument called *Boomwhackers*. The work is poetic, playful and dynamic and explores the power of imagination and creativity. Through dance, movement and music, the artists combine their ingenuity to transform these colourful objects in surprising and unexpected ways, encouraging the audience to open their own imaginations. After each performance of *Les bâtons* for the general public and family audiences, the company animates a post-performance event with hands-on activities. For school performances, the company offers a variety of workshops which gives students an opportunity to move with the company artists.



The original work created for theatre venues (55 minutes) premiered in October 2016 at the Shenkman Arts Centre in Ottawa with four young audience presentations as part of the *Matinées jeunesses* project. The work was also performed for the general public/family series to a sold-out audience. In Spring 2018, an adapted version (40 minutes) was developed for alternate venues such as school gymnasiums. In 2019, the company continues to perform the work on tour: so far, general public performances have been scheduled in Oshawa, Sudbury and Hearst as well as fourteen school performances in Southern Ontario. Please note that Tara Luz Danse is currently on the roster of Prologue to the Performing Arts with *Les bâtons*.

Website: <http://taraluzdanse.ca/en/les-batons/>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmLrJikVvYM>



New Tradition Music – *Northside Condor*

Northside Condor is a series of music performances and workshops that engage classrooms and communities in a narrative of cultural revitalization and cross-cultural exchange through the history of the música de gaita tradition of Colombia. Música de gaita is a synthesis of Indigenous-

Colombian and Afro-Colombian musical influences: two flutes representing male (gaita macho or kuisi sigi) and female (gaita hembra or kuisi bunsí), and a rattle (tani or maraca), are of Indigenous origin and have been around for over 2000 years—according to archeologists.

This interactive educational program explores the common ground between traditional Afro-Indigenous music of Colombia with contemporary Spoken World and Hip-Hop. Program includes elements of drumming, story telling, beatboxin', body percussion, breakin', Spanglish spoken word, call-and-response singing and audience/community discussions about the power of culture to help maintain traditions moving forward.

Website: <http://www.newtraditionmusic.com/>

Videos: <http://www.newtraditionmusic.com/BenyEsguerraEPK/Videos.html>

Puzzle Piece Theatre – *The Little Prince: Reimagined*

The show is a theatrical retelling of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's beloved book, adapted for the stage by Richard Lam with direction by Jon Lachlan Stewart. It has been workshopped with YES Theatre in Sudbury and had a full production at Crow's Theatre in spring 2019. The 75-minute piece wasn't intentionally created as a TYA show, but is absolutely appropriate and engaging for an SK – Grade 5 audience; if not by virtue of the source material, then because it's a smart, accessible, highly inventive and imaginative piece of



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theatrical innovation. Richard's adaptation is contemporary and urgent, never speaks down to its audience, and holds faithful to the source material without being overly reverent.

The show is highly portable: the beautiful set consists mainly of paper which is repurposed for everything from puppets to costumes, uses practical effects operated by actors and is highly scalable and adaptable to any playing space from proscenium stages to community halls. While TYA companies have long since embraced cultural diversity in their casting, there is still a significant lack of Asian Canadian creators working in the TYA ecology. As adaptor and performer, Richard Lam isn't just satisfying our commitment to seeing POC bodies on stage; he's addressing the need for us to empower Asian Canadian voices, and the freedom for those voices to tell any story they want.

Website: <https://www.puzzlepiece.ca/>

Digging Roots – *The Zhawenim (To Love Unconditionally) Project*



Digging Roots is a musical group creatively made up of husband and wife ShoShona Kish and Raven Kanatakta, with collaborators that make up a seven piece collective. The band began their performance career on the Pow-wow trail which gradually moved to the festival circuit. Presently,

Digging Roots tours nationally and internationally but have always played shows and conducted music and empowerment workshops in isolated Indigenous communities and continue to do so from northern Ontario to northern Australia.

Digging Roots have always kept a grassroots mentality by making music for our communities from our communities. We've consulted with Elders about our responsibilities as musicians and artists. Digging Roots would love to present a 60-90 minute concert to the little ones in communities across Ontario to empower them. I want to inspire and show that as Indigenous people we can achieve the goals that we dream about. We can also conduct a 90-minute workshop with the kiddies on Anishinabek Song Lines.

Website: <http://www.diggingrootsmusic.com/>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q98qzv57wd8>

Superior Theatre Festival – *Night Wings*

Night Wings is a play for Young Audiences by a Thunder Bay playwright named Eleanor Albanese. It is about a young family that lives in the North - in a town called Hurkett - that is not unlike rural Ontario. The audiences in these areas will understand the characters' connections to nature and their



environment and learn about what it was like to live as a young person in 1938. It is a show that is easily transformable to any location or space.

Superior Theatre Festival has been committed to making this work accessible to an audience with vision loss, so our performance of *Night Wings* includes live closed captioning. The actors will not only say their dialogue but they will say what they are doing, so that an audience with vision loss can also understand what is happening on stage. CNIB Thunder Bay was involved with the *Night Wings* team by helping us understand what it's like to live without sight through cast workshops and touchstone moments during rehearsals.

Website: <https://www.superiortheatrefestival.com/>

Video excerpt: <https://vimeo.com/258880336>

Queer Songbook Orchestra



The proposed work is a collaborative new production, combining the skills and past experiences of Juno award winning puppeteer, producer and veteran children's entertainer Ali Eisner; actor and writer Stephen Jackman-Torkoff; and a pocket sized version of the successful Queer Songbook Orchestra led by Shaun Brodie.

A high quality production, conceived and performed by experienced and engaging queer and trans/non-binary performers, this show is an interactive exploration of identity and acceptance incorporating puppets, storytelling and song. It is developed for classrooms and communities to nurture understanding and inspire discussion and expression in support of how we feel inside. This is a polished, easily transportable, traveling performance piece aimed at creating dialogue, art and awareness of the LGBTQ+ community and to inspire inclusivity, love and acceptance.

Website: <http://www.queersongbook.com/>

Video of Ali Eisner as Mamma Yamma, Kid's CBC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cNjcAVxmps>

QSO video: <https://vimeo.com/313154673>

The Young Audience Pitch session took place in May 2019 with the goal of increasing the number and diversity of Ontario-based artists touring northern Ontario with work for children and families. The program was administered by Ontario Presents with support from the Ontario Arts Council and the Department of Canadian Heritage. The eight artists were selected from over 70 applicants to our call for pitches. The venue was graciously provided by TO Live.

Thank you to our funders:



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