



For Immediate Release  
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## **We're Baaccck!!!** **- Calgary's only Summer Theatre Festival is Revving Up -**

(Calgary, AB) - Yep, we're back! The fourth installment of the **Calgary Fringe Festival** is opening its doors this August long weekend!

**Who:** Calgary Fringe Festival 2009

**What:** Indoor theatre festival presenting theatrical acts from around the globe... and our own backyard!

**When:** Friday, July 31 to Saturday, August 8, 2009.

**Where:** Inglewood, Calgary's oldest neighbourhood.

The Calgary Fringe Festival is playing host to 30 indoor theatre artist companies this year from all around Calgary, Alberta and the world. The performances range from children's shows, to musicals, to dance, to performance poetry, to puppetry, to dramas, comedies, improvisation... from the mainstream to cult classics to the more risqué... you name it! Whatever your tastes, it's at the Fringe!

"All of the artists are chosen by lottery draw," said Michele Gallant, Calgary Fringe Festival Director. "We liken the lottery draw process to a potluck supper. You throw it out there and you always seem to get the right amount of appetizers, main courses and desserts on your table. At the Fringe, the draw also helps us get that perfect balance of children's shows, musicals, comedies, dramas, performance poetry... The Fringe is uncensored, unbiased and non-juried theatre and that means there's something for everyone, for any age!"

Inglewood is hosting the Fringe Festival again this year, which allows Fringe-goers to properly "fringe." All of the venues are within a maximum 10-minute walking distance from each other. So theoretically, you can see a minimum of two to three shows a day! Where else do you have the ability to see any

kind of theatrical show in any genre... all within walking distance in a nine day time span?

And the content will blow you away, with artists coming from as far away as Europe and the land down under.

"We're very excited," exclaims Gallant. "Jem Rolls of Big Word Performance Poetry is a well-known Fringe artist who comes from the UK and Jenny Wynter, who's done work with our local Loose Moose Theatre improve team hails from Brisbane, Australia. Jem is a performance poetry artist...very talented and witty man...and his show is entitled *Jem Roll's LEASTEST FLOPS*. He sure makes you think! And Jenny is very funny and engaging...her show *One Night in Labour* will have the audience rolling with laughter AND in tears."

The winner of the Pumphouse One Act Festival (Best Production, Best Director, Best Original Play) is also making an appearance at this year's Fringe. Local playwright, Michaela Jeffery, and cast are presenting her show *Lapse*, a dark comedy with a shocking conclusion. Catherine is a confused young woman who has returned home to bury her father and face the priest who holds the family's deepest and darkest secrets.

Some of the Fringe artists are novices...some are more seasoned veterans who tour the Fringe circuit over the summer to various cities in North America. But whatever their experience, 100% of the artist-set ticket price goes directly back to the artist! The Fringe Festival is all about supporting the arts and artistic expression.

"As an artist, the Fringe has allowed me to create and experiment with new work, as well as providing inspiration and community," said Cara Yeats of Over the Moon's *Some Reckless Abandon*. "Having performed at most Canadian Fringes I find the Calgary Fringe unique in its friendly nature and unwavering support for all the artists involved."

And this year, for the first time ever, Calgary's Fringe Festival and **Inglewood's SunFest** are partnering up and offering you a double-dose of fun! **SunFest** will take place our opening weekend on Saturday, August 1 from 11 am to 5 pm. It's free, family-friendly and open to the general public. 9 Avenue SE will be closed between 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Street, and will be full of arts-focused vendors, street performers and roving performers. Worked up an appetite? A SunFest Food Court is being set-up by our Information Booth in the city parking lot on the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street SE. A Fringe stage is being erected there too, so while you're eating, you can get a sneak preview of some of the Fringe shows from the performers themselves. The Fringe hopes to make this an annual outdoor event and to continue growing it into the future.

Here's a smattering of what you can expect from the **Fringe Festival** shows this year:

### **The Classics...**



**Rocky Horror Picture Show (Broadway West):** The cult classic from the 1970's...break out your stiletto high heels, fishnets and corsets and let's do the time warp again!

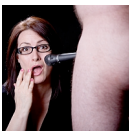


**Vagina Monologues (Sherry West):** Playwright Eve Ensler interviewed 200 women about their most intimate stories about women's "down theres." These are real stories from real people and that's one reason this show has been a huge success.

### **The Risqué...**



**Drunken Fucker (Ground Zero Theatre):** *Drunken Fucker* is the story of one man's descent into hell on an alcohol-fueled train. Mean, raw, gritty and ultimately redeeming, *Drunken Fucker* is a story that will move you, whether your life has been affected by alcohol or not.



**The Cockwhisperer: A Love Story (Colette Kendall):** From the creator of the Canadian Comedy Award nominated *Tippi Seagram's Happy Hour* and *Who's Afraid of Tippi Seagram?* comes a new solo offering *The Cockwhisperer*. One woman's search for the love... and penis... of her dreams!

### **The "Out of Towner's"...**



**Jem Rolls' LEASTEST Flops (Big Word Performance Poetry):** Jem Rolls toured Canada's Fringes five times to great critical and artistic success before finding Calgary in 2008. *LEASTEST FLOPS* features acclaimed pieces unseen here before.

"Highest calibre...genius" (Montreal Gazette \* \* \* \* \* 2005/2006)



**Jenny Wynter's One Night in Labour (Jenny Wynter):** This solo variety show from one of Australia's emerging comedic talents combines stand-up, musical, character and improvised comedy in a cabaret-esque tribute to motherhood. For anyone who has, has had or has been in a womb.

*"...she possesses a combination of stage presence, wit, intelligence and honesty that I don't come across too often."* (Michael Pollock, Second City LA).

### **For Children...**



**Junie B (Junior B West):** Junie B. is quite the character. This play follows her on one of her adventures. She is going to see a play with her Grampa Frank Miller and her two bestest friends... but the only thing is - Meanie Jim will also be there. What's a girl to do?



**The Amazing Adventure of Clara and Jacques (Sandbox Children's Theatre):** Two children, born of different nations and now lost in a brave new world, will band together in search of their new home, somewhere across the vast lands of a country that will become Canada. After all, it is our differences that make us truly special.

### **The Politically (In)Correct...**



**Harper Girl Does Canada (Ironic Curtain Media):** Miss Ruby Jones, a.k.a. HarperGirl, is the founder and self-appointed President of the Stephen Harper Fan Club. This summer, using crafts, video, dance and song, Ruby embarks on a quest for love in confusing political times. Will this 21st century girl ever find what she's looking for?



**Confessions of a Baby Boomer Bombshell (White Magic Woman Productions – Zandra Bell):** Do you like stretch marks, long walks through golf courses during lightning storms or mixing tequila with your Metamucil? Don't miss the foremost Guru of Middle Aged Angst, Shirley

Best, expounding on the inanities of modern society! Intelligently crafted hilarity, funny not foul, comedy that goes to the edge but pulls back in time before Aunt Edna has a stroke.

And there is so much more! For a complete listing of all the theatre shows, click on this link:

<http://calgaryfringe.carbonpop.com/tickets/categories/7-theatre>

### **About the Calgary Fringe:**

The Calgary Fringe Festival strives to support theatre artists of all disciplines by offering opportunities that offer a hand up and not a hand out. We aim to offer Calgarians an opportunity to build community through the theatrical arts. The Calgary Fringe seeks to achieve this end by offering the community inclusive and accessible arts programming that stress a broad-based, interdisciplinary approach to the arts, by fostering an environment of artistic freedom and expression. 100% unbiased. 100% unjuried. 100% of all ticket revenue goes back to the artist.

**For more information, interviews or to request a media press kit and passes, please contact:**

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