

rEvolver

FESTIVAL THE CHANGING STAGE



MAY 22-JUN 2, 2024






The Cultch
1895 Venables St.
Vancouver
revolverfestival.ca



Welcome to rEvolver Festival 2024. Our festival takes place on unceded xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səl'ílwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) territories. This year's festival celebrates the privilege and power of creating amidst adversity. Art, our beacon of hope and resilience, guides us through challenging times, preserving memories and inspiring change. Our festival explores the strength of the human spirit, questioning societal norms, celebrating neurodiversity, and evoking the joy of hope.

Through diverse mediums, artists share narratives of perseverance, courage, and the indomitable will to overcome. We honour storytellers who bravely navigate the complexities of the human experience, amplifying voices often unheard. Central to our exhibition is a celebration of diversity, including explorations of sexuality and gender identity. We proudly showcase the unique perspectives of neurodivergent individuals, fostering understanding and empathy. Amidst the turmoil, we offer glimpses of a brighter tomorrow, reminding audiences of the transformative power of hope. We invite you to join us on a journey of reflection, connection, and celebration—a testament to the enduring beauty of the human spirit.

Sarah Roa & David Mott

Look for these symbols on each show page and on the calendar, and check out the website for more details. Please ask box office staff about our Companion ticket program when booking.

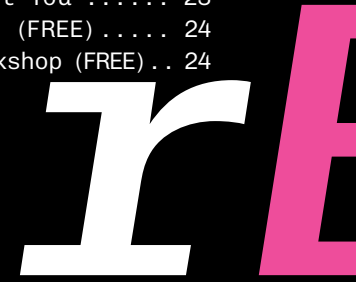
-  Show and venue are wheelchair accessible.
-  Low vision friendly. Recommended accessible to audience members with vision loss. This show is not described.
-  Live ASL interpretation.

-  VocalEye: Live audio description for patrons who are blind or have low vision. Visual elements of the shows are described in real-time.
-  d/Deaf and HoH Friendly, Visual Theatre: show has minimal or no spoken language

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rEvolver
FESTIVAL · THE CHANGING STAGE



MAINSTAGE PRESENTATIONS

A Life Sentence

Jarred Stephen Meek

Why Now Theatre Collective, Vancouver BC

How do you want to be remembered?

Grappling with the trauma of childhood abuse and the pressure of a life-changing investigation, Gwen risks everything for the possibility of justice. Spanning three decades from the 70s through the 90s, and yet resonant in the wake of #MeToo, **A Life Sentence** is a British Columbian story of real lived experiences and verbatim transcripts.

“...a vibrantly navigated story of darkness... an uncomfortable watch, but a necessary one.”
– Stir Vancouver

Community Partners



Historic Theatre

65 mins

May 23 / 8:55pm

May 24 / 6:55pm

↳ (Talkback)

May 26 / 8:25pm

MAINSTAGE PRESENTATIONS

Multi-Vs

Nathania Bernabe and Jackie T. Hanlin

Affair of Honor, Vancouver BC

Would you like to play again?

When two strangers get trapped in the multiverse and their lives hang in the balance, they must work together to find a way out.

Multi-Vs is a fast paced, funny and heart wrenching ride that explores the human condition, our relationship with technology and each other.

“The fighting is so kinetic and spectacular you’ll occasionally wonder if that last slash or throw was meant to hit so hard.”
– Fish Griwkowsky,
Edmonton Journal 2023

Presenting Partner



Historic Theatre

65 mins

May 22 / 6:40pm

May 24 / 9:20pm

↳ (Talkback)

May 25 / 2:10pm

MAINSTAGE PRESENTATIONS

Soft tongues: a bioacoustic opera

Jami Reimer / Vancouver BC

Speak in tongues! Breathe through
your skin! Inherit the earth!

The tongue of the frog is one of the softest known biological materials on this planet. It is this softness that yields the stickiness needed to pluck a fly from mid air, slough skin in perpetual acts of self-consumption, and stretch voice in promulgating chorusing networks.

Joined by bioacousticians, Jami's field recorder, and an amphibious choir, this work invites full swamp submersion as we listen episodically through the shapeshifting life (and afterlife) cycle of the frog.

Jami is the winner of the 2023 Robert Fleming Prize for composition from Canada Council of the Arts

Community Partners

THEATRE/REPLACEMENT

Lo be



Historic Theatre

50 mins

May 22 / 8:45pm

May 23 / 6:30pm

↳ (Talkback)

May 25 / 4:30pm

MAINSTAGE PRESENTATIONS

The African Dream

Isaac Gasangwa / Afrobeats Van, Vancouver BC

A testament to the enduring strength
of the human spirit

The African Dream is a powerful and inspiring performance that tells the story of a young man growing up in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi people in Rwanda. The blend of African dance styles, including Rwanda's traditional dance and African street dance, along with text and storytelling, creates a multi-dimensional experience that explores themes of resilience, hope, and the transformative power of art.

The African Dream is a testament to the enduring strength of the human spirit, the importance of preserving cultural heritage, and the role of art in fostering understanding and change.

Sold-out show at
Scotiabank Dance Centre
Sept 2023



Historic Theatre

70 mins

May 25 / 8:00pm

May 26 / 5:00pm

CULTURE LAB

Cloaks

Olympia Tomasta / Vancouver BC

A joyful ode to heritage and hope.

Cloaks paints a vivid image of time and meaning and how they culminate in the present moment of existence.

Deriving inspiration from Czech and Slovak folktales and traditions, *Cloaks* is an emotionally moving performance brought forth through motion, sound-scapes, projection, hand stitched costuming and storytelling.

Through a kenspeckle kaleidoscope of images and sound, *Cloaks* fights for answers in a world full of questions. How does our ancestry become a part of what we make? What is the result of reconnecting with culture through a creative lens? How does representation of one's culture in creative endeavors help to reconnect and heal?

The Culture Lab

55 mins

May 22 / 9:05pm

May 25 / 6:50pm

↳ (Talkback)

May 26 / 6:45pm

CULTURE LAB

@interWEBBED

Lauren Brady

HEYwire Theatre, Calgary AB

Will you survive this new world or get consumed?

Welcome to **@interWEBBED**, a fantastical digital space where you can make friends, become an influencer, and cancel all the haters. Will you survive this new world or get consumed? Enter at your own risk...

Special thanks to Mump & Smoot, Karen Hines, Canada Council, and Edmonton Arts Council.

[5/5 Stars]
"Lauren Brady of @interWEBBED a huge talent."
- Liane Faulder, Edmonton Journal

Community Partner



The Culture Lab

65 mins

May 22 / 7:00pm

May 23 / 9:25pm

↳ (Talkback)

May 25 / 8:55pm



CULTURE LAB

ParaNorma PI

Hilary Fillier

BadPuss Productions, Vancouver BC

We go to Hell and back to solve your case...literally

In this award winning seminar, ParaNorma demonstrates her peculiar ability to channel otherworldly witnesses to crack open a spine-chilling case. A captivating blend of humour and the supernatural, **ParaNorma PI** offers a unique experience for fans of the paranormal and comedy enthusiasts alike! Dare to join ParaNorma to be transported to a world where even the most formidable demons can be conquered with the help of a trusty Unicorn Bubble Gun.

Winner: Artistic Risk Award, Vancouver Fringe 2024

Community Partner



The Culture Lab

65 mins

May 31 / 5:00pm

June 1 / 7:45pm

June 2 / 7:35pm

CULTURE LAB

Plays for the End of the World

Cole Hayley

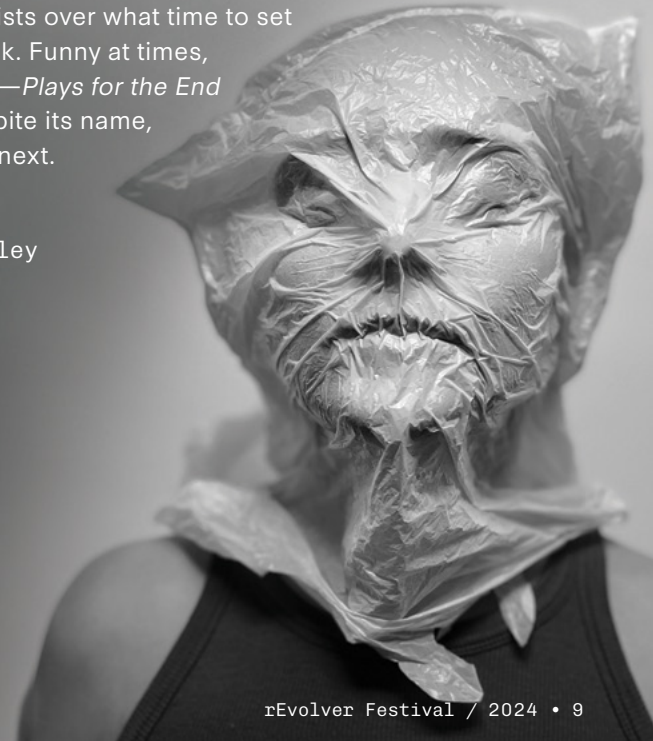
Scaredy Cat Theatre / Montreal QC, St. John's NL

Not a premonition of what's to come, but an offering to where we have already arrived

Plays for the End of the World is an exploration of all the apocalypses we face on a daily basis. It's a collection of short plays that span the heartbreaking removal of a beloved office watercooler, to the deliberations of a group of scientists over what time to set the Doomsday Clock. Funny at times, infuriating at others—*Plays for the End of the World* is, despite its name, a search for what's next.

Winner: Cole Hayley
RBC Emerging Playwright Award

Community Partners



The Culture Lab

65 mins

May 30 / 7:40pm

May 31 / 9:30pm

↳ (Talkback)

June 1 / 4:45pm

Silent Howl

Sarah Hin Ching U / Vancouver BC

A celebration of beauty in neuro-diversity –
from Sarah's living experience with a seizure disorder

Silent Howl features visual representation of imagined brain activities through Sarah's practice of refocus therapy, a tool she uses to conquer overstimulation. The work serves as a testament to the profound strength found in embracing one's differences.

"While I am exhausted of having to advocate for myself constantly in the extremely physically demanding dance world, I find my condition a 'gift' at certain times. As I can notice nuances in the blend of everyday life, and to feel every experience deeply, fully, and passionately."

Recipient of Professional
Performing Artist Award
from British Columbia
Arts Council, 2022

Community Partner



30 mins

May 29 / 6:30pm

↳ (Talkback)

May 30 / 6:10pm

The Ballad of Georges Boivin

Martin Bellemare

Bouche Theatre Collective & The Creatus Project / Vancouver BC

"...a theatrical road-movie brimming with vulnerability...
Even after great loss, love is possible."

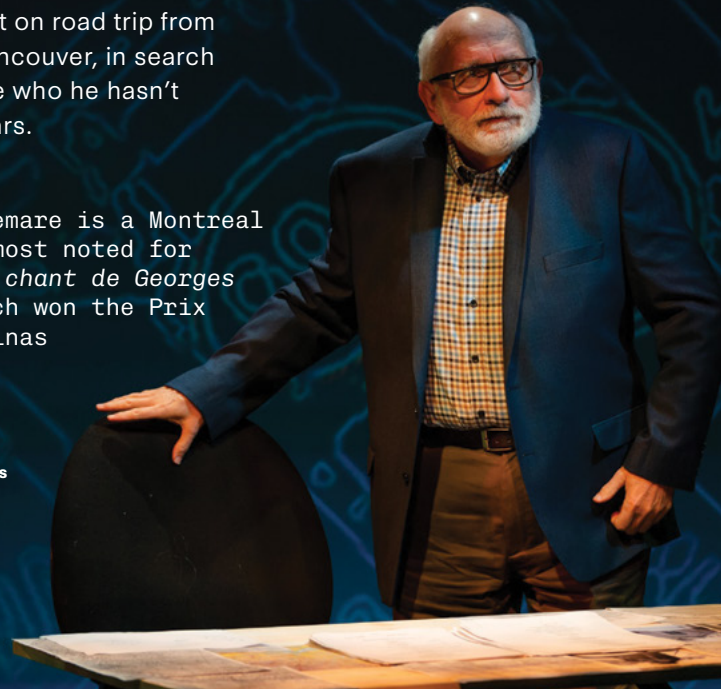
– Alix Forgeot, L-Express.ca

At 77, Georges Boivin "gives the dice a roll". Georges just lost his wife, you see, the "centre of his universe". But there is life after 70 and it must continue even after great loss.

With his three friends, all older than he, he sets out on road trip from Québec to Vancouver, in search of his first love who he hasn't seen in 50 years.

Martin Bellemare is a Montreal playwright most noted for his play *Le chant de Georges Boivin*, which won the Prix Gratien-Gélinas (2009)

Community Partners



95 mins

May 25 / 3:30pm

↳ (Talkback)

May 26 / 3:30pm

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

🗨️ = Post-performance talk-back
♿️ All venues are wheelchair accessible

May		WED 22	THU 23	FRI 24	SAT 25	SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT JUN 01	SUN JUN 02	
HISTORIC THEATRE	A Life Sentence Page 2		8:55pm	6:55pm		8:25pm								
	Multi-Vs Page 3	6:40pm		9:20pm	2:10pm									
	Soft tongues... Page 4	8:45pm	6:30pm		4:30pm									
	The African Dream Page 5				8:00pm	5:00pm								
	Cloaks Page 6	9:05pm			6:50pm	6:45pm								
	@interWEBBED Page 7	7:00pm	9:25pm		8:55pm									
	ParaNorma PI Page 8											5:00pm	7:45pm	7:35pm
CULTURE LAB	Plays for the End of... Page 9									7:40pm	9:30pm	4:45pm		
	Silent Howl Page 10								6:30pm	6:10pm				
	The Ballad of Georges... Page 11				3:30pm	3:30pm								
	The Routine Page 14										6:55pm	10:00pm	5:15pm	
	tony wrestles a stranger Page 15		7:00pm	8:05pm		8:45pm								
GREENHOUSE	Blood Offering Page 16				5:15pm						8:45pm			
	Lumbar 5, Thoracic 12 Page 17			7:45pm						7:50pm				
	Station2Station Page 18									5:55pm	6:40pm	7:25pm		
	The Midnight Parade Page 19					7:25pm							5:00pm	
	What the F-Word is... Page 20			9:25pm	8:00pm							5:50pm	6:55pm	
	The Yoko Ono Cult Page 21					2:30pm								
UPDRAFT READINGS	Kookie with a K Page 21											2:45pm		
	OFFSITE, WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS	Earth Case Scenario Page 22				7:00pm								
		Please Wait While We... Page 23			7pm-10pm					7pm-10pm			2pm-5pm	
		The Izo Afro-Dance... Page 24				11:00am								
		Stage Combat Workshop Page 24					1:00pm							

The Routine

Joylyn Secunda, David Secunda
Mycelium Theatre / Vancouver BC

Escape the rat race one laugh at a time.

Death of a Salesman meets Mr Bean in Joylyn Secunda's solo physical comedy **The Routine**. Join a lonely office worker on their quest for connection and fulfillment. The mundane becomes the extraordinary as each vignette and dance takes you deeper into a whimsical world of illusion.

The Routine will leave you in stitches and remind you of the magic within.

[5/5 Stars]
"...one of the best of the 2019 Fringe."
- Edmonton Journal

Community Partners



The Culture Lab
50 mins
May 31 / 6:55pm
June 1 / 10:00pm
↳ (Talkback)
June 2 / 5:15pm



tony wrestles a stranger

Tony Adams / Victoria BC

A very public display of daddy issues

A surreal family reunion that is like a hot dog eating contest meets an MFA thesis project.

Through physical challenges like 15 minutes of burpees or eating a pack of hotdogs, tony explores and interrogates their various axis' of identity in a performance that is visceral and tender. All crafted so that tony and their dad, who hopefully shows up, can finally have some father-kid moments they have missed out on.

Winner: Outstanding Ensemble Performance, Ottawa Fringe 2016



The Culture Lab
75 mins
May 23 / 7:00pm
May 24 / 8:05pm
↳ (Talkback)
May 26 / 8:45pm



WORK IN PROGRESS

Blood Offering

Lilix Media / Vancouver BC

The aftermath of a small town mass shooting.

In the wake of yet another mass shooting in the United States, an American town is left reeling by the death of Kayla Gordon. Her teacher, Mr. Naqvi, and her classmate Farid begin to bond in their common grief. But when Kayla's parents approach with a sinister plan to seek retribution for her death, Mr. Naqvi's beliefs are sorely tested as he is drawn into nothing less than a battle for the soul of his young student.

“Thought-provoking, heart-wrenching, witty, and full of unexpected twists and turns.”
– Apt613

Community Partner

RUMBLE



The Greenhouse

65 mins

May 25 / 5:15pm

↳ (Talkback)

May 31 / 8:45pm

↳ (Talkback)



WORK IN PROGRESS

Lumbar 5, Thoracic 12

Santana Berryman / Vancouver BC

Survival stories

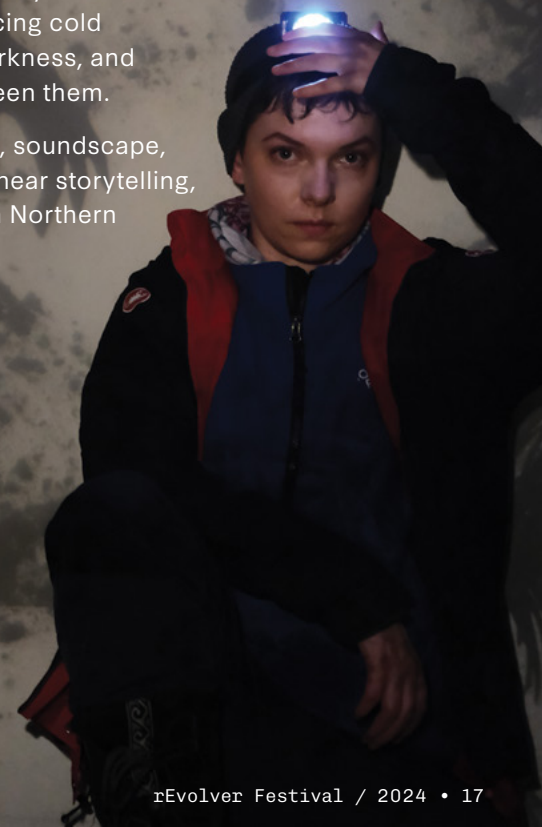
SB's father has broken his spine four times. Until now, they have never talked about it. In an attempt to get to know her quiet mountaineer father, SB follows him on a camping trip. Together, they brave several days in the bush in winter, facing cold temperatures, 20 hours of darkness, and a generation of silence between them.

Through recorded interviews, soundscape, shadow puppetry, and non-linear storytelling, **Lumbar 5, Thoracic 12** tells a Northern father-daughter story about intergenerational divides and a deep need to connect.

Development supported by the Canada Council for the Arts

Community Partner

RUMBLE



The Greenhouse

35 mins

May 24 / 7:45pm

↳ (Talkback)

May 30 / 7:50pm

↳ (Talkback)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Station2Station

Rowdy Spectacles Collective
Kamloops BC

*A Performance Art Spectacle of Reverberating
Light & Sound Waves Echoing Past2Present*

Inspired by ten David Bowie songs spanning seven decades, **Station2Station** (S2S) is a multimedia, multidisciplinary spectacle of burlesque, drag, and performance art. S2S is a space where queer art collides with fascist movements, where past collides with future, where real collides with unreal, and where the wall between performer and audience breaks us down.

Is there a world where we can live together peacefully? Is it possible to overcome the division that plagues our time? Can we make it so?

LET'S DANCE !!!

“Nora Vision is a sight to behold. She captures the imagination of the audience and refuses to let go.”

“Glenn Hilke is a captivating Burlesque performer ... brings joy and laughter to each and every audience member.”

Community Partner



Historic Theatre

65 mins

May 23 / 8:55pm

May 24 / 6:55pm

↳ (Talkback)

May 26 / 8:25pm

WORK IN PROGRESS

The Midnight Parade

Blake Hobson-Dimas, Frannie Warwick,
Natalie Peters, Ally Dean, Tamlin Vetter

A Head Full of Rocks / Vancouver BC

How tight are your strings?

Welcome to **The Midnight Parade**, a collection of crocheted costumes that are brought to life through physical embodiment & musical interaction. A spectacle of friendship demonstrated by bodies in vibrant crochet heartfully moving through space.

Three performers and one musician explore the thoughts and characters parading through a small child's mind as he dreams. It celebrates being exactly where you should be; where you are. Parading in the dark to emerge lighter.

Community Partner

RUMBLE



The Greenhouse

45 mins

May 26 / 7:25pm

↳ (Talkback)

June 2 / 5:00pm

↳ (Talkback)



WORK IN PROGRESS

What the F-Word is Going On?

Garvin Chan / Vancouver BC

What do you want to learn about sex?

Join us for an evening where Garvin questions invited guests about sex and sexuality, opening the conversation around sex in a queer-centric and inclusive way.

“I didn’t know this show was so gay.”
– Garvin’s mum 2022

Community Partner

RUMBLE



The Greenhouse
50 mins
May 24 / 9:25pm
May 25 / 8:00pm
June 1 / 5:50pm
June 2 / 6:55pm



UPDRAFTS READINGS

The Yoko Ono Cult

Peihwen J. Tai, Daniel Yang,
Yi Ming Liu / Vancouver BC

The Yoko Ono Cult follows twin sisters Yi and Pei, whose opposing worlds collide as Pei’s academic stumble ignites a journey into art, thrusting her into fame while straining their sibling bond. An exploration into the fragility of familial ties and the pursuit of authenticity in a world of superficial acclaim.

Development supported by the
Canada Council for the Arts

The Greenhouse
80 mins
May 26 / 2:30pm
↳ (Talkback)

Community Partner



Kookie with a K

Maheem Bista / Vancouver BC

Kookie owes everything to Kousin. Her name, her new life in Canada, her education, and all her fondest childhood memories. **Kookie with a K** is a snippet into Kookie’s life as she ponders how she could repay her loved ones without asking for help anymore.

Is asking for help from the people you left in the past, the same as undoing growth?

The Greenhouse
35 mins
June 1 / 2:45pm
↳ (Talkback)

Community Partner



Earth Case Scenario

in Association with Newworld Theatre
Alen Dominguez Chelsea Haberlin,
Angelica Schwartz and Raes Calvert
Vancouver BC

*A community offering in the midst
of the climate emergency*

Earth Case Scenario is Newworld Theatre’s offering to our community in the midst of the climate emergency. Featuring original climate-themed performance pieces created by Newworld’s staff and a fun and festive atmosphere, *Earth Case Scenario* aims to offer a space for action and hope amidst the grief and anxiety of our current moment.

Each piece was created in less than one month, is 15 minutes long, and is a low-carbon impact production.

Check out our beautifully curated
Buy Nothing store in between acts!

Winner: 2022 Jessie Richardson
Award for Outstanding Production
(*Clean/Espejos*) and Innovation
Award (*Clean/Espejos*)

Festival Partner



Progress Lab 1422
1422 William St,
Vancouver, BC
45 mins
May 25 / 7:00pm



Please Wait While We Connect You

Aliya Griffin, Caroline Sniatynski,
Manuela Sosa / The Troika Collective,
Vancouver BC

*In the comfort of your home over
the phone – a brighter day is
just a phone call away!*

Have you been feeling out of tune lately? Are you in need of a pick-me-up? Our team of experts is standing by: with just a few simple questions, we can assess your condition and compose a personalized audio remedy for immediate delivery, live and direct down the line! If you’re stuck on the wrong note, we have the antidote, so pick up the phone today!

“[It] was fantastic! I enjoyed it so much and felt completely taken care of throughout the interactive performance. I actually had the sensation of being at a spa.”

May 24:
7:00pm-10:00pm
May 29:
7:00pm-10:00pm
June 1:
2:00pm-5:00pm

10 mins • FREE
Performances are
scheduled every
15 minutes
LIMITED SLOTS
Book now!!

Community Partner



The Izo Afro-Dance Workshop

Workshop Leader: Isaac Gasangwa Afrobeats Van / Vancouver BC

The **Izo Afro-Dance Workshop** is a free one-of-a-kind opportunity to explore the vibrant cultural legacy of African dance. Participants will explore traditional and contemporary elements of Afro-Dance and fully engage with the art form and its cultural context.

Fundamental Stage Combat Workshop

Upintheair Theatre Presents

Workshop Leaders: Affair of Honor Nathania Bernabe & Jackie T Hanlin

Hang out with Affair of Honor for a **FREE** workshop in stage combat. As a fight and movement based company, co-founders Nathania & Jackie are excited to share the fundamentals and techniques used in rehearsals and productions that bring stage combat to life.

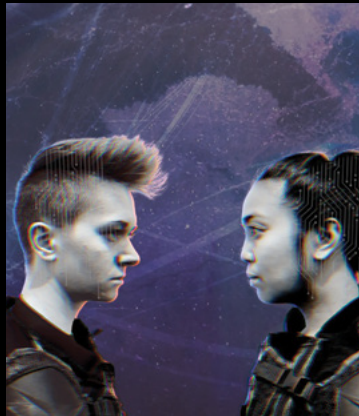


Scan the QR Code to join the workshop
Max 16 Participants

Historic Theatre
60 mins
May 25 / 11:00am
FREE EVENT



The WhatLab
90 mins
May 26 / 1:00pm
FREE EVENT



About rEvolver

rEvolver features new work by emerging and early mid-career artists and companies with a focus on formal innovation, transformative opportunity, and community building. rEvolver presents work which is aesthetically eclectic, topically relevant, boundary pushing and high energy, and embraces diversity of practice and cultural background. rEvolverfestival.ca



About Upintheair Theatre

Our Mission: We are a go-to company for audiences that want to experience the next generation of performing artists and their work. Upintheair explores issues and ideas examining the contemporary world around us. With a keen eye on the immediate future, we foster possible futures by producing theatrical works of speculative fiction and by supporting the next live performance generation—those who see it, those who make it, and those who do it. Since 2000, Upintheair has created and produced new plays including *Inside the Seed*, *Wedgie*, *120bpm*, *The North Plan*, *The City and The City*, *A Brief History of Human Extinction*, *REVELATIONS* and *The Array*. We presented the Walking Fish Festival from 2003 until 2010. Keep your eye out for **DEAD DRONE**, our Collaborative Commission Project in 2025. upintheairtheatre.com



FESTIVAL STAFF

- Artistic Director: David Mott
- General Manager: Andrea Joy Rideout
- Marketing and Event Producer: Nikoo Nikpeikaran
- Resident Curators: Sarah Roa, Sindy Angel
- Curators 2024: Dave Mott, Sarah Roa, Sindy Angel
- Technical Director: Taylor Janzen
- Assistant Technical Director: Brianna Bernard
- Assistant Technical Director: Ash Shotton
- Associate Producer: Kayleigh Sandomirsky
- Access Coordination: Amy Amantea
- Publicist: Zoe Quinn
- Visual Design: Rare Design Group



Photo, front: Hilary Fillier in *ParaNorma PI* by Kristine Cofsky

TICKETS

Ticket prices include tax and box office charges.


- **PAY WHAT YOU CHOOSE: \$18/ \$23/ \$28/ \$33**
- **3-SHOW PASS: \$54**
- **6-SHOW PASS: \$90**
- **ALL-ACCESS PASS: \$125**

BOOK FREE & BY DONATION Tickets through the Cultch Box Office
MORE TICKET INFO: 604.251.1363 or tickets.thecultch.com



LOCATIONS

- **All events at The Cultch, 1895 Venables St, Vancouver**
- **EXCEPT: *Earth Case Scenario* at Progress Lab 1422, 1422 William St, Vancouver**

 All venues wheelchair accessible

CONTACT/FOLLOW

revolverfestival.ca • info@upintheairtheatre.com
Facebook: Facebook.com/UpintheairTheatre
Instagram: @upintheair_theatre

DONATE

Scan the QR code to make a donation online through CanadaHelps or visit us in our festival lobby!



Thank you to our funders, sponsors, and individual supporters. This festival would not be possible without your generosity.

