



Local Arts



5 attractions of Ottawa's new Prismatic Arts Festival

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Published Sep 11, 2019 · 2 minute read

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Shahin Sayadi. jpg

More than 20 productions by Indigenous artists and artists of colour working in theatre, dance, music and visual arts will be featured when the Prismatic Arts Festival makes its debut in Ottawa this month, running Thursday, Sept. 12 to 22.

An offshoot of the 11-year-old Halifax-based Prismatic Arts Festival, the Ottawa event will encompass performances at five venues — the Great Canadian Theatre Company, the Gladstone Theatre, La Nouvelle Scène Gilles Desjardins, Arts Court and the ByTowne Cinema.

“The world needs a bit of Prismatic right now,” says Eric Coates, the GCTC’s artistic director. “This festival exemplifies what it means to be curious about humanity in the best possible way. We are thrilled that our friends are bringing their extraordinary achievement to Ottawa.”

[Prismatic Arts Festival, Great and the GCTC's Eric Coates](#)

Here are just five of Prismatic’s attractions.

Cliff Cardinal’s CBC Special

In this solo show, Cree playwright, actor and musician Cliff Cardinal performs his original and engrossing folk music and tells powerful and at times darkly humorous stories that draw on family, legends and a specific but relatable Canadian experience. Great Canadian Theatre Company, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m., Sept. 16 at 5:30 p.m., and Sept. 17 at 8 p.m.

FoxConn Frequency (No. 3) by Hong Kong Exile

The Vancouver-based three-person interdisciplinary arts company Hong Kong

The Vancouver-based three-person interdisciplinary arts company Hong Kong Exile presents a unique and experimental work of what they call “algorithmic theatre,” which combines real-time game mechanics, piano pedagogy, 3D printing, and poetry. It will take place three times at the Gladstone Theatre: Sept. 18, 19 and 20, all with 9 p.m. starts.

Mozongi by Danse Nyata Nyata

When Mozongi was first staged in the late 1990s by the Montreal-based dance company Danse Nyata Nyata, choreographer Zab Maboungou mounted the powerful work with just three dancers. It has grown over time to involve seven dancers, moving viscerally in their evocation of Central African dance. Mozongi comes to the Gladstone Theatre on Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 16 at 8 p.m.

Digging Roots

The Juno-winning husband-and-wife duo of Raven Kanetakta and ShoShona Kish make the trip from Barrie to bring their distinctive Indigenous folk-rock to Arts Court on Sept. 17 at 9 p.m. Also on the bill will be Montreal’s l’Ensemble Kamaan, which takes Persian classical music as its jumping-off point.

Asheq by Onelight Theatre

Toronto-based Onelight Theatre was founded and is led by Shahin Sayadi, who is also Prismatic Festival’s artistic director. Developed by Sayadi, Asheq: Ritual Music to Cure a Lover is a love story set on the shores of the Persian Gulf that plumbs family secrets, tradition and the modern world. It will be staged four times at La Nouvelle Scene: Sept. 16 at 6 p.m., Sept. 17 at 7 p.m., Sept. 18 at 7:45 p.m. and Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.

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