

# rEvolver

FESTIVAL • THE CHANGING STAGE

MAY 22 – 31 <sup>20</sup><sub>26</sub>

REVOLVERFESTIVAL.CA

📍 The Cultch  
1895 Venables St.  
Vancouver

BUY TICKETS ↗

REVOLVERFESTIVAL.CA

Photo Credit: Philip Sawara, Subject: Banafsheh Hesseini, Regarding Antigone



Reading more than 200 applications, we were struck by how many artists are stepping into their power. We saw stories rooted in self-empowerment, futuristic plot settings and storylines, experimental form, and inventive uses of materials that stretch what theatre can be. The submissions were ambitious, curious, and unafraid.

As a panel, we were intentional about centering artists and projects rooted in communities that experience marginalization, paying close attention to whose voices are often unheard, whose stories are frequently under-resourced, and whose creative work carries the weight of lived realities that deserve to be witnessed. Prioritizing these artists and these intentions was not a separate consideration from our curatorial process; it was woven into how we listened, how we discussed, and how we made decisions together.

This year's festival invites you to engage with ideas as much as with performance. From explorations of self empowerment to reflections on post human futures, these works challenge assumptions, expand possibilities, and ask what it means to exist, create, and act in the world today. We invite you to witness, consider, and enter into the conversations these artists are opening. The stage is not only a space for performance but a space for inquiry, connection, and discovery.

Sarah Roa, Argel Monte de Ramos, & Dave Mott

Go to [upintheairtheatre.com/revolver-festival/accessible-revolver](http://upintheairtheatre.com/revolver-festival/accessible-revolver) for information on all the accessibility offerings at this year's festival.

## CONTACT/FOLLOW

revolverfestival.ca | [info@upintheairtheatre.com](mailto:info@upintheairtheatre.com)  
Facebook: [Facebook.com/UpintheairTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/UpintheairTheatre)  
Instagram: [@upintheair\\_theatre](https://www.instagram.com/upintheair_theatre)

## TICKETS

Ticket prices include tax and box office charges.

**1-Show (Pay What You Choose):** \$18/ \$23/ \$28/ \$33

**3-Show Pass:** \$55

**6-Show Pass:** \$96

**All-Access Pass:** \$130

Readings cannot be booked with festival passes.

All Readings are by donation and go directly to the artists.

At rEvolver, no one is turned away for lack of funds—ever.

Complimentary tickets are available for Indigenous audience.

Contact us at [info@upintheairtheatre.com](mailto:info@upintheairtheatre.com) for free access to the festival.

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS OR GET MORE INFO:** [revolver.thecultch.com](http://revolver.thecultch.com)

## LOCATION

The Cultch: 1895 Venables St, Vancouver

What Lab: 202-1814 Pandora St, Vancouver

♿ All venues wheelchair accessible

## DONATE

Click the button to make a donation online through CanadaHelps or visit us in our festival lobby!

**DONATE NOW** →

**THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS, SPONSORS, DONORS, COMMUNITY AND FESTIVAL PARTNERS. THIS FESTIVAL WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR GENEROSITY.**



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📍 VANCITY CULTURE LAB

# FREE KITTENS

Megan Milton

Vancouver, BC

SHOW | 60 MIN

May 22 | 7:30 PM

May 24 | 6:45 PM

May 29 | 9:10 PM

**At times traumatic, always funny, Free Kittens asks the question, “should I have been an abortion?”**

Megan Milton thinks she should have been an abortion, and after watching *Free Kittens*, you might too (but don't worry, it's a comedy).

*Free Kittens* explores life as the eldest daughter of a catholic teenage mother and all the contradictions that come along with being pro-choice and alive (against everyone's better judgment). From a white trash wedding to MTV's 16 and Pregnant, Megan dives into all of the strange, hilarious details of her relationship with the woman who gave her life.



VANCITY CULTURE LAB

# Popurrí

Plastik Theatriks  
Victoria, BC

SHOW | 55 MIN

May 28 | 7:00 PM  
May 30 | 7:00 PM  
May 31 | 8:00 PM

Puppet autopsies, an evil sweater, dining flies...  
it's ok to be confused.

*Popurrí* is a physical theatre piece that draws upon clowning, puppetry, masks, and opera to create a variety of short vignettes. Weaving together absurdity, surreal atmospheres, and eccentric characters. Developed through workshops and performances across Victoria, BC, including Atomic Vaudeville's cabarets, SKAMPede Festival 2025 and more, *Popurrí* made its official debut at the Victoria Fringe Festival 2025, thanks to the generous BC Arts Council. At the Fringe, *Popurrí* was the Volunteer Pick, and it received outstanding feedback and reviews. *Popurrí* invites audiences into a playful and oniric world.

Community Partner:

rice & beans  
theatre

"Popurrí is easily the most surreal show I've seen this year - it felt like watching The Muppet Show on acid"  
- Ed Sum (Otaku no culture), Victoria Fringe 2025

VANCITY CULTURE LAB

# Regarding Antigone

The Sky is the Limit Theatre  
& Sort Of Productions  
Monreal, QC

SHOW | 40 MIN  
+ 20 MIN Talkback

May 29 | 7:30 PM  
May 30 | 8:55 PM  
May 31 | 3:30 PM

Why are you just watching me die?

A new play where "every line is a call to action", *Regarding Antigone* is inspired by a true story, and inspired by the classic Greek tragedy of Antigone, and inspired by war photography, and inspired by my weak memory, and inspired by a revolution, and inspired by state propaganda, and inspired by a song she sang, and inspired by cringe diaspora poetry, and-

Nominated: Frankie Awards (Montreal Fringe Festival) most promising English text 2025

Nominated: Frankie Awards (Montreal Fringe Festival) outstanding English production 2025

"a crackling examination of violence, oppression and the act of bearing witness"  
- Joshua Chong, Toronto Star, 2025

Community Partners:

Ruby Slippers Theatre  
COURAGE • HEART • BRAINS

# RUMBLE



# Robin Redbreast in a Cage

William Rubel & Golgonoozans  
Vancouver, BC

SHOW | 65 MIN

May 23 | 9:05 PM  
May 28 | 9:05 PM  
May 31 | 5:10 PM

On Happy Campus, there's only one obsession: Outsider. Who will be Contestant 77?

What happens when AI takes over humanity's stewardship after the planet becomes unlivable? *Robin Redbreast in a Cage* imagines a post-collapse world where Happy Campus residents can't turn off the best, and only, show on TV: Outsider. Who will be the next contestant? Minimalist staging, inventive light and sound, and fearless performances create a darkly humorous, Blakean, visceral exploration of survival, agency, and ecological responsibility.

"I felt invited into something beautiful and tragically poetic. This was my favourite show of the fringe thus far!"  
— Stephen Thakkar, 2025



# The Human Cat Experience

Spec Theatre & Catsco, Hilary Fillier & ira cooper  
Vancouver, BC

SHOW | 60 MIN

May 22 | 9:15 PM  
May 23 | 7:10 PM  
May 24 | 5:00 PM

Two cats, high on catnip make an emergency road trip to Catsco for kitty litter.

From award-winning weirdos Hilary Fillier (ParaNorma PI) and Ira Cooper (Everything Is Super Wow) comes *The Human Cat Experience*, a brand-new comedic tail that's truly the cat's meow.

Meet Tom & Pickles: two best fur-iends, high on catnip and suddenly catapulted into an emergency road trip to Catsco for kitty litter. What starts as a simple errand spirals into a fur-midable fever dream of serial-killer sex dolls, rotisserie-chicken burlesque, and a claw-fully unhinged Log Driver's Waltz starring a dancing poop.

Think Cheech and Chong, but fluffier - purr-formed with handmade puppets, original songs, and an un-fur-gettable avalanche of cat puns.

"Holy hairballs! The Human Cat Experience is a Fringey meowsterpiece."  
— The Post Horn



📍 JIM GREEN HOUSE STUDIO

# Citizen Chen

Scarlet Chen  
Gabriola Island, BC

SHOW | 60 MIN

May 29 | 7:15 PM  
May 30 | 8:30 PM  
May 31 | 6:30 PM

**She's Chinese. She's Canadian. She's confused.**

*Citizen Chen* blends stand-up and true storytelling into a comedy of culture whiplash and daily low-key panic: language fails, border anxiety, small-town awkwardness, and rebuilding a life in Canada—one misunderstanding at a time. Fast, sharp, and weirdly tender, it's big laughs with real moments underneath (no lectures, I promise). Come for the comedy, stay for the truth I didn't mean to say out loud.

Community Partners:



"A real opportunity to see something unique."

— The Discourse

"Will engage its audiences with poignant, intelligent writing."

— Tamara McCarthy



📍 JIM GREEN HOUSE STUDIO

# BO\$\$ NGUYEN and the Countryside Ghost

Kevin Nguyen  
Vancouver, BC

WORK IN  
PROGRESS  
30 MIN

May 23 | 8:15 PM  
May 28 | 6:30 PM  
May 30 | 6:15 PM

**One man, one ghost story, one rap battle.**

Originally created as part of Studio 58's 2022 Solo Show Project, *BO\$\$ NGUYEN and The Countryside Ghost* is a satirical rap and contemporary dance show. Formerly developed as two separate projects, this show combines a ghost story from the humid countryside of Vietnam and a fast-paced-in-your-face spoken word rap tale of a gangster wannabe. Exploring themes of Asian identity, greed, and family trauma, this piece seeks to answer whether or not we can truly escape the ghosts we have inherited. Inspired by the works of Crystal Pite, Kendrick Lamar, and most notably Chengman.

Presenting Partner:

**RUMBLE**



# FESTIVAL CALENDAR

	Fri May 22	Sat May 23	Sun May 24	NO SHOWS	Tue May 26	Wed May 27	Thu May 28	Fri May 29	Sat May 30	Sun May 31		
FREE KITTENS Page 5	7:30pm		6:45pm					9:10pm				
Popurrí Page 6							7:00pm		7:00pm	8:00pm		
Regarding Antigone Page 7								7:30pm	8:55pm	3:30pm		
Robin Redbreast in a Cage Page 8		9:05pm					9:05pm			5:10pm		
The Human Cat Experience Page 9	9:15pm	7:10pm	5:00pm									
Citizen Chen Page 10								7:15pm	8:30pm	6:30pm		
BO\$\$ NGUYEN Page 11		8:15pm					6:30pm		6:15pm			
LIAM Page 14		6:00pm					8:00pm	9:00pm				
Above the Hospital Page 15			3:30pm									
Death is the Kindest Page 16		2:45pm										
GEOMANCER Page 17									2:00pm	Reception to follow		
Oriental Cowboy Moshpit Page 18										2:15pm		
Panty Sniffers Page 19									3:45pm			
Aunt Harriet Page 20		Catered Community Gathering	2:00pm									
EVENTS & WORKSHOPS Page 21-23		3:00pm	Filipino BBQ & Karaoke		Embodied Connection	1:00pm	7:00pm	Plastikreation	BEE - Q&A	7:00pm	5:00pm	Ice Cream Social
BEE Screening + Installation												

📍 JIM GREEN HOUSE STUDIO

# LIAM

Elio Zarrillo  
Vancouver, BC

WORK IN PROGRESS  
45 MIN + 15 MIN  
Talkback

May 23 | 6:00 PM 🗨️  
May 28 | 8:00 PM 🗨️  
May 29 | 9:00 PM 🗨️

**It's the difference between what can this body do and what can be done to this body.**

They went out in search of a name, but found a body instead.

10 years after a brutal assault left them nameless, Dancing is trapped in the local Library for Broken Books, combing through grievances, manifestos, and silliness on a trial-by-fire fight for freedom from their own self.

Part warehouse party, part tattoo appointment, part philosophical chat on a long drive home, *LIAM* is a poetry-performance work that, through vulnerability and care, invites us to truly be with our suffering.

Presenting Partner:



Community Partner:



📍 JIM GREEN HOUSE STUDIO

# Above the Hospital

Beau Han Bridge & Midtwenties Theatre  
Vancouver, BC

READING | 75 MIN  
May 24 | 3:30 PM 🗨️

**They say you can't live on dreams alone—but what if that's all you have?**

In a cramped Vancouver apartment above a vet clinic, Lauren and Cameron navigate love, ambition, and the weight of unfulfilled dreams. Cameron chases a music career that never quite arrives. Lauren grapples with her own artistic aspirations while wondering if nursing school is the safer path. Over one explosive night that changes everything—and then twelve years later when the past comes knocking—they confront the gap between who they hoped to be and who they've become. A raw, intimate drama about the choices we make, the people we become, and whether passion alone is enough to survive on.

Community Partner:



Vancouver Hospital

"Gritty sense of authenticity."  
– Colin Thomas, Fresh Sheet Reviews, 2018

"A slice of life in Vancouver that's sure to resonate with many locals."  
– Jay Minter, On The List, 2018



# Death is the Kindest

**Spencer McCairns**

Vancouver, BC

**No one really knows how it ends.**

Set in the immediate aftermath of a domestic terrorist attack on a queer nightclub in the United States, *Death is the Kindest* explores the themes of grief, love and family along the many paths that lead us through life. Torn by choice, a young queer woman must forage her own path through the afterlife and towards the end that she wants, and not the one being thrust upon her.



# GEOMANCER

**Leslie Lum**

Vancouver, BC

**Can a missile scientist and a human rights activist be bound by the thread of a silkworm?**

*GEOMANCER* imagines a 1993 encounter between 82-year-old Chinese missile scientist Tsien Hsue-shen (钱学森)—deported from America during McCarthyism—and his 25-year-old Chinese American biographer, Iris Chang (張純如), who would later become a renowned human rights activist.

When Iris arrives in Beijing to interview Tsien, he refuses to cooperate. Obsessed with finding a new scientific revolution—one as transformative as quantum mechanics—Tsien turns to the metamorphosis of silkworms in search of the force the ancients called qi. But it is Iris who feels the peril of what connecting with that force might mean.

A bilingual Mandarin and English work-in-progress reading and talkback.

**Presenting Partner:**

**vAct**

VANCOUVER ASIAN  
CANADIAN THEATRE



◉ JIM GREEN HOUSE STUDIO

READING | 55 MIN

May 31 | 2:15 PM

# Oriental Cowboy Moshpit

**Garvin Chan**  
Vancouver, BC

**A yee-ing haw-ing heist comedy about the power of friendship. And folk music.**

In the Albertan Badlands there is a town with a pawn shop. In that pawn shop is a copy of Chinese family records thought to have been burned during the Cultural Revolution.

Now, it is up to a Chinese cowboy to retrieve those records in time to present them as part of their father's funeral in this absurd, wacky, and strangely heartfelt heist play.

This is *Oriental Cowboy Mosh Pit*.

Yeehaw.

"Garvin came in to steal back their ancestral records, and in the process just about stole my heart. 5 Yees out of 5 Haws."

— Albertan Pawn Shop Owner

Community Partner:



◉ JIM GREEN HOUSE STUDIO

READING | 80 MIN

May 30 | 3:45 PM

# Panty Sniffers

**Murphy Morgan**  
Vancouver, BC

**We can't sell it if you can't smell it.**

Two broke roommates, Mia and Blake, need a way to pay the rent and they need it fast. Selling used underwear online seems like the proper course of action right? However, nothing comes easy as they must hide their adventure from their overtly conservative landlord and Mia's controlling trust fund boyfriend. This comical play opens up conversations about sex work, sexuality, low income living, and finally breaking up with your dirtbag boyfriend.



# Aunt Harriet

HAUI & Public Domain Theatre  
Toronto, ON

An Ontario Oratorio where memory, myth, and Pan-African movement converge.

*Aunt Harriet* is a meditative audiovisual oratorio reclaiming the life of Harriet Miller, a Black singer from Wellington County who spent her final years at St. Joseph's Hospital in Guelph, passing in 1932 without memory or family. Long misremembered through racialized myth and caricature, Miller's story is re-examined through archival research, music, spoken word, and moving image. Blending history and critical fabulation, the work restores her humanity while reflecting on aging, memory loss, and Black presence in rural Ontario—bridging past and present through an act of care, listening, and remembrance.

Join us after the screening and panel for a free soul food meal by Upintheair—stay, share your thoughts, and connect in the Cultch Lobby.

“Brings visibility and dignity back to voices erased by history.”  
— CBC Arts

Presenting Partner:

3CURRENT

Community Partner:

CARAVAN FARM THEATRE  
PROFESSIONAL OUTDOOR THEATRE

Alzheimer Society  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Winner of the 2025 Peoples Choice Awards for Best Actor (azm) and Director (HAUI)

SPECIAL PRESENTATION  
FILM SCREENING &  
CONVERSATION | 60 MIN  
May 24 | 2:00 PM  
Talkback + Catered  
Community Gathering

# BEE

Jessica Hood & unladylike co.  
Vancouver, BC

Braving climate ravaged landscapes, will the bee find the pollen she seeks?

In this captivating mixed media short film, an animated bee's search for pollen becomes a harrowing journey through climate devastated landscapes. The bee combs a field that has been in a drought, then she flies through a polluted cityscape and on to an overflowing dump, where she finally finds a lone flower pushing its way through the rubbish. After collecting its pollen, the bee makes her way home, through a torrential downpour and an old growth logging site, only to discover the forest and her hive engulfed in wildfire. Each of these settings was built from recycled materials, trash, found objects, and a couple stolen borrowed toys (sorry Franklin).

*BEE* will be presented alongside displays of the sets for a closer look and even (gentle) touch.

Community Partner:

NEOWORLD THEATRE



West Coast Seeds

“Really beautifully done.”  
— audience feedback

“A great way to see the effects of climate change.”  
— audience feedback

VIDEO SCREENING  
4 MIN

May 28–31  
Screened on a  
Loop + Installation

May 29 | 7:00 PM  
Q+A with the Artist



📍 CULTCH PATIO

## Ice Cream Social

**Upintheair Theatre**  
Vancouver, BC

COMMUNITY  
EVENT

May 30 | 5:00 PM

You're invited to our annual patio party—FREE ice cream sandwiches for everyone! Bite into cool, creamy goodness stacked between soft cookies while soaking up sunshine and good vibes. Grab your crew and join us for this sweet seasonal tradition!

📍 JIM GREEN HOUSE STUDIO

## Plastikreation: Characters Lab

**Plastik Theatriks**  
Victoria, BC

WORKSHOP  
150 MIN

May 26 | 7:00 PM

Step into a free, playful, exploratory workshop where creativity takes center stage in this playful, high-energy session. Embrace spontaneity, let go of overthinking, trust your instincts, and create characters built from bold imagery and high physicality. Through a guided warm-up, movement techniques, and games, Plastikreation offers a hands-on introduction to physical theatre, blending mindful preparation with collaborative creation. No experience needed.

Photo: H el ene Cyr

📍 JIM GREEN HOUSE STUDIO

## Filipino BBQ & Karaoke

**Karaoke host: Argel Monte de Ramos**  
Vancouver, BC

COMMUNITY EVENT  
120 MIN

May 23 | 3:00 PM

Kick off the season with Upintheair at our first-ever free International BBQ & Karaoke.

A beloved tradition of the rEvolver Festival, our summer BBQ returns in full force for 2026—with a special twist. This year, we're spotlighting the vibrant flavours and spirit of the Philippines in a lively, community-driven celebration. Enjoy a taste of Filipino BBQ, grab the mic for karaoke, and connect with fellow festival-goers in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Come for the food, stay for the music, and be part of an event that brings people together.

📍 WHAT LAB (202-1814 PANDORA ST)

## Embodied Connection Queer Joy and Queer Tango

**Art Babayants**  
Montreal, QC

WORKSHOP  
150 MIN

May 27  
1:00 PM

How to remove anticipation and anxiety and learn to listen deeply to the body of the Other? How to communicate without a single word uttered out loud? How to adapt to the abilities, energies and rhythms of your partner? How to create playfulness simply by being present with another person? How to sustain Queer Joy as a source of creativity? This exciting workshop introduces basic techniques and principles of Queer Tango - a movement that creates inclusive communities and spaces, different from the heteronormative tango promoted by popular culture and Hollywood films.



## About rEvolver

rEvolver features new work by emerging, early, and 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](http://rEvolverfestival.ca)

## About UITAT

We are a go-to company for audiences that want to experience the next generation of performing artists and their work. Upintheir 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, Upintheir has created and produced new plays including *Inside the Seed*, *Wedgie*, *120bpm*, *The North Plan*, *The City*, *A Brief History of Human Extinction*, *REVELATIONS*, *The Array* and *Dead Drone*. We presented the Walking Fish Festival from 2003 until 2010.

## FESTIVAL STAFF

Managing Artistic Director: David Mott

Festival Director: Sarah Roa

Creative Producer: Jessica Hood

Resident Curator: Argel Monte de Ramos

Associate Producer: Chloe Payne

Grants and Development: Jason Rothery

Resident Curator: Argel Monte de Ramos

Curators 2026: Dave Mott, Sarah Roa, Argel Monte de Ramos

Technical Director: Ash Shotton

Assistant Technical Director: Brianna Bernard

Access Coordination: Amy Amantea

Visual Design: Pauline Gallinat

