

MEDIA RELEASE
May 10, 2023

rEvolver festival
THE CHANGING STAGE



Upintheair Theatre presents **rEvolver Festival 2023**

Wednesday, May 24 - Sunday, June 4, 2023

revolverfestival.ca

IN BRIEF: Featuring 10 mainstage productions by Canadian multi-disciplinary artists, rEvolver Festival 2023 runs from Wednesday, May 24 to Sunday, June 4 at The Cultch. Presented by Uptheair Theatre, this collection of playful, audacious, and genre-defying new works are created by emerging and mid-career artists. Companion events include staged readings, an off-site micro-performance, a film screening and gathering, a satirical professional development webinar, an interactive website experience, a climate and housing workshop, and an online karaoke night.

Vancouver BC—Upintheair Theatre's rEvolver Festival 2023 will open in two weeks presenting inventive and progressive Canadian live theatre, created by emerging and mid-career artists, from **Wednesday, May 24 to Sunday, June 4** at **The Cultch** (1895 Venables St, Vancouver).

With 10 mainstage productions, the 12-day festival showcases new works from Canadian artists who share a common aim to reinvent conventional theatre modes, the line-up includes contemporary dance, drag, sketch comedy, and performance art. The festival's special presentations offer more distinct multi-disciplinary events with an off-site micro-performance, a film screening and gathering, a satirical professional development webinar, an interactive website experience, a climate and housing workshop, and an online karaoke night.

Programmed by UpintheAir Theatre's Resident Curators **Sarah Roa** and **Lili Robinson**, Artistic Director **David Mott**, and Founding Artistic Producer Emeritus **Daniel Martin**, this year's festival highlights reflect on:

1. **A year of growth and change at Upintheair Theatre:** Transition and adaptation are prominent themes behind the scenes of the festival and in the new works presented. Artists are collectively reflecting on these ongoing times of instability and change, charged with reimagining how work is created and shared.
2. **A return to presenting diverse national shows:** Choreographed and performed by Montreal's Aly Keita, *Djata: Conversations of the Manden* is inspired by the *Epic of Soundjata*, one of the most significant origin stories for 13th-century African oral tradition. Montreal's Voices of Asia International, *Would Virginia Woolf Contemplate Suicide if She were Filipino?* explores the different expectations of two people spending an evening together. *Prude* from Halifax-based Probably Theatre Collective mashes up drag, comedy, and lip-syncing to comment on the experience of being asexual in a sexualized world. *First Métis Man of Odesa* is a special presentation in association with The Cultch by Punctuate! Theatre in Edmonton with Matthew MacKenzie and Mariya Khomutov. Plus, Whitehorse-based Yukon Digital Theatre Collective will bring its interactive website experience, *The Investigator*.

3. **Richly multidisciplinary, this year's rEvolver Festival stretches conventional theatre modes:**

Presentations that break with theatrical norms include an immersive culinary experience with *Discounted Hotpot Centre*, contemporary juggling in *Duality*, stand-up and drag in *Prude*, performance art activism in *Beat, Yeet & Eat!*, and a satirical Zoom webinar in *A Buzz in Your Hub*.

4. **Local festival faves return:** House of Rice debuted with UpintheAir Theatre's eVolver Festival and *The Array: First Contact* in 2020, the group returns with *House of Rice: Rice-silience*; past rEvolver Resident Curator 2019-21, Davey Samuel Calderon performs in *Big Queer Filipino Karaoke Night!*; and in 2021, Simran Gill and Jess Amy Shead presented a Zoom reading of *Catfish* that now has its premier as a mainstage production.

5. **Works in progress foster distinct voices:** The popular UpDraft Play Reading series returns with staged readings of new plays by Siobhan Barker, Bonnie Duff, David Geary, and Jordyn Wood. In addition, Romi Kim and Kendall Yan perform a work in progress, *You and I ≠ We*. Admission to these events is by donation, with all proceeds given directly to the artists.

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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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: revolverfestival.ca

Facebook: facebook.com/UpintheairTheatre

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