

# SAGETHEATRE | GET CLOSER

Presents: **2016 IGNITE! Festival of Emerging Artists**, June 21-26, 25016

**For Immediate Release: June 1, 2016**

## **Sage Theatre Extends 12th Annual IGNITE! Festival to Six Days**

*2016 festival offers exciting multidisciplinary performances by more than 150 artists*

Calgary, AB – Sage Theatre is pleased to announce the **2016 IGNITE! Festival of Emerging Artists**, returning for its 12<sup>th</sup> year, **June 21 to 26**. Featuring a host of events and performances – including a *Theatre Series*, *Dance Series*, *Interdisciplinary Series*, and *Site-specific Performances*, as well as a new *Interdisciplinary Series* – the **2016 IGNITE! Festival** expands to six days, offering a plethora innovative, multidisciplinary theatre and performing arts. Tickets are **\$15**, with discount passes available. All tickets can be purchased online at [sagetheatre.com](http://sagetheatre.com).

Featuring powerful collaborations with a number of innovative artistic groups in Calgary – including **Major Matt Mason's Wildfire Playwriting Competition**, **Swallow-a-Bicycle Theatre**, **Femme Wave Artist Festival**, and local improv company **The Kinkonauts** – the **2016 IGNITE! Festival** will also see the launch of *IGNITE! Club*, transforming the West Village Theatre into an arts-inspired 'nightclub' that will showcase roving entertainers and installations; burlesque, poetry, stand-up, and music performances; and more.

"The 2016 IGNITE! Festival is the culmination of all our past years' work building relationships with fellow performers and companies, and engaging emerging artists and audiences to offer innovative, multidisciplinary theatrical expressions to an eager city," says Jason Mehmel, Artistic Director for Sage Theatre. "I'm excited for everything this year holds, from our collaborations with past and new friends, to the addition of the *Interdisciplinary Series* and *IGNITE! Club*."

"Calgary is a city full of creativity and expression, whether in our work, hobbies, or entertainment," says Charles Netto, Festival Director, IGNITE! Festival of Emerging Artists. "The 2016 IGNITE! Festival has something to entice and engage Calgarians of all ages, interests and experience levels, over six imaginative days."

The **2016 IGNITE! Festival of Emerging Artists** runs **June 21 – 26, 2016**, at Pumphouse Theatre and West Village Theatre. For ticket purchase and information call (403) 221-3708 or visit [sagetheatre.com](http://sagetheatre.com).

**MEDIA CALL: Monday, June 20 @ 1:00PM**

**West Village Theatre (2007 10 Ave SW)**

**\*\*Additional promotional photos available on request\*\***

**For a complete lineup of events for the 2016 IGNITE! Festival, please see pages two and three.**

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**For media information and interview requests CONTACT:** Shannon McClennan-Taylor, Publicist

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## **2016 IGNITE! Festival of Emerging Artists: Lineup**

### *Theatre Series*

- ***Soft Face and Featherless*** circles an exorbitant tale about being flung from the 1001st floor of a hospital. Part rock concert, part surrealist melodrama, and part gothic barnyard poetry slam.
- ***The Cows*** is a darkly hilarious absurdist take on love and the blind faiths we go to achieve it. A hilarious show that gets messy with milk, ice cream and simulated internal cow organs.
- In ***Rocks*** the world is coming to an end and three people are presented with a choice: wait to die, or share truths they have always wanted to tell.
- Our first ever high school production, ***Defined*** is written, directed and performed by high school students, and embodies the essence of the teenage condition; it is the hope in the hopelessness of what we are, who we want to become, and the destruction that takes place along the way.

### **Readings**

- Major Matt Mason returns to once again host the [Wildfire Playwriting Competition](#) (WPC) and will present readings of this year's winning play, *Serenity Wild*, written by Katie Sly, as well as WPC runner-up *The Exhibition of Extraordinary Oddities and Living Freaks*, written by Chelsea Woolley, both of which were chosen from more than 100 WPC submissions received from across Canada.
- Two staged readings of new, local plays: *Feminazis* by Megan Baldry, and *Absurdable Universe* by Kyle Hinton.

### *Site-specific Performances*

Produced by [Swallow-a-Bicycle Theatre](#), these performance tours consist of short, site-specific works — including theatre, dance, clowning, and more — will take place outdoors around Pumphouse Theatre on benches, sand volleyball courts, and under bridges.

### *Interdisciplinary Series*

**Artist blind dates** pairs artists from differing disciplines to create brand new, 10-minute performances. Artists taking part include: a dance choreographer; a new music group; a spoken word poet; an electronic musician; a folk music duo; a stand-up comic; a writer; and an actor.

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## *Improv Series*

Sponsored by [The Kinkonauts](#), two improv groups have been sharpening their skills and honing their format:

- **W.E.B.S. (Waffles, Eggs, Bacon, Sausages)** is an improvised brunch: it includes an improvised conversation based around brunch, and a live on-stage brunch that features real food.
- **Linked Improv** uses Facebook in advance to acquire 'confessions' that will inspire scenes. Previous submissions have ranged from "a person wakes up to find their memory is gone", to a picture of iguanas having sex. At 2016 IGNITE! Who knows?

## *Dance Series*

Four choreographers create a variety of new dance performances, featuring more than 20 separate dancers.

## *IGNITE! Club*

Join us at the **West Village Theatre (2007 10 Ave SW)** as it transforms into an arts-inspired 'nightclub', showcasing roving entertainers and installations; burlesque, poetry, stand-up, and music performances; and more.

## **About IGNITE! Festival of Emerging Artists**

Founded in 2004 by Geoffrey Ewert, Adrienne Smook, and Kelly Reay, the IGNITE! Festival of Emerging Artists has become a seminal piece of Calgary's arts ecology. Artists who take part in the festival consistently go on to establish exciting careers in Calgary and beyond, including Sage Theatre's Artistic Director, Jason Mehmel, and IGNITE! Festival Director, Charles Netto, both of whom are IGNITE! alumni.

The goal of IGNITE! Festival is to support, mentor, and showcase emerging artists of all disciplines. The annual festival enables artists to embrace risk by providing a platform and resources to propel the artist and their art forward, all within a supportive environment that promotes meaningful opportunities for collaboration and community building amongst members of the professional arts community.

**For a complete schedule, please visit [sagetheatre.com](http://sagetheatre.com).**

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*Sage Theatre and the 2016 IGNITE! Festival of Emerging Artists gratefully acknowledges the support of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and Calgary Arts Development Authority.*

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