

## **BUDDIES ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR THE 40<sup>th</sup> RHUBARB FESTIVAL**

Festival Sponsor **TD Bank Group**  
**FEBRUARY 13 - 23, 2019**

**EVENT AND TICKET INFO AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT**  
[buddiesinbadtimes.com/rhubarb](http://buddiesinbadtimes.com/rhubarb)

Canada's longest-running new works festival returns for its 40<sup>th</sup> year this February! For two weeks, The Rhubarb Festival transforms Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times Theatre into a hotbed of experimentation, exploring new possibilities in theatre, dance, comedy, music, installation, and performance art. Rhubarb is the place to experience the most adventurous ideas in performance and catch your favourite artists venturing into uncharted territory.

Rhubarb Festival Director **Mel Hague** comments, "I am so excited to share the programming for our 40<sup>th</sup> Festival. The incredible group of artists that have come together are bringing raw, emotional, weird, and ecstatic works – there are over 100 artists in the festival, more than 20 new installations, performances, music, comedy, all drawn together for eight wild nights of performance."

The 40<sup>th</sup> Rhubarb Festival marks Mel's fifth as festival director and also her last, as she steps into an expanded role helming the company's Residency Program.

### **Festival highlights include:**

- A special presentation of **Tobias Herzberg's** solo show *Feygele* from the **Maxim Gorki Theater Berlin**, in partnership with the **red light district**
- In *The Apocalypse Plays: A Legacy Project*, **Natasha Greenblatt** teams up with her mother, **Kate Lushington**, to finish a performance trilogy started by Kate at Rhubarb in the 1980s
- *The Princess Show*, a fully lip-synced anime drag performance from Halifax company **HEIST**
- *Deafies' Unique Time*, a new show created by three BIPOC D/deaf artists (**Thurga Kanagasekarampillai, Ralitsa Rodriguez, and Ali Saeedi**), in partnership with Edmonton's *Sound Off: A Deaf Theatre Festival*
- An evening of stand-up featuring some of the city's best queer and POC comics, including **Brandon Ash-Mohammed, Hoodo Hersi, Elvira Kurt**, and more
- **The AMY Project** takes over the cabaret to present the culminating showing of their Performance Creation Program for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour trans women and trans femmes, directed by **Bilal Baig**
- *A Trouble of Queers*, a cabaret by the acclaimed DIY QTBIPOC festival, **Bricks and Glitter** featuring **Carolina Brown, Mikiki Burino, Monica Garrido**, and more
- A brand new cabaret from Toronto's favourite drag storytellers, **Fay Slift and Fluffy Soufflé**, involving kids as both audience members and performers
- A new partnership with **Progress** to introduce **The Performance Bus**, which will shuttle audiences between Buddies and the Theatre Centre on Rhubarb's opening night and Progress' closing night with a host and pop-up performances along the way.
- New short works from **Makram Ayache, Rhiannon Collett, Athena Holmes, Katie Swift, Hanlon McGregor + Syrus Marcus Ware**, and more

## MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS - Festival artists and Festival Director Mel Hague are available for interviews in English. A list of Arabic, ASL, Dutch, Farsi, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Urdu-speaking artists is available on request.

REVIEW POLICY - Media are invited to participate in the entire festival, but **Rhubarb has a strict no review policy**. For accreditation, contact Aidan Morishita-Miki at 416-975-9130 x35 or [aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com](mailto:aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com).

ON-LINE RESOURCE - The Buddies website includes a Media Centre that houses press releases, images, and other pertinent information for easy download.  
[www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/media](http://www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/media)

## PLEASE ADD TO YOUR LISTINGS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Buddies in Bad Times Theatre** presents

### **THE 40<sup>TH</sup> RHUBARB FESTIVAL**

Festival Director Mel Hague

February 13-23, 2019

#### TICKETS:

Wed-Sat - \$20 Evening Pass

PWYC Rush tickets available each day

Box Office 416-975-8555 or [buddiesinbadtimes.com/rhubarb](http://buddiesinbadtimes.com/rhubarb)

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander Street, Toronto ON

----

Established in 1979, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre is a professional Canadian theatre company dedicated to the development and presentation of queer theatre. Over the course of its history, it has evolved into the largest facility-based queer theatre company in the world and had made an unparalleled contribution to the recognition and acceptance of queer lives in Canada.