

## Feast on the Fringe as 58 shows take over the city at the 31<sup>st</sup> Victoria Fringe Festival



Victoria, BC – The biggest theatre event on Vancouver Island, enters its fourth decade this year, as the 31<sup>st</sup> Victoria Fringe runs August 23 - September 3, 2017. With shows chosen by lottery, 58 uncensored shows from across the globe, featuring almost every genre imaginable from puppetry to music to spoken word to zombies, fill 8 traditional venues and 5 site-specific venues for 12 days of indie theatre. Fringe-goers binge on indie performance in theatres, coffee-shops and parks, with tickets running \$9 or \$11 per show - less than the price of a martini. This Festival is a feast for the artistically curious and the most affordable theatre ticket in town.

This year, the Fringe movement turns 70, and 70 years after the first Edinburgh Fringe broke ground, the guiding principle is the same: unjuried, uncensored, untamed alternative theatre takes centre stage. The Fringe gives artists the platform to take risks, to focus on progressive art forms and the freedom to experiment, while giving audiences access to indie theatre artists from around the world.

A record-breaking 201 companies from across Canada, the United States, the UK, New Zealand, Israel, and Australia applied for the 2017 Victoria Fringe lottery. This is a 10% increase over last year's record-breaking number of applications.

Fringe Producer Sammie Gough calls it "theatre democracy at work," as audiences choose their own schedule for the festival, circling shows in their programs, reading reviews, talking to fellow festival-goers and artists in line-ups - they curate their own Fringe experience. As the Artistic Director of their own Festival line-up, they choose what to see and when, discovering new voices, returning to old favourites, and finding transformative experiences in venues all over town. Whether you are a longtime Fringe fan or a first-time Fringer, this summer's Festival offers something for everyone: from the ever-popular one-day FringeKids Fest in Market Square, to the Fringe Eve Preview in Centennial Square the night before the festival, to the 58 shows that take over the city in this signature summer event.

### Special Events + Dates

**Fringe Eve Preview:** Wednesday August 23, 3-9pm (beer garden at 3, preview from 5pm) - Centennial Square.

*A perennial favourite among Fringe-goers, this event gives you a sampler of nearly all the shows on offer at the festival as each show gives a 2-minute preview on stage.*

**FringeKids Fest:** Saturday August 26, 11am-4pm - Market Square.

*Live performers, interactive art, crafts for all-ages and the ever-popular cardboard castle take over Market Square.*

**Sunday Funday – Atomic Vaudeville Cabaret:** Sunday August 27, 10:30pm - Victoria Event Centre.

*Fringe performers and Atomic Vaudeville regulars join forces for one unforgettable night. All proceeds support the Fringe.*

**Preview #2** – Tuesday August 29, 10pm (doors) – Metro Studio.

*Catch 2-minute previews of the fresh arrivals in week 2. Free with your Fringe Button.*

### Victoria Fringe Theatre Festival

August 23- September 3

Single tickets \$9/\$11 + Discount Passes available now. You must have a Fringe Button to see a show, \$6.

Purchase online at [victoriafringe.com](http://victoriafringe.com) or [ticketrocket.co](http://ticketrocket.co) or in-person at Ticket Rocket, #101 – 804 Broughton St. A festival box office opens at Fringe HQ, 1609 Blanshard St on August 21 and is open 11am-7pm daily through September 3.

### About The Fringe

The Victoria Fringe Festival, founded in 1986 is one of the oldest Fringe Festivals in Canada and a founding member of the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals (CAFF). The Fringe is a global phenomenon, giving independent artists the opportunity to produce their shows at festivals around the world. The Fringe returns 100% of the ticket price back to the artists (minus taxes & fees), and all shows are chosen by lottery.

### About Intrepid Theatre

Producers of the annual UNO Fest, Victoria Fringe Festival, and the new OUTstages Festival, Intrepid Theatre has been the primary presenter of national and international alternative and interdisciplinary theatre in Victoria, BC for thirty years, and is the city's home-base for touring and emerging contemporary theatre artists.

### Media inquiries/To arrange for interviews

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