



FESTIVAL ARTIST MEMO: COVID 19 PREPAREDNESS

March 19, 2020

Dear Fringe Artists -

We are living in unprecedented times, and the constant updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic can be overwhelming. This is having very real, very difficult impacts not just on our local arts community, but also on our global community. We feel it, too. And we're here to support you however we can. **Thank you for your patience and understanding as we gather information and update our processes on a day-to-day basis. We know creating and planning for festival season under uncertain conditions is stressful, and we will continue to do our best to provide you as much information as possible as this situation evolves.**

As of today, the **Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival is continuing all plans and preparations to present our 2020 Festival as scheduled from August 13 - 23.** Though we have closed the doors to the ATB Financial Arts Barns for at least the next two weeks, the Edmonton Fringe Team is working remotely to support our operations and Festival planning.

Because the situation is evolving daily, we will adjust the [Artist Dates and Deadlines](#) to reflect new information as it becomes available. This will allow us to be as flexible as possible as we wait for holds on travel and work to be lifted.

We are also reviewing our withdrawal, refund, and cancellation policies in the event we need to scale back, postpone, or cancel the Festival. These revisions will be made with artist care in mind. Please [stay tuned to our website for these updates](#).

While we do not anticipate changes to our scheduled events at this time, we understand current travel restrictions will affect touring companies in the coming months. At this time, the Government of Canada has announced that it will close all borders to non-Canadian citizens travelling to the country for non-essential reasons, including from the U.S. The U.S. border is anticipated to remain closed for at least 30 days. We recommend touring artists closely monitor travel advisories for all countries that could possibly affect travel in the next few months.

We will continue to monitor our municipal, provincial, and federal guidelines. You can find [up-to-date COVID-19 Preparedness information on our website](#). We will provide ongoing updates as more information becomes available.

Take care of yourselves and each other, Fringers. The Edmonton Fringe team sends you all warm thoughts. We hope you and those you love are safe and healthy.

If you have questions, want to hear a friendly voice, or need any support in these strange and trying times, please reach out to your programming department. As we continue to work remotely, email is the most efficient way to get a hold of our team.

Murray Utas, Artistic Director - murray.utas@fringetheatre.ca

Tessa Stamp, Festival Program Coordinator - tessa.stamp@fringetheatre.ca