

MEDIA RELEASE
April 27, 2023

rEvolver festival
THE CHANGING STAGE



Upintheair Theatre presents **rEvolver Festival 2023**

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Wednesday, May 24 - Sunday, June 4, 2023

The Cultch, 1895 Venables Street, Vancouver

Tickets & Passes Now on Sale | Full schedule: upintheairtheatre.com

Vancouver BC—Now in its 11th year, **Upintheair Theatre** presents **rEvolver Festival 2023**, with an outstanding line-up of performances revealing the best in ground-breaking Canadian live theatre by emerging and mid-career artists, from **Wednesday, May 24** to **Sunday, June 4** at **The Cultch** in East Vancouver.

With 10 multi-discipline main-stage productions presented over the 11-day festival, the new works illustrate a deep appetite for storytelling from distinct voices, innovating with form as well as reflecting the diversity of the creative community in Vancouver. The programming also includes touring shows from Halifax, Montreal and Edmonton. Eclectic styles represented in the performances combine contemporary dance, drag, juggling, musical theatre, performance art, physical theatre, and stand up comedy—tackling subject matter on identity, immigration, gender, mental health, and online deception.

Complementing these performances, the festival program also features the return of the popular Updraft Reading series, an off-site interactive micro-performance, a film screening and gathering, a satirical professional development webinar, and a karaoke night.

This year's rEvolver festival is programmed by resident curators **Lili Robinson**, **Sarah Roa** and UpintheAir Theatre's artistic producer, **David Mott**.

MAIN-STAGE PERFORMANCES

- *A Funny Thing Happened on my Way to Canada* | Grace Chin
- *Catfish* | Alley Theatre
- *Discounted Hotpot Centre* | Anthony Kit Chun Lee
- *Djata: Conversations of the Manden* | Aly Keita (Montreal)
- *Duality* | Spicy Lemon Company
- *House of Rice: Rice-silience* | House of Rice
- *June Bug* | Ragamuffin Productions
- *Lip Service: Breaking Down Barriers* | Pulsive Party

- *Prude* | Probably Theatre Collective (Halifax)
- *Would Virginia Woolf Contemplate Suicide if She were Filipino?* | Asia International (Montreal)

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- Big Queer Filipino Karaoke Night | Davey Calderon (ONLINE)
- *First Métis Man of Odesa* | Punctuate! Theatre - in association with the Cultch (Edmonton)
- *A Menos que Quieras Bailar / Unless you Want to Dance* | Kelly McInnes, Areli Moran, & Rianne Švelnis' at The Morrow
- *Indigenous Emergence & Community Gathering* | Savage Society
- *Beat, Yeet and Eat!* | Raven John AKA TwoSpiritTrickster's
- *A Buzz in your Hub* | Nakuset Gould, Chris Bose and Heather Mclean

WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT

- *You and I ≠ We* | Romi Kim & Kendell Ya
- *Birthing a Baby Revolution** | Siobhan Barker
- *QE III: Black Betty - A Lost Shakespeare Play** | David Geary
- *The Feels Like the End** | Bonnie Duff
- *Vascular Necrosis** | Jordan Wood

* Updraft Reading Series

TICKET INFORMATION

Box Office: thecultch.com/event/revolver | 604.251.1363
 Monday-Friday: 12-6pm, Saturday: 12-4pm
 Tickets: \$15 / \$20 / \$25 / \$30 - Pay what you want
 Passes: All Access \$120 / Six show flex \$96 / Three show \$51

CONTACT

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MEDIA PARTNER



rEvolver takes place on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples: the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

ABOUT UPINTHEAIR THEATRE

Founded in 2000 by Daniel Martin and David Mott, Upintheair Theatre has been producing original and provocative theatre in Vancouver for over two decades. Recent live presentations include *rEvolver Festival* and *The Array* (2022). Online works include *rEvolver Festival* (2021), *The Array: First Contact* and *eVolver Festival* (2020). Past productions include *Revelations* (2021), *The Array: The Shape of The Galaxy* (2019), *A Brief History of Human Extinction* (2018), *The City and The City* (2017) co-produced with The Only Animal at PuSh Festival, *The North Plan* (2016) which won three Jessie Awards in the Small Theatre category, and *Inside The Seed* (2013) which won Jessie Awards for Outstanding Direction (Small Theatre) and Best New Script. The company presents rEvolver Festival each spring, showcasing contemporary performance work by emerging and early mid-career artists.

Website: www.upintheairtheatre.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UpintheairTheatre

Instagram: www.instagram.com/upintheair_theatre

YouTube: www.youtube.com/UpintheairTheatre

Twitter: www.twitter.com/UITATheatre

MAIN-STAGE PERFORMANCES SHOW INFORMATION

Artists are Vancouver-based, unless otherwise noted

A Funny Thing Happened on my Way to Canada, Grace Chin

Sometimes you don't know who you are until you find yourself. This one time... a part Peranakan, part Malaysian Chinese cha bor went on an unexpected journey of self-discovery – through personal, family, and cultural stories past and present, here and there, imagined and mostly real – when her father moved the family from Malaysia to Canada.

Catfish, Alley Theatre

Take the plunge into Michelle's layers of lies as she misrepresents herself online and uses her hearing friend's voice to entice the new guy at school. From the depths of her deception, Michelle must turn her search for love and acceptance inward. Join her in this vibrant, complex and delightfully earnest exploration of identity and self-love, and witness her find the strength to share her true Deaf, Punjabi self with the world.

Discounted Hotpot Centre, Anthony Kit Chun Lee

An immersive culinary experience brought to life by a down-on-her-luck saleswoman struggling to sell her Hotpot cooking package. Featuring live cooking and tantalizing aromas circulating the room, this pertinent production will regale you with uncensored stories of Hong Kongers in Canada

Djata: Conversations of the Manden, Aly Keita (Montreal)

Born from an alliance between the buffalo and the lion, Soundjata Keita, the long-awaited child whose birth was foretold by soothsayers, is unable to walk. After years of humiliation, against all odds, he stands up, walks across the village and uproots a baobab. This marks the beginning of his awakening, which will lead him to found the great Mandingo Empire, unifying the regions of West Africa, including Guinea.

Duality, Spicy Lemon Company

A spellbinding performance that combines contemporary juggling with an intimate look at the struggles of two unique individuals. One performer lives with bipolar disorder, while the other is a bilingual Japanese Canadian, both facing their own set of challenges. As they tell their stories through the medium of juggling, they find solace and support in each other, in the process, and explore the theme of duality. The ever-present contrast between chaos and order within themselves, and their journey of finding acceptance in society.

House of Rice: Rice-silience, House of Rice

When isolation diminishes our access to love and support, how can we protect our mental health from the dangers of loneliness? Three years ago, the House of Rice explored shared experiences as a queer Asian, through a digital livestream production that allowed audiences to view online, *In Rice-olation*. This production is a sequel that follows these artists as they reflect on personal hardships during the pandemic and share lessons of healing. Returning to the rEvolver stage, the House of Rice presents a new series of live performances that explores the trait integral for their growth and survival: Resilience.

June Bug, Ragamuffin Productions

June Bug is an energetic and imaginative young girl who loves conspiracy theories, Patrick Swayze, and her granny. When her granny is abducted by aliens, June Bug is determined to save her and her home. June Bug allows your inner child to be explored, celebrated, cared for and loved.

Lip Service: Breaking Down Barriers, Pulsive Party

The latest physical theatre musical performance show from Pulsive Party. Following two vulvas as they discover sex for the first time, deal with a broken barrier, mistake STI's for friends, and encounter hilarious obstacles along the way. Lip Service: Breaking Down Barriers tackles shame and taboo conversations with Pulsive Party's signature campy playfulness. Join us in exploring sexual health information about STI's, barrier methods, testing, contraception, consent, and communication along a wildly runny, punny journey.

Prude, Lou Campbell (Halifax)

A hilarious and high-energy blend of stand-up and drag. The piece begins as a motivational talk, given to the audience by the King of the Party, there to show everyone HOW TO HAVE A GOOD TIME. Slowly, through lip-syncs and mortifying personal tales, we watch them unravel onstage, digging into the complex experience of being an asexual in an (allo)sexual world.

Would Virginia Woolf Contemplate Suicide if She were Filipino?, Asia International (Montreal)

After matching on Manhunter, they agree to meet one fateful evening at Lemar's place. During this intimate encounter, games will be played and pants will be unbuckled. However, they soon realize they each have very different expectations for their evening together.