

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Junior: big thoughts for growing minds**

A new international children's festival

May 19–25, 2018

**TORONTO, ON (March 29, 2018)** Harbourfront Centre, one of Canada's leading presenters of contemporary arts and culture, is proud to announce **Junior**, a new international children's festival that takes on the challenging questions facing youth today. Featuring Canadian premieres, acclaimed performances from as far away as Australia and Norway, to as near as Quebec and the Mohawk Nation of Kahnawake, **Junior** is the perfect opportunity for youth to explore identity, growth, belonging and transformation.

**Junior**, which takes over the waterfront campus from May 19 to 25, offers children and their families an opportunity to experience original and inspiring performances through productions that redefine children's cultural programming. **Junior** brings together performers and artists from around the world and across Canada under a core programming vision that not only entertains but also invites audiences to explore evocative themes ranging through identity, difference, growth, loss and transformation.

"Harbourfront Centre has always been the setting for relevant artistic, cultural, educational and recreational experiences," says Marah Braye, Chief Executive Officer, Harbourfront Centre, "We have a tradition of programming and fostering innovative creative expression in all artistic disciplines; naturally, that commitment applies to how we encourage children to experience and be inspired by theatre."

"Kids have big thoughts. Who am I? Where do I fit in? And what do I stand for?" adds **Junior** Curator Mary Francis Moore. "We have carefully curated a week of performances with one thing in common – big thoughts for growing minds. **Junior** offers young people and their families the chance to experience the arts from around the corner and around the world that explore these questions".

**Junior** featured performances include:

- *Suites Curieuses*, Cas Public (Quebec)
- *The Medicine Wheel*, Barbara Kaneratonni Diabo and Marian Atehawi Snow (Mohawk Nation of Kahnawake)
- Shaun Boothe's *The Unauthorized Biography Series* (Ontario)
- *The Jury*, Hege Haagenrud (Norway) Canadian Premiere
- *Child of the Divide*, Bhuchar Boulevard (United Kingdom) Canadian Premiere
- *We Are All Treaty People*, Quest Theatre & Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society (Alberta)
- *Le Chant du Koi / Goldilocks Goes Bear Hunting*, Théâtre Le Clou (Quebec) English-language Premiere
- *New Owner*, The Last Great Hunt (Australia)
- *Space Interrupted*, Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre (Ontario)

**Junior** also features a weekend of free performances, May 19 to 21, by iconic children's entertainer Fred Penner; Toronto's The Monkey Bunch; Twin Flames, who share their songs on the realities and history of indigenous and Inuit peoples; Toronto's Nightswimming Theatre's *Why We Are Here!* experiential choir performed for children

for the first time; zany, as well as exciting and playful circus performances from Les Parfaits Inconnus; stunningly subtle and haunting performance art from Quebec's Magali Chouinard in *La Femme Blanche*; traditional Quebecoise square dancing in *La Gigue en Souvenir* performed by BoucharDanse; and storytelling with drag performers Fay Slift and Miss Fluffy Soufflé. Fun workshops and exciting activities will run all weekend long, children and their families can engage in hands-on exploration with the United Kingdom's Conductive Music, Toronto's ReelWorld virtual reality, How to Puppeteer Anything: Surreal Creature Creation Workshop, Chef Mick's Cooking Competition, and many others.

*For event times, descriptions and participant information please visit [harbourfrontcentre.com/junior](http://harbourfrontcentre.com/junior)*

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### **About Harbourfront Centre**

Harbourfront Centre is a registered, charitable not-for-profit cultural organization operating a 10-acre campus on Toronto's central waterfront. A leading international centre for contemporary arts, culture, and ideas, we inspire audiences and visitors with a breadth of bold, ambitious and engaging experiences.

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