



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon's Touring Artist Fund reaches across borders

WHITEHORSE—Five professional artists will share \$32,460 through Yukon's Touring Artist Fund to reach out to new audiences as well as foster opportunities for professional career development.

"By touring to other jurisdictions, Yukon artists expand their reputations and repertoires," Tourism and Culture Minister Mike Nixon said. "Their work enlightens new audiences to our unique northern talents, culture, history and lifestyles. Travel and performance by Yukon artists is both an opportunity to further develop their artistic strengths and to serve as ambassadors for the entire territory, profiling what Yukon has to offer to tourists and citizens alike."

Gwaandak Theatre is receiving \$10,000 for a tour of *Café Daughter* by Kenneth T. Williams, a rural Canadian story of identity and memory about a Cree-Chinese girl growing up against a backdrop of discrimination.

"The tour is an incredibly important step for Gwaandak Theatre as we pursue our mission to empower diverse, northern and First Nations voices, nurtured by the North and engaged with the world," Gwaandak Theatre's managing artistic director Patti Flather said. "We're excited to showcase our award-winning première production on stages in Ontario and B.C."

Veronica Verkley is receiving \$6,000 to tour her film to national and European audiences. *The Working Cat's Guide to the Klondike* is a satirical recollection of the imaginary practice of cat sledding.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to present the film at significant cultural events outside of Yukon," Verkley said. "Although so much happens in the digital realm, there is no substitute for touring. The experiences and challenges always result in growth from a professional perspective: new insights, new ideas and the chance to be an ambassador for Yukon."

The Touring Artist Fund fosters the development of the arts in Yukon by helping professional artists, ensembles and companies that create and produce original work to tour outside Yukon at public events.

For information on the Touring Artist Fund visit www.tc.gov.yk.ca/taf, call 867-667-8789 or toll-free 1-800-661-0408, extension 8789 or email artsfund@gov.yk.ca.

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See backgrounder below.

Contact:

Elaine Schiman
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Karen Keeley
Communications, Tourism & Culture
867-667-8304
karen.keeley@gov.yk.ca

Touring Artist Fund recipients from June 15, 2012 intake

Applicant	Project	Amount Received
Gwaandak Theatre	Theatre performance tour to Toronto, Thunder Bay and Vancouver.	\$10,000
Kim Beggs	To tour Denmark with Danish band, The Sentimentals, and tour solo in the United Kingdom.	\$7,000
Speed Control A	A five province tour in theatres, festivals, clubs and communities.	\$7,000
Veronica Verkley	Film screenings at festivals in Halifax, Iqaluit and Berlin.	\$6,000
Rosemary Scanlon	A two-stage tour to present a new body of work.	\$2,460
TOTAL:		\$32,460

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