

# BANFF CENTRE MIDSUMMER BALL WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS 2015



## UNPRECEDENTED ARTIST IMPACT

The July 24-26, 2015 Banff Centre Midsummer Ball weekend **raised \$1.348 million, making it the most successful in the event's 36-year history!** It attracted more than 350 industry, government, arts and culture, and community leaders from across Alberta, Canada, the United States, and overseas.

**Government and honoured guests** included the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Mitchell; The Honourable Jim Prentice; Senator Doug Black; Rick Dykstra, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage; Cam Westhead, MLA, Banff-Cochrane; Karen Sorensen, Banff Mayor; The Honourable Daniel P. Hays; and Ken Taylor, OC, Former Canadian Ambassador to Iran.

### **Together, we are igniting art and ideas.**

The Banff Centre attracts artists of the highest calibre, and support from the Midsummer Ball Artists' Fund has a transformative impact on their lives and careers.

Our goal is to provide the highest level of funding possible for those artists selected to attend our programs. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and supporters, artists attend The Banff Centre because of their talent, not their ability to pay.

With access to exceptional multi-disciplinary programming, faculty, and facilities, artists are able to focus on creativity, fuelling their dreams and careers. The Artists' Fund also helps provide mentorship from some of the best master artists in the world.

By allowing art to push limits, we are exploring what it means to be truly human. The Banff Centre is an epicenter of minds and ideas regarding artistic development. My experience here has been transformative and personal. My life will certainly change."

— **Luan Phung, Banff Music resident and guitarist**



## MEMORABLE BALL WEEKEND MOMENTS

Hosted by Director Jen Mizuik and team, the **Digital & Visual Arts Social** kicked-off the weekend with over 150 guests taking the unique opportunity to explore the Walter Phillips Gallery *Séance Fiction* exhibition, tour artist studios, and see the Centre's creative production spaces while sipping whisky from handmade ceramic cups.

Then, guests mingled with friends and artists, enjoying fine wines and cuisine at Friday Night LIVE's Culinary Festival. Hosted by renowned playwright and Banff Centre alumnus **Daniel MacIvor**, the evening's Performance Showcase featured a diverse and stellar lineup of performances by Banff Centre alumni.

**Socalled and artists** kicked off the performance showcase with their toe-tapping hip-hop klezmer groove. Co-Artistic director of the 605 Collective, contributor to the Beijing Modern Dance Company, and performer for Wen Wei Dance, **Josh Martin**, was an evening favourite with his fresh and eclectic dance performance. **Banff Centre resident pianists Alexander Malikov and Stephanie Tang** were met with a standing ovation after their duo-piano performance of George Gershwin's 1924 *Rhapsody in Blue*. And the evening was topped-off by Canadian jazz pianist, singer-songwriter and Banff Centre alumna Laila Biali who, in her final number, thrilled guests with a surprise duet with iconic Canadian singer-songwriter and Banff Centre alumnus, **Royal Wood**.

Maclab Bistro was packed to the rim until the wee hours with late night party guests who couldn't get enough of the evening.

**Saturday's five Creative Spotlights** offered unique glimpses into The Banff Centre's multi-disciplinary programming.

Guests joined **Dan Buchner**, VP Leadership Development, & **Jen Mizuik**, Director of Visual & Digital Arts, at the **Arts + Leadership Spotlight** to explore the intersection of leadership development and contemporary arts. Providing a sneak-peek of the soon-to-be-premiered dance creation *Backbone*, in the **Indigenous Arts Spotlight** guests were blown away by the athleticism and artistic insight showcased by Director of Indigenous Arts, **Sandra Laronde**, and dancers from the Indigenous Arts Residency.

In the **Dance Spotlight**, Artistic Director of Dance, **Emily Molnar** shared her groundbreaking vision for dance and amazed guests with a live-choreographed dance segment with four dancers, fed by impromptu audience input. Director of Literary Arts, Canadian author, curator and journalist **Devyani Saltzman** unveiled the Centre's first memoir residency and was joined by bestselling UK author and upcoming faculty member, **Geoff Dyer** at the **Literary Arts Spotlight**. In the Opera Spotlight, hosted by **Joel Ivany** and **Topher Mokrzewski**,

guests got an exclusive behind-the-curtain look at the technical aspects of the contemporary opera production *A Little Too Cozy* (a modern interpretation of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*).

Saturday's **Gala Ball** was truly a world class affair, with two extraordinary performances—one by Grammy and JUNO Award-winning Banff Centre alumna **k.d. lang**, and another by Banff Centre brass faculty member, and Grammy and JUNO Award nominee, trumpet virtuoso **Jens Lindemann**.

Winding down the weekend on Sunday against a magical mountain backdrop, acclaimed singer-songwriter and Banff Centre alumnus **Royal Wood** took to the Shaw Amphitheatre stage with the **Rolston String Quartet** and Banff Centre brass musicians in residence—the perfect conclusion to an unbelievable 36th Annual Midsummer Ball Weekend.

### Contact Information

Lynette Markham  
Associate Director – Events & Ball  
Sponsorship, Development  
403.762.6230  
lynette\_markham@banffcentre.ca  
banffcentre.ca/midsummerball



**The Banff Centre**  
inspiring creativity