

LUMINATO FESTIVAL TORONTO

Media Release

Luminato Festival Toronto Announces October Lineup

*Christine Brubaker, Edward Burtynsky, and Julien Christian Lutz pka Director X
amongst those presenting World Premieres*

June 15, 2021, (Toronto, Canada) – Luminato Festival Toronto – the city’s international festival of arts and ideas – is collaborating with many of Canada’s most renowned and provocative art makers to celebrate creativity, promote change, and bring connection back to the Greater Toronto Area this Fall, from October 13 to 17.

“As we look toward brighter days, Luminato is excited to announce a powerful series of immersive film and digital experiences, along with a special drive-in concert,” says Luminato Festival Toronto CEO Celia Smith.

Luminato 2021 Details

Original works from Christine Brubaker, Edward Burtynsky, and Julien Christian Lutz pka Director X, will headline the October 2021 festivities. In a nod to the festival’s traditional June timing, Luminato has launched *Luminato2021*, a virtual reality guide to the Festival ‘inside’ Toronto’s iconic Great Hall, which will evolve over the summer months with more previews, highlights, and interactive elements added as the festival draws nearer.

From dance, music and visual art, to theatre, augmented reality, and digital photography, all grounded in the city-region, Luminato’s full list of events (see below) begins in June and crescendos from October 13 to 17. A wide range of accessibility initiatives accompany and augment each event, with additional commissions filling out the Access Program. More details on collaborators and activities will be shared over the summer through Luminato’s social channels and the virtual reality guide.

15th Luminato Festival: Love Letters to Toronto

“While I certainly look forward to the return of live festivals on the streets of Toronto, I’m really proud of the relationships, the collaborations, and the work that we are offering to audiences digitally this October,” says Naomi Campbell, Artistic Director of Luminato Festival Toronto. “In these days of change, I believe that Luminato has an important role to play, by sharing crucial stories and ideas from the brilliant artists who call Toronto home. Luminato 2021 is our love letter to Toronto, but we hope you will enjoy it no matter where you are. And while the work addresses critical issues like the climate crisis, colonization and systemic racism, it also celebrates the joy that people can make every day, in song, and dance, and beautiful images.”

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Edward Burtynsky's *In the Wake of Progress*

Commissioned and Co-produced by Luminato Festival Toronto
Produced by Edward Burtynsky, Bob Ezrin, and Julia Johnston
Film | Photography
World Premiere

In the Wake of Progress is a new, immersive, digital experience from world-renowned Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky. Created for the screens surrounding Toronto's Yonge-Dundas Square, and filmed by Bokeh Collective for the 2021 Festival's online audience, the piece tells the epic tale of humanity's impact on the planet through photographs and film from Burtynsky's 40-year career. Co-produced by Canadian music legend Bob Ezrin, featuring an original soundtrack by Phil Strong, with vocals by award-winning singer iskwē and performances by musicians of The Glenn Gould School at The Royal Conservatory of Music, *In the Wake of Progress* is an urgent call to action, and a quest for hope, as we face the greatest existential threat of our time: the climate crisis.

Watch Luminato's website for future iterations of *In the Wake of Progress* in 2022 and beyond.

In the Wake of Progress at Yonge-Dundas Square has been made possible by the generous support of RBC.

Julien Christian Lutz pka Director X, Umbereen Inayet, Tanisha Scott - *New Monuments*

Co-curated by Julien Christian Lutz PKA Director X and Umbereen Inayet, with Lead Choreographer Tanisha Scott
Co-Produced with Canadian Stage
in association with Harbourfront Centre, National Arts Centre, and TO Live
Film | Dance
World Premiere

Conceived and co-curated by Toronto's iconic, Grammy nominated, multi award winning director and installation artist, Julien Christian Lutz PKA Director X and award-winning artistic producer Umbereen Inayet along with lead choreographer Tanisha Scott, *New Monuments* is a once in a lifetime dance/film event featuring over 40 dancers from across Toronto who, on the shores of Lake Ontario, will take us on a cathartic journey of purpose – from the beginning of colonization to a more hopeful and equitable future.

Streaming on CBC Gem.

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Christine Brubaker and Constantine X. Anastasakis – *Henry G20*

Produced by Henry G20 Group

Co-commissioned and produced in association with Luminato Festival Toronto and The Bentway Conservancy

Supported by University of Calgary

PodPlay | Augmented Reality

World Premiere

Henry G20 freely adapts Shakespeare's *Henry V* for a bold retelling of the conflict between police and protestors during the June 2010 G20 Summit in Toronto. Through a mobile app with both PodPlay and Augmented Reality experiences, *Henry G20* addresses unanswered questions from that fateful weekend when hundreds of people, both protesters and innocent bystanders, were detained as part of the largest mass arrest in Canadian history.

Featuring Khadijah Roberts-Abdullah as Henry, with Anand Rajaram, Aviva Armour-Ostroff, Breton Lalama, Christopher Allen, Courtenay Stevens, Dylan Evans, Jasmine Chen, Jennifer Wigmore, Neta Rose, Richard Lee, Rick Roberts, and Sedina Fiati.

Zaagidiwin (*The Way We Love Each Other*)

Creative Producer Denise Bolduc

Film | Multidisciplinary

World Premiere

A global pandemic. Climate change. Racial injustice.

This is a moment to reflect on our social responsibilities and our relationship with nature. Nanabozo takes us on an adventure (or misadventure) from the land into the city core, revealing its beauty as well as its darkness. Through spoken word, music and song, healing is discovered as Nanabozo returns to the land, discovering its precious gifts and healing through dance.

Zaagidiwin asks us to consider the way in which we love one another and the land in which we share.

Jay Soule | CHIPPEWAR - *Built On Genocide*

Public Art Installation at Harbourfront Centre by Jay Soule | CHIPPEWAR

World Premiere

Built on Genocide is a large-scale installation by multidisciplinary artist Jay Soule | CHIPPEWAR, reflecting the events and policies throughout Canada's history that have deliberately undermined and destroyed Indigenous livelihoods. The work is influenced by the mass genocide of the buffalo as a result

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of the colonial railway expansion. The buffalo decimation is an underacknowledged but foundational aspect of “Canadian” history, with consequences that persist today. *Built on Genocide* addresses the direct correlation between the genocide of the buffalo and the genocide of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Guided by Starlight – Exploring Toronto’s Musical Galaxy

Music Series

This 5-part music series travels across Toronto’s wide-ranging neighbourhoods and musical genres, reminding us that from Scarborough to Etobicoke, Toronto boasts a vibrant musical history and future.

Featuring TiKA the Creator, Zaki Ibrahim, Toronto Kiki Ballroom Alliance, Kristi Lane Sinclair, Lenka Lichtenberg, Raging Asian Womxn Taiko (RAW), Säye Skye, Eyeda Sofia & the Cypher Crew, Navz-47, Bruno Capinan, Baobá, OKAN, Hex, SATE, and Mary Margaret O’Hara.

Measha Brueggergosman - Measha’s Gospel Brunch

Drive-in Concert

Join Measha Brueggergosman, Canada’s most beloved soprano, for a Sunday morning Gospel Brunch that will lift your spirits and revive your soul. Drawing from her own journey of discovery into her roots as a fifth-generation descendant of emancipated enslaved people, Measha will sing hymns of freedom, resilience, and the celebration of spirit. Joined by Aaron Davis (keyboards), Rob Piltch (guitar), George Koller (bass), John Johnson (winds), and special guests Divine Brown, Mike Schram and Dr. Draw.

Museum of Water

Interactive Virtual Platform

In a new collaboration between creator Amy Sharrocks and a collective of Indigenous artists including Elwood Jimmy, Leslie McCue, and Sara Roque, Museum of Water evolves with the contexts of the land we are on and the water we live with. The Museum is an invitation for the public to enter into conversation and build our capacity for collective action in support of water, precious water knowledges, and water access.

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Illuminating Ideas

Conversations | Film | Discussions

Delve deeper into the big ideas presented during Luminato, as we discuss the role that arts and culture can play in re-building our city and the world, following the pandemic.

In Conversation: Edward Burtynsky and Aliénor (Allie) Rougeot

Podcast

Edward Burtynsky meets climate activist Aliénor (Allie) Rougeot for an intergenerational conversation about the climate crisis today.

In Conversation: Umbereen Inayet and Christine Brubaker

Podcast

Join *New Monuments* curator Umbereen Inayet and *Henry G20* director and co-writer Christine Brubaker, as they discuss how they incorporate activism into their work and their practices, within the structure of an arts festival adapted for the online world.

Tales from the G20

Film

Through street level footage and interviews with organizers and city residents, this documentary, by Ayelen Liberona and Joseph Johnson Cami, traces the overt breakdown of civil liberties that occurred during the G20 Summit, held in Toronto in June 2010.

Henry G20 Protest Radio

Audio Experience

Tune in to a combination of music and memory, presented interstitially with *Henry G20*. Featuring music and audio memories of the G20 demonstrations, *Protest Radio* can be played in between the theatrical chapters of *Henry G20*, as you travel between the locations in the city where the drama actually unfolded, or as radio, to listen to wherever and whenever you like.

The Big Idea: Police Accountability

Panel Discussion

Join us as leading Toronto-based activists explore questions of accountability within the police force and government, today. This event will be captured live to reflect the situation in the world on October 14, 2021.

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Summer Programming

Explore Toronto through audio tours and podcasts, interactive accessibility programming, and an augmented reality scavenger hunt. From June 23 to August 1, Luminato offers digital moments, created by local artists for audiences everywhere.

Golden Hour: What is Canada

Film

June 24-July 31

Curated by Djennie Laguerre, this episode of Golden Hour focuses on how storytelling, in the form of folklore and personal mythology, shapes how we see ourselves and informs our moral codes. What are the stories we tell ourselves about the places and people we come from? How does that help us understand who we are as Canadians? This episode features the work of 3 powerful storytellers: Djennie Laguerre, Courage Bacchus and Diana Tso, performing in English and translated into multiple languages.

Desire Paths: Accessible Futures

Podcast

Launches June 23

Desire Paths is a podcast created by Luminato Festival Toronto, and guided by curator Hima Batavia and strategic foresight studio From Later, Inc. The series looks at the future of the city, designed by artists.

Desire Paths: Accessible Futures looks at accessibility, disability justice, and the crip movement in different spaces in the city, through the lens of artist Priya "Pree" Rehal.

CRIP COLLAB Issue #3

Digital Magazine by Sticky Mangos

Launches June 15

CRIP COLLAB is a collaborative zine featuring artists who belong to all three of these fantastic communities: Disabled, Racialized and 2SLGBTQ+. The zine is curated by a multiply disabled, chronically ill, cancer survivor, Pree Rehal. Luminato commissioned issue #3 focussing on Deaf artists, featuring Courage Bacchus as Contributing Editor. Crip, as a term, is a reclaimed slur that is used by some Disabled people.

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Radio LUMI

Audio Experience

June 26-27

Radio LUMI takes over ISO Community Radio to bring Luminato specially crafted programs for Blind & low vision audiences, which can be enjoyed by all. This disability-led initiative features exclusive artist interviews, audio description of *Golden Hour* Episode 2, and a behind-the-scenes look at Luminato's access programs and processes. Blind hosts Ramya Amuthan and Christine Malec are joined by audio describers JJ Hunt and Rebecca Singh; Station ID composed by G.R. Gritt.

Radio LUMI will return for Luminato in the Fall.

Deaf Bramble Gallery

In partnership with Artery

In ASL with English captions

By appointment starting June 27

Take a sneak peek at an online gallery built inside the virtual world of Bramble. Featuring a range of Deaf artists from storytellers to visual artists, curated by Courage Bacchus and Gaitrie Persaud. Check the Luminato website for more details.

Anthropocene Immersion, Unearthing Lost Taddle Creek

Audio Experience

Premiering July 8

An hour-long auditory walk that explores the landscapes of Taddle Creek, one of Toronto's lost waterways. Beginning at Ryerson University, walkers and listeners will discover lost rivulets, a marsh, and the hidden route of Taddle Creek.

Creative Current: Chinatown with Hannia Cheng by Tea Base

Audio Experience

Premiering July 8

Be guided through the back alleyways and hidden streets of one of Toronto's top tourist destinations, with a view of the neighborhood you may never have seen before. Combining guided narration, historical facts, artistic interjections, and whimsical fun, the project will be a safe, memorable experience that can be shared with a small group, or on your own.

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Creative Current: Splinter-Dimensional by Planet Fabulon

Augmented Reality Experience

July 14-18

Splinter-Dimensional is a brand-new augmented reality narrative experience created by Planet Fabulon in partnership with the AR wizards at Astound Digital. Armed with your smartphone and headphones, you'll be sent on a quest through a downtown Toronto park to encounter and interact with a collection of animated AR objects and characters. Complete the quest by saving the Captain, and you'll be rewarded with an invite to a fun and funky augmented reality dance party which can be enjoyed wherever you like!

Luminato's Virtual Summer Experiences

More information about Luminato 2021 artists and their work, and an evolving series of virtual reality previews and artistic discoveries, is available from June 16 until October 13, 2021 at <https://luminato.futuretalk.ca/Luminato2021>. Watch Luminato's socials and website throughout the summer as details are unveiled.

Luminato Festival is working closely with the City of Toronto on all its plans, and has engaged a COVID health and safety specialist to ensure all of the artists and technicians are safe throughout the creation and production process.

Thank you to the many ***In the Wake of Progress*** supporters:

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New Monuments is presented by Ian and Kiki Delaney, C.M. And CBC Arts, with lead support from Joan and Jerry Lozinski. Streaming on CBC Gem.

Zaagidiwin is presented by TD Bank Group, and is generously supported by Larry and Judy Tanenbaum and Family.

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Guided by Starlight: Exploring Toronto's Musical Galaxies is supported by OLG.

Measha's Gospel Brunch is supported by Cadillac Fairview and The McLean Foundation.

Illuminating Ideas is presented by The Globe and Mail.

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About Luminato Festival Toronto

Luminato Festival Toronto is an international arts festival dedicated to performance, media and visual arts, and programming that cuts across traditional artform boundaries. Luminato works closely with Canadian artists to support the development and creation of distinctive new work, as well as presenting artists from around the world.

For more information visit luminatofestival.com or follow us on Twitter: [@Luminato](https://twitter.com/Luminato) | Facebook: [LuminatoFestival](https://www.facebook.com/LuminatoFestival) | Instagram: [@LuminatoFestival](https://www.instagram.com/LuminatoFestival) | LinkedIn: [Luminato](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Luminato) | Youtube: [LuminatoEvents](https://www.youtube.com/LuminatoEvents)

For media information, visuals and to book interviews with Luminato Festival 2021 artists, Naomi Campbell and Celia Smith, please contact:

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