



Expanding the
possibilities
of performance

SUMMERWORKS PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL 2022

**REIMAGINING PUBLIC SPACE
THROUGH LIVE PERFORMANCE AND ART ACROSS TORONTO**

**THE 32ND EDITION OF SUMMERWORKS
RETURNS TO ITS 11-DAY FESTIVAL FORMAT**

NEW NEIGHBOURHOODS, DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, EXPANDED POSSIBILITIES

AUGUST 4 – AUGUST 14, 2022 - BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE

**ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCES WILL ENGAGE MULTIPLE NEIGHBOURHOODS,
ACTIVATING CITY-WIDE ENGAGEMENT AND RE-CREATING CONNECTIONS ON CITY
STREETS**

TORONTO (June 30, 2022) – One of Canada’s most vital platforms for new performance and artistic development, **SUMMERWORKS** proudly returns to its 11-day Festival format, reimagined to include an extensive line-up of contemporary performance and large-scale installation works, participatory experiences, and celebratory community gatherings. The **SUMMERWORKS FESTIVAL** takes place August 4 – August 14, 2022, showcasing over 30 performance works and events, presented in 13 neighbourhoods across Toronto, as well as an extensive array of online and hybrid offerings.

In its 32nd year, and the final year for outgoing Artistic and Managing Director **Laura Nanni**, this year’s Festival will foster new connections and curiosity in a world that has long been disrupted, inviting audiences to reimagine and recalibrate their relationship with public space through art. A vast selection of performances and community meals will enable patrons to traverse Toronto with a fresh perspective, re-familiarize themselves with public space, and come together as a community. With concentrated pockets of programming spanning more locations than ever before.

SUMMERWORKS FESTIVAL offers a wide range of works and experiences that carefully consider accessibility and different audience comfort levels. The majority of the programming this year is focused on exploration and activation in public space, and will take place outdoors, and allow for physical distancing. SummerWorks has always found value in digital works, it fosters creative risk and experimentation. The organization is dedicated to embracing a hybrid standard for future artistic endeavours.

Cultivating space for exploration and innovation through theatre, dance, music, live art, interdisciplinary and hybrid forms, **SUMMERWORKS FESTIVAL** initiatives are split between four programming streams, offering audiences a dynamic choice in how they choose to engage with the work as a participant or spectator. **Public Works** are a offering of **FREE** performances and artworks that aim to bring artists and audiences together to experience public space in new ways. The Public Works stream was significantly expanded this year as part of **ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2022–2023**, and aspects of these projects are currently available for audiences to engage with. **SummerWorks Presentations** include fully-developed new works, offering a snapshot of the future of contemporary performance. The **SummerWorks Lab** is a place for exploration, experimentation, and process, allowing the Festival to support projects at crucial stages of development and forge connections between artists and audiences. In the Lab, the audience experiences art at a critical juncture, and plays an essential role in the development of new work. Finally, the **SummerWorks Exchange**, encapsulating the Festival's professional development and industry activities, will offer three days of community training and networking opportunities for artists, audiences and industry professionals.

2022 SUMMERWORKS FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS:

This year, **SUMMERWORKS FESTIVAL** proudly features a wide-range of powerful projects that invite audiences to get to know Toronto and each other again, and re-envision everyday public spaces. In a new collaborative project by Canadian artist duo **Mia + Eric** and UK artist duo **Action Hero**, **Future Perfect: New Bylaws for Civic Spaces**, co-presented with the **Bentway Conservancy**, and part of **ArtworxTO**, brings together elements of game play, intervention, and poetics to re-examine our relationship to public space through reconfiguration of real Toronto City Bylaws; Bylaws are cut up word-by-word and rearranged into new rules for a transitioning world. Guided by a silent disco system, **PARTYPEOPLE**, created by **STARLIGHT (Jordan Campbell)** and **Elizabeth Staples**, invites guests to the faggiest, hottest, and strangest party in a public park. **Switch Collective** invite us to travel through streets and alleyways, tracing pathways and ecologies navigated by Queer, Trans, Poor, Mad, Racialized, Indigenous, (Im)migrant and displaced peoples of Parkdale in **Switching Queen(s)**. **Deep Gazing** is an interdisciplinary performance project by **Horizon Factory (Erin Hill and Nina Vroemen)** that will take place on the shores of Toronto, visually playing with the horizon line as a backdrop to the images created by the performers.

It is difficult to speak about the last three years without discussing mental health; and this year's Festival features a number of timely works that reflect global encounters of fear, worry, concern and longing for connection. **SUMMERWORKS FESTIVAL** presents **Strange Victory Performance** with ***This Is the Story of a Child Ruled by Fear***; a poetic fable about how to live with the slowly unfolding emergencies of a world, read aloud by the audience and solo performed by **David Gagnon Walker**. Created in collaboration with organizations and residents in multiple neighbourhoods of Toronto, **Health & Safety Notes**, another offering as part of **ArtworxTO**, is a participatory project by **Mark Reinhart** whereby colourful messages are written in duct tape on the sides of public and private buildings throughout the city; these temporary public art installations help people remember, be seen, and communicate their fears, wonderings, anxieties, and hopes in a COVID-19 reality.

Reflective of **SUMMERWORKS** ongoing commitment to creating space for diversity and difference, this year **THE FESTIVAL** will be presenting a variety of works encouraging learning and fostering empathy as a community. Bringing together Indigenous youth artists and their allies, **Amy Hull and the Laboratory for Artistic Intelligence** offers ***Circling Together***, a youth-led gathering and performance evening, featuring music, dance, and storytelling. Playwright and performer **Natasha Adiyana Morris** (*The Negroes Are Congregating*) performs ***half n half***, a punchy and honest solo work exploring women, love and toxic relationships through the infusion of live music, spoken word, comedy and audience participation. Set in a supernatural spa, ***Higher Hair*** performed by **Hima Batavia and Nikola Steer (Coco Framboise)**, evokes an intimate and immersive experience that invites contemplation and connection of the ancestral stories held within a person's hair. Written and directed by **Syrus Marcus Ware** (*Antarctica* and *burn, burned*), ***Does that Make Me Crazy?*** tells a story of a mixed race family over three decades, taking us on a journey to consider assumptions about race and racialization, through performance, puppetry and music. ***Ghosts Don't Need Passports***, is an immersive installation that is created for hearing and d/Deaf audiences; **Teardrop Collective** invites us into an immersive and interactive world of a Sri Lankan Tamil family living in Scarborough in 2010.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

OPENING NIGHT COMMUNITY MEAL & PARTY

NEIGHBOURHOOD: QUEEN WEST

Opening night will kick-off with a summery community meal on Thursday, August 4.

MID-FESTIVAL COMMUNITY MEAL FEATURING ASK AN ELDER

NEIGHBOURHOOD: THE WATERFRONT

Join Elder Dr. Duke Redbird for *Ask an Elder*, an event whereby the public can ask questions pertaining to Indigenous culture, history and more.

CLOSING NIGHT COMMUNITY MEAL & CELEBRATION

NEIGHBOURHOOD: THE WATERFRONT

A scenic, closing picnic at sundown to conclude the 11-day event on August 14th.

PUBLIC WORKS

ARTISTS AT WORK

GUEST CURATORS: Faye Kabali-Kagwa (South Africa), Liu Xiaoyi (Hong Kong) and Off Site Project / Pita Arreola-Burns & Elliott Burns (UK).

VENUE: ONLINE

Three international guest curators offer a digital glimpse into the process and practice of artists working outside of the Canadian performance ecology. [DETAILS](#)

CHALKING

COMPANY/CREATOR: ANANDAM

NEIGHBOURHOOD: QUEEN WEST

Be immersed in a multidisciplinary installation of slowly moving bodies from different trainings, traditions, and generations, that makes tangible the ways bodies can create bridges of togetherness. [DETAILS](#)

CIRCLING TOGETHER

COMPANY/CREATOR: AMY HULL AND THE LABORATORY FOR ARTISTIC INTELLIGENCE

NEIGHBOURHOOD: THE WATERFRONT

An evening bringing together Indigenous youth artists and their allies, in an evening of art, dance, performance, storytelling, and music. [DETAILS](#)

CLOSER

COMPANY/CREATOR: JENN GOODWIN

NEIGHBOURHOOD: QUEEN WEST

At this time in the pandemic, what does it mean to be closer? *Closer* is a timely response to the moment using forward motion and depth of field to explore concepts around solidarity, justness, resilience and more. [DETAILS](#)

FUTURE PERFECT: NEW BYLAWS FOR CIVIC SPACES

COMPANY/CREATOR: MIA + ERIC AND ACTION HERO

NEIGHBOURHOOD: VARIOUS

Co-presented with SummerWorks & The Bentway as part of ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021-2022.

City of Toronto park bylaws are cut up word-by-word and rearranged into new rules for a transitioning world. From this new poetic script, selected phrases are reinserted back into the cityscape on billboards to act as manifestos for the future city. [DETAILS](#)

HEALTH & SAFETY NOTES

COMPANY/CREATOR: MARK REINHART

NEIGHBOURHOOD: VARIOUS

Co-presented with SummerWorks & The Bentway as part of ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021-2022.

Colourful messages written in duct tape adorn the sides of public and private buildings in different neighbourhoods across the city, communicating the hopes and fears of local communities. [DETAILS](#)

LOTS OF LOVE (LOL)

COMPANY/CREATOR: LOTS OF LOVE (LOL) FESTIVAL

NEIGHBOURHOOD: THE JUNCTION

A series of live art performances bringing together artists from Montreal and Toronto, created for backyards, alleyways, parks, garages, and other non-traditional locations. [DETAILS](#)

MAKE THEM LETTERS DANCE

COMPANY/CREATOR: SAMEL TANZ & PHADE CREATIVE

NEIGHBOURHOOD: QUEEN WEST & KENSINGTON

Paying homage to the Graffiti that paved the way for street art in Toronto, *Make Them Letters Dance* takes audiences through an explorative dance performance while touring Graffiti Alley. [DETAILS](#)

PARTYPEOPLE

COMPANY/CREATOR: JORD AND LIZ

NEIGHBOURHOOD: CORKTOWN

PARTYPEOPLE invites you to the hottest, strangest, dance party in a public park, guided by a silent disco system. [DETAILS](#)

SWITCHING QUEEN(S)

COMPANY/CREATOR: SWITCH COLLECTIVE

NEIGHBOURHOOD: PARKDALE

Presented by SummerWorks as part of ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021-2022. *Switching Queen(s)* is a roving, queer, political street performance experience in Parkdale, exploring histories of QTBIPOC and Mad/disabled resistance, uplifting the organizers and activists of the present moment, and dreaming up radical liberatory futures. [DETAILS](#)

YOU ARE HERE

COMPANY/CREATOR: SHARI KASMAN

NEIGHBOURHOOD: BLOORDALE

Hidden gems come to the forefront in this walking tour of Bloordale that highlights the weird, wonderful, and whimsical landmarks of the neighbourhood, all described with a mix of fact and fiction. [DETAILS](#)

SUMMERWORKS PRESENTATIONS

HALF N HALF

COMPANY/CREATOR: PIECE OF MINE ARTS/ NATASHA ADIYANA MORRIS

NEIGHBOURHOOD: REGENT PARK

A punchy and honest solo show exploring women, love and toxic relationships through the infusion of live music, spoken word, comedy and audience participation. [DETAILS](#)

HIGHER HAIR

COMPANY/CREATOR: HIMA BATAVIA

NEIGHBOURHOOD: SPADINA FORT YORK

An intimate and immersive experience that invites you to contemplate and connect with the ancestral stories held in your hair. [DETAILS](#)

LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS FOR MYTHICAL TIMES

COMPANY/CREATOR: 2B THEATRE COMPANY / GLORIA MOK

NEIGHBOURHOOD: SPADINA FORT YORK

Gloria Mok weaves together an intimate performance outlining a personal story about long-distance relationships, immigration, with an ancient Chinese astrological folktale about forbidden love. [DETAILS](#)

NEW SOCIETIES

COMPANY/CREATOR: RE:CURRENT THEATRE

NEIGHBOURHOOD: REGENT PARK

Create your ideal society in a mega-game of collaboration, competition, and potential utopia.

[DETAILS](#)

NO PLACE

COMPANY/CREATOR: AMANDA ACORN

NEIGHBOURHOOD: HIGH PARK

No Place investigates the connection between the material world and the body, in this live assembly of dance, experimental music, and design. [DETAILS](#)

THIS IS THE STORY OF A CHILD RULED BY FEAR

COMPANY/CREATOR: STRANGE VICTORY PERFORMANCE

NEIGHBOURHOOD: QUEEN WEST

Read aloud by the audience and performed by David Gagnon Walker, *This is the Story of a Child Ruled by Fear* is a timely poetic fable about how to live with the slowly unfolding emergencies of the world. [DETAILS](#)

TOUR

COMPANY/CREATOR: MARDON + MITSUHASHI

NEIGHBOURHOOD: QUEEN WEST

Playing the line between rapid-fire absurdity and quiet sincerity, TOUR draws attention to how we are choreographed by spaces and what dominant stories or histories are shared.

[DETAILS](#)

SUMMERWORKS LAB

COLLIDER

COMPANY/CREATOR: SINGLE THREAD THEATRE COMPANY

VENUE: ONLINE

Collider is an ongoing research project investigating the storytelling and movement potential of live, immersive theatre in virtual reality. [DETAILS](#)

DEEP GAZING

COMPANY/CREATOR: HORIZON FACTORY

NEIGHBOURHOOD: THE WATERFRONT

A performative workshop that engages participants in cloud-directed ways of seeing, slowing, being in-relation to one another and reimagining possible futures. [DETAILS](#)

DELIBERATELY IS SENSATIONAL

COMPANY/CREATOR: FRÉDÉRQUE PERRON/ SCHOOL OF TORONTO DANCE
THEATRE

NEIGHBOURHOOD: QUEEN WEST

Exploring human complexities, *Deliberately is Sensational*, is a contemporary dance work that investigates relational and emotional states. [DETAILS](#)

DOES THAT MAKE ME CRAZY?

COMPANY/CREATOR: DR. SYRUS MARCUS WARE

NEIGHBOURHOOD: REGENT PARK

A new play by Dr. Syrus Marcus Ware exploring Madness, mixed race identity, activism, and abolition. [DETAILS](#)

GHOSTS DON'T NEED PASSPORTS

COMPANY/CREATOR: TEARDROP COLLECTIVE

NEIGHBOURHOOD: NATIVE EARTH'S AKI STUDIO/ REGENT PARK

Ghosts Don't Need Passports is a video installation that is created for hearing & Deaf audiences, taking a deep dive into visual storytelling through the world of a Sri Lankan Tamil family living in Scarborough in 2010. [DETAILS](#)

TALK TO ME

COMPANY/CREATOR: GENEROUS FRIEND

NEIGHBOURHOOD: QUEEN WEST

In *Talk to Me*, four grandchildren, with grandparents from other continents, ask who they come from and how that connects them to each other; they begin a conversation. [DETAILS](#)

TRANSFERS

COMPANY/CREATOR: LUCY ROSE COREN

NEIGHBOURHOOD: SHERBOURNE BUS ROUTE/ SHERBOURNE

Transfers is a love-letter to Toronto, in the form of a curated audio experience of verbatim stories gathered from TTC operators across the city. [DETAILS](#)

UNTITLED (BODIES IN TIME)

COMPANY/CREATOR: KATIE ADAMS-GOSSAGE/ SCHOOL OF TORONTO DANCE THEATRE

NEIGHBOURHOOD: REGENT PARK

Untitled (bodies in time) is a choreographic study by Katie Adams-Gossage that seeks to answer: how might we experience the impossible through human bodies? [DETAILS](#)

WHAT BRINGS YOU IN

COMPANY/CREATOR: LESLIE TING PRODUCTIONS

NEIGHBOURHOOD: QUEEN WEST

A violinist confronts the noise of her psyche in this interactive multimedia performance by Leslie Ting. [DETAILS](#)

SUMMERWORKS EXCHANGE

IN PERSON & ONLINE

NEIGHBOURHOOD: VARIOUS

This year's programming features behind the scenes digital encounters and workshops, conversations fostering consent building and curatorial practice, audio meditations on land-based creation practices, a lakeside community meal, and more. Artists and facilitators contributing to this year's public Exchange programming are: **Jennifer Alicia, Jill Carter, Aria Evans, Amy Hull, David Han & Amanda Amour-Lynx, Shaista Latif, Elder Duke Redbird**, and more. [DETAILS](#)

PERFORMANCE & ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

The Festival features a portion of relaxed performances specifically designed to welcome people who will benefit from a more relaxed performance environment. Personal service workers and service animals are welcome (with no additional admission fees required). All venues will have accessible entrances and washrooms; accessible seating will be identified in all venues and reserved for those who require it. All projects are subject to best practice guidelines for health and safety including evolving federal, provincial and municipal protocols to safeguard the public from COVID-19.

ABOUT ArtworxTO

ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art, 2021–2022 is a year-long celebration of Toronto's exceptional public art collection and the creative community behind it. Working closely with artists and Toronto's arts institutions, the City of Toronto is delivering major public art projects and commissions, citywide, from fall 2021 to fall 2022. Supporting local artists and new artworks that reflect Toronto's diversity, ArtworxTO is creating more opportunities for Torontonians to engage with art in their everyday lives. This year, explore your city and discover creativity and community—everywhere. Visit artworxTO.ca for full details.

ABOUT SUMMERWORKS

SUMMERWORKS expands the possibilities of performance. **SUMMERWORKS** is a leader, collaborator, and community builder at the forefront of contemporary performance, asking crucial questions; nurturing artistic innovation; and presenting new works that reflect the complexity and diversity of our society. Anchored by our annual SummerWorks Performance Festival in August, SummerWorks offers a year-round program of creation, presentation, and learning opportunities for artists and audiences.

SUMMERWORKS PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL DETAILS:

When: Thursday, August 4 – Sunday, August 14, 2022

Where: Various venues and public spaces in neighbourhoods all across Toronto, including indoor theatres, beaches, parks, alleyways and sidewalks.

Ticketing Information: Tickets on sale July 21, 2022.

FULL ticket, schedule, accessibility info & more location details coming July 21, 2022.

SUMMERWORKS programming is kindly supported by Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, City of Toronto, Lindy Green Charitable Family Foundation, Aubrey and Marla Dan Foundation, Toronto Arts Foundation, TD Bank Group, as well as partners School of Toronto Dance Theatre, Monnet Design, Urban Space, Ontario Place, Theatre Passe Muraille, Native Earth Performing Arts, The Theatre Centre, The Bentway, Generator, Kick and Push Festival, Suitcase in Point, and Why Not Theatre.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

[FACEBOOK](#)

[TWITTER](#)

INSTAGRAM
WEBSITE

MEDIA CONTACT:

For all media inquiries contact **Ashley Belmer, B-REBEL COMMUNICATIONS,**
Ashley@b-rebelcommunications.com / 416 617 8934