

Festival Program



12th Annual

April 20-30

Keep it under your hat.



Proud supporter of the
Undercurrents Festival.



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

Thank you for joining us at our first in-person festival in over two years! We are excited to welcome you back and for some of us, to meet you for the first time (hi, nice to meet you – I'm Alain).

Now a lot has changed at the Ottawa Fringe over the last two years. Besides perfecting our somersaulting from one plan onto the next, from in-person programming to digital and back again, we have welcomed some new faces. And in a short time, these new faces are already bringing an exciting energy to the Fringe and the Ottawa theatre community. We all look forward to getting to know you over the next couple of weeks, during the run of this festival!

This year's undercurrents festival is exciting to us because it is bridging the organization from one team to another and is presenting a number of productions that have been in development over the last few years. Some of these shows have had previously staged iterations while others are premiering this April.

You can see a number of local shows including autobiographical works by emerging Indigenous artist Montana Adams and former news anchor Lucy van Oldenbarneveld, who you might know from CBC News Ottawa; shows with original music by Martin Dawagne in YARNS (think rock concert meets contemporary theatre) and Geoff McBride & Margo MacDonald in The Persistent Stain, playing at Club SAW.

You can catch national offerings with a digital production of Something in the Water: a playful absurdist coming out story from Saskatchewan artist S.E. Grummett and be entertained by the critically hailed all-Filipina Tita Collective from Toronto.

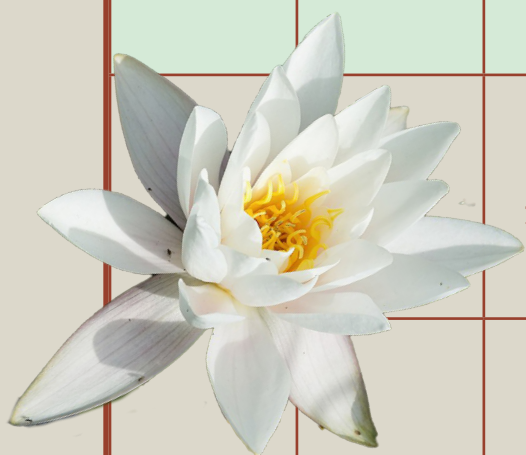
We also have the return of our Discovery Series with a summer camp musical by Fringe favourite Alli Harris and a combination of monologues about being a cashier during a pandemic by Ryan Pepper & Isabela Solis-Lozano.

As you see, there's no shortage of entertainment at this year's undercurrents festival. I encourage you to catch as many as you can – build your own viewing package if you will and enjoy what the newness of spring and the newness of the Fringe have to offer.



Alain Richer, Executive Director

Wed April 20	Thurs April 21	Fri April 22	Sat April 23	Sun April 24	
YARNS 7PM	The Persistent Stain 7PM	YARNS 7PM	The Persistent Stain 1PM	Something In The Water (Screening) 3PM	
Opening Night Reception 8PM	Grocery Store 8PM	Camp B44E 8PM	Grocery Store 2:30PM		
	Camp BFF4E 9:30PM	The Persistent Stain 9PM	Camp BFF4E 4PM		
		Grocery Store 9:30PM	YARNS 9PM		
		Late Night 10:30PM	Late Night 10:30PM		



undercurrents tickets are sold on a "Pick Your Price" model at \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, or \$75. Tickets purchased at the door are subject to availability. Tickets purchased online are subject to availability. Tickets purchased at the door are subject to availability. HST are included in all prices. Service fees may apply. Get Your Tickets Online: [undercurrents.ca/tickets](https://www.undercurrents.ca/tickets)

	Tues April 26	Wed April 27	Thurs April 28	Fri April 29	Sat April 30
9 g)	New Play Tuesday 7PM	My Good Friend Jay 7PM	Vivien Leigh... Roller Rink 7PM	Vivien Leigh... Roller Rink 7PM	Tita Jokes 1PM
			My Good Friend Jay 9PM	Tita Jokes 9PM	My Good Friend Jay 3PM
				Late Night 10:30PM	Tita Jokes 7PM
					Vivien Leigh... Roller Rink 9PM
					Closing Night Party 10:30PM

**Something in the Water - Digital Production Available
April 24 - 30**

tickets purchased at \$50 or \$75 are eligible for a tax receipt. Choose your own price, no questions
currentsfestival.ca Or in person at the Box Office - 2 Daly Ave. 2nd Floor. Open 30m before the show.



YARNS

Cart Before the Horse Theatre

Music by Martin Dawagne

Voice by Magan Carty

Directed by Martin Dawagne

Ottawa, Ontario / Brussels, Belgium

50 minutes | Rating: G

• **Winner:**

Album of the Year - Ottawa Sound

• **Prix Rideau Nominee**

Martin Dawagne

Outstanding Sound Design

Un Conte de l'Apocalypse

• **Prix Rideau Nominee -**

Magan Carty

Peefect Pie

Lungs

Arts Court Theatre

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 @ 7:00pm

Friday, April 22, 2022 @ 7:00pm

Saturday, April 23, 2022 @ 9:00pm

YARNS is an ongoing interdisciplinary collaboration between Francophone/Belgian musician, Martin Dawagne and Anglophone/Canadian actor, Magan Carty.

The concept was born in Brussels, Belgium and the result is a hybrid between a rock concert and contemporary theatre play; a one-man symphony of multi-layered live looping and distortion, interspersed with original spoken prose.

The songs of Yarns are the musical tracings of a spirit fleeing on itself. Rather than a collection of tracks, it is a succession of sound paintings and meditative prose about escapism and removal. In addition to the paradoxes of relocation – excitement, doubt, guilt, inspiration – Yarns finds its source in the struggle against mental disorders, no matter their form. The pieces performed in the set transform from cinematic/ethereal moments to noisy/distorted epics.



The Persistent Stain

Parry Riposte Productions

Created by Geoff McBride & Margo MacDonald
Performed by Margo MacDonald, Geoff McBride,
Nick DiGaetano, & Trevor Lubin

Directed by Patrick Gauthier

Stage Managed by Rebecca Eamon Campbell
Music Direction & Composed by Nick Di
Gaetano

Costumes & Makeup by Vanessa Imeson and
Patrice Forbes

Lighting designed by Laura Brink

Live Sound Operations by Jon Carter

Associate Produced & Graphics by VW Titus

Opening band: Dogspear (Andréas Tibbles, Tom
Taylor, and Cynthia Cheng)

Ottawa / Toronto, Ontario

75 minutes | Rating: 14A

a World Premiere

*Please note that the following are working with the
permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association:
Rebecca Eamon Campbell, Patrick Gauthier, Margo
MacDonald, and Geoff McBride*

Club SAW

Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 7:00pm

Friday, April 22, 2022 @ 9:00pm

Saturday, April 23, 2022 @ 1:00pm

What do you do when you've followed your dream
but the dream is no longer enough?

"The Persistent Stain" is a second-wave Canadian
punk band that's been slogging it out on the
small touring circuit for decades. Now they find
themselves in their 50s still pursuing the dreams in
their 20s. As they struggle through yet another gig
in yet another nowhere town, Joey Blank and Maxie
Staines ask themselves: Should they stay, or should
they go?

Maxie and Joey are the only ones left alive from the
original band; they travel with the ghosts of their
former bandmates. "Aristotle's Dick" was their only
hit song, and now a younger, hipper band wants to
steal it. The pair have to decide if giving up the song
also means giving up the dream.

A comedy which also hits hard, asks tough
questions, and touches on soft spots—the show
includes original songs played live.



My Good Friend Jay

Created, Performed, & Directed
by **Montana Adams**
Akwasasne / Ottawa, Ontario
45 minutes | Rating: PG

"Adams is a brilliantly gifted storyteller and *My Good Friend Jay* is a powerful work." – *apt613*

• **Winner** 2019 University of Ottawa
Emerging Artist Award

Arts Court Theatre

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 @ 7:00pm
Thursday, April 28, 2022 @ 9:00pm
Saturday, April 30, 2022 @ 3:00pm

In short, this play is about Akwasasne. This play is about childhood. This play is about smuggling. This play is about Indigenous sovereignty. This play is about family. This play is about the Mohawks of Akwasasne.

We can focus on the physical and the cultural. How our traditions got tangled in this web of politics and ideologies, which only caused our people to suffer. How we persist and continue. How close and personal the land is to our very livelihood, how people don't understand and how we don't really care if you can't understand. How we say we're not going to coddle you after everything is done. Not after all the patience we've spent already.

Akwasasne is cut into four separate jurisdictions: One district in Ontario, two in Quebec, and one in New York State. To people who are not aware or used to this fact, it's fascinating. It's intricate. It begs more explanation and more questions.

To us it's an inconvenient and, most of the time, dull reality. Until we decide it isn't.



Me, Vivien Leigh, and the Roller Rink

Lucy van Oldenbarneveld / Roller Queens Collective

Created & Performed

by Lucy van Oldenbarneveld

Directed & Dramaturged by Kate Smith

Assistant Directed by Kel MacDonald

Stage Managed by Lydia Talajic

Lighting designed by Seth Gerry

Costumes designed by Vanessa Imeson

Sound designed by Lydia Talajic

Set designed by Sarah Waghorn

Ottawa / Hamilton, Ontario

80 minutes | Rating: G

Arts Court Theatre

Thursday, April 28, 2022 @ 7:00pm

Friday, April 29, 2022 @ 7:00pm

Saturday, April 30, 2022 @ 9:00pm

To make steel, you start with iron ore, melt it down in a massive furnace, and then add some carbon. You can just leave it there, or choose to add other elements that will influence the nature of the steel. It then takes on those components and changes into something else, ultimately becoming stronger than the sum of its parts.

As a longtime broadcaster and journalist, Lucy van Oldenbarneveld told other people's stories everyday. Me, Vivien Leigh and the Roller Rink is her story, and it takes place in her hometown of Hamilton, Ontario. It was 1981, the year of the largest strike in Stelco history with a recession hitting the steel industry. This unstable political climate would become the backdrop for her formative years. But everything changed the summer she landed a coveted job at the local roller rink. After reading Margaret Mitchell's award-winning novel *Gone With the Wind*, 15-year old Lucy believed Scarlett O'Hara to be a storm of initiative and toughness. She was the role model she was looking for - or was she? Lucy's humorous and poignant stories that will take audiences on her coming-of-age journey as she is forged in the fires of Steeltown. All while wearing roller skates.



Tita Jokes

Tita Collective

Created & Performed by the Tita Collective
 Stage Managed by Justine Cargo
 Production Assistance by Joshua Mayo
 Toronto, Ontario
 60 minutes | Rating: PG

Tita Collective are:

Ann Paula Bautista, Belinda Corpuz,
 Ellie Posadas, Alia Rasul,
 and Maricris Rivera

- **WINNER:** 2019 Steamwhistle Producers' Pick at the Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival
- **WINNER:** Best Newcomer at the Montreal Sketch Comedy Festival
- **WINNER:** Second City Outstanding New Comedy Award
- **WINNER:** Tarragon Theatre's Mainspace Patrons' Pick at the 2019 Toronto Fringe Festival.
- "19 Asian Millennial Women You Should Know" listing by Cold Tea Collective
- Part of Spotify Canada's "Need Women" campaign for Women's History Month
- Nominated for Excellence Awards in Music and Entertainment at the 2021 Golden Balangay Awards

Arts Court Theatre

Friday, April 29th, 2022 @ 9:00pm
 Saturday, April 30, 2022 @ 1:00pm
 Saturday, April 30, 2022 @ 7:00pm

Tita Jokes is a musical comedy revue that centre the Filipin* people in our lives, specifically the female elders we lovingly call Tita. A love letter to our community, the show explores our struggles, heartaches and resiliency, and how we cope through humour, storytelling and song.

Tita Collective is an all-Filipina collective composed of award-winning playwrights, comedians, musicians, dancers, theatre makers and actors. They explore different mediums to tell the stories about the Filipinx diaspora.

We aim to create work that engages, connects and entertains community. Through theatre, comedy, music, and movement, we aspire to tell stories that:

- Thoughtfully honour and celebrate our roots and history
- Explore our identities as Filipinas
- Represent the narratives of the Philippine diaspora in an inclusive and respectful way
- Nurtures and unites community through joy and laughter.

**Digital
Production**



Something in the Water

Scantily Glad Theatre

Created & Performed by S.E. Grummett

Stage Managed by Sam Kruger

With collaborations by Mind of a Snail Puppet

Co., Deanna Fleysher, Holly Brinkman, Kenn

McLeod, Charlie Peters & Alyssa Billingsley

Treaty 6 Territory / Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

60 minutes | Rating: Mature

This production will be presented virtually

- **WINNER** – Best Theatre – Adelaide Fringe 2021.
- **OFFICIALLY SELECTED** – Spotlight Canada 2021 High Commission of Canada
- **Critic's Pick** – Saskatoon Fringe 2018
- **WINNER** – Best of Fest – Saskatoon Fringe 2018
- **WINNER** – Best Duo – Edmonton Fringe 2019

Arts Court Theatre

Sunday, April 24, 2022 @ 3:00pm

On Demand

Sunday, April 24-Saturday, April 30, 2022

“Enter into a wacky world of sea monsters in high heels and angry mobs with tiny pitchforks.” -InDaily

When Grumms transforms into a squid monster (think Creature from the Black Lagoon meets The Muppets), they must hide their secret identity and disguise as a “normal human woman”. Cartoonish chaos ensues, and only through being themselves can they become the hero they’ve always wanted to be.

Inspired by performer/creator S.E. Grummett's experience coming out as transgender, Something in the Water is a celebration of the “not normal”. Audiences will be spellbound by; stunning video projections, slapstick and satire; all are stirred up together with Grummett's glowing and playful performance. With the perfect balance of absurdist physical comedy and vulnerable self-exploration, the show weaves a touching story of acceptance that anyone can relate to.



Camp BFF4E

Written & Performed by **Alli Harris**
 Directed by AL Connors
 Ottawa, Ontario
 55 minutes | Rating: Mature
 Part of the Discovery Series

"This solid hour of non-stop musical comedy that kills right to the final note of a sold out house to a standing ovation...Don't wait until Harris costs ten times as much to see. I'm sure it won't be long" – *apt613*

- **WINNER** Prix Rideau Award for Emerging Artist (2018)
- **WINNER** Prix Rideau Award Best New Creation (High School High, 2018)

Arts Court Studio

Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 9:30pm
 Friday, April 22, 2022 @ 8:00pm
 Saturday, April 23, 2022 @ 4:00pm

Camp BFF4E is a wild musical ride through summer camp! A story told through the eyes of a camp-obsessed child and the kid who would rather be anywhere else than a summer camp. Will they become friends? Will they hate each other? Is this unlikely duo ... ironically-likely?

Grab your sunscreen and your face paint, this one's gonna be a doozie.



Grocery Store

Other[ed] Productions

Created by Ryan Pepper & Isabela Solis-Lozano

Performed by Alicia Plummer

Directed by Isabela Solis-Lozano

Ottawa / Toronto, Ontario

45 minutes | Rating: PG

Part of the Discovery Series

Arts Court Studio

Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 8:00pm

Friday, April 22, 2022 @ 9:30pm

Saturday, April 23, 2022 @ 2:30pm

All the world's a grocery store, and all the men and women merely bitter cashiers.

This is the story of one cashier's tragic descent into madness—but not before she scans your groceries, debates the absurdity of late stage capitalism, and converses with higher powers.

Grocery Store combines scathing monologues about low wage work with a good dose of sarcasm, humour, and magical realism to explore the inner life and social milieu of a very disgruntled cashier. Informed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but not constrained by it, Grocery Store brings the supermarket to the stage.

TEAM

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General Manager

Chelsey Fawcett

Technical Director

Ted Forbes

Marketing & Communications Officer

Taylor Vardy

Front of House Supervisor

Kel MacDonald

Access Coordinator

Drea

Festival Assistant

Lydia Talajic

Box Office

Drea

Anne Hamels

Axandre Lemours

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Matt Hertendy

matthertendydesign.ca

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Andrew Arcand

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Hayden Trenholm

Ian Brown

Ingrid Moisl

Janet Cambell

Janne Cleveland

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By Jo-Anne Bryan, Carmelle Cachero,
King Kimbit & Jordan Samonas

#GCTCSpeakingVibrations

A Speaking Vibrations Production

Photo of Jo-Anne Bryan by Stéphanie Houle

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