

16TH BIENNIAL

Liverpool International Theatre Festival



October 17-20, 2024

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Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Canada



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Premier's Message

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, I am delighted to welcome you to the 16th biennial Liverpool International Theatre Festival.

The LITF is the only festival of its kind in Eastern Canada, and thousands of artists and theatre lovers come to experience this thriving international showcase of compelling amateur theatre.

Since its inception in 1992, Liverpool has proudly hosted global theatrical troupes, and celebrated cultural diversity and exceptional dramatic expression. Regardless of the language, audiences have consistently enjoyed the many high-quality performances at the historic Astor Theatre.

To our visitors, I encourage you to explore the region's events, attractions, and natural beauty during your stay. I know you'll find it rewarding.

Congratulations to the festival organizers and all those who have worked tirelessly to make this celebration of live international theatre possible.

Enjoy the festival! Yours truly,

Honourable Tim Houston, M.L.A.
Premier



Greetings

Greetings

I am honoured and proud to warmly welcome everyone to the 2024 Liverpool International Theatre Festival in our beautiful province of Nova Scotia and the welcoming communities of Queens County, Canada.

A heartfelt thank you to the LITF Executive, Artistic Directors, and their dedicated volunteers, who have spent the past two years preparing to welcome visitors from around the globe to this world-renowned event.

Special thanks to our host families, who graciously open their hearts and homes to visiting troupes, and to our sponsors and audiences. Your unwavering support is what sustains this festival and highlights the vital role the arts play in our communities.

To all participants and visitors, I wish you a truly memorable experience as you explore Nova Scotia and Queens County. With our friendly people, breathtaking scenery, rich history, and thriving arts community, this region is truly one-of-a-kind—and there's no place I'd rather call home!

Best wishes to all for a successful and enjoyable festival!

Kim Masland
MLA for Queens

Welcome

Every two years residents of Liverpool and communities throughout Queens County welcome theatre troupes from around the world into their homes and into their lives during the Liverpool International Theatre Festival (LITF).

This year eleven countries will showcase the best in amateur global theatre. The result is an amazing opportunity to experience a wide variety of culture, style and messages about life both on and off stage. It is wonderful to see troupes returning from previous festivals which clearly indicates the warm hospitality experienced in the past.

May all the troupe members have a marvelous time and enjoy this extraordinary international theatre festival.

To the hosts, sponsors, organizers, partners, audience members and every person involved with LITF, thank you for bringing the world to our Astor stage.

Mayor Darlene Norman
Region of Queens Municipality

Thanks to Our Host Families

The LITF Festival Team acknowledges, with deep appreciation, the generosity of the Host Families, who have opened their homes to our international visitors and Festival staff. Without your generous support and warm hospitality, the Liverpool International Theatre Festival would not be possible.

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Treasurer	Rob Cook
Secretary	Sue Beaumont-Rudderham
Past Chair	Margo Walsh-Leaman

LITF COMMITTEE MEMBERS & SUPPORT TEAMS

Registration & Information	Sue Beaumont-Rudderham Peta Maidman Julie Bell Beth Lawrence Faye Levy Margaret Poulton
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Protocol	Annette Burke
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Awards & Opening, Closing Ceremonies	Annette Burke
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TECHNICAL

Artistic Directors	Vic Mills Neil Maidman
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Production Managers	Susanna Haley Paige Miller
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Technical Director	Cody Hatt
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Festival Opening Night

PARADE OF FLAGS • OPENING CEREMONIES

Opening Night festivities will kick off at 6:00 pm on the Liverpool Waterfront, where all participants will gather for a vibrant parade through downtown Liverpool, proudly carrying their nations' flags. Led by members of the cast of *Alice in Wonderland Jr.*, presented by Mersey Rose Theatre Company, the parade will conclude at the Astor Theatre. Inside the theatre, we will warmly welcome the participating troupes, play their national anthems, and enjoy opening remarks. Following the ceremony, the *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* cast will take the stage for a special performance. The theatre will clear in preparation for the 8:30 play.

NEXT TIME

stay awhile.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

8:30 PM



ARTHUR & MARIGOLD

THE WINDS OF CHANGE

Nova Scotia, Canada

By Ensemble

Drama

English

Adult

CAST

Marigold.	Annette Burke
Arthur	Greg Tutty

PRODUCTION TEAM

Sandra Atkinson
 Sue Beaumont
 Kevin Colwell
 Sue Higgins
 Jackie Leonard
 Andrew MacWha
 Greg Tutty

SYNOPSIS

Seen through the frame of a photo album, the play traces the lives of an ordinary couple, Arthur and Marigold, over a 70 year period beginning in 1926. Through Arthur’s memories, we see snapshots of his life together with Marigold while examining the impact of traditional male-female roles in a relationship over various decades.

A non-verbal play, the actors are tasked with conveying Arthur and Marigold’s story through physical expression, aided by props and costume pieces to suggest various ages and life events.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

For more than five decades, the **Winds of Change Dramatic Society** has contributed to the cultural vibrancy of Queens County, Nova Scotia, by staging live amateur theatre. The company is particularly known for its musical theatre productions, showcasing the talents of local musicians and singers. Productions over the years have included *Evita*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Les Misérables*. From humble beginnings in the basement of a local church, Winds of Change now performs in the historic Astor Theatre in Liverpool.

The Winds of Change has proudly participated in numerous LITF Festivals since 1992.

THANKS TO:

Ron Atkinson, Sheree Chandler, Lt C. Russell Clarke, CD (D), Katy Hopkins & Joe Lyndon (Astor Theatre), Donald Innis, Val Lantz, Susan MacLeod, Tanya MacLeod, Janice Reynolds, RQM, South Queens Junior High, Al Steele, Jan Tutty, and Grant Webber. Special thanks to Tim McDonald for the vintage area photographs and to Leslie Clarke for her help in developing the play.




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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

2:30 PM



SOMEONE IS CALLING US
SIGNAGHI MUNICIPAL THEATER
Sighnaghi, Georgia
By Tamaz Bibiluri

Drama

Georgian

Adult

CAST

Anchor **Manuchar Samushia**
Mother Monk **Nana Bukia**
Old Man **Akakai Dzadzamia**
Girl **Anna Mtchedlidze**
Boy **Nika Chkdhaidze**
Avto **Tornike Chekurishvili**
Young Avto **Muradi Vashakidze**

CREW

Director **Murad Vashadkidze**
Tech Producer **Shalva Pkhovelishvili**
Stage/Costume Designer **Teimuraz Sumbatashvili**
Stage Manager **Lasha Goderdzishvili**

SYNOPSIS

This poignant play explores the theme of loneliness and the barriers we create in human relationships. In a world where people are increasingly isolated, locked in their own thoughts and struggles, the play highlights how we fail to hear or respond to the calls of others. Although we are constantly reaching out, the noise of our own concerns drowns out the voices around us.

At the heart of the story is an elderly couple who, for 30 years, have waited for their children to return from war. Though they have heard no word from them, the couple clings to hope. Their story is narrated by a character who deeply feels the loneliness in the world and decides to bring happiness, even if just for one evening. One rainy night, two young travelers—caught in a storm after missing their train—are brought by the narrator to the old couple’s home. For the first time in decades, the couple’s voices are heard by others, and they seize the opportunity to bring joy to the young visitors. This brief connection brings newfound happiness and purpose to the elderly couple. However, as dawn breaks, the dream fades. The young couple departs on the next train, leaving the old couple calling out once more, unanswered. Life returns to its familiar silence, and the waiting resumes.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Sighnaghi Municipal Theater has a rich history dating back to the 18th century, with its first performance in 1873. Since then, the company has been a vital part of Georgian cultural life, reflecting important historical events through its plays. Over the years, Sighnaghi Theatre has become internationally renowned, participating in numerous festivals around the world. In addition to their participation in AITA/IATA festivals, the company has performed at events such as Latvia's Madonna Festival, Lithuania's Pictures of Pictures, Czechia's Sesanic Harvest, and festivals in Chelyabinsk, Mexico, Japan, and Turkey.

They’ve also toured extensively in cities like Istanbul, Denizli, Riga, Jurmala, Athens, Thessaloniki, and throughout Italy and Germany, while regularly performing across Georgia.

At the LITF 2016, Sighnaghi Municipal Theater won three prestigious awards: Outstanding International Production, Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actress, and the People’s Choice Award. The theatre also participated in the inaugural LITF in 1992.



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

4:00 PM



LA PRUEBA DE LAS PROMESAS/ THE PROOF OF PROMISES

EN MOVIMIENTO TEATRO

Mexico

By Juan Ruiz de Alarcón / Adaptation: Oscar Agiss

Comedy

Spanish/English

All Ages

CAST

Doña Illán. **Amaranta Getino**
Blanca. . . . **Vania Maldonado**
Don Enrique. **Cesar Espinosa**
Lucía. **Andrea Piceno**
Doña Juana **Samantha Tavera**
Tristania. **Dulce Galván**

PRODUCTION

Director **Oscar Agiss**
Lighting /Sound Design **Beatriz Carrillo**
Stage/Costume Designer **Oscar Agiss,**
Beatriz Carrillo, Dulce Galvanfield
Stage Manager **Adriana Mascorro, Andrea Piceno**

SYNOPSIS

Doña Illan is Blanca's mother and is a sorcerer in this comedy. She challenges two suitors that look for her daughter's love (Don Enrique and Doña Juana), by performing a spell that shows their true feelings. With this, she bestows their noble titles and wealth in order to know if their promises and feelings for Blanca are true. Meanwhile, two maids in the play, Lucia serving Doña Illan and Tristania serving Doña Blanca, live a romance from which they will take advantage to favour their mistresses.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

En Movimiento Teatro is primarily of graduates from the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Since 2010, they have participated in numerous cultural events, including key initiatives from the Taxco campus of the UNAM Foreign Languages Education Center (CEPE), such as the 'Ex-alumni breakfast meeting' and 'The Day of the Dead Mega-altar,' among others. They are also featured in the regular programme of dramatised lectures as part of the 'Reading Fridays' at the Humanities House of UNAM.

Internationally recognized, the troupe was chosen as the main performing group at the Patos Festival in Minas Gerais, Brazil. Their participation in global festivals includes the Liverpool International Theatre Festival (LITF) in 2014, where they performed *Shakespeare en Movimiento*, and again in 2018 with *AmandoNOs*, which was nominated for the Public's Choice Award, and where actress Amaranta Getino won Outstanding Supporting Female Actor. The troupe returned to LITF in 2022 and is now making their fourth appearance at the festival.

Currently, the troupe is part of the Community Collectives Programme with their acting workshop *Shakespeare en Escena*, and continues to engage in the Community Festivals and Interventions Programme with *Shakespeare en Movimiento*. Their dedication to theatre has earned them multiple accolades and widespread recognition both in Mexico and abroad.

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Hon. Kim Masland
MLA for QUEENS

902.354.5470

271 Main Street
Liverpool, NS

kim.maslandmla@gmail.com

'Break a Leg!'

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

7:00 PM



SWEET ADDICTIONS

THEATRE STUDIO BELOE

Switzerland

By *Maria Rakotonarivo*

Drama

English

Adult

CAST

Addicted 1 **Anna Fastishevskaya**
Addicted 2 **Shuai Jin**
Addicted 3 **Ekaterina Vasileva**
Addicted 4 **Svetlana Irovich**
Addicted 5 **Peter Farkas**
Addicted 6 **Nadezda Thomassin**
Addicted 7 **Jelena Zurajeva**

CREW

Director **Maria Rakotonarivo**

SYNOPSIS

What do we truly own, and what ends up owning us? *Sweet Addiction* is a contemporary physical performance that invites the audience to interpret and reflect on these questions. This deeply personal work, developed over several years, seeks to explore the complexity of human emotions, particularly our ways of escaping reality.

In collaboration with psychologists and psychiatrists, we engaged in artistic research to uncover the underlying feelings that drive addiction. Rather than presenting different types of addictions, the focus is on the emotional experience behind them. How does the soul feel when it becomes dependent? Through a series of physical experiments, we have crafted a language of movement that expresses these otherwise intangible emotions.

While the show explores difficult themes, humor is woven throughout, allowing the audience to navigate heavy moments with ease. *Sweet Addiction* blends drama with physical expression, turning abstract emotions into something concrete and relatable.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Theatre Studio BELOE is a multicultural amateur theatre group based in Geneva, renowned for its innovative performances and commitment to fostering artistic expression.

As the only physical amateur theatre formation in Switzerland, they have participated in numerous international festivals, including in the USA, Austria, Georgia, Spain, and Tunis in 2022. In 2023, they earned 1st place at the Athens Theatre Festival for their performance *White on Black*.

Theatre BELOE's mission is to create thought-provoking and transformative performances that push the boundaries of traditional theatre by integrating global cultural and theatrical trends. Their work focuses on uncovering the inner creative potential in adults, encouraging them to express emotions freely and authentically. For Theatre Studio BELOE, it's vital to help individuals find a direct connection between the movements of the soul and the body.

Through their productions, they emphasize the joy of creativity and the happiness that comes from communication, offering a space where participants can discover and develop their unique talents.

Welcome from the Festival Chair

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 16th biennial
Liverpool International Theatre Festival.

This year, we welcome back many old friends from troupes that have been here with us at past festivals, as well as new friends joining us for the first time. As theatre-goers, you are in for a treat of drama, comedy, and tragedy on our historic Astor Theatre stage, as well as many engaging and fun opportunities throughout our time together.

For this festival, we welcome back our co-Artistic Directors, **Vic Mills** and **Neil Maidman**. A warm welcome, as well, to **Jennifer Scott-Reid**, our adjudicator.

LITF is the pride of our region and none of this would be possible without our volunteers and our community – to the businesses, schools, long-term care homes, sponsors, program advertisers, and so many more – you embrace this festival and truly support us in welcoming the world to our community!

Jean Robinson, *Chair, LITF 2024*

Thank You!

The success of the Liverpool International Theatre Festival depends on the time and effort of many individuals and organizations. We are grateful for the help & support of those listed below, and to all others who have helped in any way.

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| Lloyd Dexter | • | Paris, France |

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

8:30 PM



DULL SPACE
LIGHT STREET PLAYERS
USA
By Brian McCole

Drama

English

Adult

CAST

Darnon **Rebecca Schall**
Geary **Dan Healy**

PRODUCTION

Director/Production **Brian McCole**

SYNOPSIS

Set roughly 100 years in the future, *Dull Spaces* follows Darnon, a veteran astronaut from Tennessee, and Geary, a young Irish woman working for the EU’s lunar colony, as they embark on a space voyage that proves to be both tense and transformative. Aboard the spacecraft *Bonnie Davine*, Geary, excited for her first trip to space, is disappointed to find that Darnon has slept through most of the journey. Their immediate clash—fueled by cultural misunderstandings, Darnon’s fatigue, and his disillusionment with space travel—creates friction. However, moments of humorous banter over music and language begin to soften their interactions.

As their personalities gradually unravel, Geary opens up about her father’s recent death, and Darnon starts to understand her abrasive demeanor. Just as they begin to form a fragile connection, disaster strikes when space debris hits the ship, forcing them into a crash landing on the Dark Side of the Moon. Stranded without communication and facing dwindling resources, the two must rely on each other for survival, setting the stage for an exploration of human connection, sacrifice, and the depths of resilience in the face of overwhelming odds.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Light Street Players, Brian McCole, Dan Healy, and Rebecca Schall, first crossed paths while performing for a local dinner theater in Wilmington, Delaware, USA.

Brian had written the screenplay for *Dull Space* years earlier and had hosted a few semi-staged readings. He planned to adapt the play for the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, and after previously acting alongside Dan in several productions—including *Women Are from Venus*, *Men Are from Uranus* at LITF 2016—he recruited him for the project. For the female lead, Brian had recently seen Rebecca in *Lend Me a Tenor* and knew she was the perfect fit.

Dull Space premiered at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival in 2019 to great success. After the pandemic, the trio was invited to perform at The Candlelight Theatre in Delaware, helping to kick off its new season. In 2024, the company is set to produce a film adaptation of *Dull Space*, further expanding the reach of this dynamic production.

Artistic Directors' Message

VIC MILLS & NEIL MAIDMAN



A very warm welcome to the 16th biennial Liverpool International Theatre Festival.

Dear Friends, it is a great thrill to welcome you all again to LITF.

The joy of bringing together small theatre companies from all around the world to such a very special place for such a very special celebration of theatre, of storytelling, of poetry, of movement, of light and of sound, is a very great privilege.

In these precious few days we will see the culmination of a huge amount of artistic endeavour which, we know, will prove varied, inspirational, troubling, moving and memorable for us all. That we will share those moments is so important. In a world of increasing political and social division, and digital isolation, that we can come from such varied backgrounds, beliefs and cultures and yet, when we perform, find our shared humanity is the secret of LITF. How much we have in common is part of the beauty and importance of this festival; of this shared time together.

We have three troupes with us from right across North Africa; we have four groups from across Northern Europe and one from Southern Europe; we have one group from South America, one from the USA and one from Canada, bringing us a wide variety of dramatic forms and a range of storytelling styles. We have sought to select work which is both profound and accessible; visually striking and full of fun, playfulness and wit.

We welcome old friends back to Liverpool, including previous outstanding winners of the festival, and we welcome new troupes to share with us the joy of LITF, knowing that they will bring something very special and leave with something very special, too.

So, join us for performances, for morning 'Coffee Critique' discussions, for conversation, for dancing and laughter and for the sharing of the joy of theatre together as we gather from across the globe, in Liverpool at The Astor, once again.

Vic & Neil
Artistic Directors, LITF 2024

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

2:30 PM



CAN YOU HEAR THE MUSIC?

GUILDSFIELD AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Wales

By David Campton

Drama

English

Family

CAST

Eldermouse **Paul Preece**
Fussmouse **Gareth Davies**
Pricklemouse **Tonia Davies**
Gigglemouse **Tesni Jones**
Housemouse **Debra Towse**
Tattymouse **Paula Ballard**
Piper **John Parkinson**

PRODUCTION

Directors **Sue & David Jones**
Light/Sound Design. **Neil Saunders**
Operator **Malcolm Graham**
Stage Designers **Sheila Morgan,**
Mike Evans
Costume. **Debra Towse**
Stage Manager **Sue & David Jones**

SYNOPSIS

Can You Hear the Music? is a thought-provoking exploration of the human condition, told through the lives of six mice living in an attic. Each mouse harbors unique hopes, dreams, fears, and strengths, all of which are stirred by the sound of an invisible Piper's music. As the Piper plays, each mouse hears a different melody and feels compelled to follow, leaving behind Tattymouse, who is completely deaf. Is the Piper a real threat, a figment of their imaginations, or simply a half-remembered childhood story? Through its whimsical yet poignant narrative, the play invites audiences to reflect on the choices we make when confronted with the unknown.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Guildsfield ADS has been delighting audiences in Montgomeryshire, Mid Wales, for over 70 years with a wide range of performances, from full-length plays to one-act competition entries. Based in a rural village with just a school, a church, and two pubs, they enjoy strong support from the local community and nearby villages, frequently performing to full houses. Their production of *Calendar Girls* drew an impressive audience of 900 people over six nights.

Committed to high-quality entertainment, Guildsfield ADS also focuses on nurturing new talent. In recent years, three members have gone on to pursue degrees in Drama. Even during the pandemic, they remained active by embracing virtual platforms, hosting regular Zoom meetings and play readings. This led to their participation in the LITF virtual festival, 'Short Cuts', and a live performance at LITF 2022.



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ENGEL & VÖLKERS

Welcome to all the theatre
troupes participating in the
Liverpool International
Theatre Festival.
Good luck to you all!



Engel & Völkers Nova Scotia
327 Main Street
Liverpool, NS Canada B0T 1K0



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shelley.macleod@evrealestate.com



COMING UP AT THE ASTOR

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

7:00 PM



THE LAST LIE OF PINOCCHIO

AVENZI DI SCENA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Italy

By *Francesco Angeloni*

Drama

English

Family

CAST

Old Pinocchio/Candlewick.	Andrea Guerini
Young Pinocchio.	Flavio Angeloni
Carla, Pinocchio's Daughter.	Chiara Barbera
Jiminy Cricket.	Daniele Barbera
Woodling.	Laura Farina
Stromboli and Geppetto.	Sergio Cecchetti
The Catfox.	Eleonora Piermarocchi

CREW

Director.	Francesco Angeloni
Choreographer/Stage/Costume Designer.	Laura Farina
Designer Lighting/Sound/Video.	Francesco Angeloni
Stage Manager.	Andrea Guerini

SYNOPSIS

It's been ages since Pinocchio became a 'real boy' and earned the right to live his life, and he's nearing the end of his journey. But he's got one last big thing to do: rescue his daughter, Carla, from the dull, adventure-less prison of the modern world. Even with the help of some of his old pals, who've changed a lot over the years, it's going to be a tough job. And it looks like Pinocchio might have to tell one last little lie to pull it off.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Avanzi di Scena Cultural Association, founded in 2011, is dedicated to a wide range of cultural activities, with a focus on theatre and dance. Its mission is to create a vibrant and cohesive group committed to producing high-quality theatre performances and cultural events. The association offers educational programs for both children and adults, led by qualified and experienced teachers, and collaborates with renowned professionals in the theatre world.

Avanzi di Scena has participated in various festivals and theatre seasons across Italy and premiered *The Italian Movie Factory* in Norway during Kulturfusjon 2013 in Trondheim and was multi-award winner at LITF 2022. Since its founding, the association has been a staple in the season of Tolfa's "Claudio" Theatre, consistently playing to full houses.

Specializing in contemporary and comedic theatre, Avanzi di Scena is driven by a young and ever-growing team. The company is not only focused on theatrical excellence but also on the personal growth of its members and actors, with a keen interest in addressing social issues through its work.

Meet Our Adjudicator

JENNIFER SCOTT-REID



Jennifer Scott-Reid has over 35 years experience in all aspects of theatre, including several productions at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She has lead theatre workshops and a residential theatre school with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC).

Jennifer is a founder member of 'Act Too' which offers drama workshops for all abilities and the theatre group 'Drama Queens' – which is self-explanatory.

Jennifer has extensive Festival experience and has been active in local, community and professional theatre as a performer, director, choreographer and stage manager, and is an award winning director and actor. She joined the Guild of Drama Adjudicators (GoDA) in 2011, encouraged by the beloved late Rex Walford.

She has adjudicated throughout England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, including the British and National Finals and is honoured to be making her first trip to Nova Scotia to adjudicate the 2024 Liverpool International Theatre Festival.

She is very much looking forward to seeing an excitingly eclectic range of performances during the competition, and experiencing the wonderful and renowned Nova Scotia hospitality.

LITF in Schools



Schools are an integral part of LITF. Many of our youth share their talents in painting Jester Fish for our troupe members, creating bookmarks for them, or volunteering during the festival. In addition we will, as our schedule allows, be taking members of our international troupes to visit students at our South Queens schools. During these visits, the troupes may share theatre pieces, aspects of their culture, and talk about their experience in bringing their production to Canada.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

8:30 PM



ANNIVERSAIRE

ROUICHA DE CULTURE ET ARTS KHEMISSSET

Morocco

By Omlala Abdellah

Drama

Arabic

Adult

CAST

Nawara **Moatassim Ouassou**
Radi 1 **Abdessalam el Hamdani**
Tante **Souhaila Boutmazourhte**
Radi 2 **Houda Boutmazourhte**

CREW

Directors **El Mourabit Mariam**
Set Designer **Larbi Salam**

SYNOPSIS

Anniversaire tells the haunting story of Nawara, a young woman burdened by the painful legacy of her mother, Rahma. Years ago, Rahma, a maid, had an illicit affair with the tribe's powerful sheikh, resulting in her death and a deep animosity between the powerful and the powerless. Before she died, Rahma left a letter for Nawara, revealing that the sheikh is her father and urging her to seek revenge for her dignity.

Haunted by her mother's pain, Nawara's life takes a tragic turn when she meets and falls in love with a young man, Al-Radi. Unbeknownst to her, Al-Radi is her brother, a result of her mother's forbidden relationship with the sheikh. When the horrifying truth is uncovered, Nawara descends into madness and attempts to kill Al-Radi. In a desperate act of self-defense, Al-Radi draws his father's weapon and shoots Nawara, killing her in the same manner that destroyed their family from the start.

A powerful tale of betrayal, vengeance, and tragic fate, *Anniversaire* explores the devastating consequences of power imbalances, secrets, and the inescapable pull of family ties.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Rouicha Association for Culture and Arts, from Khemisset, Morocco, was founded in 2015 and has since become a dynamic force in the theatrical world. They have performed a range of works, including *Three Nights with Maddox* by Matej Višňík, *The Guardian* by Harold Pinter, as well as pieces by notable Arab writers such as Anaswal and Ezzoli. This vibrant company has already made its mark on both national and international stages, participating in prestigious events such as the National Festival of Professional Theatre in Morocco, Tema International Festival in Belgium, and touring in the Netherlands and Belgium. They have also showcased their talents at the National Festival for Theatre Enthusiasts in Morocco.

Based in the city of Khemisset, near Rabat in northern Morocco, Rouicha Association is rooted in a rich cultural tradition. Khemisset is known for its ancient artistic heritage, particularly the Ahidos dance, intricate carpets, and traditional handicrafts. As the capital of Zemmour, the city boasts a proud history in theatre, poetry, and music, which continues to inspire the company's artistic endeavors.

A Brief Guide to the Guild of Drama Adjudicators' Marking Scheme

★ **Stage Presentation - 15%** • This refers to design aspects including costume, makeup, props and technical aspects, including setting, lighting, sound, technical effects, that are utilized in support of a performance along with stage management and any work that is manifest on stage but is not defined by Direction or Acting.

★ **Direction – 35%** • A director's role is related to the realization of a printed text onto a stage space and into an engaging performance. For the purposes of assessment, it is assumed that any drama performance reflects the decision making of a director (or joint directors), including a sense that characterizations have been built within an ensemble approach, the organization of actors around the performance space, the integration of design, technical and acting aspects into an organized whole and the shaping of the performance piece through appropriate pacing of movement and voices.

★ **Acting – 40%** • The aspects under consideration by the adjudicator are the actors' characterization ability (voice, movement, facial expression, gestures, gait, posture), their support for other actors manifest in moments of effective interactions on stage and their engagement with the audience through, for example, audibility, positioning on stage and general confidence.

★ **Dramatic Achievement – 10%** • This aspect of the marking recognizes the overall effect of the performance on the Adjudicator and, while this can often reinforce the standard the other marking has recognized, it can also offer some corrective to a performance with a relatively weaker mark in one of the other areas, when overall the effect was considered by the adjudicator to be more worthy.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

2:30 PM



SYMBIOSIS

THEATRE ZAPADNIA

Poland

By Agnieszka Magdalena Wloch

Drama

English

Adult

CAST

Grandmother.	Aleksandra Duda
Daughter.	Magdalena Julia Glen
Mother.	Martyna Magdalena Migacz
Wild Woman 1.	Anna Mulicka
Wild Woman 2.	Agnieszka Magdalena Wloch
Man.	Radomir Bachar

CREW

Director.	Agnieszka Magdalena Wloch
Lighting Designer	Daniel Jaskula
Sound Design.	Aneta Majewska, Agnieszka Magdalena Wloch, Aleksandra Dusza
Stage/Costume Designer.	Agnieszka Magdalena Wloch, Aleksandra Czernik
Stage Manager.	Daniel Jaskula

SYNOPSIS

Symbiosis delves into the complex and unsettling relationship between a mother and daughter, revealing a darker, often hidden side of motherhood. Inspired by *The Piano Teacher* by Elfriede Jelinek and *Heartsnatcher* by Boris Vian, the performance contrasts the nurturing, caring maternal figure with one that is destructive, devouring, and oppressive. This rarely discussed archetype of motherhood brings to light uncomfortable truths that are both silenced and deeply felt in society, exposing a raw and disturbing dynamic that challenges traditional perceptions of maternal roles.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Theatre Zapadnia was founded in 1998 at the 'House of Culture for Young People' in Opole, Poland, under the artistic mentorship of Agnieszka Wloch. Primarily composed of students from the University of Opole, the group explores diverse forms of artistic expression, including movement, sound, gesture, and visual arts. Their performances are often non-verbal, allowing the audience greater freedom for interpretation and emotional connection.

Theatre Zapadnia's creative process is collaborative, with performances emerging from shared exploration and the individual experiences of its members. Their work is shaped by a deep engagement with the mind, body, and imagination, creating performances that are both thought-provoking and visually captivating. Through their innovative workshops and productions, Theatre Zapadnia continues to challenge traditional theatrical boundaries, inviting audiences into a world of expressive possibilities.



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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

4:00 PM



GHALTA

FUNTASIA

Morocco

By Anouar Hassany

Drama

English

Adult

CAST

Ikhlas Shams Skander
Haitam..... Mehdi El Wardi
Wafae..... Maria Orkhis
Inspector Omar..... Abdessamad Erraoui

CREW

Director..... Anouar Hassany
Sound/Lighting Designer..... Anouar Hassany
Stage/Costume Designer..... El Hassania Mabchour, Maha Hosni
Stage Manager..... Smail Kabbaj, Fatine Ouahita

SYNOPSIS

When love and jealousy collide, emotions spiral into a storm of doubt and betrayal, threatening the very foundation of trust in a relationship. What was once harmonious becomes a battleground of insecurity, reminding us that unchecked suspicion can lead to self-destruction, overshadowing the love we seek to protect.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Funtasia hails from Casablanca, Morocco, and is part of the National School of Commerce and Management at Hassan II University, under the guidance of Dean Dr. Ismail Kabbaj.

Founded in 2010, the company has performed numerous plays in Arabic, French, and English, showcasing its versatility and commitment to multiculturalism.

With a remarkable presence at both national and international festivals, the company has represented Morocco in countries such as Canada, Belgium, Russia, India, Belarus, Romania, Lebanon, Egypt, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, and Tunisia. It has received over 60 awards, including prestigious First Prizes in Romania, Egypt, and Bahrain, as well as a Best Actor award in Russia.

Through its productions, the company has trained more than 180 students, many of whom have gone on to pursue successful careers in theatre and cinema. This thriving ensemble continues to contribute to the cultural landscape of Morocco, bringing its talent and passion for theatre to stages around the world.



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please accept our thanks. Your
support is appreciated.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

7:00 PM



THE ZOO STORY
EAST VOICE FOR ARTS
Egypt
By Edward Albee

Drama

Arabic/English

Adult

CAST

The Maestro **Mohamed Elkoty**
Peter..... **Mohamed Breaka**
Jerry..... **Eslam Awad**

CREW

Director..... **Ahmed Abdelgawad**
Sound/Lighting Designer **Mohamed Abdelnaser**
Stage/Costume Designer..... **Nada Ghobashy**
Stage Manager..... **Hany Breakaa**

SYNOPSIS

The Zoo Story explores themes of isolation, loneliness, poor communication, discrimination, and social inequality in an increasingly dehumanized, materialistic world. The play follows a chance encounter between two men in Central Park: Peter, a conventional, middle-class man, and Jerry, an isolated, troubled individual from a lower social class. What begins as a casual conversation in the zoo garden soon intensifies as both men reveal their stories, highlighting the growing divide between their lives. Through light comedy, the tension between them escalates, exposing the inevitable consequences of class conflict, leading to an unexpected and transformative climax for both men.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Based on Alexandria, **East Voice for Arts**, is known for its experimental approach, setting it apart from others in the region. The company aims to reflect the struggles and concerns within Eastern societies, exploring how their generation copes with these challenges. The members are seasoned professionals who have participated as actors, directors, and volunteers in numerous international festivals and events. They are also actively involved in contemporary dance and theatre workshops, enhancing their creative repertoire.

Notably, the group participated in the Chuncheon International Theatre Festival (CITF) in South Korea with their production of *Seven Days* in May 2015, as well as the INterampa International Theatre Festival in Rokiskis, Lithuania. In 2018, they received three prestigious awards at LITF: Outstanding International Production, Outstanding Director for Eslam Awad, and Outstanding Artistic Team.

Their latest project, *The Box*, was created in collaboration with Faces Team for Performing Arts and premiered at the Alexandria Great Bibliotheca. It was also performed at the Apollo International Theatre Festival in Alba Iulia, Romania. This adventurous and well-traveled company continues to produce work of the highest quality, pushing artistic boundaries on the international stage, returning to LITF for their third visit.

Festival CLUB

& Socials



BIG FISH,
BIG FUN

The 2024 Festival Club is located at the Curling Club

Thursday, October 17

Opening Night Reception ♦ 9:30 PM - 12 AM

Sponsored by the South Queens Chamber of Commerce

We're welcoming our theatre troupes and reconnecting with old friends!
This event is open to Festival delegates and Stage & Beyond subscription holders only.

Friday, October 18

Multicultural Open Mic ♦ 9:30 PM - 12 AM

We're celebrating the vibrant diversity of our festival with an evening of performances showcasing talents from around the world! This lively event invites our troupe members of all backgrounds to share their music, dance, poetry, and more. It promises to be a night of cultural exchange and unforgettable entertainment. Host **Truelove Ways**.

JOIN
US!

Saturday, October 19

'Down Home' Kitchen Party ♦ 9:30 PM - 12 AM

Saucy Jack is a foot-stompin' kitchen party trio that throws together folk, Celtic, blues and even a bit of old rock and roll, all in an acoustic style. Get ready to party, Maritime style. Cash bar.

Sunday, October 20

Till Next Time ♦ 9:30 PM - 12 AM

Say farewell to a great weekend with the one-man band, **Geoff Kennedy**, one of Halifax's best musical acts. Geoff offers a mix of amazing songs and compelling stage presence. Cash bar.

★ Entry to evening events at the Festival Club is FREE for troupe members and Stage & Beyond subscribers. Admission for individual ticket holders and the general public is \$10 on Friday and Saturday nights. Please note, entry to evening events is based on venue capacity.



LITF Awards

Theatre troupes participating in LITF 2024 are presented with a framed certificate of participation following their performance. The Liverpool International Theatre Festival Committee is pleased to provide this souvenir for the companies to take home and hang in their own theatres.

Sophie Hopper, multi-talented artist, has created our highly prized, much-coveted *Production Awards*. The Awards will be on display at the Astor Theatre during Festival week and will be presented on Sunday, October 17th, following the final performance.

Our Awards*

- Outstanding International Production
- Artistic Directors' Award
- Outstanding Director
- Outstanding Actor – Male
- Outstanding Actor – Female



- Outstanding Supporting Actor – Male
- Outstanding Supporting Actor – Female
- Outstanding Visual Presentation
- Best Original Script

During the interval following the final play on Sunday evening, subscribers and delegates will vote to choose the winner of the **People's Choice Award**.



Sophie Hopper, a gifted 14-year-old artist from Bridgewater, has been selected to have his stunning watercolor interpretation of the JesterFish represent the LITF 2024 awards.

Sophie's love for creating art began at an early age, and he has explored a wide range of mediums, from drawing and painting to sculpting and digital art. He sold his first piece of art at just 8 years old and has continued to develop his artistic skills ever since. Sophie is excited to continue pursuing his passion and has plans to attend art college in the future.

His JesterFish artwork, brought to life with vibrant colors and intricate details, impressed the judges and stands as a remarkable testament to his creativity and dedication to the arts. This achievement showcases not only his exceptional talent but also his bright future in the world of art.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship. This series of treaties did not surrender Indigenous land, resources or sovereignty but instead established rules for an ongoing relationship between nations. We recognize the significance of these treaties and the need for continual learning and engagement in the work of the truth, reconciliation and equity. We are all treaty people.

We also recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.



'24

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made the inaugural Dramatic Drinks fundraiser such a success, especially our sponsors, Nova Scotia Spirit Co. and Route 3 Cellar, and our judges Kim Masland, Chris Green, and Brent Raddall!

Congratulations to Aden Bennett of Route 3 Cellar, winner of the LITF Dramatic Drinks Signature Cocktail! And a special shoutout to our other talented participants:

- **Rika Bolivar** – Lane's Privateer Inn
- **Jill Forrest** – The Quarterdeck Resort
- **Gavin Mansfield** – White Point Beach Resort
- **Mike Ferguson** – Liverpool Curling Club
- **Cynthia Walker** – The Astor Theatre

Don't forget—voting for the **Dramatic Drinks People's Cocktail** is open until October 19th! Cast your vote at litf.ca.

And this is just the beginning...

Dramatic Drinks will be back, bigger, bolder, and more dramatic. **Stay tuned!**



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visitors to our beautiful region.
We hope you enjoy your time
with us. Best wishes for a
successful Festival.



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LITF Festival Schedule

Thurs., Oct 17	Fri., Oct 18	Sat., Oct 19	Sun., Oct 20
Welcome!	Coffee Critique 10:00 AM (Festival Hub)	Coffee Critique 9:30 AM (Festival Hub)	Coffee Critique 9:30 AM (Festival Hub)
Registration (Curling Club/ Festival Hub)	Someone is Calling Us <i>Signagi Municipal Theatre</i> GEORGIA 2:30 PM	Can You Hear the Music? <i>Guilfield Amateur Dramatic Society</i> WALES 2:30 PM	Symbiosis <i>Theatre Zapadnia</i> POLAND 2:30 PM
	The Proof of Promises <i>Movimiento Teatro</i> MEXICO 4:00 PM		Ghalta <i>Fantasia</i> MOROCCO 4:00 PM
Parade of Flags (Visitor Info Centre to Astor Theatre) 6:00 PM			Coffee Critique 5:00 PM (Astor Theatre)
Opening Ceremonies 6:30 PM (Astor Theatre)	Sweet Addictions <i>Theatre Studio Beloe</i> SWITZERLAND 7:00 PM	The Last Lie of Pinocchio <i>Avenzi Di Scena Cultural Association</i> ITALY 7:00 PM	The Zoo Story <i>East Voice for Arts</i> EGYPT 7:00 PM
Theatre Clears 7:30	Theatre Clears 8:00	Theatre Clears 8:00	Theatre Clears 8:00
Arthur & Marigold <i>Winds of Change</i> CANADA 8:30 PM	Dull Space <i>Light Street Players</i> USA 8:30 PM	Anniverssaire <i>Rouicha de Culture Et Arts Khemisset</i> MOROCCO 8:30 PM	Awards Presentation & Closing Ceremonies 8:30 PM (Astor Theatre)
Opening Night Reception 9:30 PM (Festival Club)	Multicultural Open Mic <i>Host: Truelove Ways</i> 9:30 PM (Festival Club)	'Down Home' with Saucy Jack 9:30 PM (Festival Club)	'Till Next Time' w/ Geoff Kennedy 9:30 PM (Festival Club)

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December 24-26, 2024

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- Boxing Day Dinner
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