



*Wish you
were here*

UNDER CURRENTS

A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE FESTIVAL
FEB 5-15, 2020 TICKETS \$5-75

A photograph of a restaurant interior, likely a bar or cafe, with a chalkboard menu and patrons. The scene is dimly lit with warm, yellow pendant lights hanging from the ceiling. In the foreground, the backs of several patrons' heads are visible as they sit at a bar. The chalkboard menu in the background lists various food and drink items in a handwritten style. The overall atmosphere is cozy and social.

Where SOCIAL lives.

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UNDERCURRENTS: THEATRE BELOW THE MAINSTREAM IS PREMIERING A NEW PRICING STRUCTURE

**THIS YEAR, WITH THE GOAL
TO MAKE OUR FESTIVAL
FINANCIALLY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL.
WE PROUDLY PRESENT:**

PICK YOUR PRICE

**PICK YOUR PRICE IS A
PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN-AFFORD MODEL.
ALL TICKETS ARE GENERAL ADMISSION
AND YOU CAN GET THEM AT
\$5, \$20, \$50 OR \$75,
NO QUESTIONS ASKED.**

**WHEN YOU PURCHASE
YOUR SHOW TICKET,
SIMPLY CHOOSE YOUR
DESIRED PRICE POINT AND
SHOW UP AT THE SHOW,
IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.**

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Ottawa Fringe and *undercurrents* recognize the privilege to be operating and performing on the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg. As guests on this land, we promise to walk gently and with respect. To the past, present and future caretakers of Turtle Island, Chi-Miigwetch.

Ten years? Already?!?

undercurrents launched at the Great Canadian Theatre Company on a cold night in January 2011. It was an experiment, of sorts: a festival of "theatre below the mainstream" in GCTC's intimate Studio Theatre, showcasing the best of Ottawa's independent theatre scene. We wanted to support our indie creators, encourage touring outside of Ottawa, and provide a venue for stories you couldn't see on other local stages.

Did we know what we were doing? Not really.

Is this something artists wanted? We hoped so.

Was anyone going to come? Fingers crossed.

Since that snowy January night *undercurrents* has grown and evolved to become an indispensable part of Ottawa's theatre scene, and one of Canada's most important independent theatre festivals – moving from GCTC to Arts Court, presenting over 60 shows (including 19 world premieres by local artists), and some of the best work by theatre makers from across the country. Not to mention the numerous scripts that have been read as part of New Play Tuesday, the visiting artists we've welcomed as part of our workshop series, and the new work developed through the under development residency program.

Not too bad for our little experiment.

But enough about the past! For this year's festival we looked for shows that spark joy – either through form or content – as an antidote to the current news cycle and Ottawa's dismal February weather (the world is a heavy place right now... couldn't we all use some more joy?). With artists hailing from British Columbia to Newfoundland, *undercurrents* 2020 features an award-winning show from St. John's; a storytelling show about moving out and moving on; a sci-fi comedy rock show; a post-apocalyptic survival lesson led by eighth graders; the story of Nazi-fighting surrealist artists and romantic partners; a clown show about alzheimers (no, really); and the Discovery Series of works-in-development.

Thanks for joining us at *undercurrents* 2020. Here's to the next ten...



Patrick Gauthier, Festival Director

PS – for more about our first ten years, make sure you listen to our 10 Years of *undercurrents* podcast, available on iTunes and SoundCloud.



CRIPPLED

PRESENTED BY
POWER PRODUCTIONS

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

85 MIN | RATING: M

CREATED BY
Paul David Power

PERFORMED BY
Pat Dempsey, Paul David Power & Matt White

DIRECTED BY
Danielle Irvine

DRAMATURGY BY
Robert Chafe

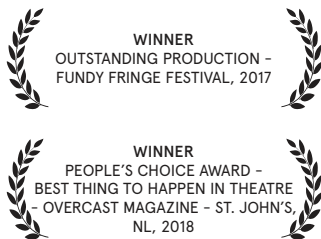
"Crippled". That's what the guys in Tony's small community of Shale Harbour, NL used to call him growing up. The name stuck.

Years later, Tony finds himself on the St. John's waterfront at a crossroad. Tired of living with a disability, of being 'the cripple', and still grieving the death of his same sex partner three years earlier, Tony believes there's only one way to escape a life he no longer wants to live. His mind is made up, until a stranger appears with other plans.

"It is unapologetic because it is written around the very important fact that nobody with a disability has to apologize for their body or apologize for taking up space. And on top of that it is such a vulnerable and beautiful love story. [...] ★★★★★ would watch again a million times."

- Damsel in a Dress

Crippled acknowledges the contributions of the Canada Council for the Arts.



ARTS COURT THEATRE

WED/FEB 5 7:00PM

FRI/FEB 7 9:00PM

*SAT/FEB 8 1:00PM

*A talkback will follow this performance.



CREATED BY
Sarah Waisvisz

DIRECTED BY
Rebecca Benson*

PERFORMED BY
Margo MacDonald*, Maryse Fernandes & Scottie Irving

What would you do for love?

A journey from 1920s Paris to the occupied Channel Islands during WW2, *Heartlines* explores the artistic and political contributions of French-Jewish Surrealist artists Lucy Schwob and Suzanne Malherbe, also known as Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore. Partners in life and love, Cahun and Moore defy norms of art, gender, religion, and society with surrealist collages, photographs, and writing. But when Nazi Germany occupies their home, life must instead begin to imitate art. An inspiring story of overcoming hate to champion resistance and resilience.

Heartlines is a world premiere from multi-award-winning playwright Sarah Waisvisz.

* The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance-Opera-Theatre Policy.

Heartlines acknowledges the contributions of the Ontario Arts Council, GCTC, Cabaret Theatre, Shaw Festival, NAC, Ottawa School of Theatre, Kathi Langston, The Ottawa Little Theatre, U Ottawa, TACTICS and Bronwyn Steinberg.

HEARTLINES

A CALALOU/RAFT THEATRE
PROJECTS PRODUCTION

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

85 MIN | RATING: M

WORLD PREMIERE!



CANADA COUNCIL ARTIST
IN RESIDENCE AT THE NAC,
SARAH WAISVISZ, 2017-2018



PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENCE
AT GREAT CANADIAN THEATRE
COMPANY
(GCTC), 2016-2017



ARTS COURT THEATRE

THU/FEB 6 7:00PM

SAT/FEB 8 9:00PM

SUN/FEB 9 1:00PM*

*A talkback will follow this performance.



AWKWARD HUG

AN O ALBATROSS PRODUCTION
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

70 MIN | RATING: 14



WINNER
BEST STORYTELLING / SPOKEN
WORD SHOW - VICTORIA FRINGE
FESTIVAL, 2018



WINNER
BC TOURING COUNCIL AWARD -
VANCOUVER FRINGE AWARD, 2018



WINNER
CRITICS PICK - NOW MAGAZINE,
TORONTO, 2018

ARTS COURT THEATRE

FRI/FEB 7 7:00PM

SAT/FEB 8 7:00PM

*SUN/FEB 9 5:00PM

*A talkback will follow this performance.

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY
Cory Thibert

DIRECTED BY
Linnea Gwiazda

DRAMATURGY BY
TJ Dawe

In the summer of 2009, Cory Thibert was a quiet 19-year-old living in his parents' basement. He was working as a server to pay his college tuition, spending time with his animal-loving girlfriend, and his band was hoping to play its first ever show. When the Ottawa Affordable Housing Unit informs his parents that they have to move out of the only home Cory has ever known, it sets in motion a series of events that uncover the truth about what has set his family apart, and forces Cory to find his voice...with a scream.

With laugh-out-loud humour and heartbreaking honesty, *AWKWARD HUG* transports us to the discomfort of navigating adulthood for the first time. Through masterful storytelling and intimate reflection, Cory explores what constitutes "normal" in our world, and how having two parents with disabilities forces his family outside those margins.

★★★★★ "This spectacular coming-of-age story will make you laugh, cry and everything in between."
- Gigcity (Edmonton)



CREATED & PERFORMED BY
Mitchel Rose and Madeleine Hall

DIRECTED BY
Mitchel Rose

SOUND DESIGN & COMPOSITION BY
Julien Dussault

FEATURING
Julien Dussault, Scottie Irving, Angela Schleichauf

SET DESIGN BY
John Doucet

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE
Andy Massingham

A clown show about Alzheimer's! No, really. Two clowns – Memory and Disease – battle over an omnipresent but invisible man, illustrating the heartbreaking and hilarious realities at play when tug of war turns to capture the flag at the hands of a crippling disease.

Cardinal premiered at the 2016 Ottawa Fringe, where it was praised by audiences and critics alike, and on the University of Ottawa Emerging Artist Award. A trio of accomplished musicians join to perform in a live rendition of an original score.

Cardinal acknowledges the contributions of the Ontario Arts Council and the City of Ottawa.

CARDINAL

AN APLOMBUSRHOMBUS PRODUCTION

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

55 MIN | RATING: PG



WINNER
EMERGING ARTIST AWARD –
OTTAWA FRINGE, 2016



NOMINEE
EMERGING ARTIST AWARD –
MITCHEL ROSE, PRIX RIDEAU
AWARDS, 2017



NOMINEE
EMERGING ARTIST AWARD –
MADELEINE HALL, PRIX RIDEAU
AWARDS, 2017



ARTS COURT THEATRE

WED/FEB 12 7:00PM

FRI/FEB 14 9:00PM

SAT/FEB 15 3:00PM*

*A talkback will follow this performance.

2020 SCHEDULE	CRIPPLED	HEARTLINES	AWKWARD HUG	CARDINAL	KI & J
5 WED	7:00 PM	—	—	—	—
6 THU	—	7:00 PM	—	—	—
7 FRI	9:00 PM	—	7:00 PM	—	—
8 SAT	1:00 PM	9:00 PM	7:00 PM	—	—
9 SUN	—	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	—	—
10 MON	—	—	—	—	—
11 TUE	<div> <div></div> <div>NEW PLAY TUESDAY - FREE</div> </div>				
12 WED	—	—	—	7:00 PM	—
13 THU	—	—	—	—	7:00
14 FRI	—	—	—	9:00 PM	—
15 SAT	—	—	—	3:00 PM	1:00 9:00

PARTY NIGHTS	OPENING NIGHT PARTY WED / FEB 5 9:00 PM	LATE NIGHT CABARET FRI / FEB 7 10:30 PM	LATE N CABA SAT / 10:30
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TT ANE	UNBRIDLED FUTURISM	BETH-ANNE	HONEY DEW ME	HOME SWEET... SOMETHING	FEB 5 - 15 2020
—	—	—	—	—	5 WED
—	—	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	—	6 THU
—	—	—	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	7 FRI
—	—	4:00 PM	—	2:30 PM	8 SAT
—	—	—	—	—	9 SUN
—	—	—	—	—	10 MON
PROGRAMMING - 7:00 PM ←					11 TUE
—	—	—	—	—	12 WED
0 PM	9:00 PM	—	—	—	13 THU
—	7:00 PM	—	—	—	14 FRI
0 PM 0 PM	7:00 PM	—	—	—	15 SAT

NIGHT CABARET FEB 8 0 PM	LATE NIGHT CABARET FRI / FEB 14 10:30 PM	CLOSING NIGHT PARTY SAT / FEB 15 10:30 PM	PARTY NIGHTS
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KITT & JANE:

AN INTERACTIVE SURVIVAL GUIDE TO THE NEAR-POST- APOCALYPTIC FUTURE

A SNAFU PRODUCTION
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA
75 MIN | RATING: PG



ARTS COURT THEATRE

THU/FEB 13 7:00PM

*SAT/FEB 15 1:00PM

SAT/FEB 15 9:00PM

*A talkback will follow this performance.

CREATED & DIRECTED BY
Kathleen Greenfield

CREATED & PERFORMED BY
Ingrid Hansen & Rod Peter Jr.

Two grade-eights step on stage to present at a school assembly. Very soon, the students go off-script, barring the doors and hijacking the presentation to deliver an urgent message: they will be dead in an hour, the collapse of society has already begun, and they're here to train you how to survive.

What follows is "a wild, impressively choreographed romp featuring dance numbers, live music, and giant-scale shadow puppetry that is by turns hilarious, heart-rending and in small glimpses, beautiful. You won't want to leave your seat." – The Marble

★★★★★ – Onstage Ottawa

★★★★ 1/2 – Edmonton Journal

Kitt & Jane acknowledges the contributions of the Canada Council for the Arts and the BC Arts Council.



CREATED BY

Nick Di Gaetano and Teddy Ivanova

PERFORMED BY

Nick Di Gaetano and friends

Captain Nick Di Gaetano is an astronaut from an advanced parallel Earth and the only known human being to travel at the Speed of Light. On his ship's maiden voyage he encounters a Space/Time Anomaly and is sent hurtling into the unknown. Now, along with AI navigator Mission Control, he lives as an inter-dimensional refugee, phasing uncontrollably through infinite realities in search of a way back home to his wife and cat, in a musical journey through the multi-verse.

Unbridled Futurism features original music, a live band, DIY Video and explores what it means to be human among the vast and indifferent cosmos.

"Whether you're a sci-fi guy or gal, or just a theatre goer looking for a truly original theatrical experience, buy your tickets to *Unbridled Futurism* right away. The raccoon wars might start tomorrow and you'll be sorry you missed out." ★★★★★ - On Stage Ottawa

UNBRIDLED FUTURISM

A SCI-FI COMEDY ROCK SHOW

A MAKESNDOES PRODUCTION

TORONTO, ONTARIO

55 MIN | RATING: PG



DORA MAVOR MOORE AWARD
NICK DI GAETANO, 2019



ARTS COURT THEATRE

THU/FEB 13 9:00PM

FRI/FEB 14 7:00PM

SAT/FEB 15 7:00PM*

*A talkback will follow this performance.

PART OF THE 2020
DISCOVERY SERIES



BETH-ANNE

A MONICA BRADFORD-LEA
& NICHOLAS LENO PRODUCTION

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

40 MIN | RATING: PG



NOMINEE
EMERGING ARTIST AWARD -
MONICA BRADFORD-LEA,
PRIX RIDEAU AWARDS, 2019



NOMINEE
EMERGING ARTIST AWARD -
NICHOLAS LENO, PRIX RIDEAU
AWARDS, 2019



CREATED BY
Monica Bradford-Lea & Nicholas Leno

PERFORMED BY
Monica Bradford-Lea

COMPOSITION & SOUND DESIGN BY
Angela Schleihauß

DRAMATURGY BY
Emily Pearlman

Middle part ponytail. Pony sweater. Meet Beth-Anne, a horse crazy girl who just wants to be loved and desired. She can't work up the confidence to ask her crush on a date, and she might not really have any friends. So, she decides to transform herself in an effort to become more desirable. And what's THE most desirable creature? A horse, of course. Beth-Anne must become a horse.

This hilarious solo comedy is created by Ottawa theatre artists Monica Bradford-Lea and Nicholas Leno. Creators of 2019 Prix Rideau Award nominated play-without-words *Light(less)*, *Beth-Anne* is also a play that is highly physical, and features very few spoken words.

A work-in-progress created as part of the under development program.

Beth-Anne acknowledges the contributions of the Ontario Arts Council and the City of Ottawa.

LIBRARY STUDIO

THU/FEB 6	8:00PM
SAT/FEB 8	4:00PM

PART OF THE 2020
DISCOVERY SERIES



CREATED & DIRECTED BY
Luke Brown

CREATED & PERFORMED BY
Kyle Cameron & Axandre Lemours

SOUND DESIGN & STAGE MANAGEMENT BY
J Hopkins

It's 1960s Ottawa and Herbert and Tom are in love. Queer people are considered a threat to national security; they are spied on, interrogated, publicly outed, and fired from their jobs. As police officers working in the public eye, they're on the lookout for places of refuge that accept them for who they are. Their colleagues are looking too.

The Honey Dew Coffee Shop, on the corner of Rideau and Sussex, is a site of both freedom and danger: of true love and pure hatred.

Honey Dew Me is inspired by true stories of the government-led persecution of queer people that occurred from the 1950s to 1990s, and in many ways continues today.

"This political, cultural and historical account of what it was like to be a gay public servant in the 1960s in Canada is brilliant." – Apt613

A work-in-progress created as part of the under development program.

Honey Dew Me acknowledges the contributions of The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity (CCGSD) and the Ottawa Senior Pride Network.

HONEY DEW ME

A THEATRE DECENTRED
PRODUCTION

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

45 MIN | RATING: M

LIBRARY STUDIO

THU/FEB 6	9:30PM
FRI/FEB 7	8:00PM

PART OF THE 2020
DISCOVERY SERIES



HOME SWEET... SOMETHING

A LITERA PRO PRODUCTION

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

50 MIN | RATING: G

CREATED & PERFORMED BY

Ayesha Chubb, Zaakirah Chubb & Ludmylla Reis

A dark room. A voice; "They call me Master v.8.71 beta. I'd like to welcome you all to our Escape Room." Sixty minutes on the clock.

Three women wake up in a place they don't remember going to; they don't know each other, but they know they have one hour to score as many points as they can to win their way out. How? By correctly defining their personal heritage, values and ethics.

The real question: how do you beat a broken system?

Home Sweet...Something is a new satire from Ayesha Chubb, Zaakirah Chubb and Ludmylla Reis about being forced to answer for who you are to find your freedom.

A work-in-progress created as part of the under development program.

LIBRARY STUDIO

FRI/FEB 7 9:30PM

SAT/FEB 8 2:30PM

Home Sweet...Something acknowledges the contributions of the Ontario Arts Council, GCTC and Ottawa Fringe.

TEAM

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR
Patrick Gauthier

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Kevin Waghorn

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Ted Forbes

ASSOCIATE
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR,
METCALF INTERN
Brit Johnston

PATRON
& CLIENT SERVICES
MANAGER
Claudia Gutierrez

MARKETING
& COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER
Amanda Logan

SOCIAL MEDIA
COORDINATOR
Spencer Kahler

TECHNICIAN
Joel Garrow

BOX OFFICE
Drea Flyne
Hamda Elmi
Kel Macdonald
Mead McInnes

FESTIVAL INTERN
Thalia Paterson

PROGRAM AND
POSTER DESIGN
Daniel Moisan

PARTNERS



Conseil des arts
du Canada



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

**METCALF
FOUNDATION**



CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

SPECIAL THANKS

Andrew Alexander

Andrew Arcand

Christopher Snow

Carmelle Cachero

David Humphries

Drea Flyne

Eric Goodwin

Janne Cleveland

Liz Winkelaar

Tina Wallace

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— Seattle Weekly

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