



Centaur Theatre's 23rd WILDSIDE FESTIVAL **January 7 to 18, 2020**

Montreal, November 26, 2019 – A new curator has stepped into the spotlight for Centaur Theatre's Wildside Festival, the boundary-blasting showcase of independent works from Quebec and beyond, appropriately billed as the "hottest two weeks of winter". For the theatre's 2020 edition, **Rose Plotek**, formerly the National Theatre School's Associate Director (Directing Program) has selected eight trailblazing works, including Centaur's choice for the Best of the 2019 Fringe Festival, Vancouver's *Multiple Organism*.

This year's delectable smorgasbord of provocative theatre embraces comedy, dance, bouffon, music, and storytelling ... sometimes all at once! **Sarah Segal-Lazar** will be doing double-duty as she remounts *Don't Read the Comments*, her 2018 Fringe Fest bouffon talk-show based on a true incident, and participates in the Offside Festival as a featured musical guest. For R&B music lovers, Montreal's own Queen of Soul, **Michelle Sweeney**, pays tribute to the late, great Aretha Franklin with *Her Songs, My Story*, accompanied by fave Montreal pianist, Taurey Butler. Toronto's **Alyssa Martin** and her **Rock Bottom Movement** company bring the angst-ridden, surreal satire, *hollow mountain*, and fellow Torontonians, Queer playwright and performer, **Celia Jade Green**, investigates sexual consent and violation in *Wah Wah Wah*. For one night only, **Matt Goldberg** returns with *Confabulation*, an evening of true stories told by ordinary people based on the theme of "Games". For the first time in its history, the edgy festival will be presented at Centaur as well as at **Théâtre La Chapelle**, a venue known for its artistic eclecticism, where **CABAL theatre ensemble** will perform its latest creation, *Chattermarks*. Many of the festival productions include engaging post-show talkbacks.

"The creative diversity of Wildside and the multiplicity of audiences it appeals to grow steadily every year. We are so lucky to have such an accomplished theatre-maker as Rose [Plotek], who is so plugged-in to emerging artists that are exploring and stretching the limits of theatrical storytelling, and addressing issues that speak

to a wide spectrum of adventurous theatre lovers. It's wild and wacky; bold and brazen ... it's just what everyone needs to jump-start the New Year."

– Eda Holmes, Artistic and Executive Director, Centaur Theatre

Johanna Nutter once again takes the reins to program **Offside**, the musical side of the festival. All Offside events take place in Centaur's main floor gallery, following the final performance of the evening. This year's musical legends, to whom a slew of local musicians will pay homage on two separate Saturday nights, are **Stevie Wonder** (January 11th) and **The Rolling Stones** (Jan. 19th). Local graffitied hot spot, **Barfly**, is in the house again this year with **Mark Goodwin & Guests** on Friday January 10th and **Sarah Segal-Lazar** headlines the Thursday January 16th line-up of artists playing **Mood Music**.

On Sunday, January 12th, stick around for a short show in the Centaur gallery at 9pm. Collectively created by Hooks and Crooks, **TOMORROW** is an immersive transmutation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* as parable for climate change, and our relationship with a terrifying future, with text by Josh Johnston, Ryan Bommarito, and, of course, William Shakespeare himself.

For an added bonus, Centaur's next mainstage production—**Erin Shield's** riveting **Stratford Festival** hit, **Paradise Lost**—will overlap with the Wildside Festival. "Erin's brilliant play and our Wildside selections definitely share audacious approaches to contemporary theatre", said Ms. Holmes. "Anyone attracted to Wildside will be equally entertained and challenged by **Paradise Lost** and vice versa. It's quite the intoxicating theatrical cocktail, without the hangover!" Get \$28 tickets to **Paradise Lost** by presenting a Wildside proof of purchase at the Box Office.

Please see below for the complete festival line-up. For exact dates & times, consult our website [HERE](#)

#Wildside2020 #CentaurGoWild

MEDIA CALL: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 1:30pm

Don't Read the Comments

Presented by: Sermo Scomber Theatre

Created by: Sarah Segal-Lazar in collaboration with the cast

Directed by: Sarah Segal-Lazar

Featuring: Cara Krisman, Gabe Maharjan, Joy Ross-Jones, Sarah Segal-Lazar, Dakota Jamal Wellman

Stage Manager: HeatherEllen Strain

Assistant Director (Original Production): Mahalia Golnosh Tahririha

At a live TV talk show, delve into the "grey areas" of sexual encounters and consent, through the dark arts of clown and bouffon and through the power of true storytelling.

"Sarah Segal-Lazar is a master of the big idea and the quirky detail [...] An excellent piece of political theatre [...] A perfect production." - Montreal Rampage

"It's loud and way over-the-top, often hilariously so [...] a compelling and mesmerizing storyteller [...] devastating stuff." - Montreal Gazette

One of the Montreal Gazette's Top 5 Montreal Fringe 2018 shows
Nominated for Best English Production, Montreal Fringe (Centaur Theatre, 2018)
Nominated for Best Clown Show, Montreal Fringe (Montreal Clown Festival, 2018)
Winner for Most Promising English Company, Montreal Fringe (Segal Centre for Performing Arts, 2018)

WARNING: This show contains mature language and content. Please be advised that the show deals with the subject of sexual assault.

A talkback is scheduled after each show.

Her Songs, My Story

Presented by: Michelle Sweeney & Chumba
Written & performed by: Michelle Sweeney
Directed by: Tamara Brown
Musical Director: Taurey Butler

Montreal soul icon Michelle Sweeney embarks on a deeply personal journey lived through the music of Aretha Franklin, finding profound moments of intersection in love, loss and redemption.

"Montreal soul queen Michelle Sweeney has been raising audiences to their feet ever since she stole our hearts in a legendary year-long Canadian tour of Ain't Misbehavin' more than 30 years ago. An electrifying entertainer of stage, screen and television, Michelle is one of the finest voices of her generation." — Richard Burnett, Global TV Montreal

WARNING: Mature themes; not suitable for young children.

hollow mountain

Presented by: Rock Bottom Movement
Choreographed by: Alyssa Martin
Directed by: Alyssa Martin
Original Music by: Sydney Herauf

Featuring: Drew Berry, Mary-Dora Bloch-Hansen, Brayden Cairns, Samantha Grist, Sydney Herauf
Supported by: Canada Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Canadian Stage, National Ballet of Canada's CreativAction Programme, Toronto Dance Theatre

A darkly absurd dance theatre work that follows five friends as they navigate the inner rocky territory of their psyches through demonic possession, self-mutilation and radical dance.

"Rock Bottom Movement and its artistic director, Alyssa Martin, are the quirky weirdos of Toronto's dance/theatre world that you can't help but be drawn toward." - Carly Maga, Toronto Star

WARNING: 14 +
Partial nudity; foul language

Multiple Organism

Centaur Theatre Best English Production, Montreal Fringe 2019

Presented by: Vancouver's Mind of a Snail Puppet Company

Created & performed by: Jessica Gabriel & Chloe Ziner

A surrealist comedy about having a body and how it is seen by others. Gender-bending. Nudity. Projections. Puppetry. Original music. Sentient toothbrushes.

"Wildly original" - The Georgia Straight

"Fearless, clever, surreal, and delightfully funny" - Montreal Theatre Hub

Winner of Patron's Pick, Montreal Fringe 2019

Winner of Critic's Choice Innovation Award, Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards 2018

Winner of Edgy as F--- Award, Orlando Fringe 2018

Winner of Pick of the Fringe, Vancouver Fringe 2017

Winner of Artistic Risk Award, Vancouver Fringe 2017

Winner of Georgia Straight Critic's Pick Award, Vancouver Fringe 2017

Winner of Cultchivating the Fringe 2017

WARNING: 18 +

Nudity; sexual content; cartoonish death/suicide

Wah Wah Wah

Presented by: Wah Wah Wah Theatre

Written by: Celia Jade Green

Directed by: Bilal Baig

Featuring: Celia Jade Green

Production management and lighting design by: Echo Zhou

Through extreme physicality, tantrums and pigs, a young queer woman grapples with the messiness of being violated. What happens if I love it and hate it at the same time?

"Right from her unconventional entrance, it's clear that solo performer Celia Green has forged a fresh, inventive take on questions around harassment in the post #MeToo era." - NOW Magazine

"(Green's) story-telling is compelling and has you hooked." - Slotkin Letter

SummerWorks/Theatre Centre Emerging Artist Award (Celia Green)

NOW Magazine Outstanding Production

NOW Magazine Outstanding Direction (Bilal Baig)

WARNING: 14+

A talkback is scheduled after each show.

TOMORROW

Collectively created by: Hooks and Crooks

Directed by: Caite Clark

Stage Management and Sound by: HeatherEllen Strain

Lights, Costume, Set, and Projections by: Aurora Torok

Text by: Josh Johnston, Ryan Bommarito, and William Shakespeare

An immersive transmutation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* as parable for climate change, and our relationship with a terrifying future. This 20-minute show will be presented in the Centaur Theatre Gallery.

Chattermarks *

Presented by: CABAL

Written by: Joseph Shragge

Directed by: Anthony Kennedy

Dramaturgy by: Kyle Croutch

Choreography by: Michelle Rambharose

Featuring: Benita Bailey, Jillian Harris, Roxane Loumède, Alexandra Petrachuk, Meagan Schroeder

Costumes by: Sophie El-Assaad

Set Design by: Bruno-Pierre Houle

Sound Design by: Devon Bate

Lighting Design by: Jon Cleveland

French Translation and Consultant: Gabrielle Chapdelain

Does a treaty end the war? In Antarctic wastes, two estranged sisters and a crumbling paramilitary outfit collide. Come to Bleeding Falls, where fog meets ice.

"Cabal presents the prospect of a thrillingly unique performative aesthetic in its commitment to avant-garde, post-dramatic theatre." - Camila Fitzgibbon, Montreal Theatre Hub

"In an inspiring display of character work, movement, and many layered designs, *Mary Stuart* blends the old and new in a whirlwind of drama and physicality, bringing to light important issues in feminism. We highly recommend this one-of-a-kind performance." - Montreal Theatre Hub

Award-winning (META 2018) contemporary performance ensemble; 12 nominations ranging from performance to design to new writing.

* *Chattermarks* will be presented at [Théâtre La Chapelle](#): 3700 St-Dominique, Montreal, H2X 2X7. Wildside ticket buyers & Centaur subscribers pay \$20 instead of \$30 for *Chattermarks* tickets. Box Office: 514-843-7738

Confabulation: Games

Presented by: Confabulation

Featuring: True-life stories from seven storytellers

Confabulation is Montreal's original autobiographical storytelling series, presenting monthly showcases of true stories, based around a different theme each time. This year's Wildside edition explores "games": party, personal, political ... really all kinds!

"(Confabulation) encourages people to share because they can run with their ideas in an encouraging environment"- Rachel Levine, Cult MTL

"It seems that Montrealers wanted something like this" -Nantali Indongo, CBC News

"The room might be full of strangers, but after listening to a handful of them tell funny, touching and totally true stories about themselves, you can't help but feel like everyone around you has made a connection." -Rudrapriya Rathore, Rhino Montreal

4-Show Superpass

\$50 - Regular Adult

\$40 - Season subscribers/seniors/students/under 30s

Single Tickets

\$16 - Regular Adult

\$13 - Season subscribers/seniors/students/under 30s

***Paradise Lost* Tickets**

\$28 when you show a proof of purchase for Wildside at Box Office

***Chattermarks* Tickets**

\$30

\$20 for Wildside ticket buyers and Centaur subscribers

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Canada



Québec

