

EDI NEWSLETTER

EDI Department - Normal School Room # 307



Austism Acceptance Month

According to The Autism Society - "Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation."

In 2021 The Autism Society updated the month of April from Autism Awareness to Autism Acceptance month. The purpose of this change was to reframe the conversation to a more intentional focus on inclusion for those living with autism.

Using the **#CelebrateDifference** for the month of April, The Autism Society invites all to learn more and take action to help encourage meaningful change in the Autism community

RELAXED PERFORMANCES

- Wendy & Peter Pan Sat., July 20 at 2pm
- Rome & Juliet Friday, Oct 18 at 2pm



IDEA COMMITTEE

It is the pleasure of the EDI Department to introduce you to the members of the Inclusion, **D**iversity, **E**quity & **A**ccess Committee for the 2024 season.

A volunteer committee that serves a minimum of one season, this group of staff members works in collaboration with the EDI Department and Stratford Festival leadership to ensure continual advancement in strategies that push progress in the areas of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility.

Committee Members:

- Ty Wilson Wardrobe Crew
- Gregory McLaughlin Forum Manager
- Kerri Lee Education Associate
- Keith Barker Director of the Foerster Bernstein New Play Development Program
- Yash Chhabria Digital Content Manager
- Laura Clark Director of Major Gifts (GTA)
- Jo Woolnough Accommodations Assistant
- Janeena Morris Wardrobe Crew
- Kim Lott Stage Manager
- Patrick King Associate Director, Ticketing & Membership

Red Dress Day

SUNDAY, MAY 5 2024

- Red Dress Day raises awareness of and additionally honours missing and murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: #MMIWG.
- The day calls attention to the disproportionate rates of violence and murder of Indigenous women and girls. Indigenous women and girls, as young as one and as old as 85, are ten times as likely to be murdered than the national average.
- In support of the Indigenous community, the Stratford Festival will be donating \$2 from every ticket sold online May 5th to the following organization:

Okaadenige Anti-Human Trafficking - Atlohsa

- On the evening of Sunday, May 5th the lobby of the Avon Theatre will be lit in red in honour of Red Dress Day.
- We encourage all to recognize or commemorate the day in ways that are personal to each individual.



ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month is an opportunity for us to learn more about the diverse culture and history of Asian communities in Canada, as well as to acknowledge the many achievements and contributions that people of Asian decent have made across the world.

Upcoming Events:

- Asian Affinity Group Event May 15 (contact Kerri Lee)
- <u>Asian Heritage Month Comedy Showcase</u> May 17
- Asian and South Asian Heritage Month Gala Concert -May 24

ASIAN AFFINITY GROUP







As a collective of theatre artists and passionate advocates of the arts, the Asian Affinity Group is dedicated to creating a space where members feel seen, heard, validated, and supported. Our group aims to inspire a commitment to representation onstage and offstage. Together, we encourage a revisiting of "traditional" views around theatre and aim to raise awareness around the issues close to the Asian community, as we push for greater representation in the arts. This month of May (Asian Heritage Month), we invite you to listen, watch, and read works by Asian artists, that we hope you will continue to champion 365 days of the year!

By Kerri Lee - Organizer of the Asian Affinity Group

As a reminder, the Stratford Festival is in partnership with the City of Stratford to help maintain the safety and wellbeing of all who live and work here.





INTRODUCING

A NEW

DISCRIMINATION REPORTING TOOL



Reporting tool flyers are located around the Festival and can be accessed by QR code to seek support or anonymously report any incidents.

EDI is available for more details.

Upcoming Dates

