



The Chinook Series, in partnership with Azimuth Theatre, Edmonton Fringe Theatre and Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre is proud to present the return of **SOUND OFF: A Deaf Theatre Festival** and you're invited!

Running February 14th-18th, 2018, SOUND OFF is Canada's national festival dedicated to the Deaf performing arts. SOUND OFF will take place at the ATB Financial Arts Barns in Old Strathcona as part of the *Edmonton's only cutting edge winter festival, the Chinook Series Festival*. The Chinook Series showcases some of the most acclaimed contemporary art from theatre and dance to movement art and music.

SOUND OFF is dedicated to making theatre accessible for both Deaf and hearing audiences and celebrating the stories and talents of Deaf performers from across the country, as well as the beauty of American Sign Language.

Trailblazing! As Canada's national Deaf theatre festival, SOUND OFF builds upon the rich legacy of Deaf performers and Deaf performing groups in Canada. SOUND OFF brings together Deaf performers from across the country for a festival dedicated to the Deaf performing arts.

Even Bolder! This year SOUND OFF turns up the heat! More plays, more workshops, more salons and more of everything you enjoy. With four mainstage shows over five days, two Theatresports nights, along with play readings, salon discussions and workshops, there's something for everyone!

Accessible! All performances and SOUND OFF events are accessible for both Deaf and hearing audiences. Most shows are in American Sign Language (ASL) and all shows will have interpretation for both languages where necessary. In addition, ASL/English Interpreters are available throughout the festival to provide communication services for all patrons with their visit.

Affordable! SOUND OFF is dedicated towards making theatre affordable for all audiences. In addition to free events throughout the festival, all mainstage shows are Pay-What-You-Will – where patrons can contribute what they feel the show is worth, or pay what they are able. These tickets are available in person at least two hours prior to the start of each performance – first come, first serve – at the ATB Financial Arts Barns Box Office.

The four mainstage shows are:



Maximime: To Clown or Not to Clown?

An extraordinary one-man physical comedy and clowning that transports audiences into a world of laughter and emotions. Maxim Fomitchev is an acclaimed Cirque du Soleil performer who is Deaf and who has been delighting audiences around the world with his unique theatre performances for over 30 years. Not to be missed!

Three Dynamic Deaf Women

Deaf Spirit Theatre returns to SOUND OFF with a brand new show! This collective of three Deaf women from Kingston, Ontario will perform a series of unique skits that will include a silent film with 1950's to 1970's iconic women comedians, an animation retelling of the "Ugly Duckling" in black light and ASL (American Sign Language) storytelling! A captivating production for those from the ages 1 to 100. ASL interpreting is provided as part of the performance.



100 Decibels: A Handful

100 Decibels are back with an ALL-NEW show! *100 Decibels* is a high-energy physical comedy troupe that is comprised of a diverse group of Deaf artists. Hailing originally from The Philippines, Manitoba and Poland, these performers have been professionally trained in mime, physical comedy and storytelling by the award winning Hot Thespian Action's Shannon Guile. Their aim is not only to entertain audiences with their incredibly crisp and clean physical illusions but to reach-out with the beauty of Deaf

Culture and build bridges between the hearing and Deaf worlds. *100 Decibels* have brought audiences to their feet - making them laugh, cry and say- "I never thought of it that way".



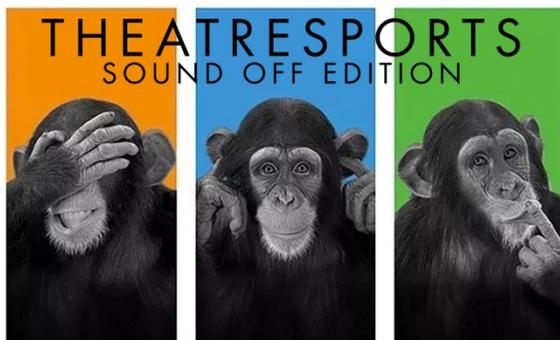
Deaf That!

Direct from Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times' *Rhubarb Festival*, "Deaf That!" is a cabaret-style showcase on Deaf Culture which allows us to explore our individual stories to show that each of us are unique humans with multiple layers of experiences within the Deaf community.

Sit back, enjoy as you watch the show, making you sign out ... "Deaf That!"

ASL interpreting provided as part of the performance.

Also featuring these events:



SOUND OFF & Rapid Fire Theatre present:
Theatresports: SOUND OFF Edition
Improv night

Back by audience demand!

SOUND OFF and Rapid Fire Theatre team up once more to bring you a new brand of hilarity. Watch as two teams, "Team Deaf" and "Team Hearing" go head-to-head in a battle of the senses! In this special edition, language is forbidden! Each team cannot use signs or speech and must act out your suggestions with the physical limits of their bodies alone.

Featuring the esteemed improvisors from Edmonton's Rapid Fire Theatre along with stellar performers selected from SOUND OFF's shows, this improv event is sure to leave you SPEECHLESS with laughter!

ASL interpretation provided.

Deafy

Staged reading

Join Deaf playwright Chris Dodd as he reads from “**Deafy**”, his new work in progress. Nathan Jesper has flown in for his big talk and is desperately late. Upon arriving, he launches into his speech but things are soon found to not be what they seem.

Part storytelling, part comedy, part tragedy, “**Deafy**” is a play with captions.

ASL interpretation provided.



The Devil’s Contract

Staged reading



A Deaf person signs a suspicious contract in order to navigate within the hearing world and receives a cochlear implant. He emerges within the Deaf community and finds cultural conflicts. The cochlear implant user uses the art of temptation to convince individuals to enter a pseudo dream world by using ASL poetry.

A staged reading of a new play in development by Landon Krentz.

ASL interpretation provided.

State of the Union: Deaf Theatre in Canada

Salon discussion

A discussion with special panelists on the current state of Deaf performance in Canada. Canada is experiencing a steady growth of opportunities for those in the performing arts. Join us while we look at the happenings, trends and the future of Deaf performance in this country.

American Sign Language Interpreting in Canadian Theatre: Token Effort, Accessibility, and Actual Inclusion

Salon discussion

A historical brief and discussion on how to engage ASL Interpreters and ensure the welcoming of the Deaf Community through inclusive means in “hearing” based theatre. What are the experiences and current barriers to making universal invitations happen?

**Applying for Grants at the Canada Council for the Arts:
Workshop for Artists Working in Deaf and Disability Arts**
Workshop presentation

Join Canada Council for the Arts for a workshop about their Explore and Create program. This workshop is specifically designed for individual artists working in Deaf and Disability Arts. It will be led by Elizabeth Sweeney, Program Officer, Explore and Create.

English Presentation with ASL interpretation

**Communication Without Words: A Mime & Physical Performance Workshop with
100 Decibels**
Workshop presentation

Join the cast of 100 Decibels for a fun and engaging introduction to physical theatre and a glimpse into the Deaf experience!

Suitable for all ages and all skill levels, this workshop will teach you that communication transcends words. For the first half of the workshop, the cast will lead you through a series of skill building activities and games giving you the tools to create your own physical scenes.

The second part of this workshop will be an exploration into the Deaf experience. You will learn the truths, misconceptions and idiosyncrasies of the Deaf language and culture. Join us in communicating without words.

ASL interpretation will be provided.

For the full performance schedule: www.soundofffestival.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/soundofffestival/
Chinook Series: chinookseries.ca

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