

OCTOBER 25-29, 2022

COM  
EDY  
IS  
ART.

---

## COMEDY IS ART.

it is an absolute honour to be curating this festival for the third year. i am forever impressed by the level of talent, professionalism, and creativity that abounds in toronto's comedy scene—particularly given the fact that artists practicing in comedy in canada are excluded from accessing the funding that is available to pretty much every other artistic discipline there is.

it's my hope that in programming work that showcases this talent, the artists feel supported and valued and that audiences wholeheartedly agree: comedy is art. it is brave, vulnerable, relentless work to get up onstage and try to make people laugh. being able to tell the joke and get the laugh comes from hours and hours of writing and performance, honing the timing, learning to read an audience, and being totally present in front of a room full of strangers to craft and deliver a set that lands. here at the theatre centre, we are so proud to present comedy is art: a declaration and a festival. because being funny is serious business.



– liza paul, *Associate Artistic Director, The Theatre Centre*

---

## UPCOMING

CO-PRODUCED BY THE THEATRE CENTRE  
& BROKEN SHAPES COLLECTIVE

CO-CREATED BY RIMAH JABR & DAREEN ABBAS

# BRO' SHAKEN APES



NOV 22-DEC 4, 2022

TICKETS PWYC: \$15, \$30, \$45, \$60

---

## **ABOUT THE THEATRE CENTRE**

### **What We Do**

The Theatre Centre is a nationally recognized live-arts incubator and community hub. Our mission is to offer a home for creative, cultural, and social interactions to invent the future.

We make work that spans disciplines and genres; work that pushes the boundaries of what is considered “art”. Our programming and our role as a community space are inextricably linked. Art is not made in a silo: it is connected to the world around it. To learn more, visit [theatrecentre.org/about](http://theatrecentre.org/about).

### **Where We Are**

The Theatre Centre resides on stolen land in Tkaronto — a gathering place that has been home to the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit; the Haudenosaunee; and the Wendat since time immemorial. We offer our gratitude to all past, present, and future generations of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples that have cared, and continue to care, for Turtle Island.

By making our home in Tkaronto, we take on a role that comes with responsibilities to the land and its stewards. These responsibilities start with building long-term and meaningful relationships with local Indigenous communities and organizations. We are committed to using our voice and platform to support those already doing the work, but we know we still have a long way to go.

### **Accessibility**

The Theatre Centre is physically accessible to audiences and artists alike. Each level has a barrier-free washroom and there’s a lift available for public use. If you have questions or need specific accommodations, please email or call the box office at (416) 538-0988 or email [boxoffice@theatrecentre.org](mailto:boxoffice@theatrecentre.org).

---

## A DECLARATION AND A FESTIVAL

Did you know that comedy isn't recognized as its own art form in Canada? Actors, playwrights, dancers, and even circus artists are eligible for discipline-specific funding, while comedians do not have access to program funding of their own. From October 25-29, 2022, catch a week of comedy and join the movement that emphatically declares: **COMEDY IS ART!**

**Comedy is Art.** features some of the best comedians in Toronto. Returning to the stage for the third time since 2019, the festival offers a week-long program of talented comedians you can catch **live in-person or stream from home.**



Tues 10/25	Wed 10/26	Thur 10/27	Fri 10/28	Sat 10/29
TallBoyz II Men	Stand Up For Sobriety	Black on Black on Black	Coko Galore presents UNSCRIPTABLE!	D.B. McLeod Presents: Real Estate Problems

---

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager  
**Navid Amini**

Production Stage Manager  
**Matt Pilipiak**

Lighting Designer  
**Shawn Henry**

Streaming Lead  
**Yoan Holder**

Lead Videographer  
**Filip Plaskota** (Creators at Play)

Head Technician  
**Aidan Shepherd**

ASL Interpreters  
**Nancie Anderson**  
**David Hughes**  
**Gaitrie Persaud**

---

## FESTIVAL LINEUP

*Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 @ 8:00PM*

### **TallBoyz II Men**

TallBoyz II Men are back! We didn't go anywhere but it's fun saying—we're back! We are also doing a show! Come join us for what is sure to be a fun-filled night filled with improv, sketches and maybe even a musical number or two!

Featuring: Franco Nguyen, Guled Abdi, Tim Blair, Vance Banzo

*Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022 @ 8:00PM*

### **Stand Up For Sobriety**

Come join us at The Theatre Centre for a night of stand-up comedy featuring some of Canada's best (and sober) comedians. This show started as a way for sober identifying folks to come and enjoy a night of laughs and fun, without being in an alcohol sales-centric environment, which The Theatre Centre provides.

Hosted By: John Mostyn

Performances by:

Brandon Ash-Mohammed,  
Rodrigo Fernandez-Stoll,  
Tracy Hamilton, Danny Martinello,  
John Mostyn, Todd Graham

*Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022 @ 8:00PM*

### **Black on Black on Black**

Black on Black on Black is a celebration of Black comedy, Black joy—all Black everything. Performers from across the spectrums of age, gender, body shape and size will make you laugh using comedic forms as diverse as themselves: sketch, stand-up, improv, maybe even comedic interpretive dance.

Featuring performers you've seen on HBO Max, Amazon Prime Video, Just For Laughs, The Second City—comedy so good you'll be coming Black again.

Hosted by: Ajahnis Charley

Performances by: Coko Galore, Brandon Hackett, Hisham Kelati, Sashka DC, Nkasi Ogbonah, Ajahnis Charley

*Friday, Oct. 28, 2022 @ 8:00PM*

### **Coko Galore presents UNSCRIPTABLE!**

Some actors know their lines! Some don't! This show matches actors who know their scripts with improvisers who don't! It's unpredictable, unrepeatable, unscriptable!

Hosted by: Coko Galore

Performances by: Guled Abdi, Ajahnis Charley, Paloma Nuñez, Kirsten Rasmussen, Sharjil Rasool, Giovanni Spina, Maricris Rivera, Jenny Raven, Chelsea Russell, Kathryn Kohut, and Araya Mengesha.

Produced & Directed by Coko Galore (Black & Funny TO)

*Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022 @ 8:00PM*

### **D.B. McLeod Presents: Real Estate Problems**

We all got Real Estate Problems! Some of us since 1942...

Join six incredible Indigenous comedians for a night of Indigenous joy and brilliance. By pushing boundaries, Real Estate Problems is making fun of all things colonial! These comedians are going to decolonize your funny bone so that we get our Land Back!

Hosted By: Denise B. McLeod

Performances by:

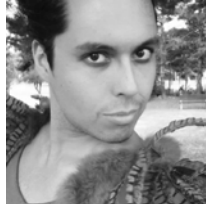
Samantha Mandaamin, Lena Recollet, Krysta Williams, Ozhawa Anung Kwe, Kevin Shawanda

---

## ARTISTS



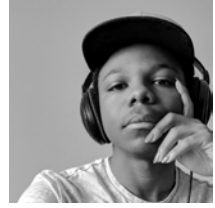
Guled Abdi



Ozhawa  
Anung Kwe



Brandon  
Ash-Mohammed



Ajahnis Charley



Sashka DC



Rodrigo  
Fernandez-Stoll



Coko Galore



Todd Graham



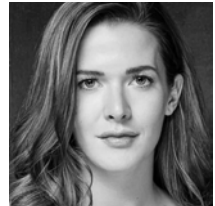
Brandon Hackett



Tracy Hamilton



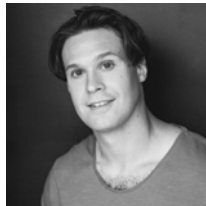
Hisham Kelati



Kathryn Kohut



Samantha  
Mandaamin



Danny Martinello



Denise B. McLeod



Araya Mengesha



John Mostyn



Paloma Nuñez



Nkasi Ogbonah



Kirsten Rasmussen



Sharjil Rasool



Jenny Raven



Lena Recollet



Maricris Rivera



Chelsea Russell



Kevin Shawanda



Giovanni Spina



TallBoyz II Men  
(Franco Nguyen,  
Guled Abdi,  
Tim Blair,  
Vance Banzo)

---

## THE THEATRE CENTRE STAFF

General and Artistic Director

**Aislinn Rose**

Associate Artistic Director

**liza paul**

Managing Director

**Mimi Mok**

Associate Managing Director

**Audrey Kwan**

Director of Facilities &  
Production

**Navid Amini**

Producer (on maternity leave)

**Alexis Eastman**

Technical Director

**Yoan Holder**

Publicity & Promotions  
Manager

**Tamara Jones**

Metcalf Intern (Artistic  
Direction)

**Ciarán Myers**

Development & Administrative  
Coordinator

**Gabby Noga**

Patron Experience Manager

**Angelo Pileggi**

House Technician

**Aidan Shepherd**

Associate Producer

**Samantha Vu**

Interim Producer

**Beth Wong**

---

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Barnett

Lindy Cowan (*President*)

Neeraj Jain

Roselyn Kelada-Sedra

Brittany Keenan

Brad Lepp

Paul Pinkus

Chris Scammell (*Treasurer*)

Shemeena Shraya

Maxine Thomas (*Secretary*)

---

## PATRON EXPERIENCE TEAM

Patron Experience Supervisor

**Natalia Bushnik**

Patron Experience Reps

**Shalyn Bass-McFaul**

**Rachel Moore**

**Alexandra Palma**

**Hilary Wirachowsky**

---

## CAFÉ/BAR TEAM

Café/Bar Manager

**James Wallis**

Café/Bar Staff

**Mel Leon**

**Tanya Rintoul**

**Rosie Tremblay-Johnston**

**Jeff Yung**



---

COMEDY IS ART. IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

# Kingfisher Foundation

We at The Theatre Centre would like to express our deepest gratitude to **Kingfisher Foundation**, whose generosity has made this festival possible. By funding **Comedy is Art**, Kingfisher allows us to recognize our city's talent in a truly meaningful way. It is our belief that commitments like these make all the difference to fostering lasting change in the sector. From the bottom of our hearts—thank you.

With special thanks to Steam Whistle, Solotech, and Creators at Play



SOLOTECH



---

## MAJOR PROGRAMMING SUPPORTERS



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Ontario  
Trillium  
Foundation



Fondation  
Trillium  
de l'Ontario



METCALF  
FOUNDATION



Kingfisher  
Foundation

---

## OPERATING CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our community of donors for helping us continue to support artists and the community. Your generosity has a tremendous impact on the way we work.

### **\$100,000+**

Estate of Kenneth  
Charles Dawe George  
Canada Council for the  
Arts  
Ontario Trillium  
Foundation  
The Slight Family  
Foundation  
Toronto Arts Council

### **\$50,000-\$99,999**

BMO Financial Group  
George Cedric  
Metcalf Charitable  
Foundation  
Kingfisher Foundation  
Ontario Arts Council

### **\$10,000-\$49,999**

Department of  
Canadian Heritage

### **\$5,000-\$9,999**

Lindy Cowan\* & Chris  
Hatley  
Charmaine & David  
Lindsay  
Robert Sirman  
John Todd & Jenny  
Ginder  
Anonymous (1)

### **\$2,500-\$4,999**

Ann Marie Stasiuk &  
Rick Matthews  
Richard Mortimer  
Anonymous (1)

### **\$1,000-\$2,499**

Linda Barnett\* & Ian  
Hawkins  
Charlotte Davis  
In Memory of Sallie  
Lyons

Lwam Ghebrehariat  
Neeraj\* & Jyoti Jain  
Brittany Keenan\*  
Brad\* & Jana Lepp  
Alon Nashman  
Christopher Scammell\*  
Shemeena Shraya\*  
Maxine Thomas\*  
Anonymous (1)

### **\$500-\$999**

Jannette & Sohrab  
Amini  
Andrew Arnold  
Kate Bishop & Doug  
Gerhart  
Franco Boni  
Randy Goldman  
Alanna Mitchell &  
James Patterson  
Martha Spears  
Michael Trent  
Anonymous (1)

### **\$250-\$499**

Jocelyne Achat  
Marisa Blankier  
Anne V. Fleming  
Nigel & Ruth Howard  
Oldfield Management  
Inc.  
Sheilah Reid  
Robert Wallace  
Elaine Wong  
Anonymous (1)

### **\$100-\$249**

Liza Balkan  
Joan Bosworth  
Sheona Campbell  
Graeme Clark  
Jamie Coatsworth &  
Christine Gillespie  
Colin A. Doyle  
D.W. Communications

Alex Fallis  
Barbara Fingerote  
Cathy Gordon  
Jim & Diane Graham  
Jonathan Heppner  
Claire Hopkinson  
Don Kendal  
Shawn Kerwin  
Rebecca Lewis  
Owais Lightwala  
Tenny Nigoghossian  
Helen & Everton Paul  
Katrjn Pereira  
Paul Pinkus\*  
In Honour of Paul  
Pinkus  
Kelly Read  
Alex & Mary Rose  
Marie Rounding  
Sarah G. Stanley  
Alida Stevenson  
Jini Stolk  
Guillermo Verdecchia  
Martin Wasserman  
Joyce & Fred Zemans  
Anonymous (2)

### **Up to \$99**

Andrew Akman  
Rebecca Amzallag  
Marissa Andrade  
In Honour of Anna  
MacKay-Smith  
Maziar  
Balazadehjavidiani  
Jay Dodge  
Elizabeth Behnen  
Amy Bugg  
Julie Burris  
Enrico Campana  
Carly Chamberlain  
David Craig  
Theresa Cutknife  
Kelly D  
Christopher J. Douglas

Angela Forbes  
Karen Franklin  
Laura Heidenheim  
Richard Hood  
Avrum Jacobson  
Roselyn Kelada-Sedra\*  
Susan Ann Lee  
Jennifer Liao  
Rosanna Lowton  
Amber MacKey  
E MacRae  
Blake Martin  
Holly Mathers  
Sarah J. Mcvie  
Gloria Mok  
Sam Mooney  
In Memory of Patrick  
Conner  
Kong Kie Njo

Stacey Norton  
Laura O'Brien  
Teresa Pavlinek  
Soraya Peerbaye  
Jennifer Phang  
Helen Mary Posno  
Rochelle Roberts  
Gary Robinson  
Maguelone de  
Roquefeuil-Vanstone  
Tiffany Schofield  
Sheilla Shojaie  
Pierre Simpson  
Terra M. Spencer  
Elaine Stewart  
Alexandra Sutherland  
Marilyn Tate  
Jessica Tester  
Ugur Uyguner

Mary Ann Elizabeth  
West  
Dawn Xavier-Franklin  
Hersh Zeifman  
Golnesa Amani  
Lo Bil  
Cheryl Boulton  
Beverly Carey  
Todd Copland  
Rose Cullis  
Breanna Dillon  
Karri Efston  
Sheila Goulet  
Celia Harte  
Dawn N. Obokata  
Mark Winter  
Christine Wu  
Anonymous (7)

\* Board Members

*The Theatre Centre is grateful for all the support from individual donors and partner organizations. This listing is accurate as of October 6, 2022. Should there be any error or omission in the listing, please contact us at [info@theatrecentre.org](mailto:info@theatrecentre.org) or 416-534-9261.*

---

## **WHEN YOU SUPPORT US, YOU SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF CREATIVITY.**

Everything we do is made possible by the generosity of the community. Your support gives artists the opportunity to embrace risk and helps a community hub to flourish. If you believe in the work we do, please consider making a donation by scanning the QR code or visiting [theatrecentre.org/join](http://theatrecentre.org/join).



Thank you to all our volunteers, donors, and community partners for supporting the work we do and helping us invent the future. Your time, energy, and resources are invaluable to the artists and communities we serve.

---

## CONNECT WITH US

1115 Queen St. West  
P.O. Box 232, Stn. C  
Toronto ON M6J 3P4  
416-538-0988

[theatrecentre.org](http://theatrecentre.org) | [@TheTheatreCentre](https://www.instagram.com/TheTheatreCentre)

### **Publicity/Media Enquiries**

Tamara Jones  
[tamara@theatrecentre.org](mailto:tamara@theatrecentre.org)