



Media Release

THE HEART OF THE CITY CELEBRATES EXCITING EDMONTON ARTS SCENE ON CULTURE DAYS WEEKEND

September 21, 2015

(EDMONTON) From a celebration of 105 years of live theatre in Edmonton, to honouring the enduring majesty of Beethoven, to marking the birth of a new event that celebrates contemporary art, Churchill Square and the adjoining Arts District will be one big party the night of Saturday, September 26th.

The Citadel will be the site of the Heartbeat Anniversary Indoor Street Party on the 26th, marking the anniversaries of the Citadel Theatre (50 years), Catalyst Theatre (20 years) and Rapid Fire Theatre (35 years). The festivities begin at 7:30 PM with HUG THE CITADEL, in which several hundred theatre lovers will link arms and surround the Citadel in an affectionate homage to a truly great arts, culture and community venue. Following the evening's ticketed performances, the doors of the Citadel will be thrown open at 9:30 PM for the free public Indoor Street Party in the Citadel hosted by Citadel, Catalyst and Rapid Fire, with music by Fast Romantics, Scenic Route To Alaska, and DJ Thomas Culture. The music and dancing will be complemented by food trucks, refreshments and more!

"This is a proud time in the Citadel's history and future," said Citadel executive director Penny Ritco. "Celebrating it with two great partner companies, Catalyst and Rapid Fire, and the entire Edmonton community, on Culture Days weekend is icing on the cake!"

"The Catalyst team is thrilled to be celebrating its twentieth season of creating and touring Made-In-Edmonton work in our brand new home," said managing producer Eva Cairns. "We are honoured to be sharing these festivities with the Citadel and Rapid Fire, both of whom have welcomed us warmly into this beautiful facility."

"Rapid Fire Theatre has been bringing our raucous high-octane brand of improvised theatre to Edmonton for 35 years," said RFT's artistic director Matt Schuurman. "This will be our biggest season yet with over 300 performances and over 200 workshops. What better way to celebrate than to kick things off with a raucous party—it's what we do best!"

Next door at the Winspear Centre, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra will perform the four most famous notes in music history, the bedrock of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, conducted by Tito Muñoz and Katherine Chi on piano at 8:00pm. There will be a free open dress rehearsal of the evening's program starting at 10 AM until 12:15 PM.

"Arts are the beating heart of our city, the creativity running through our community's veins that inspires us to bolder, brighter futures," said Annemarie Petrov, executive director of the Francis Winspear Centre for Music & Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. "We are so fortunate in Edmonton to have an active central Arts District, including our award-winning Library and the open doors of City Hall. I am excited by the bold vision to create an Arts Corridor along 99th Street running from CKUA to the new Royal Alberta Museum. Paired with Irv and Dianne Kipnes's plans for the Galleria Project and complemented by the development of the ICE District a few blocks away, I'm convinced our already vibrant Downtown will become the envy of every metro centre across the country."

Churchill Square, the Art Gallery of Alberta and other nearby venues will host the inaugural Nuit Blanche Edmonton on Saturday night, starting at 7 PM and running until 4 AM on Sunday. Nuit Blanche Edmonton is a free, all-ages contemporary art event that will feature 31 exhibits from local and international artists.

"We're thrilled to launch an event that will celebrate and transform our public space – for one special night only," said Ruth Burns, Chair of Nuit Blanche Edmonton. "There's nothing else like it in Edmonton." With installations that range from the beautiful and contemplative to the fun and interactive, Nuit Blanche is for the art-savvy and the art-skeptical alike.

The Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA) is thrilled to be a part of the inaugural Nuit Blanche Edmonton. The AGA will be co-producing Jon Sasaki's Bouncy Highrise. This installation and performance event takes place at the intersection of 100 Street and 102A Avenue (in front of the Art Gallery of Alberta) and is part of Dave Dyment's NBE exhibition The Half-Lit Moon.

"We are happy to be celebrating the arts this weekend!" said Darcy Trufyn, Chair of the Board of Directors of the AGA. "From free gallery admission for Alberta Culture Days to joining the first ever Nuit Blanche in Edmonton, your AGA and our partners will energize our already dynamic and vibrant arts scene."

The weekend of September 25 marks Alberta Culture Days 2015 with free events for the public throughout downtown Edmonton.

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