

FOR RELEASE  
June 9, 2016

## **Magnetic North Theatre Festival launches in Whitehorse**

WHITEHORSE—Canada's Magnetic North Theatre Festival is being held in Whitehorse from June 9 to 18.

Magnetic North is a nationally acclaimed theatre festival that works to create artistic and economic opportunities for Canadian theatre talent. The festival is based in Ottawa, but travels across Canada on alternate years to be presented in a major city. This is the first time the festival has been held in Canada's North.

"The Magnetic North Theatre Festival is providing excellent employment, educational and networking opportunities for our cultural industry professionals," Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor said. "After months of hard work and planning, Yukon's theatre community is welcoming festival-goers and talent from across the country for what is sure to be an unforgettable theatre experience."

The Yukon government contributed a total of \$165,000 towards the festival. The funding helped to hire local producers, a production manager, outreach coordinator, technical director, publicist and other event coordinators.

"A national festival of this magnitude travelling to Yukon is a unique and amazing opportunity for our community," Magnetic North associate producer Erin Corbett said. "Magnetic North Theatre Festival has brought out the best in our community in terms of talent and our amazing ability to collaborate and make something great. It is an opportunity not just to showcase the talent in our community but also to highlight that we are a destination for those in Canada and in the world who wish to experience outstanding arts and culture."

The festival features many fun and free activities in addition to 12 productions, including works produced by Yukon theatre companies. Whitehorse Independent Theatre (WIT) is presenting *My Brain is Plastic*, a coming of age story about a young girl growing up in a northern community.

"Magnetic North represents a tremendous opportunity for Whitehorse residents to see stellar national theatre as well as for local talent to be seen on a national stage," WIT artistic director Arlin McFarlane said. "Additionally the industry events allow us to network with presenters and build the relationships that can assist future national and international touring opportunities."

Other local productions include *Theatre in the Bush* from Ramshackle Theatre; *Map of the World, Map of the Stars* from Gwaandak Theatre; and *Dogtown: the Musical* from Nakai Theatre; *Made in Yukon* showcase featuring emerging works from Yukon artists; and Whitehorse Nuit Blanche. As well, former Yukon writer and storyteller Ivan Coyote will be presenting *Tom Boy Survival Guide*.

### **Learn more**

Magnetic North

-30-

Contact:

Dan Macdonald  
Cabinet Communications  
867-393-6470  
dan.macdonald@gov.yk.ca

Heather LeDuc  
Communications, Tourism and Culture  
867-667-8066  
heather.leduc@gov.yk.ca

News Release #16-227



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here:  
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.