

Québec Culture

AUGUST 2025

Québec
@EdFests

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR AGENT-GENERAL



Dear friends of Québec,
I am delighted to announce the launch of this year's Québec programming at the Edinburgh Fringe and the Edinburgh International Festival!

Our relationship with Scotland is invaluable. The harmonious collaboration between Québec artists and the country's vibrant capital beautifully illustrates the natural bonds between our two nations. For over a decade, the Québec Government Office in London has proudly supported home-grown artists at the Edinburgh festivals. Circus, dance, music, physical theatre and comedy will once again take centre stage, showcasing the very best that Québec artists have to offer.

On behalf of the entire team, we extend our warmest congratulations to this remarkable group of artists who continue to excel on the international stage.

Let's give a round of applause to all the artists!

Cordialement,
Line Rivard
Agent-General

A NEW CEO FOR THE FRINGE SOCIETY

We're delighted to extend a very warm welcome to **Tony Lankester**, the new Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society.

Tony steps into the role following the incredible tenure of **Shona McCarthy**, who has led the organisation with passion and dedication for the past nine years. Shona has been a tireless advocate for the Fringe and its artists, championing international collaboration and helping to forge strong connections with global platforms like CINARS. Her unwavering support for initiatives like ours has made a lasting impact, and she will be deeply missed. Thank you for everything, Shona!

Tony brings a wealth of experience to the Fringe. He joins us from **Riverside Studios**, where he worked for five years, and prior to that, he led **South Africa's National Arts Festival**—Africa's largest performing arts festival. With such a rich background in international arts leadership, we know the Fringe is in excellent hands. This is also a pivotal year for the Fringe Society, as it prepares to open **permanent premises**—a major step that will enable year-round activities and ongoing support for local artists.

We wish Tony and the entire Fringe Society team every success in this exciting new chapter. Here's to fresh starts and bold futures—**hear hear to new beginnings!**

Ingrid Boussaroque
Head of Culture



© Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society

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Bremner Fetcher
© Alexander Howe (see p. 18)

025-01-11,Edimbourg

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THE CULTURE TEAM AT THE QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON

August always brings a sense of anticipation and excitement to our team! It's truly an honour to once again support our exceptionally talented artists who have travelled all the way across the Atlantic to captivate audiences in Edinburgh.

Throughout the 2025 edition of Québec@EdFests, you'll have the opportunity to immerse yourself in unforgettable performances that are truly one-of-a-kind and are not to be missed.

Don't delay any longer—secure your tickets now and prepare to witness the finest talent Québec has to offer!

If you have any questions or need more information about the events do not hesitate to contact us at qc.London-Culture@mri.gouv.qc.ca.



Ingried, Isabelle, Marie and Andy.

bit.ly/QuebecCulture



© DGQL

LISTINGS – PROGRAMME

Artist/Company	Show	Venue	Date	Time
EDINBURG INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL (EIF)				
THEATRE				
Bruce Liu	Bruce Liu Plays Ravel	Usher Hall	6 August	19:30
MUSIC				
Sarah Dufresne (soprano)	LSO: Puccini's <i>Suor Angelica</i>	Usher Hall	16 August	19:00
FRINGE				
CIRCUS				
FLIP Fabrique	<i>Six°</i>	The Lafayette at Underbelly's Circus Hub on the Meadows	2-23 August	14:05-15:10
Cirque Kalabanté	<i>WOW (World Of Words)</i>	Main Hall at Assembly Hall	31 July-24 August	16:10-17:10
COMEDY/CABARET				
House of Gahd	<i>Are You There, Margaret? It's Me, Gahd</i>	Temple at C ARTS C Venues C Aquila	11-24 August	21:25-22:10
Dion Owen	<i>Cyclopath Stand Up and Songs</i> <i>Late Night in Canada</i>	The Lounge at Laughing Horse @The Counting House	31 July-24 August	14:45-15:45 22:15-23:15
THEATRE				
Bremner Fletcher	<i>Singing Into The Dark</i>	Sanctuary at Paradise Augustines	2-9 August	18:10-19:20
DANCE				
Roger White and Helen Simard	<i>Because You Never Asked</i>	Main Hall at Summer Hall	31 July-24 August	19:35-20:35
MUSIC				
Men Without Hats	On Tour	Main Room at La Belle Angele	22 August	19:00-22:00
PROFESSIONAL EVENTS				
SPECIAL QUÉBEC EVENTS				
FRINGE Fragments – Assembly in partnership with Dance Base	Lara Kramer presents <i>Gorgeous Tongue</i> (extract)		18-19 August	13:15
Québec@EdFests Celebration	By invitation		18 August	11:00
CINARS/Québec professional networking cocktail	Summerhall		19 August	16:30-18:00

For the latest programme



bit.ly/QuebecEdFests

BRUCE LIU

Bruce Liu Plays Ravel

6 August
19:30
Usher Hall

Discover a whirlwind programme of French and Chinese pieces. Join Bruce Liu, Myung-Whun Chung and Beijing's NCPA Orchestra for jazz-infused Ravel and Saint-Saëns's spectacular Organ Symphony.

Bruce Liu won First Prize at the International Chopin Piano Competition 2021. He has performed with major orchestras including the New York Philharmonic and London's Philharmonia, and given solo recitals at venues such as Wigmore Hall and Philharmonie de Paris.

eif.co.uk/events/bruce-liu-plays-ravel

"Superbly polished" –
The Guardian



Bruce Liu



SARAH DUFRESNE

LSO: Puccini's *Suor Angelica*

16 August

19:00

Usher Hall

Sarah Dufresne is Suor Genovieffa in Puccini's masterpiece *Suor Angelica*. Set in 20th-century Italy, this one-act opera follows the story of a nun whose search for peace is troubled by her past. The opera contains some of Puccini's most intimate and atmospheric music, including Angelica's haunting solo, "Senza mamma".



Sarah Dufresne



© Camilla Greenwell

eif.co.uk/events/puccinis-suor-angelica

FLIP FABRIQUE

Six°

2-11, 13-18 and 20-23 August

14:05

The Lafayette at Underbelly's Circus Hub on the Meadows

Five individuals who do not know each other receive a mysterious invitation that leads them, on a stormy night, to an old, abandoned building deep in the forest. These visitors will discover that this house has a soul and a personality all of its own. Dive into this astonishing acrobatic comedy by FLIP Fabrique, where the ordinary becomes extraordinary and ingenuity is always at play! On this planet, we are within six degrees of separation from knowing everyone. And since there are only five on stage, it makes you wonder: could the missing connection be you?

edfringe.com/tickets/whats-on/flip-fabrique-six



FLIP Fabrique





Cirque Kalabanté



© Cirque Kalabanté

CIRQUE KALABANTÉ

WOW (World Of Words)

31 July- 25 August, 7-10, 12-17 and 19-24 August

16:10

Main Hall at Assembly Hall

Wow. A World of Words. A brand-new dynamic, acrobatic and colourful hour combining African and Western culture, from the company behind the sell-out show *Afrique en Cirque*. Two groups on stage separated by a line... a fear between them is transformed into a desire to share. A beautiful conclusion of unity and respect. Prepare oneself for exciting aerial acts, jaw dropping acrobatics, a human pyramid and a dash of comedy...

HOUSE OF GAHD

Are You There, Margaret? It's Me, Gahd

11-24 August

21:25

Temple at C ARTS | C Venues | C Aquila

Uma Gahd from Canada's Drag Race Season 5, everybody's favourite unofficial auntie, brings you her one-woman drag comedy exploring small talk and big issues: fame, family, feminism and failed marriages! Stuffed with stand-up, lip-sync and plenty of hysterical pathos, Uma tells the story of her life – from sneaking into bars with her childhood best friend, Margaret, to breaking into showbusiness with her growing family. Part environmental theatre, part cabaret and part drag show. Come hear the word of Gahd!

edfringe.com/tickets/whats-on/are-you-there-margaret-it-s-me-gahd



“She is warm, slightly daft and thoroughly loveable” –

List – ★★★★★^{1/2}

“Wildly entertaining” –

Montréal Theatre Hub

House of Gahd



© Selma Gahd

"A true entertainer" –

The National Post

"Great jokes and damn funny" –

one4review



Dion Owen



© Heather C. Photography

DION OWEN

Cyclopath Stand Up and Songs (free)
and Late Night in Canada (free)

31 July-10 August, 12-17 and 19-24 August

14:45 and 22:15

The Lounge at Laughing Horse @ The Counting House

An award-winning, critically acclaimed comedian returning for his 6th Fringe. Hot off a 2024 ISH Comedy Award, Dion spent the last year tirelessly touring the globe to hone his material. Add to that a desperate attempt to make use of his musical talents and dulcet voice, and a vain venture to give his show a unique spin, the show now also features piano interludes and improvised songs about the audience's dreams and fears (the songs are actually really good now).

edfringe.com/tickets/whats-on/cyclopath-stand-up-and-songs

BREMNER FLETCHER

Singing into the Dark

2-9 August

18:10

Sanctuary at Paradise in Augustines

Singing into The Dark opens on the stage of a ravaged theatre. An actor tumbles into a space ripped apart by violence. His colleagues have been beaten and arrested by the authorities. Only their shattered props and costumes remain. He knows that to escape the same fate, the only sane choice is to be silent, and vanish into the night. But an audience has slipped through the broken doors of the theatre. Risking his life, he decides to use all his talents to defiantly recreate the acts of the missing company. In these tributes, he shows us that celebration and humour are also acts of resistance. The show demonstrates how important it is to fight oppression with fury and laughter, rage and delight.

edfringe.com/tickets/whats-on/singing-into-the-dark

*“An incredible one-man show...
brilliant acting” –*

PBS America

“A truly mesmerizing piece of theatre” –

Edmonton Journal



Bremner Fletcher





ROGER WHITE AND HELEN SIMARD

Because You Never Asked

31 July-5 August, 7-11, 13-18 and 20-24 August

19:35

Main Hall at Summerhall

Because You Never Asked explores themes of memory, intergenerational exchange, displacement, migration, unresolved loss, and the mythologising of family stories. Based on discussions between Roger White and his grandmother Marianna Clark (née Goldmann) about her experience fleeing Nazi Germany as a refugee, this interdisciplinary work will leave you deeply moved.

*“Attentive, experimental and brave;
A well-grounded experience that left me
with misty eyes and a full heart” –*

Sandra Souldard- Forget The Box

Roger White and Helen Simard



© Do Phan Hoi

edfringe.com/tickets/whats-on/because-you-never-asked ■
tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/nova

MEN WITHOUT HATS

On Tour

22 August

19:00

Main Room at La Belle Angele

These days it's hard to imagine a world without *Safety Dance* or *Pop Goes the World*, but back in 1977 in Montréal, Canada, when Ivan Doroschuk started then punk rock turned New Wave outfit "Men Without Hats", he surely only dreamed he would write the two globally recognised smash hits! He also had no idea his songs would be heard everywhere from McDonalds restaurant ads, Alaska airlines commercials to the global soccer chant at UEFA Euro 2024! You can dance if you want to but don't leave your friends behind, as iconic 80s hitmakers Men Without Hats bring the party to La Belle Angele on 22 August.

edfringe.com/tickets/whats-on/men-without-hats



Men Without Hats



LARA KRAMER

Gorgeous Tongue

18-19 August

13:15

Dance Base

Anchored in this world and orbiting a universe beyond, a lone performer unfolds memories on stage through rhythmic scores.

For *Gorgeous Tongue*, Lara Kramer invites Nêhiyaw/Métis dance artist Jeanette Kotowich to embody stories, dreams, and songs that stem from Lara's Anishinaabe lineage. Entering Kramer's artistic constellation, Kotowich performs multiple movement sequences to embrace the past and usher in a new world. *Gorgeous Tongue* is a celebration of Indigenous transmission, transformation, and futurity.

*"And we are asked, 'Do you still want to go?'
This is them stories of our journey from the stars.
Of how we came to be.*

*Somewhere amongst all these strands,
we are weaving our imagination.
Dreaming for hard loving and future journeys.
Transporting in soft gorgeous tongue."* –

Lara Kramer



Lara Kramer



© Mathieu Verreault

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VIVE LE FRINGE!



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The CINARS delegation @EdFringe

The well-known performing arts biennale CINARS will be accompanying a group of Québec artists, companies and cultural professionals to attend the Edinburgh Fringe. They will have the chance to meet key actors, take part in professional events and get to know the festival better. The delegation will be in Edinburgh 18-22 August; please do not hesitate to reach out to them if you would like to meet up and have a chat. This activity has been made possible thanks to the Québec Arts Council (CALQ).

Contact for more information:

coordination@cinars.org

CINARS/Québec professional networking

19 August
16:30-18:00
Summerhall

Come and meet the Québec artists, companies and cultural professionals attending the Edinburgh Fringe as part of the CINARS delegation!



connect.edfringe.com/events/146684

SAVE THE DATE

BIENNALE CINARS

NOVEMBER 2026

CALL FOR APPLICATION

SEPTEMBER 2025

© Play Dead - People Watching Collective

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CIRQUE ÉLOIZE (Circus)

Jean-Marc Peslerbe

A driving force in Québec's cultural scene influence for 33 years, Cirque Éloize creates shows filled with poetry and daring acrobatics. A pioneer of contemporary circus, Cirque Éloize combines circus arts with music, dance, technology, and theatre. Its original creations have been acclaimed by over 6,000,000 spectators, and has performed over 7,000 shows across 600 cities worldwide.

cirque-eloize.com

"The Edinburgh Fringe is a major global event in the performing arts scene, and we didn't want to miss the 2025 edition!"



Cirque Éloize



© Yossi Zwecker

CINARRS

LE GROS ORTEIL (Youth Circus)

Aurélie Guye-Perrault

Blending clowning, theatre and the circus arts, Le Gros Orteil performance company creates high-quality shows for young audiences. Improvisation, truthful emotions and interaction with the audience bring our shows to life. With their themes of travel and dreaming and enriched with subtle educational messages, our performances leave ample room for children's avid imaginations and spontaneity to flourish, embarking our young audiences on a journey of story, emotion and reflection.

legrosorteil.com



Le Gros Orteil



© Yull Rozon

LES ILLUSIONNISTES (Theatre)

Marc-Alexandre Brûlé

With a unique mandate to create contemporary magic works for the Canadian territory, LES ILLUSIONNISTES has been meeting audiences of all ages across Canada since 2020. Formed by musician, composer, and theatre artist Andrée-Anne Gingras-Roy and illusionist Marc-Alexandre Brûlé, the collective presents New Magic works through clowning, theatre and live music, showcasing their diverse talents. Seen by over 36,000 spectators in the past five years, their off-the-beaten-path production A MAGIC RECITAL has been performed on outdoor stages, in theatres, and at festivals. As direct descendants of the Cirque Éloize/Finzi Pasca «school», they represent the first company dedicated to advancing this discipline on the North American continent.

marcalexandrebrule.com/les-illusionnistes-magie-nouvelle



LES ILLUSIONNISTES

© Olivier Bousquet

CIRCUL'R (Dance)
Bérénice Dupuis

Circul'R crafts compelling urban dance performances that delve into the complexities of the contemporary world through visceral physicality. Drawing from the visual language of breakdance and the precision of physical theatre, the company explores the Kafkaesque conditions of the modern world—alienation, disembodiment, and disconnection—through a unique quest of beauty, illusion, contrast and irony.

Their creations have been presented across Europe and North America (France, Sweden, Ireland, Germany, Spain, Slovenia, and Canada).

circulrdance.com



Circul'R

© Pierre Tran



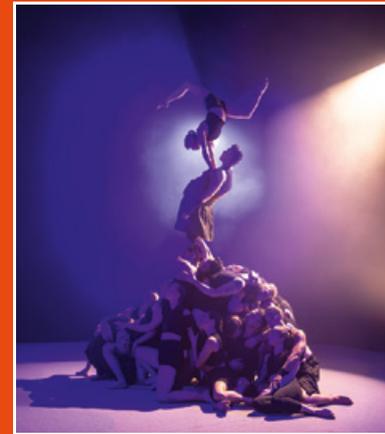
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Find out more at:
www.cgi.com

CGI is honoured to support Québec culture.



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