



## NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Each year on **September 30**, we commemorate National Day for Truth and Reconciliation through organized activities that acknowledge the history and legacy of residential schools. We encourage you to take that day to reflect on what reconciliation means to you, and how you can better support Indigenous communities and reconciliation in the future.

**SURVIVOR'S FLAG RAISING:** On **September 26 at 9:15AM**, the Survivor's Flag will be raised at the Festival Theatre. Although there will not be an official ceremony, you are more than welcome to be present as the flag is raised. The flag will remain raised until **Monday, October 2**.

**TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION PRESENTATION:** On **September 10 from 10AM-11:30AM** the Woodland Cultural Centre will host a presentation on Truth and Reconciliation at Lazaridus Hall. Tickets are free of charge but must be reserved. [Register here.](#)

**THE MEIGHAN FORUM – PEER INTO THE PLAYBILL – ON THE DIVINERS:**  
**LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION:** On **September 12 from 10:30AM-12PM**, we talk with Elder Lorraine Coutu-Lavallee and co-directors of The Diviners, Krista Jackson and Geneviève Pelletier about how the preservation of language allows us to preserve history and culture. [For tickets click here.](#)

**ORANGE SHIRTS:** You can purchase a 2024 Orange Shirt from the following retailers from [Turtle Lodge Trading Post](#) or [Mark's](#).

## Newsletter Highlights

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

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Disability Pride Month and Accessible Performances

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Chinese Cultural Celebration

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Making Inclusion a Practice!  
EDI Workshops for the Festival

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Asian Affinity Group Film Screening

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PRO (Pre Rehearsal Orientations)

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The Year of Black Performance



Ruth Barrett audio describing.

## DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH AND ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES:

Our 2024 accessible performances are well underway! In July we celebrated Disability Pride Month with a deaf-led ASL-interpreted performance of Twelfth Night, and a Relaxed Performance of Wendy and Peter Pan.

There are more performances to come! We can't wait to welcome the disability community to these shows.

### COMING UP:

- Sept 7: Audio described Get That Hope
- Sept 21: Audio described The Diviners
- Sept 27: Open captioned Romeo and Juliet
- Sept 28: Open captioned Something Rotten
- Sept 29: Open captioned La Cage aux Folles
- Oct 4: ASL-interpreted Romeo and Juliet
- Oct 18: Relaxed Romeo and Juliet

## CHINESE CULTURAL CELEBRATION

In celebration of Salesman in China, the local Chinese community came together to showcase some of their talent to the rest of the Stratford community. A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support the local community despite the rain! These are all tremendous steps towards a more inclusive and welcoming Stratford.



Performers at the Chinese Cultural Celebration.

## Making Inclusion a Practice! EDI Workshops for the Festival

We are excited to share that we have developed and facilitated a series of workshops for different departments throughout the organization:

- EDI 101
- Gender inclusivity in the workplace
- Striving for more equitable, diverse, and inclusive marketing

Workshops like these ones are available for all departments.

**DO YOU HAVE A SPECIFIC EDI  
WORKSHOP REQUEST FOR YOUR  
DEPARTMENT?  
GET IN TOUCH!**



The Asian Affinity Group watching *One Small Visit*.

## ASIAN AFFINITY GROUP FILM SCREENING

We always appreciate when people have time to spend together in community. This month, the Asian Affinity Group came together to host a film screen on two of our members short films; *Fine*, produced by Yash, and *One Small Visit*, written, directed, and produced by Jo Chim. Thank you to everyone who attended!

## PRO (PRE REHEARSAL ORIENTATIONS)

Thank you to everyone that was a part of PROs this season. Creating inclusive working environments is an ongoing process that requires our combined efforts. We have made great progress acknowledging this institution's history, and together we are continuously developing and implementing inclusive practices that improve the experience of equity seeking identities within the Festival.

In our commitment to evolution of the PRO, some of the new changes that are planned for next season are:

- Reducing PROS from three days to two
- Day 2 of PRO that is well before technical rehearsals
- Openness to room needs in developing community (pot lucks, movie nights, game nights)
- Continue the development of production specific PROs in collaboration with Directors that understand the unique needs of the different plays
- Expanding the Orientation part of the PRO.
- Continue and evolving the ways we include every role in a production.



Members of the Get That Hope company during PRO potluck



Attendees of "The Year of Black Performance"

## THE YEAR OF BLACK PERFORMANCE

As signers of the Black Pledge, we are excited to support The Year of Black Performance, an initiative that showcases Black talent and performance art across Canada. We celebrated the launch of the year on August 17th after a matinee performance of *Get That Hope*, and featured Andrea Scott and André Sills. Thanks to everyone who showed up in support of this groundbreaking initiative.