

BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING LINEUP FOR THE RHUBARB FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 8–11, 2023

PROGRAMMING AND TICKET INFO AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT

buddiesinbadtimes.com/rhubarb

Canada's longest-running new works festival is back for its 44th year this February. In a new four-day 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**, brings together both local and international artists for a series of one-off presentations, in a format that is designed to allow audience members and artists to experience the Festival in its entirety. This intentionally shorter format, too, provides more fulsome support to artists.

Over the past three years, Rhubarb has been developing relationships with live art festivals around the world, with the intention of contextualizing local artistic practice within a larger, global performance ecology. For this year's festival, this curatorial network brings to Toronto audiences works by **Bastien Hippocrate** (*Les Urbaines*, Lausanne, Switzerland), **Laura Fisher** (*BUZZCUT*, Glasgow, UK), and **Publik Universal Frxnd (fka Richard John Jones) & Louwrien Wijers** (*FLAM*, Amsterdam, Netherlands). As part of this same partnership, Rhubarb artists **Louise Liliefeldt** and **Brawk Ward & Esther Splett** have brought their works abroad over the past year.

"Practice cannot exist—or, for that matter, shift or expand—in a vacuum and the curated artists are sharing ways of making work that have the potential to unlock, for the audience, new modes of performance creation," says festival director Clayton Lee. *"By inviting international artists into the fold, through the curatorial network and beyond, we are able to deepen these conversations by locating these strategies within a broader global context."*

The festival's 2022 programming also includes a super queer social curated by **Myung-Sun Kim, Jody Chan, and Ness Lee**; a puzzle lounge designed by **Moe Angelos** and **Rachel Hauck**, featuring over 400 puzzles from the collection of the late **Melissa Levin**; a food burlesque performance by **Mars Alexander**; a new, post-apocalyptic multimedia piece by **Keioui Keijaun Thomas**; an award-winning self-defense/dance hybrid piece (Impulstanz's Young Choreographers' Award) by **Davi Pontes & Wallace Ferreira**; and more. Full schedule and programming details are available on the website.

MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS - Festival artists and Festival Director Clayton Lee are available for interviews in English. A list of Spanish, Portuguese, Mi'kmaw, and French-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

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Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

THE RHUBARB FESTIVAL

Festival Director **Clayton Lee**

February 8–11, 2023

Back for a 44th 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 new works festival, 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, the festival intentionally expands its scope internationally, through a curatorial exchange with three live art festivals in Europe and the UK: FLAM in Amsterdam; Les Urbaines in Lausanne, Switzerland; BUZZCUT in Glasgow. As part of this multi-year exchange, Rhubarb will invite artists from and send Canadian artists to each of these contexts to perform.

Wednesday February 8

Davi Pontes + Wallace Ferreira

Julian Higuerey Núñez + Henry Adam Svec

Laura Fisher

Thursday, February 9

Myung-Sun Kim, Jody Chan + Ness Lee

Publik Universal Frxnd (fka Richard John Jones) + Louwrien Wijers

Mars Alexander

Friday, February 10

KINUK (Ursula Johnson + Angella Parsons)

Simla Civelek

Bastien Hippocrate

Saturday, February 11

Celia Green + Madeleine LeBlanc

Keioui Keijaun Thomas

Throughout - in the cabaret

Moe Angelos + Rachel Hauck

TICKETS:

Wed-Sat: Sliding scale, \$10/\$25/\$40/\$70

Performances at 7PM, Guzzle 'n' Puzzle lounge opens at 6PM

Box Office buddiesinbadtimes.com/rhubarb or 416-975-8555

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.