

## **BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING LINEUP FOR THE 45TH RHUBARB FESTIVAL**

**FEBRUARY 8–18, 2024**

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

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre proudly announces the return of Canada's longest-running new works festival, back for its 45th edition this February. **The Rhubarb Festival** challenges conventional notions of art-making and art-watching, offering audiences an immersive experience of the most adventurous ideas in performance.

This year's two-week festival continues to push boundaries with a curated selection of one-of-a-kind presentations. Programmed by an Artist Committee formed by **Jordan Campbell** [STARLIGHT] (xLq, SummerWorks), **Leelee Oluwatyosi Eko Davis** (TO Love-In), **daniel jelani ellis** (Obsidian Theatre), and **Ludmylla Reis** (Buddies in Bad Times), and alongside Rhubarb Artistic Producer **Sue Balint**, this year's Festival promises to be a celebration of experimentation and queer audacity in the true spirit of Buddies.

This year, the Festival's industry series puts an emphasis on supporting the development of young-in-craft artists, recognizing the challenges for artists entering the live arts industry today. The **Young-in-Craft Cohort** will have access to networking opportunities, skills development sessions, as well as a showcase slot in the Festival.

The Festival's 2024 programming includes:

- A Young-in-Craft cohort including **Cloud**, **Valentine Leger**, **Anthony (Ani) Palermo**, **Sindi Pinari**, **Ashley T**, and **Evan Webb**, who will share works at the Young-in-Craft cabaret hosted by **xLq**;
- New works by artists familiar to Buddies and Rhubarb audiences, including **Nickeshia Garrick**, **Stephen Jackman-Torkoff**, and **Elizabeth Staples**;
- Out of town presentations from Montreal (**Michael Martini** and **Emile Pineault + Gabriel Cholette**), Regina (**Jaye Kovach**), Saskatoon (**S.E. Grummett + Sam Kruger**), and Glasgow, Scotland (**Jian Yi**);
- Installation projects taking over the Cabaret and Antechamber by **Tanya Marquardt**, **Raganathan Rajan**, and **Brigita Gedgudas**;
- Two late night events — **Thirst Nation**, an Indigiqueer and 2-Spirit focused performance party, and Bathhouse and Bodyworks' **Amateur Strip Night Judged by Drag Things** — plus a cabaret by west end drag royalty **Künst Kids**.

Full schedule and programming details are available on the website.

## MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS - Festival artists and Artistic Producer Sue Balint are available for interviews in English. A list of Albanian, French, Hindi, Kannada, Lithuanian, Mandarin, and Tamil-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](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 RHUBARB FESTIVAL**

Artist Committee **Jordan Campbell, Leelee Oluwatyosi Eko Davis, daniel jelani ellis,** and  
**Ludmylla Reis**

Festival Artistic Producer **Sue Balint**

February 8–18, 2024

Back for a 45th 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.

Throughout the Festival

**Tanya Marquardt** — *Some Must Watch While Some Must Sleep*

Thursday, February 8, 7PM

**isi bhakhomen** — *Mami*

**Nickeshia Garrick** — *Find Your Rhythm*

**Brigita Gedgudas** — *Be Vardy Be Kojy*

**Stephen Jackman-Torkoff** — *Die Phantasie*

**Tanya Marquardt** — *Some Must Watch While Some Must Sleep - Installation Opening Event*

Friday, February 9, 7PM

**Stephen Jackman-Torkoff** — *Die Phantasie*

**Elizabeth Staples** — *Chez Moi*

Young-in-Craft Cabaret (featuring **Cloud, Valentine Leger, Anthony (Ani) Palermo, Sindi**

**Pinari + Ashley T**, hosted by **xLq**)

Saturday, February 10, 7PM

**Nickeshia Garrick** — *Find Your Rhythm*

**Michael Martini** — *What if Hansel Consented to Being Baked Alive?*

**Emile Pineault + Gabriel Cholette** — *rock bottom*

*Thirst Nation: Chill*, curated by **Tygr Willy**, featuring **Madam Ode'miin Surprise, Nicole Joy Fraser, Ravyn Wngz, Rhinestone Chickadee, Savage Moon**, and more, and music by DJs **Yamari** and **Ayakew** (10:30PM)

Sunday, February 11, 2PM

**Michael Martini** — *What if Hansel Consented to Being Baked Alive?*

**Elizabeth Staples** — *Chez Moi*

Wednesday, February 14, 1PM

**Jaye Kovach** — *I don't want to see or be seen by cis people (The Workshop)*

Thursday, February 15, 7PM

**Jaye Kovach** — *I don't want to see or be seen by cis people (The Performance/T4T Party)*

Friday, February 16, 7PM

**S.E. Grummett** — *Nude Parade (work-in-progress)*

**Lester Trips (Theatre)** — *HONEY I'M HOME*

Künst Kids (**Kurt Cumstain, Full Blown Father, Kasper the Queer Ghost, Baby Bleu**, and **Ms. G.**) and special guests **Vridhhi Chaudhry, Jan Jennings + Evan Webb**

**Tanya Marquardt** — *Some Must Watch While Some Must Sleep - Digital Experience Day 1*

Saturday, February 17, 7PM

**Amateur Strip Night judged by Drag Things**

**Lester Trips (Theatre)** — *HONEY I'M HOME*

**Ranganathan Rajan** — *Phase Colloid* (4-9PM)

**Jian Yi** — *Magic Theatre - [scenes from the unconscious]*

**Tanya Marquardt** — *Some Must Watch While Some Must Sleep - Digital Experience Day 2*

Sunday, February 18, 2PM

**Roberto Soria** — *Fragrance 0*

**Jian Yi** — *Magic Theatre - [scenes from the unconscious]*

**Tanya Marquardt** — *Some Must Watch While Some Must Sleep - Digital Experience Day 3*

TICKETS:

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

Performances at 7PM (Thurs-Sat) and 2PM (Sun)

Late Night Events 10:30PM (Sat)

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

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

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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.