

BUDDIES ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR THE RHUBARB FESTIVAL

Festival Sponsor TD Bank Group
FEBRUARY 12 - 22, 2020

EVENT AND TICKET INFO AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT
buddiesinbadtimes.com/rhubarb

Canada's longest-running new works festival returns for its 41st 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.

This year marks the first Rhubarb for Festival Director **Clayton Lee**, as well as a new curatorial collective model. **Vanden Boomen, Theresa Cutknife, Claudia Edwards, Victoria Mata**, and Lee have curated a broad range of performance projects from emerging and established, local and international artists.

"This year's Rhubarb is an experiment in density: an intervention of the status quo through ideas, text, and bodies in and not in motion, an attempt at radical inclusion, and a purposeful collision of past, present and future." says the collective.

Festival highlights include:

- A new performance, *practicing listening to the subterranean murmurs* by UK-based artist and dancer **Last Yearz Interesting Negro**, following their Barbican performance commission.
- A special presentation from New York's **Keijaun Thomas** (shortlisted for the 2019 ANTI International Prize for Live Art), *My Last American Dollar...* celebrating and meditating on the spaces that Black and Brown people hold for each other.
- An Audience Handbook project helmed by **Cara Spooner** with contributions from 30 artists including **Brendan Healy, Franco Boni, Rosina Kazi, Patricia Wilson**, and more.
- A cabaret evening conjuring a queer church, featuring **Sofia Fly, Soft Honey + Tigerwing**, and **Boiband the Boyband**.
- A queer, drag, and POC reimagining of a classic horror anthology – *Scary Stories People of Colour Tell in the Dark* with **Patrick Salvani/Miss Nookie Galore**.
- A spotlight on solo performance artists including **Francesco Gagliardi, Nabil, Ursula Martinez**, and **Thirza Cuthand**.
- The return of **The AMY Project's** *Trans Gemmes*, a collective of Black, Indigenous, and POC trans women and trans femmes, with a "girls' night out gone wild" directed by **Bilal Baig**
- New short works from **Jay Northcott + Alisha Van Wieren, Liz Der + Sofia Rodriguez, Smith Purdy, Nickeshia Garrick, Nyda Kwasowsky + Rajna Swaminathan**, and more.

MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS - Festival artists and Festival Director Clayton Lee and curatorial collective members Vanden Boomen, Theresa Cutknife, Claudia Edwards, and Victoria Mata are available for interviews in English. A list of ASL, Bangla, French, Italian, Spanish, and Tagalog-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 x40 or 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

PLEASE ADD TO YOUR LISTINGS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

THE RHUBARB FESTIVAL

Festival Director Clayton Lee

Curatorial Collective Vanden Boomen, Theresa Cutknife, Claudia Edwards, Clayton Lee + Victoria Mata

February 12-22, 2020

TICKETS:

Wed-Sat: \$20 Evening Pass

PWYC Rush tickets available each day

Box Office 416-975-8555 or 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.