

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SIZZLE YOUR SEPTEMBER WITH HARBOURFRONT CENTRE'S 20TH ANNUAL HOT & SPICY FOOD FESTIVAL

*This Labour Day weekend, the festival celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> year with hot food, great music and appearances by Chef Roger Mooking, Red Hot Cabaret with Sharron Matthews & Shawn Hitchins, as well as the ChiliKids cooking competition.*

**TORONTO, ON: (August 22, 2017)** – If you like your cuisine hot and your music hotter, then Harbourfront Centre is the place to be when the 20th edition of the **Hot & Spicy Food Festival** rolls into town this Labour Day weekend, September 1-4.

Canadian celebrity chefs **Roger Mooking, Jonathan Gushue, Luis Valenzuela, Nicole Gomes** and other culinary experts join stellar jazz and blues greats including Grammy nominee **Jane Bunnett & Spirits of Havana**, Juno Award winner **Harrison Kennedy, Matt Dusk, Sharron Matthews, Shawn Hitchins, Barbra Lica** and **Dawn Tyler Watson** for a deliciously unforgettable weekend. The mouth-watering festivities also include the **ChiliKids Junior Chef Competition**, the curated **Red Hot Market**, featuring over 20 vendors, the **HarbourKIDS Zone** and plenty of free, all-ages family fun.

The **Red Hot Market** opens on Friday evening with a dazzling array of products, continuing through the weekend with food vendors. Celebrity chef culinary demonstrations kick off on Saturday at 12pm with Sang Kim, continuing at 3pm with **Chef Olivier Le Calvez**, of El Catrin Restaurant, who will prepare authentic and modern Mexican cuisine and share his more than two decades of experience. A few hours later, *Top Chef Canada: All-Stars* winner and restaurateur **Nicole Gomes** (Cluck N' Cleaver) – also known as Calgary's "Chief Chicken Officer" – will demonstrate some wonderful Southern-fried and French-style rotisserie chicken recipes to whet your appetite. (6pm)

On Sunday September 3 at 4:30pm, TV host and restaurateur **Roger Mooking** (*Twist* by Roger Mooking, The Cooking Channel's *Man Fire Food*, Food Network Canada's *Everyday Exotic* and *Chopped Canada*) will put on a cooking demo that is sure to be a highlight of the festival. He'll be followed by **Amy Rosen** at 6pm, a noted James Beard-nominated food writer, former *Chatelaine* food editor and recipe developer, who will share culinary secrets with **Chef Luis Valenzuela** (*The Latin Kitchen*, Carmen Restaurant). Rosen will sign her forthcoming book *Toronto Eats*. On Monday at 1pm, Trinidad-born Master Chef Canada contestants **Marida** and **Narida Mohammed** of *Twice de Spice* show you how to create a tasty vegetarian pelau. **Chef Jonathan Gushue** of The Berlin wraps up the weekend.

All this great food is accompanied by great music on Friday with an evening of jazz featuring the silky voice of **Joanna Majoko** (7:30pm) and Juno nominee **Matt Dusk** and 2017 Vocal Jazz Album of the Year winner, **Barbra Lica** (9pm).

Also adding some zing, **Toronto Blues Society** is co-presenting a riveting lineup of blues, soul and roots music. Saturday features Juno Award winner and country/blues crossover artist **Harrison Kennedy** – writer of **The Chairman of the Board** hit "Give Me Just A Little More Time" – alongside the soulful and jazz-centric blues of 2017 International Blues Challenge winner **Dawn Tyler Watson**. Montréal-based guitarist and soul-roots singer/songwriter extraordinaire **Cécile Doo-Kingué** headlines Sunday at 9:30pm with opening performances by rising star **Angélique Francis** and Maple Blues Award winner **Spencer MacKenzie**.

If you want a different kind of spice, Cabaret superstars **Sharron Matthews** and **Shawn Hitchins** offer a Saturday night of saucy music and salty stories at the Brigantine Room that will deliver the steam during the Hot & Spicy Food Festival's only ticketed event, the **Red Hot Cabaret**. (September 2, \$20 in advance, \$24.75 day of show).

Sunday also marks the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of **ChiliKids - Junior Chef Competition**, which finds young master chefs aged 6 to 12 working with **Chef Mick Elliott** to release their inner foodie and dazzle the crowd with their own version of vegetarian jambalaya with sessions taking place at 12:30pm and 3pm.

On Monday, September 4, **Jesse Ryan** and his Afro-Caribbean jazz sound will enliven your soul at 12:45pm while the sweet samba sounds of **Valeria Matzner** will keep the rhythms going at 1:30pm. At 3pm, **Luanda Jones** strikes a Brazilian, electronic and Afrobeat note before veteran singer **June Garber** serenades the crowd with jazz classics and originals.

At 5pm internationally acclaimed musician **Jane Bunnett** brings wonderful Afro-Cuban melodies to the Concert Stage with the return of **Spirits of Havana** – 25 years after performing at the inaugural season of the Concert Stage at Harbourfront Centre.

For food and film lovers, catch 20 **Foodie Films** co-presented with the **National Film Board of Canada**. You won't want to miss the 20th Hot and Spicy Food Festival!

**About Harbourfront Centre**

Harbourfront Centre is a Canadian charity operating the 10 prime acres of Toronto's central waterfront as a free and open public site. We celebrate the multiplicities of cultures that comprise Canada and enliven the city through the creative imaginations of artists from across the country and around the globe.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous funding support for summer programming at Harbourfront Centre by the Government of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council.

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