Bonjour, or as we say in Québec, Salut!

Welcome to this special edition of the Québec Culture brochure, dedicated to the amazing artists from Québec appearing at Edinburgh’s festivals this summer.

Home to 23% of Canada’s population and one of its founding nations, Québec is a hotbed of creativity, known for its maple syrup, francophone heritage and eclectic cultural offering. This vast territory of harsh winters, hot summers and diverse communities was first inhabited and remains home to 11 indigenous nations whose distinct cultures, both resolutely modern yet profoundly anchored in traditions, form an integral part of Québec culture and society.

The Québec programme spreads across the Fringe, International and Book festivals and for the first time includes an Indigenous strand showcasing the work of several artists in the field of performing arts and literature (see pages 10 to 15). This year’s exciting programme also features no less than three circus shows, an art form for which Québec is particularly famous, as well as music and dance.

Enjoy the festivals!

PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

Meet Québec cultural experts and artists this August:

6th: The Québec Government Office annual Edinburgh reception (by invitation only)

17th: Collaborate with Québec: The Québec Government Office’s networking and information event for artists and cultural organisations interested in international cooperation. Register: www.bit.ly/CollaboratewithQc

19th: Pitch My Piece: the High Commission of Canada pitch event for international presenters and promoters featuring 12 productions (3 from Québec). Register: RSVPCanadaEdinburgh2019@gmail.com

22nd: Visiting Arts International Producers Breakfast featuring Montréal’s international performing arts showcase CINARS’ CEO Alain Paré as keynote speaker. Register: www.bit.ly/VAProducersBreakfast
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Cas Public

Known for its eloquent dance, Montréal-based Cas Public is home to an atypical performer. Cai Glover overcame a hearing impairment to become a professional dancer. Choreographer Hélène Blackburn uses this as a point of departure for her athletic and family-friendly creation. How is it possible to capture the monumental grandeur of Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony* if, like its composer, our hearing is impaired?

3, 4, 5, 6 August | times vary, see website
Church Hill Theatre | £12.50 - £25

5 – 6 August | Family workshop (children aged 7-12) | £6

www.eif.co.uk
www.caspublic.org

Orfeo ed Euridice

Bernard Labadie

For this concert performance, Bernard Labadie, a leading ambassador for music in his native Québec city, conducts The English Concert. World-renowned countertenor Lestyn Davies, Sophie Bevan and Rowan Pierce perform in one of the most powerful love stories in all of opera. Gluck’s deeply moving *Orfeo ed Euridice* celebrates the power of music to overcome even death.

15 August | 7.30pm
Usher Hall | £16 - £50

www.eif.co.uk
www.violonsduroy.com
**La Galerie**

**Machine de Cirque**

Machine de Cirque is the latest contemporary Québec circus company to take to the Edinburgh fringe. Founded in 2013 but with already over 700 performances worldwide under their belt, this company is achieving its international ambitions of becoming exemplary ambassadors of Québec circus. In this latest production, seven world-class circus artists and a multi-instrumentalist take the audience to the outer edges of art with breathtaking acrobatics and enticing live music.

01 – 25 August except 7, 12, 19 6pm
Assembly Rooms - Music Hall £12 - £18.50

www.assemblyfestival.com | www.machinedecirque.com

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**Blizzard**

**FLIP Fabrique**

One of Québec’s leading contemporary circus companies and Edinburgh Fringe veteran, FLIP Fabrique return to the Scottish capital after three successful years on the Assembly stage. Their latest show, *Blizzard*, promises to blow away everything in its path, with outstanding visual poetry by performers at the peak of their art inviting the audience to lose itself in a moment of complete wonder.

01 – 26 August except 7, 12, 19 4.25pm
Assembly Hall – Main Hall £12

www.assemblyfestival.com | www.flipfabrique.com
**Kombini**

**Les Foutoukours**

A unique theatrical circus experience like no other, *Kombini* by Montréal’s circus duo and Edinburgh first timers, Les Foutoukours, is a show for teenagers (12+) and adults alike that is as aesthetically beautiful as it is heart-warming and fun. Tired of waiting for the biggest international theatres to call, two clowns decide to accept an impossible job... a children’s birthday party! Join the duo in their quest for fame and enjoy some of the finest juggling and acrobatics in this beautifully poignant performance.

**3 – 24 August except 13, 20 2pm**

**Underbelly @ Circus Hub**

£11.50 - £15

www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk
www.lesfoutoukours.com

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**For the love of drama**

**TV5MONDE**

**QUÉBEC DRAMA SERIES TUESDAYS AT 8PM (GMT)**

europe.tv5monde.com/en

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**Honoured to sponsor Québec culture**

Founded in Québec more than 40 years ago, CGI today is a global IT and business consulting services company operating in more than 400 communities around the world - including Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and the Scottish Borders.

We are deeply committed to partnering with clients to help advance their digital transformation and to bring quality jobs and opportunities into the communities in which we live and work.

Learn more about our commitment at cgi-group.co.uk/scotland
Indigenous Contemporary Scene

Indigenous Contemporary Scene (ICS) is a platform for the presentation of live arts by Indigenous artists. It offers unique spaces for curated conversations and creative exchange between artists from different disciplines and nations, incite new collaborations and contribute to the greater impact of Indigenous voices internationally. ICS is co-presenting nine different pieces of work by artists from across Canada at the Edinburgh Festivals including the following based in Québec.

Curated by Artistic Director and founder Émilie Monnet, an Anishnaabe and French artist living in Tiohti:à:ke / Mooniyaang / Montréal. Monnet’s practice, at the intersection of theatre, performance and media arts, is typically presented as interdisciplinary theatre or immersive performance experiences.

www.indigenouscontemporaryscene.org

Songs in the Key of Cree
Tomson Highway

Living legend of Cree theatre and musician Tomson Highway presents his compilation of songs written over the past thirty years accompanied by Peruvian/Canadian singer Patricia Cano, and jazz saxophonist Marcus Ali. Performed in Cree, the most spoken Native language in Canada, as well as English and French.

31 July – 1 August (previews), 2 – 18 August (except 5, 12) 7pm
Canada Hub @ King’s Hall £11 (£9)

www.canadahubfringe.com | www.tomsonhighway.com

Kanata Cabaret Hour

A radical mixture of dance, music and live art from Indigenous and Scottish perspectives. ‘Kanata’ is the Haudenosaunee word for Canada.

21 – 24 August 7pm
Canada Hub @ King’s Hall – Main space £11 (£9)

www.indigenouscontemporaryscene.org | www.canadahubfringe.com
Lara Kramer
Lara Kramer is a performer, choreographer and multidisciplinary artist of mixed Oji-Cree and settler heritage based in Montréal. Her critically acclaimed work stands out for their engagement, sensitivity, close and instinctive listening to the body, and her attention to the invisible. Her works have been presented across Canada.

Native Girl Syndrome
‘Opens an intimate window on urban reality.’ – Bachtrack.com
Native Girl Syndrome dives into street culture and is inspired by the experience of Kramer’s own grandmother who migrated from a remote First Nations community to an unfamiliar urban environment as a young woman.

This Time Will Be Different
A performance-based installation that denounces the Canadian government’s discourse on Indigenous people and offers an inter-generational ceremony to celebrate beauty and survival. This eloquent piece was co-created with interdisciplinary artists Émilie Monnet and they perform with elder visual artist Glenna Matoush and her grandchildren.

Miijin Ki
Miijin Ki, a word in the Anishnabemowin language which translates to ‘Eating Land’, is a new work in development presented as a scratch night where Kramer, along with her collaborators, create non-violent tensions of living and being on the land. The piece is a counternarrative to the pan victim Indian and a metaphor for the interconnectedness of all things in the modern and natural world.
Taqralik Partridge

Spoken word performer and writer Taqralik Partridge is of Inuit and Scottish-Canadian heritage and has lived in a number of places across the country, from the Queen Charlotte Islands to her home community of Kuujjuaq, the largest Inuit settlement in Québec. The dynamic of North and South is ever-present in her work.

Throwing Voices

A unique collaborative project looking at how local language, culture and tradition can resonate across linguistic divides. Sami writer Linnéa Axelsson joins the Inuit poet and throat singer to share their experiences in a special event featuring music, verse and discussion. The authors have worked with leading folk musician Kate Young to create a boundary-crossing performance.

13 August 3.45pm
The Spiegeltent £15 (£12)

Songs from the Land

Two performances of words and music born out of indigenous experiences on both sides of the Atlantic. Inuit poet and throat singer Taqralik Partridge performs alongside celebrated Cree cellist Cris Derksen:

15 August 8pm
Charlotte Square Gardens £12 (£10)

Sometimes I Speak English

Scottish musician Inge Thomson, from Fair Isle, presents new works inspired by the landscape there.

15 August 8pm
Charlotte Square Gardens £12 (£10)

Calling Home

Tara Beagan, a Ntlakapamux author who has written about the Beothuk human remains at the National Museum of Scotland, and Shetlandic poet Roseanne Watt, read from their latest works.

16 August 5.30pm
Charlotte Square Gardens £12 (£10)

www.edbookfest.co.uk
www.indigenouscontemporaryscene.org
This brochure is produced by the Culture team at the Québec Government Office in London. Find out more about Québec cultural events and activities in the UK, Ireland and the Nordic Countries:

- www.facebook.com/QuebecUK
- @quebec_uk
- Qc.London-Culture@mri.gouv.qc.ca
- www.quebec.ca/londres
- @quebecuk

Canada

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