

Québec Culture

AUGUST 2023

Québec
@EdFests

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A WORD FROM THE AGENT-GENERAL



It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the Edinburgh festival season 2023!

The excitement in the streets, the buskers and performers filling this marvellous city with their talent and joie de vivre is a feeling that never gets old. Once again, we are delighted to welcome some extraordinary Québec artists. Whether you are looking for breathtaking circus acts, amazing dance, or having your funny bone tickled, we have you covered.

This annual pilgrimage to the Scottish capital is a reminder of the great relationship between our two nations. The new ideas and creative visions that emerge from this great meeting of people from across the world never ceases to amaze me.

It is with hope and anticipation that we turn our eyes to the Athens of the North for what will surely be a marvellous international fantasmagoria of art and culture.

Line Rivard,
Agent-General

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Cover:
Are you there Margaret?
It's me, Gahd, House of Gahd
© House of Gahd (see p.20)

SHONA McCARTHY

From its inception, the Fringe has welcomed artists and audiences from all walks of life to come together and celebrate cultural expression in all its amazing forms.

It is in this spirit that we welcome the delegation of Québec artists each year. Québec's reputation as an artistic force in the cultural world is now very well established. This year, we welcome a bevy of upcoming artists in dance, comedy and much more! Québec and Scotland have strong historical and cultural bonds, and it brings me great pleasure to see our two nations fulfil their potential and our relationship grow ever stronger.

I join my colleagues here at the Fringe Society, and my friends at the Québec Government Office, to wish a wonderful festival season to all showgoers; and to all the artists, we wish you a very big "break a leg!"

Sincerely,

Shona McCarthy
Chief Executive
Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society



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THE CULTURE TEAM AT THE QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON

August is here again and that means we are heading back to Edinburgh!

The Culture Team at the Québec Government Office is excited to head to the Scottish capital to take part in all the celebrations surrounding the festivals, and to support and promote Québec artists!

Québec@EdFests will bring a host of exciting performances from “*la belle province*” to the Fringe this summer. Don’t miss wacky and audacious circus, clever theatre and comedians, cutting-edge dance and seductive cabaret, all to be enjoyed across many venues throughout the month.

So grab your tickets, and get ready to be wowed!

If you have any questions or need more information for the events do not hesitate to contact us at: marc-andre.boyer@mri.gouv.qc.ca



Marc-André Boyer, Ingrid Boussaroque, Marie Morin and Andy Bailey.



bit.ly/QuebecEdFests

LISTING – PROGRAMME

Events	Informations	Date
SPECIAL QUÉBEC EVENTS		
Québec@EdFests Gala	Launch festive event, by invitation	August 3
Québec@EdFests Rendez-vous	Pitch and networking, by invitation	August 9
Spotlight Canada	Details to come	August 21
CINARS round table at the Fringe	A discussion about touring in the post-pandemic world, at the Virgin Hotel	August 23
CINARS networking	Networking at Summerhall	August 22-23

Artists/Companies	Show	Venues	Time	Date
CIRCUS				
Agathe et Adrien	N.Ormes	Assembly Roxy	17:25	August 2-28
Cirque Kalabanté	Afrique en Cirque	Assembly Hall	17:05	August 3-28
Les Foutoukours	Brotipo	Assembly George Square Garden – Piccolo tent	13:30	August 3-27
The 7 Fingers	Duel Reality	Underbelly’s Circus Hub	20:30	August 4-26
THEATRE				
Matchmaker Theatre Productions	The Real William Shakespeare... As Told by Christopher Marlowe	Greenside – Riddles Court	13:50	August 4-19
COMEDY				
Dion Owen	Lunch with a Cyclopath	Laughing Horse – The Counting House	12:00	August 3-27
Dion Owen, Harrison Weinreb, Zak Kik, Oren Shbiro	North Americ*nts	Laughing Horse – The Counting House	22:45	August 3-27
CABARET				
House of Gahd	Are you there Margaret? It’s me, Gahd	C Venues-C cubed – Main space	21:30	August 2-16
DANCE & PHYSICAL THEATRE				
Petrikor Dance	Habitat	Assembly - Dance Base	13:00	August 15-27
We All Fall Down	Papillon	Summerhall - TechCube	19:20	August 2-27
MUSIC				
Cassie Muise, Petrichor Productions	God Catcher	Underbelly - Bristo Square	16:55	August 2-28

AGATHE ET ADRIEN

N.Ormes

August 2-28

Assembly Roxy

N.Ormes is a circus show where the duo Agathe et Adrien push the limits and expectations of their own bodies and gender norms. Provocative, dysfunctional and tender, the piece leads the viewer to question their own assumptions. The story features two protagonists and their relationship, navigating between complicity and power struggles. Skilfully combining acrobatics and dance, the stage becomes an arena. One by one, the archetypes fall in battle, giving way to a quest for friendship and fairness through power and fluidity. The exchange of roles and acrobatics, like a new language, blurs our preconceptions.

assemblyfestival.com/whats-on/normes ■ agathe-adrien.com

Agathe et Adrien



CIRQUE KALABANTÉ

Afrique en Cirque

August 3–28
Assembly Hall

Afrique en Cirque – a show by Yamoussa Bangoura, inspired by daily life in Guinea. This performance shares the beauty, youth and artistry of African culture. A colourful show beyond its scenery, costumes and staging, that will make any theatre vibrate with energy. It represents strength, agility and life's joys of young Africans. The audience will see our acrobats execute gravity-defying moves and human pyramids, all to the contemporary sounds of Afro-Jazz, percussion, and kora. Welcome to the universe of Kalabanté Productions and prepare for an unforgettable journey.



Cirque Kalabanté



© Christine Hewitt

LES FOUTOUKOURS

Brotipo

August 3-27

Assembly George Square Gardens

Piccolo Tent

Welcome to the world of Québec's circus clowns! Presented in 18 countries, winner of multiple awards, Brotipo is back this year! Before your eyes, a friendship will be put to the test to make you laugh, dance and even sing! In the colourful atmosphere of traditional big tops, the acrobatic duo creates a story with handstands, diabolo and hand-to-hand acts. An amazing chance to see the "masters of slapstick" (Scotsman) again and again with the whole family!

assemblyfestival.com/whats-on/brotipo ■ lesfoutoukours.com/en/home



Les Foutoukours



THE 7 FINGERS

Duel Reality

August 4-26

Underbelly's Circus Hub on the Meadows

The World Premiere of Duel Reality bursts into Circus Hub from The 7 Fingers, the company who created the hit show Passagers, a “wondrous acrobatics from Cirque du Soleil spinoff”.

– ★★★★★ (The Guardian).

Star crossed lovers. Two opposing teams. The stage is an arena. Competition can be playful at times, but also dangerously serious. Which side will you choose?

underbellyedinburgh.co.uk/events/event/the-7-fingers-duel-reality ■
7fingers.com



The 7 Fingers



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www.cgi.com

CGI is honoured to support Québec culture.



SHOWS FROM DENMARK THAT OPEN YOUR MIND AND IGNITE YOUR CURIOSITY



#DANISH

August 2 - 27

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MATCHMAKER THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

The Real William Shakespeare...
as Told by Christopher Marlowe

August 4-19

Greenside – Riddles Court

“Make my words reside in your language as if they never knew any other.” Marlowe, murder... Morocco? The truth behind Shakespeare is steeped in blood and political intrigue, but now Christopher Marlowe is ready to tell all. Matchmaker Theatre Productions presents a provocative new production that asks: who was the real William Shakespeare? Christopher Marlowe, famed playwright and spy, has the answer. But just how far will others go to protect this secret?

tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/real-william-shakespeare-as-told-by-christopher-marlowe ■ matchmakertheatre.com/#/shakespeare

*“A wonderfully achieved production,
beautifully directed and acted” –*

★★★★ review for

The Masks of Oscar Wilde

AllEdinburghTheatre.com



Matchmaker Theatre Productions



DION OWEN

Lunch with a Cyclopath

August 3-27

Laughing Horse at the Counting House

Dion Owen is a professional Canadian comedian and true Cyclopath. He's been performing for over a decade and has headlined in over ten countries. He's been featured on TV, at numerous fringes and a bevy of international festivals. He likely biked here as that's his main mode of transport, even on international tours (whaaaaaaat?!). He's come back to Edinburgh to tell you some jokes. So come laugh at the clever, mundane, silly and absurd. Or, if enough cyclists show up, hear bike propaganda thinly veiled as punchlines! The show's at noon so we might grab lunch after.

tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/lunch-with-a-cyclopath ■ dionowen.com



DION OWEN, HARRISON WEINREB, ZAK KIK AND OREN SHBIRO

North Americ*nts

August 3-27

Laughing Horse at the Counting House

A show featuring the best comedians from North America. They're funny, they're loud and they are extremely excited to say c*nt. Did you know we're not allowed to? The Canadians would like to apologise if you're offended. The Americans would like you to 'go back to your f*cking country!' Oh bud... again, we're sorry... Home of the hilarious, land of the funny! Either way our continent is better than yours. We're North Americ*nts. Come and prove us wrong! Catch the stars of today and the heart-wrenching biopics of tomorrow. Oh bud... we're real sorry about those American c*nts.

tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/north-amic-nts



Dion Owen

HOUSE OF GAHD

Are you there Margaret? It's me, Gahd

August 2-16

C Venues-C cubed – Main space

Uma Gahd, everyone's favourite unofficial auntie, brings you her one-woman drag comedy. Expect small talk and big issues: fame, family, feminism, and failed marriages. Stuffed with stand-up, lip-sync, and plenty of hysterical pathos, Uma tells the story of her life – from sneaking into bars with her childhood best friend, Margaret, to breaking into show business with her growing family. Part environmental theatre, part cabaret, and part drag show. Come and hear the word of Gahd!

tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/are-you-there-margaret-it-s-me-gahd

"A wildly entertaining way to spend 45 minutes." –

MontrealTheatreHub.com

"Montréal's #1 Drag Artist." –

CultMLT.com



House of Gahd



© Selma Gahd

The CINARS delegation @EdFringe

Once again, the well-known Performing Arts market CINARS will be accompanying a group of Québec artists, companies and cultural professionals to attend the Edinburgh Fringe. Here they will have the chance to meet key actors, take part in professional events and get to know the Edinburgh Fringe better. The delegation will be in Edinburgh from 21th–25th August; please do not hesitate to reach out to them if you would like to meet up and have a chat. This activity has been made possible thanks to the Québec Arts Council (CALQ).

CINARS round table in collaboration with Edinburgh Festival Fringe

August 23

From 10:30am to 12:00pm

Virgin Hotels Edinburgh

Speakers

Shona McCarthy, Chief Executive, Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society

Gilles Doré, Executive Director, CINARS

The Importance of live arts international circulation: Transversal perspectives

The word of the artist has always traveled beyond borders, enriching both artistic development and human ties.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed an important transformation in how live arts circulate, as they have been impacted by the reality of migrations, the turbulence of socio-economic changes and the new technologies which divides what we call “the mainstream”.

These transformations have generated new perspectives specific to our cultural ecosystem and will be openly discussed during this meeting. Seeking to reaffirm the importance of borderless circulation of artistic voices, we will propose transversal reflections on the current challenges.

Contact us for more information:

coordination@cinars.org

CINARS professional networking at Summerhall

August 22-23

From 6:00pm to 7:00pm

The Royal Deck, Summerhall

This year, CINARS is bringing a delegation of 5 Québec companies to the Fringe. Come and meet them! No reservation needed. We look forward to seeing you.

Machine de Cirque

Kintsugi is the art of sublimating imperfections

In a bus shelter away from the world and time, strangers are waiting to be taken elsewhere. They have no idea when they will leave or where they will go.

This mysterious place awakens in each of them a thirst for life, encounters and the unusual. A desire for solidarity, fits of laughter and outbursts.

machinedecirque.com/en



Talisman Theatre

Talisman Theatre is an award-winning, Montréal-based company producing English-language premieres of contemporary Québec plays since 2006. Talisman builds upon Québec's Franco-Canadian cultural heritage, preserving its specific style of expression throughout the process of translation. We specialize in curating a fine balance between authenticity and accessibility. Prior to production, each play is honed to perfection in a series of intensive translation/dramaturgical workshops. We are proud and excited to be bringing our latest production, David Paquet's “Wildfire”, to European stages in 2024. A three-hander, “Wildfire” received rave reviews in both its French and English versions. Please visit our website for the reviews and production details.

talisman-theatre.com



Théâtre de La Pire Espèce

Since 1999, La Pire Espèce has been borrowing techniques from different disciplines such as puppetry, object theatre, clowning, cabaret and street theatre. By exploring the creative process, it examines and reinvents stage conventions and the rules of dramatic narration, and seeks to establish a close complicity with the audience. La Pire Espèce is also twenty-two original works, one exhibition, two street theatre pieces, five cabarets, several workshops for professionals and students, and more than 1700 performances. Half of that number was performed abroad during recurrent tours in Europe and around the world.

pire-espece.com/en



© David Ospina

© Elias Djemil-Matassov

Youtheatre

Founded in 1968, Youtheatre is Québec's oldest theatre for young audiences (TYA) and the only bilingual TYA company in Canada. Deeply rooted in the 21st century, we explore new theatrical forms, ask challenging questions, tell important stories, and investigate technology's increasingly contentious role in our lives.

youtheatre.ca



© Théo Gagné

Zeugma Danse

Zeugma Danse is a professional dance company whose signature style is rooted in Québec's percussive dance tradition. Its distinctive choreographic approach consists of merging step dancing with different types of percussive dance and contemporary movements. From this fusion of styles arise original breathtaking choreographic works that the company presents on national and international stages since 2001. Zeugma now has fifteen productions in its repertoire, as well as nearly twenty short choreographic works created for dance and theatre companies.

zeugmadanse.com/en

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PETRIKOR

Habitat

August 15–20 and 22–27
Assembly @ Dance Base

Habitat is a multidisciplinary solo inspired by the life cycle of hermit crabs; a metaphor about the choreographer's process of emigration to Canada. Hermit crabs don't have a shell, instead they house themselves in objects according to their size. As they grow, their object becomes limiting and uncomfortable, so they migrate new ones. This multidisciplinary piece combines movement, voice with live electronics, a paper sculpture Hermes (600 articulable paper cones), and lighting. This show has been programmed by Dance Base in collaboration with Assembly.

tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/habitat ■ petrikordanse.com

WE ALL FALL DOWN

Papillon

August 2–27
Tech Cube Zero

Street and contemporary dance collide as three dancers weave in and out of sync through a complex choreographic partition, supported by a live, hypnotic musical soundtrack that blends the sounds and rhythms of jazz, hip-hop and drum'n'bass.

Inspired by chaos theory and complex mathematical equations, Papillon is an emotional, engulfing reflection on metamorphosis, order and disorder, singularity and similarity, and the importance of human connection in trying times. A powerful performance that will have audiences dancing in their seats.

festival23.summerhall.co.uk/events/papillon ■ wafdcreations.com/papillon



Petrikor



© Dvidemsek



We All Fall Down



© Hei-DoPhan

CASSIE MUISE, PETRICHOR: PRICKLY PEAR PRODUCTIONS

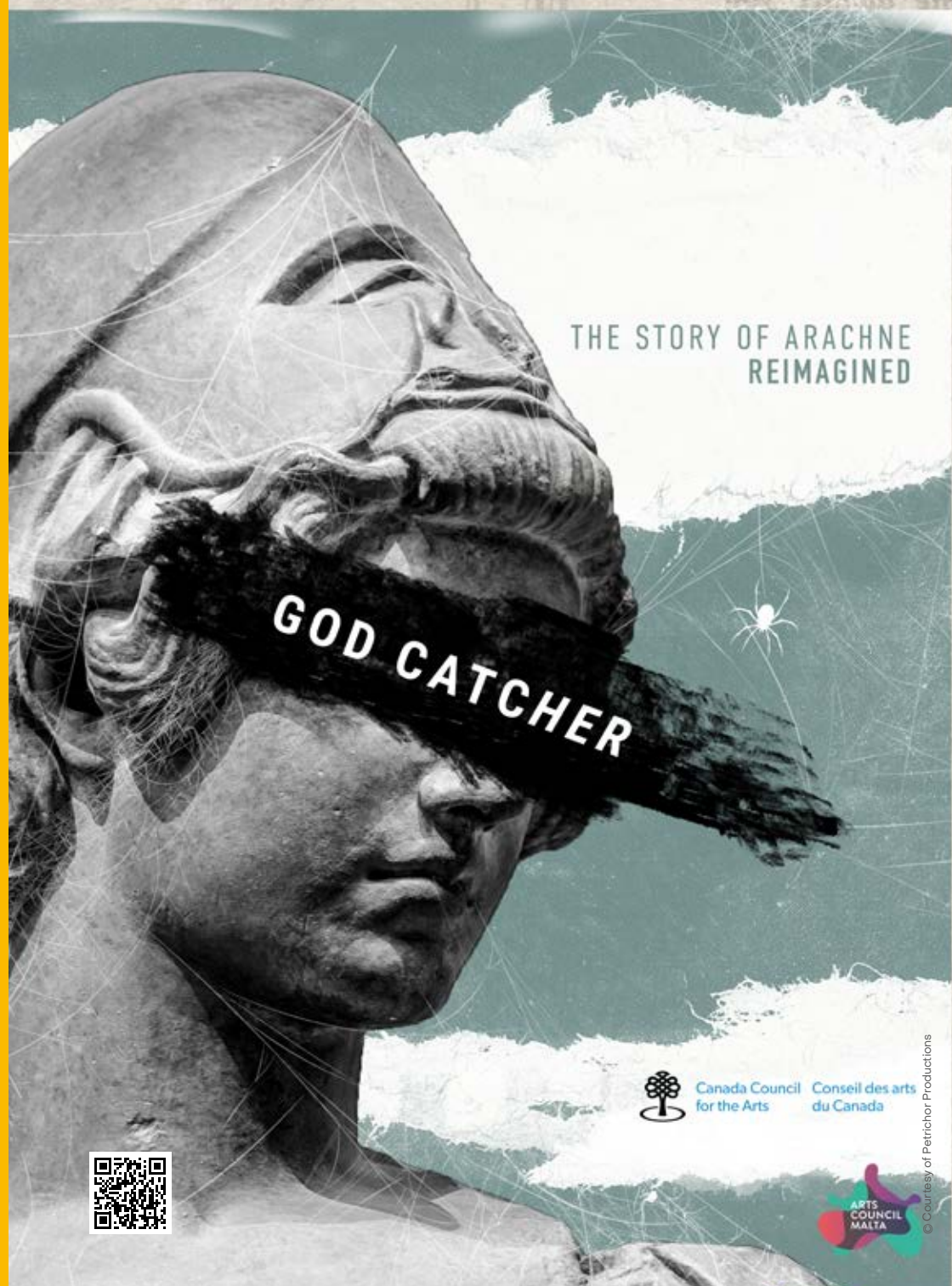
God Catcher

August 2-8, 10-13, 15-20, 22-28

Underbelly, Bristo Square

God Catcher reimagines the story of Arachne, the most talented weaver in all of ancient Greece. In the myth, after defeating the goddess Athena in a weaving challenge, Arachne is turned into a spider as punishment. But is that all there is to Arachne's story? The gods can be cruel, and who benefits when a story is told a certain way? Through catchy tunes and heartfelt lyrics, God Catcher explores the legacy of a woman who dared to tell the truth, no matter the cost.

A Québec-Scotland co-production brought to you by actor and director Cassie Muise.



tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/god-catcher ■ godcatcher.com

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