

Buddies Residency Program Sponsor **BMO Financial Group**

BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE ANNOUNCES RESIDENT ARTISTS FOR 2016-17

THE COMPANY'S FIRST-EVER OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS YIELDS A DIVERSE MIX OF WRITERS, COLLECTIVES, AND THEATRE MAKERS

Toronto: September 8, 2016

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre announced today the addition of four new projects to its successful new works development program. For the first time ever, these projects were chosen through an open call for submissions, which was announced earlier in the year.

Playwright Johnnie Walker will team up with Jiv Parasram and Tom Arthur Davis of Pandemic Theatre to continue development of Walker's documentary-style exploration into the case of queer-bashing victim turned convict Luke O'Donovan.

Bruce Gibbons Fell's company, Cocodrilo Triste Theatre Collective, will be developing *The Communist Manifesto for Children* – a new dark comedy, written in Spanish and English, which explores class, conscience, language and power.

The program also welcomes two new writer-centered projects that both offer unique perspectives on the world of lesbian romance – Jenna Harris' *Mine* and Teneile Warren's *Random Closeness*.

Returning in 2016-17 are ted witzel and Susanna Fournier, who will continue development of *LULU: Aspects of a Femme Fatale*, which has been in residency at Buddies since 2015. Theatre collective Birdtown and Swanville also return to the residency program this year with *Credit River*, a poetic exploration of our capacity for violence.

Many of the works will include public readings or showings of work in progress (a schedule for which will be announced later in the year).

Founded in 2010, the Buddies Residency Program is the only program in the country solely devoted to the creation of original queer performance works. This flexible, artist-centered program welcomes writers, theatre collectives, directors, performance artists, choreographers, and other inter-disciplinary artists to develop work over a one-to-four-year term under the guidance of Company Dramaturge Mel Hague, and Artistic Director Evalyn Parry.

The Buddies Residency Program has yielded such main stage hits as *Obaaberima*, *The Gay Heritage Project*, *Gertrude and Alice*, and the upcoming *Black Boys*, earning a total 17 Dora Mavor Moore nominations, including 4 wins.

The program is sponsored by BMO Financial Group, with additional support for the residencies of Jenna Harris and ted witzel from the Ontario Arts Council.

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Established in 1979, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre is Toronto's leading destination for artistically rigorous, alternative theatre and a world leader in developing queer voices and stories for the stage. Over the course of its history, it has evolved into the largest facility-based queer theatre company in the world and has made an unparalleled contribution to the recognition and acceptance of queer lives in Canada.