

BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE ANNOUNCES ARTIST LINEUP FOR *THE RHUBARB FESTIVAL*

FEBRUARY 9-13, 2022

PROGRAMMING AND TICKET INFO AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT

buddiesinbadtimes.com/rhubarb

Marking a return to mainstage programming at Buddies, Canada's longest-running new works festival is back for its 43rd year this February. In a new one-week format, The Rhubarb Festival transforms Buddies into a hotbed of experimentation, exploring new possibilities in art-making and performance. This year's festival, curated by festival director **Clayton Lee**, sees artists respond to an installation by award-winning designer and architect **Andrea Shin Ling**. In her conceptual prompt to artists, she asks, "*What does it mean after a year such as this, to regenerate one's practice? What have we left to deteriorate, and what do we use as fodder and fuel for new creation?*"

After reimagining the festival as a performative publication last year, Clayton has brought on architect Andrea Shin Ling to create a living container for Rhubarb's 2022 iteration. Andrea's work explores how biological and digital processes can intersect in design, and her recent project *Design by Decay, Decay by Design* won the STARTS prize for innovation at the nexus of Science, Technology, and the Arts in 2020. Her large-scale Rhubarb installation, *Calculus of an infinite rot, part 1*, follows the path of this work, and experiments with designed decay in organic objects, complicating ideas around decay and regeneration as paired processes in nature.

"Andrea's work simultaneously addresses concerns about the present, while using technology and research that propels us decades into the future. The installation she's creating for Rhubarb is a response to this moment and the festival artists, in turn, are creating work that responds to it." says festival director Clayton Lee.

This year's festival is intentionally smaller—with no repeat performances—in an effort to provide more robust support to artists, and allow for the projects to be in ongoing conversation with one another. The new structure invites audiences to consider the accumulation of performances over the festival, rather than one night, echoing Ling's dynamic installation.

The festival's 2022 programming includes work by generational duo **Lara Kramer** and **Ruby Caldwell Kramer**, an impromptu sonic performance by New York-based **Jesús Hilario-Reyes**, a performance lecture by **Sarah Garton Stanley**, a multimedia concert by **Stanford Cheung**, and more. Full schedule and artist details are available on the website.

MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS - Festival artists and Festival Director Clayton Lee and design lead Andrea Shin Ling are available for interviews in English. A list of Cantonese, French, and Spanish-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 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

COVID SAFETY + RESTRICTIONS

The safety of patrons, artists, and staff is a key priority in the organization of Rhubarb. We are currently selling tickets at a reduced capacity (25%), which will allow ample space for the audience to physically distance themselves in the venue.

With Ontario currently in a modified step-two re-opening phase (prohibiting all indoor public performances), we are continuing to monitor the situation, and are prepared for the scale or format of the festival to shift accordingly. We will share an update on our website by January 27th, once regulations and restrictions affecting the festival's dates are made clear. All tickets are refundable in case of cancellation or postponement.

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Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

THE RHUBARB FESTIVAL

Festival Director **Clayton Lee**

Design Lead **Andrea Shin Ling**

February 9-13, 2021

Back for a 43rd year, Rhubarb transforms Buddies into a hotbed of experimentation, with artists challenging our notions of what art-making and art-watching can be. As Canada's longest-running festival of experimental performance, Rhubarb is the place to encounter the most adventurous ideas in performance and to catch familiar and unfamiliar artists venturing into uncharted territory.

This year, design lead Andrea Shin Ling creates a large-scale installation in the Chamber space that will serve as a site for artists to respond to, engage with, and leave their mark on. Her Rhubarb project, *Calculus of an infinite rot, part 1*, experiments with designed decay in organic objects, complicating ideas around decay and regeneration as paired processes in nature.

Participating artists:

Moe Angelos, Ruby Caldwell Kramer + Lara Kramer, Paul Chambers, Stanford Cheung, Claudia Edwards + Tram Nghiem, Jesus Hilario-Reyes, Jessica Johns, Myung-Sun Kim, Louise Lilliefeldt, Sarah Garton Stanley, Brawk Ward + Esther Splett, Claude Wittmann, Johannes Zits

TICKETS:

Wed-Sun: Sliding scale, \$10/\$20/\$40, with a limited number of free tickets each day

Box Office 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.