

TiFT

Talk Is Free Theatre for the art of it!

Media release

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Acclaimed Canadian theatre company heads to 2020 Adelaide Fringe

Canada's acclaimed **Talk is Free Theatre (TiFT)** is coming to the Adelaide Fringe for the first time with three site-specific, immersive productions. For TiFT's inaugural year at the Adelaide Fringe, they have partnered with the prolific and adventurous, **Hartstone-Kitney Productions**, a South Australia based theatrical producing livewire theatre which will help bring to life an annual **Canada** Capsule at the Adelaide Fringe.

TiFT Artistic Producer **Arkady Spivak** says the Ontario-based company is renowned for producing a wide range of work from the periphery of mainstream. We concentrate on new writing, forgotten classics and drastic re-examinations of established repertoire. 'TiFT was founded in 2003 and is particularly dedicated to forging new types of site-specific, immersive creation, among others. Most recently, we presented *The Curious Voyage* a three-day long immersive experience, which began in Barrie, Canada and took the audience, quite literally, to London, UK'.

For the 2020 Adelaide Fringe TiFT will present; **Tales of an Urban Indian**, which will be performed during a city bus ride: **Every Brilliant Thing** and **For Both Resting and Breeding**. The latter two will each be performed in the living rooms of suburban houses.

The acclaimed **Every Brilliant Thing** is an interactive play charting the lengths we go to for those we love. With his mother in hospital, a young boy constructs a list of little things to help her find a way to be happy. In this raw, real and intimate piece of theatre, what begins as a naive way of dealing with tragedy becomes a life-long reminder that joy can be found



Michael Torontow in Every Brilliant Thing

in the seeming insignificant; that the unremarkable can, in fact, become something quite remarkable.

Every Brilliant Thing is written by Duncan MacMillan with Jonny Donahoe. The production stars Michael Torontow with direction by Steven Schipper and designs by Joe Pagnan in association with the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. It is presented in Adelaide in association with Hartstone – Kitney Productions.

Heart-wrenching, hilarious... possibly one of the funniest plays you'll ever see, full stop.
The Guardian

Every Brilliant Thing plays **18 - 21 February** for **4 performances** only. Bookings essential. Duration 70 mins.

Tales of an Urban Indian is staged on a moving city bus visiting locations matching those of the play's plot. The script is the story of Simon Douglas, a contemporary Indigenous man, who grows up on both the reserve and in Vancouver. **Tales of an Urban Indian** conjures up many characters that appear in Simon's life as seen through his eyes, all played by one actor. Patrons are passengers on the bus, bearing witness to Simon's journey and ultimately to his healing. The production has been touring to a variety of destinations across Canada and United States, and has recently celebrated its 500th performance. It was seen briefly in Melbourne as part of Yirramboi Festival.



Craig Lauzon in *Tales of an Urban Indian*

This is a defiant in-your-face theatre experience that will make you laugh and cry! **Stage Whispers**



Maja Ardal and Alexander Thomas in *For Both Resting and Breeding*

Tales of an Urban Indian is written by Darrell Dennis and is performed by Brendan Chandler with direction by Herbie Barnes. It is presented in Adelaide in association with Hartstone – Kitney Productions.

Tales of an Urban Indian plays **18 - February to 1 March** for **12 performances only**. Bookings essential. Duration 90 minutes.

For Both Resting and Breeding is a new play by first-time Ottawa writer Adam Meisner. The play is set in the year 2150 when humans have become gender-neutral and use the pronoun 'Ish' to identify themselves.

The play centres around two historians, ISH40 and ISH62, who want to transform an old residence, built in 1999, into a living museum commemorating millennials for the upcoming sesquicentennial. As the museum is being created, members of the group become too enamoured with their gendered counterparts and eventually start to re-enact the dangerous behaviours of their ancestors.

For Both Resting and Breeding is directed by Brandon Crone with cast: Maja Ardal, Amy Keating, Richard Lam, Jaime McRoberts and Alexander Thomas. Set and Lighting design are by Joe Pagnan with costumes by Laura Delchiaro. It is presented in Adelaide in association with Hartstone – Kitney Productions.

For Both Resting and Breeding plays **26 – 29 February** for **4 performances** only. Bookings essential. Duration 135 mins.

The theatregoers of Barrie have benefited from some of the most inventive productions in the country in recent years
- **The National Post**

About Immersive Theatre:

Because Immersive Theatre is an emotional and physical experience beyond that which is achieved through mainstream theatre, it often translates better - and with greater ease - into other languages, which makes our immersive programming appropriate and possible in most countries, even in non English speaking environments. As the Fringe Festival is known as a springboard for touring, TIFT is presenting a capsule of work that captures the "experiential" spirit and the potential of immersive theatre in the global market.

Given how often people lament about being reduced to a passive role in their own lives, the potency of an artistic work that gives the patron some agency over their own experience shouldn't be underestimated. People want a space where they can exercise their own agency and Immersive Theatre offers the opportunity.

Hartstone-Kitney Productions is a multi-award winning company, specializing in theatre, and immersive events. Utilizing their international connections, they present high quality productions in Arts Festivals and markets around the globe, including New York's Off-Broadway, at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, Off West-End in London, and are a significant producing entity at the Adelaide Fringe.

Tickets for each show are priced up to \$28.00 and may be purchased through FringeTix :
<https://adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix>

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