



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Port Theatre continues to build on its reputation of local, national and international success.

In 2017 we had another year of unprecedented attendance at the Theatre with over 115,000 patrons and performers enjoying over 300 events. These numbers indicate a thriving arts and culture sector in Nanaimo.

We continue to provide diverse artistic experiences to our community. Our nationally-acclaimed Spotlight presentation series hosted 16 events, showcasing some of the most exciting touring artists available.

We hosted some of the world's favourite touring musicians including Lulo Reinhardt and his cast of guitar luminaries in International Guitar Night, Montreal's nine-piece classical string band collectif9 and JUNO award-winning Kiran Ahluwalia's beautiful hybrid of Indian and Pakistani grooves, Saharan blues and Western Jazz. Ukrainian quartet DakhaBrakha brought their bright, unique and unforgettable music to the Spotlight stage. JUNO nominee Cris Derksen entertained the audience with genre-defying music, weaving her classical training and Aboriginal ancestry with new school electronics. Multi-award winning "Inuk punk" Tanya Tagaq performed with her powerful and unique vocal expression with 2017 JUNO award-winning singer-songwriter William Prince who opened the show.

In partnership with the Nanaimo Conservatory of Music, we presented a solo piano concert with Sarah Hagen and audiences enjoyed the Bergmann Piano Duo with special guests in our ever-popular Classical Coffee Concert Series. We ended our Spotlight Series for the year and celebrated winter and Christmas with the audience favourite Winter Harp.

We continued to grow dance audiences throughout the season by presenting bold, contemporary dance works by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal: Minus One; Ballet BC's 16+ A Room, Solo Echo, Bill; and Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's Santee Smith in NeoIndigenA.

Our OFFstage Theatre Series showcased provocative emerging artists; Sydney Hayduk and Ivan Coyote performed passionate and vulnerable storytelling pieces. Ryan Gunther had everyone in stitches with his hilarious cynical seminar-style show and Ingrid Hansen and Stephanie Morin-Robert performed their outrageous, award-winning show, The Merkin Sisters. Circus Squared provided an evening of west coast contemporary circus and Les 7 Doigts delighted audience members with their exciting recipe of acrobatics, dance, spoken word, theatre and comedy.

In 2017 we deepened engagement with youth audiences with our third annual free youth event that again proved to be an extremely exciting and accessible performance for youth and families. Emerging artist Stephanie Morin-Robert's award-winning comedy Blindside successfully exposed youth as young as five to the power of storytelling while exploring themes that speak to young people: bullying, resilience and developing self-confidence. We further engaged our community and recognized outstanding local youth including Nanaimo's Inaugural Youth Poet Laureate who we invited to open the show.

Throughout 2017, we continued to strengthen connections with our community and maintained numerous community partnerships including Nanaimo Child Development Centre, Nanaimo Foundation, Nanaimo Chinese Cultural Society, Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society, The Women's Centre, TheatreOne, Haven Society, various VIU departments, Nanaimo-Ladysmith



Public Schools, Operation Nanaimo and the Nanaimo Conservatory of Music to name a few. These partnerships are integral to the ability of our community to continue to grow and thrive through access to and usage of our theatre.

The Port Theatre Society Board of Directors continue to prioritize the development of the Community Performing Arts Centre. We are eagerly awaiting funding announcements from the Provincial/Federal government in order to move forward with this project.

The Board of Directors are immensely grateful for the hard work and dedication put forward by each and every one of our Port Theatre staff members and our amazing volunteers who have continued to deliver quality to these record breaking number of performances and maintain Port Theatre excellence during our General Manager Bruce Halliday's leave.

The Board and staff are also immensely grateful to Mayor Bill McKay and Council, City staff, The Regional District of Nanaimo, The District of Lantzville, The Department of Canadian Heritage, The BC Arts Council, and The BC Touring Council.

It is the unrelenting support of you—our members and patrons, our volunteers, our staff and our community—that ensures the success of live performances in Nanaimo. Thank you!

James Vanstone

President



The Port Theatre lobby is buzzing with excitement before Spotlight performances.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of The Port Theatre Society is to stimulate and enhance artistic, cultural and economic activities in the Central Vancouver Island Region through the operations of the performing arts centre on the waterfront in downtown Nanaimo.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	James Vanstone
Vice President	Diana Johnstone
Treasurer	Colin Sheen
Secretary	Marilyn Sullivan
Directors	Brian Clemens
	Bruno Dragani
	Eveline O'Rourke

The Board of Directors would like to recognize the service of Jim Ballard and Fred Jacklin.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Lisa Desprez	Administrative Assistant
Greg Graham	Senior Front of House Manager
Bruce Halliday	General Manager
Karen Harrison	Finance Officer/Accountant
Kerry Hart	Accounting & Administration Assistant
Mike Hessler	Technical Director
Stephanie Johnson	Co-Interim General Manager
Tim Johnson	Assistant Technical
	Director/Head Carpenter
Shelley Johnstone	Marketing & Community
	Relations Manager
Karen McDonnell	Co-Interim General Manager
Wilson Pascoe	Assistant Technical
	Director/Head of Sound
Jason Pouliot	Assistant Technical
	Director/Head of Lighting
Kathy Robinson	Ticket Centre Manager
Christine Theuerkorn	Booking Coordinator

TICKET CENTRE

Senior Ticket Clerks: Gillian Parker, Jo-Ann Tait

Ticket Clerks: Sara Fee, Chris Helman, Janet Marren, Minnow Parmar, Niomi Pearson

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Lisa Desprez, Greg Graham, Bessie Harvey, Mike Hessler, Tim Johnson

We would like to recognize the work of former team members in 2017: Nic Carper, Melanie Godel, Lisa Recalma, Lindy Sisson, Sandra Thomson.

FRONT OF HOUSE

Assistant Front of House Managers: Natasha Cowper, Karrie MacDonald

Audience Services: Melody Barta, Jacqueline Conway, Jonathan Greenway, Summer Laurie, Olivia Mah, Blake McGuffie, Thomas Smith, Joanne Swain, Sarah Ujack, Kyra Van Shaik

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Natasha Cowper, Val Duthie, Greg Graham, Karrie MacDonald, Betty Reynolds, Carolyn Walker

VOLUNTEER PARTY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Natasha Cowper, Lisette Dowdle, Jim Gahr, Greg Graham, Lynda Granger, Cathy Joughin, Pearl Johnston, Stella Robinson

RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS

Nella Frewin, Bessie Harvey, Pat Piercy, Betty Reynolds

LAUNDRY DETAIL

Kristina Raappana

THEATRE TECHNICIANS

Keys & Codes:

Stephen Adamson, Chad Hartel, Ken Swain, Sue York

On-Call Technicians:

Jethro Allen-Martin, Leroy Anderson, Steven Baillie, Tanya Baxter, Brett Bourcier, Robin Boxwell, Hilary Britton-Foster, Susanne Clampett-Husband, Sherry Dance, Graham Gueguen, Peter Gunstone, Crystal Hanson, Nicole Lamb, Stephen Lewis, Miranda Lum, Brad McAuley, Hailey McConnell, Andrew Nicholls, Nikki Nilsson, Richard Nott, Michael Parsons, Yong Shian Sam, Lukas Smith, Liam Worthington



Enthusiastic patrons are excited to buy tickets outside of the Ticket Centre.

The Port Theatre Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of:

The BC Arts Council | The BC Touring Council | The City of Nanaimo

The Department of Canadian Heritage – Arts Presentation Canada Program | The District Municipality of Lantzville

The Province of British Columbia | The Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Areas A, B, C, E

The Port Theatre is proud to be a member of:

Arts BC | BC Alliance for Arts + Culture | BC Touring Council | Canadian Arts Presenting Association

Canadian Institute of Theatre Technicians | Gabriola Chamber of Commerce | Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce

DONORS TO OPERATING FUND

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 Betty Reynolds
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 Robert Urquhart
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 John & Kathleen Whyte
 Windsor Plywood Foundation
 Peter Winn
 Bob & Sophie Wong
 Janet Wright
 Patricia & Herschel Young
 Jack Zhang
 Gary & Audrey Zolob
 Joy Zorkin



Multi-award winning "Inuk punk" Tanya Tagaq performed a unique and exquisite show in October.

STUDIO THEATRE FUND DONORS

John Bulmer | The Estate of Eva Hasslinger | John Horn | Jack & Diana Johnstone
Patricia & Colin Sheen | Dorota Smith | Deb Trockstad

YOUTH PROGRAM SPONSORS

Island Savings | BC Touring Council

THEATRE ANGELS SPONSOR

Mid Island Co-op

IN-KIND SPONSORS

The Buzz Coffee House | Mambo Gourmet Pizza | Serious Coffee
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SEAT SPONSORS

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ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS

The Estate of Helen Martin | Elaine McDonald
The Estate of Margaret Trebert

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THEATRE ACTIVITY DURING 2017

	Events	Patrons
January	20	8,216
February	28	10,474
March	31	12,333
April	34	14,737
May	20	8,583
June	41	20,702
July	12	3,330
August	25	2,190
September	16	3,749
October	28	9,905
November	26	10,141
December	24	11,065
TOTAL in 2017	305	115,425



: Young people enjoy lobby activities before the Free Youth Event in April.

THEATRE ANGELS PROGRAM

The Port Theatre Society's Theatre Angels Program provides tickets to the following social service agencies in the Mid-Island area, who in turn distribute the tickets to clients who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend live performances. Over 1,250 tickets were made available in 2017 to the following 57 agencies and groups.

7-10 Club, Nanaimo

Better At Home Program - Nanaimo Family Life Assoc.

Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Central Van. Island

Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island

Brain Injury Society, Nanaimo

Buttertubs Place (formerly General Perks Seniors)

Cedar School & Community Enhancement Society

Cedar Seniors Drop In

Central VI Multicultural Society

Citizen Advocacy Association, Nanaimo

Clay Tree Society, Bridges Program

Clements Centre Society

Clemente Course (at VIU)

Clinton - Theatre Angels

Dallen's Dream Team Society

Family Life Association, Nanaimo

Forward House Community Society, Parksville

Girl Guides of Canada, Pacific Shores Area

Hank's Place

Harbour City Seniors, Nanaimo

Haven Society

Hepatitis C Society, Mid Island

Hepatitis C Peer Support Group, Mid Island

Island Crisis Care Society (Nicol Street)

Island Crisis Care Society (Princess Royal Ave.)

Island Deaf & Hard of Hearing Society

J. Garnons Williams Ltd. (was Explorer Program)

John Howard Society, Nanaimo Region

Kiwanis Village Nanaimo

M.S. Society of Canada, South & Central Island Chapter

Mid Island Abilities & Ind. Living

Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre

Nanaimo Affordable Housing Society

Nanaimo Association for Community Living-Home Share

Nanaimo Association for Community Living-House Mgr.

Nanaimo Child

Development Centre

Nanaimo Disability

Resource Centre

Nanaimo

Organization for

the Vision Impaired

(NOVI)

Nanaimo Seniors

Visiting

Nanaimo Travellers

Lodge

Nanaimo Women's

Resource Centre

NYSA- One Stop

Youth Center

Open Minds Open Windows Society

Pacifica Seniors Lodge

Pamela's Home Society

People for a Healthy Community on Gabriola Society

Port Alberni Assoc. for Community Living

Skaana Community Resources Ltd.

Snuneymuxw First Nation

Society of Organized Services

SOS Seniors

Supportive Apartment Living

Tillicum Lelum - Urban Aboriginal Friendship Centre

Tillicum Lelum - Men's Wellness Survivors

VIHA- Mental Health and Addiction Services

VIHA- Youth & Family Addiction

Wesley Street Social Centre / V.I. Mental Health Soc.



Contemporary circus collective Les 7 Doigts perform a spectacular recipe of acrobatics, dance, spoken word, theatre, comedy and cooking show in two captivating performances. Photo: Alexandre Galliez

"I would like to thank The Port Theatre and Theatre Angel sponsors for making tickets available to our MS Angels group. I enjoy the entertainment outings very much and I'm able to use the accessible seating so I don't have to do too many stairs! Thank you very much for the night out, which I'm able to bring both my 10 year-old daughter and a helper for me."

Debbie, M.S. Society of Canada

THEATRE ANGELS PROGRAM DONORS

Jacob Baelemans

Donna & Hal Baldwin

Tegan Brophy

Robert & Lorna Calderwood

Ron Collicutt/Barbara

Ogden

Alison Douglas

Ken Flannagan

Penny & Ted Gordon

Aimee Greenaway

Barbara & Gerald Hardy

Barbara & Wayne Harling

Kathryn-Jane Hazel

Margaret Joyce Howarth

Roy Innes

Stuart Janes

Keith & Doreen Ketchen

Christel & Heinz Kolke

Joe & Anne Kraskin

Jamie Lawrence

Angela Marafon

Patricia Mark

Gloria & Gene Martini

Emmy Matte

Carol Matthews

Elaine McDonald

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Ann McManus

Joan Miller

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Susan Preast

Lorraine Price

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Budget Car & Truck Rental

June Ross

Chris Sholberg

Betty Short

Joan Stelling

Richard & Elizabeth

Thompson

Mike & Joann Thompson

Lily & Wilfred Thorsen

Marie & Andy Tunheim

Elizabeth (Paxie) Vreede

Ronalee White

Jim Whiteaker, James

Whiteaker & Assoc.

Mabel Yip

REACHING YOUTH AUDIENCES

Our third annual free youth event proved to be an extremely exciting accessible performance for youth and families. Emerging artist Stephanie Morin-Robert's award-winning comedy *Blindside* successfully exposed youth as young as five to the power of storytelling while exploring themes that speak to young people: bullying, resilience and developing self-confidence. We deepened engagement with youth audiences by accessing a wider demographic, providing pre-show activities, free food and prizes, and hosting a post-show Q&A with the artist which had almost all audience members stay to ask insightful questions. Youth were thrilled by the direct engagement with the artist, and many waited in the lobby afterwards to take photos with the artist and ask her more questions.



VIU Culinary Institute provides a number of food-themed activities in the lobby before *Les 7 Doigts* performances.



Vesna Ukrainian Dancers greet audience members in the lobby before *DakhaBrakha*.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

This season saw The Port Theatre engage with partner groups to program relevant engagement and education initiatives in the lobby pre-show as well as during intermission. This includes engaging the VIU Culinary Institute to provide a number of food-themed activities in the lobby before *Les 7 Doigts*; inviting Vesna Ukrainian Dancers and a local Ukrainian food vendor to serve perogies in the lobby before *DakhaBrakha*; and welcoming Vesta Entertainment to delight our audience with stilting and juggling demonstrations before *Circus Squared*.

THE SPOTLIGHT GUARANTEE

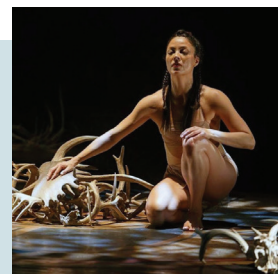
When we program The Port Theatre Spotlight Series, we look for quality entertainment for Nanaimo audiences: award-winners, innovators, annual favourites and up-and-coming talent. We include something for everyone: music, theatre, circus and dance; hilarious, awe-inspiring and thought-provoking performances. Sometimes we take a chance and bring unique artists on the cutting-edge, who would not otherwise come to Nanaimo. This Spotlight Season saw *Les 7 Doigts*, a contemporary circus collective out of Montreal, delight our audience with their spellbinding recipe of acrobatics, theatre, comedy and cooking. Ukrainian quartet *DakhaBrakha* shocked and thrilled our patrons with their mix of punk and pop with traditional Ukrainian folk songs, creating a world of unexpected new music. Our guarantee to you is that each Spotlight performance is hand-picked for excellence.

SUPPORTING WELL-KNOWN & EMERGING INDIGENOUS ARTISTS

Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's Santee Smith performed the contemporary dance piece *NeolndeginA* in a double-bill with "punk-rock cellist" Cris Derksen, who performed alongside a drummer and traditional hoop dancer. Meanwhile, Polaris Prize and JUNO Award-winner Tanya Tagaq delivered a unique and exquisite performance with recent JUNO-winner, William Prince opening the show. These performances highlighted some of the innovative and ambitious work that Indigenous artists are producing across Canada. Both of these performances presented opportunities for The Port Theatre Society to deepen relationships with our local Indigenous community partner organizations.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BookFest | Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society | City of Nanaimo
Crimson Coast Dance Society | Dirk Heydemann – HA Photography
DNBIA | Friends of the Library | Haven Society | Nanaimo Women's Resource Centre
Nanaimo African Heritage Society | Nanaimo Art Gallery | Nanaimo Arts Council
Nanaimo Blues Society | Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce | Nanaimo Child Development Centre
Nanaimo Community Foundation | Nanaimo Museum School District 68 | TheatreOne
Vancouver Island Symphony | VIU Alumni Association | VIU International Education | VIU Theatre Department | VIU Visual Art Department | Young Professionals of Nanaimo



Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's Santee Smith performs the contemporary dance piece *NeolndeginA*

MEMBERSHIP

Total Members: 1,574

Total Membership

Revenue: \$44,176

CORPORATE & SMALL BUSINESS MEMBERS

Casino Nanaimo
Coastal Mountain Fuels
Demxx
Fuller Management Inc.
Harbour Dancentre
Island West Coast Developments
James Whiteaker & Assoc.
Kc Voiceworks
Patricia Kultgen
Kwik Kopy Printing
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Nicole Ta Personal Real Estate Corporation
Northridge Dental
Old City Quarter Law Office
Pacific Biological Station
Staff Association
Profotofx Services Ltd.
Ramsay Lampman Rhodes
Re/Max Select Properties
Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
S&G Quartz and Granite
Rhonda Smith
Soloway Rivers Law
Spice of Life Catering

Tempo Dance Academy
Michael Van Dyk
Waterman & Associates
Judy Williams

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

Preceptor Gamma Lambda
Nanaimo Military Music
Festival Society

FINANCIAL

The Port Theatre Society is pleased to share the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2017. As per the Societies Act requirements, these statements were approved by the Board of Directors at their March 15, 2018 meeting. The Port Theatre Society ended the 2017 fiscal year with \$71,812 operating fund surplus. The Board of Directors has chosen to transfer \$70,000 for the 2017 fiscal year from the Operating Fund to the Capital Development Fund to partially fund the Marquee project. The Port Theatre Society continues to operate efficiently and effectively with no accumulated debt.

TICKET SALES

The Port Theatre event ticket sales:

- Total tickets sold: 76,268
- Total dollar value: \$2,427,368.50

Off-site event ticket sales:

- Total tickets sold: 4,471
- Total dollar value: \$130,773

There were a total of 37 events equalling 70 performances held at other venues:

Beban Park Auditorium, Beban Park Social Centre, Brechin United Church, The Coast Bastion Hotel, Diana Krall Plaza, Dorchester Hotel, Harbour City Theatre, Knox United Church (Parksville), Maffeo-Sutton Park, Malaspina Theatre, Millstone Winery, Nanaimo Art Gallery, Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre, Nanaimo Entertainment Centre, Pioneer Waterfront Plaza, The Queen's, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St. Edmunds Church (Parksville), Vancouver Island Conference Centre, and VIRL Nanaimo Harbourfront.

FACILITY

- Carpet replaced in Audience Chamber and in public stairwells
- Administration offices reconfigured.
- Electronics upgraded on house dimming system
- Building track lighting replaced
- Wireless stage communication equipment upgraded
- Black stage curtains replaced

Thank you to the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Cultural Spaces Fund which funded a portion of these projects.



: Vesta Entertainment delights patrons with juggling and stiling demonstrations in the lobby before Circus Squared.

VOLUNTEERS

With 159 volunteers, The Port Theatre Society's volunteer roster is one of the largest in Nanaimo. We are privileged to have such dedication within our organization.

The depth and experience of the volunteers ensures the seamless execution of the many events presented at The Port Theatre every year. Volunteers also help the society by working the administration desk during certain weekday lunch hours. They keep busy answering phones, organizing mail-outs, and updating volunteer work schedules. Other work includes laundry duties, writing and editing the volunteer newsletter, sitting on the Health & Safety Committee, and organizing the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Each volunteer's commitment to The Port Theatre Society is integral to the successful delivery of live entertainment to the community.

Total volunteer hours in 2017: 14,561

Total volunteer hours since 1998 opening: 268,848



Volunteers enjoy their day at Volunteer Nanaimo Luncheon.



MERIT BOX

Volunteers are listed in order of which service levels were reached:

8,000 hours:

Doris Arndt

5,500 hours:

Judy Palm

4,500 hours:

Kristina Raappana

4,250 hours:

Betty Reynolds

4,000 hours:

Lois Doumont

3,500 hours:

Bessie Harvey

3,000 hours:

Jim Gahr

Garry Speakman

2,500 hours:

Doris Childs

2,250 hours:

Dianne Speakman

Tove Gahr

2,000 hours:

Pearl Johnston

1,500 hours:

Les Adams

Hazel Adams

Joyce Elmore

Leona Keltie

Doreen Allen

Val Duthie

Kathy Faminoff

Lorie Kalnicki

Vivien MacDonald

Emmy Matte

1,000 hours:

Laura Blake

Reinie Heydemann

John Layer

Liz Monahan

Lee O'Brien

Erlinda Okano

750 hours:

Carol DeClark

Aileen Dobronay

Jeri Manley

Noreen Martin

Pamela Pady

Cari Pudwell

Penny Robertshaw

Lynne Yule

500 hours:

Joanne Hasan

Michelle Lacroix

Brad Livingston

Karen Ouellet

Vicki Strachan

Helen Weinell

Pat Work

250 hours:

Dennis Billard

Paul Courtin

Bev Ford

Barb Sankey

Norma Waddell

Joyce Zeghers

150 hours:

Aaron Faircrest



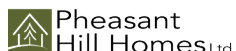
Les Grands Ballets de Montréal perform their largest worldwide success: Minus One at the Port Theatre. Photo: John Hall



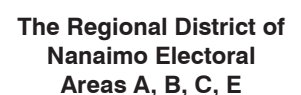
SPOTLIGHT SERIES 2017

Jan 22	International Guitar Night	Apr 11	OFFstage: Kraft Singles for Everyone
Jan 31 & Feb 1	Les 7 Doigts: Cuisine & Confessions	Apr 19	DakhaBrakha
Feb 3	Kaha:wi Dance Theatre presents Santee Smith in NeolndigenA & Cris Derksen	Sep 23	Ballet BC: 16+ a Room, Solo Echo, Bill
Feb 7	Classical Coffee Concert: Bergmann Piano Duo with Rod Thomas Squance	Oct 3	Classical Coffee Concert: Bergmann Piano Duo
Feb 21	Sarah Hagen Solo Piano Concert	Oct 12	OFFstage Lobby Theatre Series: Leash Your Potential
Mar 1	Kiran Ahluwalia	Oct 15	Circus Squared: An Evening of West Coast Contemporary Circus
Mar 14	Offstage Lobby Theatre Series: Village Ax	Oct 18	Tanya Tagaq with Opening Act William Prince
Mar 21	Classical Coffee Concert: Bergmann Piano Duo	Nov 10	collectif9
Apr 5	Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal: Minus One	Nov 28	Classical Coffee Concert: Bergmann Piano Duo with François Houle
		Dec 9	Winter Harp
		Dec 18	OFFstage Lobby Theatre Series: The Merkin Sisters

CORPORATE SPONSORS



FUNDERS





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www.porttheatre.com

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