



For Immediate Release  
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## **Calgary's Only Summer Theatre Festival is Bigger Than Ever! - Fringe Festival Coming August Long Weekend -**

(Calgary, AB) - The sixth instalment of the [Calgary Fringe Festival](http://www.calgaryfringe.ca) is set to open its doors this August long weekend!

**WHAT:** Calgary Fringe Festival 2011 - indoor theatre festival presenting acts from our own backyard and around the globe!

**WHEN:** Friday, July 29 to Saturday, August 6, 2011.

**WHERE:** Inglewood, Calgary's most historic neighbourhood.

The Calgary Fringe Festival is playing host to 34 local, national and international indoor theatre artist companies and this year, is offering more venues and Fringe artist participation than ever before. *Venu 1008, Nine Café, DaDe Art and Design Lab, Club Paradiso, The Lantern Church Sanctuary* and *Jacqueline Suzanne's* are all throwing open their doors this year, bringing the total venue count up to 10!

"We are so excited to bring more performances to Calgary's Fringe fans," enthuses Michele Gallant, Calgary Fringe Festival director. "It's thanks to Fringers, their support and enthusiasm over the years, that we're growing every year."

The shows range from children's shows to musicals, to dance, spoken word, dramas, comedies, improvisation and the risqué. You name it, whatever your tastes, whatever your age; chances are you'll find it at the Fringe!

"This is truly *anything goes* theatre," says Gallant. "Since the acts are all selected by lottery draw, there are no limits to the types of acts you'll see. In fact, that's what's great about the Fringe experience ... no matter your background, age or gender, the Fringe will be an experience to remember."

And the location of the Fringe Festival is key to bringing this experience to Calgary. Making its home in Inglewood ensures all of the venues are within a 10-minute walk of each other - enabling people to see more than one show a day.

Most shows are about an hour in length, with the maximum run time for a couple of shows at 90 minutes. At any given time, there is a minimum of 15 shows to a maximum of 24 shows happening every day of the Fringe.

As for Fringe artists, some are novices... some are more seasoned veterans who tour the Fringe circuit over the summer. Whatever their experience, the Fringe is all about supporting the arts and artistic expression and providing an opportunity for artists to create and perform in whatever medium they choose. And 100% of the artist set ticket price goes directly back to the artist!

"The Fringe is about inclusivity, where everyone and everything is accepted. This even includes finding places to perform in the most untraditional or unlikely of spaces – like the outdoor garden space, *The Area*," says Gallant. "It's all good, it all works. That's Fringe ... anything goes and all are welcome!"

### **Mark your calendar, special Fringe dates:**

#### **Media Event**

**Thursday, July 28 - 9:30 to 11 am**

Media are invited to *Venu 1008* (formerly *Joie de Vivre*, 1008 - 14 Street SE) to catch a peek of some of the fantastic Fringe offerings. Photo-op and interviews will be available. Details to follow.

#### **Inglewood SunFest**

**Saturday, July 30 - 11 am to 5 pm**

Held during the Fringe's opening weekend, there are vendors and performers galore along 9th Avenue SE (closed between 11th Street and 14th Street). Inglewood SunFest is open to EVERYONE with no admission charged. A perfect time to bring the family and stroll around!

#### **Alexandra Centre Youth Drama Camp Special Presentation**

**Saturday, July 30 - 1 pm**

The first annual summer Alexandra Centre Youth Drama Camp will be making a special presentation of its show at the Alexandra Centre (922 - 9 Ave SE) for a toonie a head. Supported in part by the Calgary Fringe Festival, come out and support future Fringe artists!

#### **Calgary Fringe Best of Fest**

**Friday, July 29 - Tuesday, August 2**

Starting July 29, our audience is encouraged to vote online or at our Fringe on-site box office for their favourite Fringe act. Voting ends Tuesday, August 2 at midnight. Results will be announced on Wednesday, August 3 during our *Fringe Star of Fame* award presentation ceremony.

The *Best of Fest* winner(s) will perform their award winning show on our closing Saturday, August 6 at 1 pm at the Alexandra Centre venue.

#### **Calgary Fringe Star of Fame Award**

**Wednesday, August 3 at 10 am**

The Fringe is recognizing a special individual who contributes to Inglewood, either as an artist or as a major supporter of arts in Calgary. Come see who is selected for the honour! The Calgary

Fringe will be making a formal presentation on Wednesday, August 3 at 10 am in front of our Information Booth.

**The Fringe Experience... Patron Days**

**August 2** - Senior's Day

**August 3** - BFF at the CFF (Best Friends Forever at the Calgary Fringe Festival)

**August 4** - Date Night

**The Fringe Late Night Club**

**Friday, July 29 – Saturday, August 6 at 11 pm until LATE! (around 1 am)**

Hosted by The Improv Guild in the basement of *The Lantern Church* (1401 - 10 Ave SE). Come, relax and hang out with Fringe artists, volunteers and other Fringe supports for an evening of fun and inclusivity.

**For a complete listing of all Fringe Festival 2011 theatre shows, go to [calgaryfringe.ca](http://calgaryfringe.ca).**

The 2011 Calgary Fringe iPhone application is available for download **FREE** through [iTunes](#). Look for [FestFinder!](#)

Find the Calgary Fringe on [Twitter @CalgaryFringe](#) and on [Facebook](#).

- 30 -

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