

FRINGE ARTS

FringeArts Announces Full Details for 2021 Philadelphia Fringe Festival

The 25th Annual Festival will take place September 9 through October 3, 2021.

[MEDIA TOOLS FOR DOWNLOAD](#)

VIDEO CLIPS:

<https://vimeo.com/413663340> (A scene from AIR by Mariana Valencia)

<https://vimeo.com/580009401/7c4c86614f> (A scene from SUN & SEA)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FringeArts, Philadelphia’s home for contemporary performance, is pleased to announce the full roster of programming for the 25th Annual Philadelphia Fringe Festival, a city-wide celebration of progressive, world-class art that expands the imagination and boldly defies expectations. The festivities will highlight the festival’s silver anniversary, featuring 179 diverse productions and experiences throughout the city of Philadelphia. Audience members will be able to enjoy all that the Philadelphia Fringe Festival will offer from **September 9 through October 3, 2021**. Funding for this year’s festival is provided in part by PNC Arts Alive.

Of note, this year’s festival includes a world premiere by acclaimed performance troupe **Elevator Repair Service**; the Philadelphia premiere of the award-winning visual opera production **Sun & Sea**; plus, the return of **Pig Iron Theatre Company**, **New Paradise Laboratories**, **Nichole Casuso Dance Company**, and **The Bearded Ladies Cabaret**, all longtime FringeArts collaborators and festival favorites. Celebrated choreographers **Mariana Valencia** and **Kyle Marshall** will also make their curated Fringe Festival debuts, along with **Mark Lord** and **Catharine Slusar**’s newly-branded collaboration **Joyous Eddies House of Theater**.

“This year’s Festival is a special one for both our organization and Philadelphia,” notes **President and Producing Director Nick Stuccio**. “For 25 years, the Philadelphia Fringe Festival has elevated our city as a primary nexus for cultural conversation, progressive ideas, and innovative art-making. As we celebrate this milestone in our

organization's history, we are excited to welcome audience members to enjoy this year's programming and hope that the festival can act as a social space in which conversation can blossom between artists and audiences, artists and artists, and Philadelphia and the world."

"We've long recognized just how vital the arts and cultural sector is to our community. The PNC team is once again excited to support the arts and cultural organizations in the Delaware Valley," said **Joe Meterchick**, PNC regional president for Philadelphia, Delaware and Southern New Jersey. "The arts and culture strengthen the local economy and have the power to bring people together. Now, as we look forward to resuming everyday activities, we invite our neighbors to join us and be a part of art."

The 25th Annual Fringe Festival call for artists produced 199 submissions, a record for the organization. Fringe audiences can expect an assortment of live theatrical and dance performances, art installations, circus arts, and genre-bending experiences that highlight the wide variety of local and national talent that the festival attracts. The artistically daring performances include live and in-person national and international artists curated by FringeArts, and both live and digital works that are produced by independent artists from across Philadelphia and beyond and promoted by FringeArts.

The Philadelphia Fringe Festival has featured a Digital Fringe component since 2015, and the 2020 Fringe Festival was predominantly virtual. This year, digital shows make up a notable amount of the 2021 Independently Produced lineup. Some will be available to watch throughout the festival, while others will have specific viewing times and involve a degree of interactivity between performers and audiences.

Curated Productions

FringeArts will present productions as part of this year's curated slate, including works by The Bearded Ladies Cabaret; Nichole Canuso Dance Company; New Paradise Laboratories; Mariana Valencia; Elevator Repair Service; Pig Iron Theatre Company; Joyous Eddies House of Theater; Kyle Marshall Choreography; and Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė and Lina Lapelytė, in collaboration with Arcadia Exhibitions at Arcadia University.

707 Hazardous Moves

New Paradise Laboratories

Sep 16-18, 2021

FringeArts, 140 N Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia
Theater

A veteran experimentalist exposes his nine-year struggle to stage the poem that bedeviled the 20th-century. Whit MacLaughlin has been obsessed with Stéphane Mallarmé's "A Throw of Dice Will Never Abolish Chance" since he first read it in 2012. Subsequently, he traveled to France to sit at the feet of philosopher Quentin Meillassoux, invented a sport, mounted 4 related pieces with his company New Paradise Laboratories (one in Turkey), took a bullet, gave up theater, left the country for a third time, and finally, in quarantine with an OCD diagnosis, attempted 7 successive versions of the work. *707 Hazardous Moves* details his complete defeat, and examines why he still hopes to unfail his failure.

AIR

Mariana Valencia

Sep 17-18, 2021

Proscenium Theatre at The Drake, 302 S Hicks St, Philadelphia

Dance

A melding of movement and text, *AIR* pays homage to Mexican television and film figures like Don Ramon, El Chavo, Cantinflas, and Maria Felix. Like New York's experimental dance history, these pop cultural icons have informed her work, and are evoked in a swirling atmosphere of influence. Valencia assumes the role of a news anchor, presenting references as origin stories and creation myths, layering and morphing in their intersection with the artist's movement.

Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge

Conceived by Greig Sargeant with Elevator Repair Service

Sep 9-11, 2021

FringeArts, 140 N Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia

Theater

A new world premiere production by Elevator Repair Service. In 1965, James Baldwin and William F. Buckley, Jr. were invited to The Cambridge University Union to debate the resolution "The American Dream is at the Expense of The American Negro." The result was a provocative and profoundly insightful confrontation between Baldwin, one of the most powerful figures of the civil rights movement, and Buckley, often considered the father of 20th Century patrician conservatism. New York-based performance ensemble Elevator Repair Service, a company with a rich history of adapting unconventional texts (*Gatz*, *Arguendo*, *The Sound and the Fury*), stages the debate

verbatim. With both 1965 and 2021 in mind, *Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge* presents the debate as real, immediate, and of this moment.

Beardmobile Fall Love Tour

The Bearded Ladies Cabaret

Sep 17 - Oct 17, 2021

Various locations

Cabaret

Philly's premier big gay truck, the Beardmobile, hits the road again this September with the Fall Love Tour! Hosted by the Bearded Ladies Cabaret and a slew of amazing partners, the Fall Love Tour is a series of outdoor pop-up performances featuring Philly performers, community leaders, and residents in the communities where they live and work.

Being/With

Nichole Canuso Dance Company

Sep 10 - Oct 2, 2021

Evangelical Church of the Trinity, 2300 S 18th St, Philadelphia, PA 19145

Pearlstein Gallery, 3401 Filbert St, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dance

Being/With is an intimate and expansive work that brings together two solo audience/participants at a time in a tender exchange of both verbal and non-verbal listening. Separated by miles of physical distance, each in a separate venue, the two participants connect via live feed video and audio technology. Together they explore distance and proximity; absence and presence.

Love Unpunished

Pig Iron Theatre Company

Sep 3 - 11, 2021

Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia

Theater

Pig Iron Theatre Company presents *Love Unpunished*, a dance-theater work about evacuation and tenderness that first premiered during the 2006 Fringe Festival. Originally conceived as a response to the collapse of the Twin Towers, this performance imagines the evacuation of a skyscraper as a hypnotic cascade of descents and ascents. Set on 20 feet of escape stairs, the mostly-wordless piece asks audiences to

contemplate the ordinariness and confusion of evacuees who wonder: Is this an emergency or is this a drill? “When tragedy is all around us, we feel this impulse toward tenderness, and then the need to steel ourselves, and then we flip back to tenderness - and this piece is an invitation to stay with that tenderness,” explains Director Dan Rothenberg. “*Love Unpunished* is an attempt to reconnect with the human impulses we felt watching the catastrophes that have become defining moments of our generation — both the anger and the empathy, as well as those strange feelings which have no name, feelings which rise unbidden and which can’t find a place in political discourse.”

Not I

Joyous Eddies House of Theater
Sep 29 - Oct 3, 2021
908 Christian St, Philadelphia
Theater

Director Mark Lord (*Endgame, Across, The Ride Across Lake Constance*) and Barrymore Award-winning actor Catharine Slusar join forces in a new collaboration. What you will want to know: a handful of audience members gather in an intimate space. A mouth speaks; she utters a torrent of words: as searing and searching a text as Nobelist Samuel Beckett ever wrote. With scalding intensity, the play clamors to discover: who are we when we are our whole selves, when we speak and hear all of our voices in a moment -- in their rages and echoes and mis-rememberings and deprecations and desires. It lasts for fifteen minutes. And forever.

Stellar/Rise

Kyle Marshall Choreography
Sep 24 - 25
FringeArts, 140 N Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia
Dance

Stellar is a dance film of speculative fiction inspired by afro-futures, the echoes of jazz and the bits of stars within us. Performers Bree Breeden, Kyle Marshall and Ariana Speight gathered for virtual improvisation sessions during the 2nd Spring of the COVID-19 pandemic. Online conversations led to in-studio embodiment developing scores of improvisation and theatricality informed by gravity, ritual and stars. Taking inspiration from the transcendent music of Sun Ra and Alice Coltrane, sounds were generated and performed live by Kwami Winfield.

Rise, performed live, is inspired by the shout traditions of the Black church, the transcendence of club music, and holds the joy that dancing brings to our lives. This dance celebrates life in our flesh, makes space for the spirit, and honors the power of witnessing by reflecting on our time of pandemic isolation.

Arcadia Exhibitions presents

Sun & Sea

An opera-performance by

Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė and Lina Lapelytė

Sept 30 - Oct 3

The Budd, 3431 Fox Street, Philadelphia

Opera/Visual Art

This contemporary Lithuanian opera-performance by Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė, and Lina Lapelytė, and curated by Lucia Pietroiusti, set on an artificial “beach,” is viewed from a mezzanine above and directs our attention to a crowd of swimsuit-clad performers conveying anxieties that range from sunburn to environmental catastrophe. The 60-minute piece, which will loop for a duration of five hours, received the Golden Lion for best national presentation at the 2019 Venice Biennale. The Philadelphia presentation of the work will feature the original cast, including thirteen soloists joined by non-singing extras sourced from the community.

Independently Produced Productions

This year’s independently-produced slate includes a robust lineup of 170 shows across genres and platforms. The full list of independent artists, and subsequent press information, can be found at this website: FringeArts.com/press-room

CIRCUS

\$7 Girl - Almanac Dance Circus Theatre

Couch Potatoes—The Leftovers

Happy Hour—Almanac Dance Circus Theatre

Only Bones v.1.6—Marina Cherry

RagTag: A Circus in Stitches—Cirque Us

tinycircus at West Craft Fest!—Tangle Movement Arts

COMEDY & IMPROV

Borrowed Time featuring Jake Mattera, Hoffman, and NYTEshift—Crossroads Comedy Theater

Extree! Extree! Comedy Inspired By the News—Crossroads Comedy Theater
Free Improv Jam—Crossroads Comedy Theater
International Women's Public Safety Clown Army—Stephanie Parker & Friends
Latinx 2044: A Hispanic Heritage Month Comedy Special—Crossroads Comedy Theater
No Diggity: Improv Inspired By Old School Hip Hop and R&B—Crossroads Comedy Theater
Not Yet Rated: An Improvised Movie—Crossroads Comedy Theater
Offstage Fright—XY Players
Package Deal—Jennifer Blaine
Quarantined III At Ease: Covid-19 Allstars—Quarantined III At Ease
Sketch Buffet: A Sketch Comedy Showcase—Crossroads Comedy Theater
Squat Squad—Squat Squad
Study Hall: Comedy Inspired By Lectures—Crossroads Comedy Theater
Thank You, Places: An Improvised Musical—Crossroads Comedy Theater
The Book of Snorin' - Sleep Apnea the Musical—Stew Walker
The Great Philadelphia Comedy Magic Walk—Robert Malissa, Walking Magician
Walking with Charles: stand-up en-route—Charles Blyzniuk
yurodivy—Nick Gillette Improv

DANCE

10 Recalling-20—Ashlea Sovetts & Alexandria Nunweiler
Dance of the Lanternfly—Dominique Ellis
Dance Voices—Dancefusion
Dawn States Dance Company—Dawn States Company
deprogram—Megan Mazarick
dwell—Lindsey Huster
Expansions Presents: Bridging the Distance—Expansions Contemporary Dance Ensemble
Galumph—Galumph
Harvest Moon—JCWK Dance Lab
Home in the Dark—Shannon Murphy
KCBC x KCBCII: Return to Mūvment—Klassic Contemporary Ballet Company
L'Shana Tova! A Sweet Assembly—ARTIST HOUSE/Asya Zlatina + Dancers
Morning, Afternoon, Evening—Beth Jucovy/Dance Visions NY
Motel Montana—Gunnar Montana
Myzrie House—Myzrie House
Naked Dances from my Basement—Miryam Coppersmith
Nanay—Ani/ MalayaWorks Dance

On Buried Ground—Emily Bate, Shayla-Vie Jenkins
PADA PRESENTS The Greatest Showman—Pennsylvania Academy of Dance Arts
shared spaces / distant voices—OhOK Performance Group
Speakeasy Go-go—Thomas Choinacky
The Case for Invagination #3—Nicole Bindler
The Engine—Asimina Chremos
The Philadelphia Matter Screening at Neighborhood House—Christ Church Preservation Trust
Time Machine—Poético Dance Collective
we must already be dead—BREAKTIME
Wear Me Into Spring: a performance featuring taiko and dance—Casual Fifth Taiko and Dance
Why we dance—Vivid Ballroom and My Dance Film, co-produced by Lana Rossi and Renata Sheppard

FILM

An Artist Conversation—Brian Shapiro Band
Animation Nation III—The Women's Film Festival
Fixed Gaps—Scot J. Wittman
Incredible Dreamz Presents: Friendship Movie Club II—Incredible Dreamz
Manifesto—Yellow Bicycle Collective
We Are More Than We Know—Justin Tyner

IMMERSIVE/INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

#txtshow (on the internet)—Brian Feldman Projects
10 x 10 – Walk Around Philadelphia—JJ Tiziou
Art Room Outdoors: REAP What You Show—Leah Stein Dance Company
Child Support—Camden Rep
creativeWorks—creativeWorks.io
Cvlt of Jawn Occult Salon—Cvlt of Jawn
Dead Flowers Circus Sideshow—Dead Flowers
Dr Livingston Presents RUB HARDER—Brian Sanders' JUNK
Found—It Gets Worse But Then.... Theatre Company
How Many Times—Leah Friedman, Roy Aizen, Jesse Antonoff, Jake Pettit
IF WE WIN—Yannick Trapman-O'Brien
Inter Terrestrial—Die-Cast
Into the Absurd: A Virtually Existential Dinner Conversation—The Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium
Journey to the Kingdom of Hypnos—Spectacle & Mirth

Life Traveler—Jody Oberfelder Projects
Lovers and Madmen: Visions of A Midsummer Night's Dream—Forgotten Lore Theatre w/ Lone Brick Theatre Company
Mixtape—Cirque du Nuit/Alterra
New World Rising!—Lupine Performance Cooperative
Nothing happens—Jeremyboss28
Nuptial Blitz—Gabrielle Revlock
Portrait in Blood—Dead Flowers Circus Sideshow
Saving Wonderland—Seize the Show
TFD Talks—Brian Feldman Projects
The Birth of Jawn: Exploring Philly with a King—Jawn Wooders
The Sculpture Gallery—Innovative Juggler
The Zoomosity—The Gorgeousity
Tree Confessions—This Is Not A Theatre Company
Unravel—Spektra Pulse
VFF—Brian Feldman Projects

MUSIC

Bon Appétit! By Julia Child and Lee Hoiby (During a Pandemic!)—Aurora Classical
Casual Fantastic: Good Things—Casual Fantastic
Ghost Town: The Musical - A Concept Album—milkmouth productions
Honky Tonkin' - A Country Music Show—REV Theatre Company
How Gilbert and Sullivan got us through lockdown!—Aurora Classical
I Hope You Were Listening—The Philadelphia Jazz Tap Ensemble
Invitation to Play: A Cabaret for the Musical Mannequin—Jennifer Blaine and Guest Artists
Our American Experiences—Aurora Classical
Portrait of a Lady—Ravensong Concert Series presents SARAH CUNNINGHAM
Soundscape Visualz—Teyquil Skelton
THE FLOODS LIVE PERFORMANCE—Roderick Coover - Adam Vidiksis - Nick Montfort
The Perspective Collective—The Perspective Collective
The Stronger and Saturn's Return—Gemini Voice's Co.
Yellow Bicycle Collective Presents: Open Bike (an Open Mic Series)—Yellow Bicycle Collective

OTHER

A Patchwork of Stories for GrownUps—Patchwork: A Storytelling Guild
Irina learns guitar and songwriting—Irina Varina

Of A Feather—Philly PACK

OVERBOARD! at Cannonball—Almanac Dance Circus Theatre

ReVisioning the Arts Podcast—Julia Brandenberger, Rogue Theology

Water On The Pier—Roderick Coover - Adam Vidiksis - Nick Montfort

THEATER

Alice—EgoPo Classic Theater

20 Years of 9-11: Memories of a Witness—Liz Zimmerman

About Ready at Cannonball—Almanac Dance Circus Theatre

Adjust The Procedure—Spin Cycle & JCS Theater Company

Alcina REVAMPED—Alter Ego Chamber Opera

Alexithymia—Madison Weinoffer

Alternative Theatre Festival—iNtuitons Experimental Theatre

Artifacts of No Consequence—Jeff Evans

As You Like It—Shakespeare on Tap

Bind—Corinna Burns

Black Box—Yellow Bicycle Collective

Changing My Major to Joan—Boris Dansberry

Crossover: A New Pop Musical—Chelsea Cylinder and Danielle Moore

Dear Donald/Dear Hillary (Their Secret Correspondence)—Sally Vahle and Bob Hess

Do No Harm—The Highland Lakes Players

Egg Tooth—Antony Bolante / TOBO Productions

Gilligan Gigs Again—Connor Hogan

Healing+—Mike Lemme

I Know It Was The Blood: The Totally True Adventures of Newfangled Black Woman—Tara Lake

Intergalactic Barbei—Alzéi Barbéi

It Doesn't Matter—The Berserker Residents

Mask Arts Symposium/ Open House—Mask Arts Symposium

Mask Arts Symposium/ArcheDream For Humankind/Blacklight Lecture and Demo.—Alan Bell

Montreal Honeymooners—THE HIGHLAND LAKES PLAYERS

MURDER MESIBA—Chutzpah! Theater Club

Norton I—Giacomo Fizzano

Publik Private—Alma's Engine

QvK—The Philadelphia Artists' Collective

Rhopalocera: a digital opera (New-work-in-progress)—L&P Productions

Rogues' Gallery—The Stagecrafters Theater

S.E.L.F.—Bronwyn Sims/ Artist name
Say It Ain't So—Revolution Shakespeare
Sewer Rats Sketch Night—Sewer Rats Productions
Shoop—Whisper Theatre Collective
Taft in the Tub—The Void Theatre Collective
The Choice—inFLUX Theatre Collective
The Consciousness—Nique Content
The Frog Prince & Other Favorite Stories—Denise McCormack
The Hazards of Love—The Hum'n'Bards Theater Troupe
The Holy Ground—Irish Heritage Theatre
The Secretaries—Allens Lane Theater
The Wasp's Nest—Paper Doll Ensemble
Three Men In a Boat (To Say Nothing Of The Dog)—Tony Lawton
Three Sisters—Hank Curry
Tides—Olivia Berkson and Hallie Malina
Twelfth Night—Indecorous Theatre Productions
Unorthodox Methods of Cosmic Flight—Anastassia Vertjanova
Visions—Nick Jonczak &co
Wild Women Of Planet Wongo—Wild Women Of Planet Wongo
Wings Over Water- A Diasporic Bird Play—Three Birds Flying Collective
YOLO—Feel So Young

VISUAL ART/INSTALLATIONS

11 Years at the Fringe—Linda Dubin Garfield
Elleecharms body painting gallery—Yellow Bicycle Collective
Plein Air Guitar—Derek Ayres
Temporary Moments—Temporary Moments
The Floods—Roderick Coover - Adam Vidiksis - Nick Montfort
the in-between—mark kennedy

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Mask Arts Symposium / Casts, Masks and Play!—Barbara Gegson
Mask Arts Symposium/ ArcheDream for Humankind /Blacklight Mask and Movement—Patricia Dominguez
Mask Arts Symposium/Create a Neoprene (Industrial Latex) Clown Mask—Craig Jacobrown
Mask Arts Symposium/Intro. to the Brahe Mask Method—Benjamin Bass
Returning to Normal Through Improv—Crossroads Comedy Theater
WORKSHOPS at Cannonball—Almanac Dance Circus Theatre

Ticketing Information

Tickets go on sale to FringeArts Members on Monday, August 9 at 10am, and to the general public on Friday, August 13 at 10am unless otherwise indicated.

Tickets can be purchased online at [FringeArts.com](https://www.fringearts.com), by phone at 215.413.1318, or by visiting the Fringe Festival Box Office at FringeArts (140 N Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia) Aug 30—Oct 3.

Health and Safety

The 2021 Fringe Festival will take place predominantly in-person. To help protect the health and safety of audiences, artists, staff, and the greater community, audiences are required to wear masks at all indoor performances. Masks are not required at outdoor performances. If patrons are feeling unwell or come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19 up to 14 days before a performance, they are strongly encouraged not to attend the event. These guidelines may evolve with changing local health and safety recommendations. Consult [FringeArts.com/COVID-19](https://www.fringearts.com/COVID-19) for the latest Fringe Festival Health & Safety Guidelines.