

## **SummerWorks wraps up a summer season driven by collaboration & community with the *End of Summer Mix***

**2020 saw over 150 artists supported and an increase in the total amount of artist fees with over \$90,000 dispersed to artists through the season, 28 community and arts organizations brought together across three continents**

**August 28, 2020** – As this unprecedented summer begins to wane, SummerWorks prepares to conclude this unique summer season of free programming. Summer 2020 will end as it began, with a celebration of art, possibility, and perseverance in the *End of Summer Mix*.

A curated collection of video, music, text and visual offerings, *End of Summer Mix* is everything you need for you or your bubble to celebrate and reflect on the end of the season. Featuring some of SummerWorks' favourite artists, regular collaborators, new friends, and staff, *End of Summer Mix* will include a collection of recipes, playlists, performances, activities, and provocations to experience in your own time and way. The "Mix" will be available for download on August 29 at [summerworks.ca](http://summerworks.ca). Artist contributors include **Colin Asuncion, Elder Duke Redbird, Eponine Lee, Fay & Fluffy, Rock Bottom Movement, Syrus Marcus Ware, and Triga Creative with Sarah Creskey.**

The "engage on your own terms" offering culminates a season like no other, which saw SummerWorks switch gears in response to the global pandemic, presenting a summer-long curation of work that began in May running through to the end of August. The season reached audiences online, over the phone, in parks and alleyways, through a podcast, short films, and live presentations for small, distanced groups. Projects were brought to life across myriad mediums: audio drama, comic book and graphic art, dance, dub poetry, film, interactive live experience, art installations, live performance, photography, pre-recorded audio tour, and more. SummerWorks activities were accessible not just across Canada this year, but to audiences from across the globe.

At the heart of programming curation was a mandate to engage and support as many artists as possible and for community partnership to be central in the pandemic response. Since May, **SummerWorks activities put over 150 artists to work. Additionally, over \$90,000 in fees were paid to artists** - an increase over previous years. The summer season also **unified the efforts of 28 community and arts organizations.**

*"I am so pleased with how we at SummerWorks and our cherished community collaborators were able to come together this summer," says SummerWorks Artistic and Managing Director Laura Nanni. "So many things about what we dove into this summer were big unknowns – which can be destabilizing, but also a creatively fruitful place to live. Despite the huge challenge of not being able to stage public performances for audiences in the way we are used to, with the support of the SummerWorks team and the many artists and partner organizations we collaborated with, we kept the work going, we experimented together while finding new ways of making and connecting. I really feel this exemplified our mandate of exploring the possibilities of performance. While we look forward to presenting the*

*Festival and gathering in person again one day, I will treasure what we accomplished and how we marked this historical moment in time together.”*

The 2020 summer season kicked off in May with **Essential Play** – a performance party co-presented with Canadian Stage and in collaboration with Club Quarantine. In June SummerWorks partnered with long-time collaborators Outside the March to bring their successful phone-based improvised mystery series **The Ministry of Mundane Mysteries**, across the globe Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Germany, Ireland and the UK, as well as creating an ASL performed version.

July saw the creation of the first ever **Artist Residencies as part of the SummerWorks Lab**, supporting **18 artists** in the research and development of new inquiries and projects from home, with sharings online. In August, SummerWorks partnered with Canadian Stage again on the 10-part anthology work **We Were, We Are, We Will Be**, which started with online presentations and slowly re-introduced public performances in outdoor spaces for small groups. SummerWorks and Canadian Stage also joined together with TO Live to present Volcano Theatre’s 3-part anthology **Metamorphosis: A Viral Trilogy**, an audio-drama written by internationally acclaimed Giller Prize-winner André Alexis; and the The AMY Project returned to SummerWorks with a collection of short films in **Undertow**. In these last days of the month, artist Mark Reinhart continues to animate public spaces around West Queen West and Parkdale with **Health & Safety Notes**, a community-centered public art project that sees Reinhart collaborate with local artists and organizations to craft messages of hope and connection displayed on building exteriors, crafted from brightly-coloured duct tape. All sites are mapped on a custom google map accessible on the SummerWorks [website](#), including information about each partner organization participating.

Recognizing a significant lack of diverse voices in Canadian arts media, 2020 initiatives also included a **pilot program to develop and uplift BIPOC voices in art criticism**. SummerWorks commissioned three emerging BIPOC critics to write a response to work in *We Were, We Are, We Will Be* and paired them with mentors in the field for editorial support. The commissioned writers included **Jenna Shummoogum** (with support from the Toronto Star’s **Carly Maga** and **Karen Fricker**), **Nicole Eun-Ju Bell** (with support from NOW Toronto’s **Glenn Sumi**), and **Sid Malcolm** (with support from ByBlacks.com’s **Rosey Edeh**.) Work was shared on the SummerWorks website and social channels.

2020 summer season projects were created and presented in partnership with **The AMY Project, Canadian Stage, Club Quarantine, Deaf Spectrum, English Theatre Berlin, Farnham Maltings, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, MAYK, Melbourne Fringe, Mixtape Curations, Outside the March, Project Arts Centre, Stratford Festival Lab, The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, TO Live and Volcano Theatre. Community partners for Health & Safety Notes include Antikka Cafe, Artery, BAND (Black Artists’ Network in Dialogue), Kate Duncan, Gallery 1313, Andrew Kerr, Loga’s Corner, Parkdale Centre for Innovation, Parkdale Adult ESL Class, STEPS, The Theatre Centre, Toronto Media Arts Centre (TMAC), Workman Arts, and Womxn in Paint.**

In line with SummerWorks’ ongoing commitment to accessibility, all online programming was supported by ASL translation, captioning, audio description and/or downloadable script.

SummerWorks programming is kindly supported by **Canada Council, The Department of Canadian Heritage, Government of Ontario, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, Lindy Green Charitable Family Foundation, Metcalf Foundation, The Aubrey and Marla Dan Foundation, Hal Jackman Foundation, and TD Bank.**

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## SummerWorks 2020 Summer Season line-up -

### Essential Play

May 29

Presented by SummerWorks and Canadian Stage

A virtual party for artists and art-lovers around the world. A weird and wild night featuring performers from across the country, celebrating the strength, ingenuity and resilience of artists. Essential Play featured pulse pounding DJ sets by **L'Oqenz** (Toronto), **Chivengi** (Montreal) and **Bliptor** (Toronto), and Canadian performance artists in the line-up included Indigenous Vancouver drag artist **Continental Breakfast**, Kingston-based aerial artist **Erin Ball**, Toronto dancer/activist **Rodney Diverlus**, **Sébastien Provencher** from acclaimed Montreal choreography collective **Lorganisme**, and Toronto drag super-monster **Yovska** (*Dragula/Netflix*). Hosting duties will be shared by Vancouver-based, Indigenous-trans artist and house musician **Quanah Style** (*Canada's Drag Race*), Toronto creator, performer and ASL accessibility advocate **Sage Lovell** (Deaf Spectrum), and Toronto pop-star drag performer **Priyanka** (*Canada's Drag Race*).

### The Ministry of Mundane Mysteries: Summer Passport

June 8 - July 4

An Outside the March production presented by SummerWorks

Finding yourself with a little time on your hands? Missing the uplift of live arts and culture? Is there a friend, a relative or a kid in your life who could use a daily dose of adventure? The meticulous mavericks at The Ministry of Mundane Mysteries have got you covered.

SummerWorks' presented a month of entirely free experiences from Outside the March's The Ministry of Mundane Mysteries. For the first time ever, the experience was available outside of North America and accessible to d/Deaf audiences.

## SummerWorks Lab Residencies

July/August

To make the most of our time at home, the SummerWorks Lab hosted a cohort of artists-in-(their-own)-residence to support the research, development, and thinking through of new performance works. Drawn from proposals in response to the original 2020 summer Festival call for submissions, these artists received financial, logistical, and curatorial support as they explored and expanded their ideas. Artists in residence in 2020 included **Neema Bickersteth (Toronto)**, **Jaz Fairy-J (Toronto)**, **Calla Hanratty (Toronto)**, **Jessica Karuhanga (Toronto)**, **Frances Koncan (Winnipeg, MB)**, **Kama La Mackerel (Montreal, QC)**, **Shira Leuchter (Toronto)**, **Alexa Mardon (Vancouver, BC)**, **Erika Mitsuhashi (Vancouver, BC)**, **Philip Nozuka (Toronto)**, **Gislina Patterson (Winnipeg, MB)**, **Liz Peterson (Toronto)**, **Davis Plett (Winnipeg, MB)**, **Eshan Rafi (Toronto/Berlin)**, **Anand Rajaram (Toronto)**, **Diana Reyes (Toronto)**, **Khadijah Salawu (Toronto)**, **Nikki Shaffeeullah (Toronto)**, and **Eric Woolfe (Toronto)**.

## Health & Safety Notes

July 27 - August 31

Presented by SummerWorks

Colourful messages written in duct tape adorn the sides of public and private buildings throughout the neighbourhood of Parkdale and wander down Queen West. Created by **Mark Reinhart (Chatham, ON)** in collaboration with organizations and residents in the Parkdale community, these temporary public art installations help people remember, be seen, and communicate their fears, wonderings, anxieties, and hopes in a COVID-19 reality. The notes allow us to speak to each other while maintaining physical distance, and are a way of staying connected during a time when connecting with one another can seem strange and fleeting.

## We Were, We Are, We Will Be

August 18-23

Presented by SummerWorks and Canadian Stage

An anthology unfolding over the course of one week with both digital and analogue projects that take you from your living room to hidden parts of the city for safe encounters with others. Artists worked across disciplines to reflect upon our past, present, and the possible futures we can shape together to create urgent, immediate responses to life in a pandemic and what performance can look like in this time of crisis. Co-curated & dramaturged by Daniele Bartolini and Luke Reece, and conceived by Bartolini, this work featured pieces by **Jennifer Alicia (Toronto)**, **d'bi.young anitafrika (Toronto)**, **Rory de Brouwer (Toronto)**, **Chris Dodd (Edmonton, AB)**, **O'shane Howard (Toronto)**, **Eponine Lee (Toronto)**, **Melody McKiver (Sioux Lookout, ON)**, **Esie Mensah (Toronto)**, **Alina Pete (Surrey, BC)**, and **Philip Precious (Florence, IT)**.

## Metamorphosis: A Viral Trilogy

August 17 - August 30

A Volcano Theatre Production presented by TO Live, SummerWorks, and Canadian Stage

Three fictional audio diaries by internationally acclaimed, multiple award-winning Toronto novelist **André Alexis**. *Metamorphosis* charts the progress of a fictional global pandemic in Canada's largest city through three fictional audio diaries. These intimate conversations—from 13-year-old Lucretia, 30-year-old Kerri, and 86-year-old Nella—are funny, timely, and often fantastical.

### **Undertow**

August 26 - 29

Presented by The AMY Project in association with SummerWorks.

The AMY Project 2020 Participants bring you *Undertow*, a collection of short films created by the participants based on their personal experiences of navigating life at multiple intersections. In collaboration with the AMY Film program and in response to COVID-19 restrictions the creators explore themes of self growth, healing, and navigation.

### **End of Summer Mix**

Available beginning August 29

Presented by SummerWorks

With our summer season coming to a close, we've decided to mark the end of summer by curating a collection of video, music, text and visual offerings. The *End of Summer Mix* is everything you need for you or your bubble to celebrate and reflect on the end of summer in your own time and way. We're working with some of our favourite artists, regular collaborators, new friends, and staff to commission a collection of recipes, playlists, performances, activities, and provocations for you to experience in your own time and way. Artist contributors include **Colin Asuncion, Elder Duke Redbird, Eponine Lee, Fay & Fluffy, Rock Bottom Movement, Syrus Marcus Ware, and Triga Creative with Sarah Creskey.**

