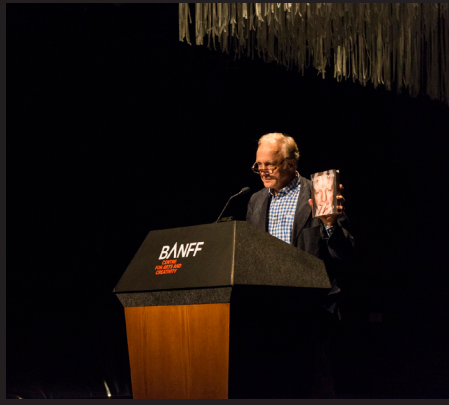


BANFF CENTRE MIDSUMMER BALL WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS 2016



TRANSFORMATIVE WEEKEND FOR ARTISTS

On July 22-24, 2016 the 37th Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity's Midsummer Ball Weekend raised **\$1.073 million** in support of professional development for artists. The 37th annual ball attracted more than 310 industry, government, arts and culture, and community leaders from across Alberta, Canada, the United States, and overseas.

Government and honoured guests included Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta; Christina Gray, Alberta's Minister of Labour and Minister of Democratic Renewal; Ricardo Miranda, Alberta's Minister of Culture and Tourism; Jessica Littlewood, MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville; Brian Malkinson, MLA Calgary Currie; Kim

Schreiner, MLA for Red Deer-North; Heather Sweet, MLA for Edmonton-Manning; Cameron Westhead, MLA, Banff-Cochrane; and Karen Sorensen, Mayor, Town of Banff.

Together, we inspire artists and leaders to make their unique contribution to society. Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity attracts artists of the highest calibre, and support from the Midsummer Ball Artists' Fund has a transformative impact on their lives and careers.

Banff Centre is an essential destination for artists across Canada and around the world. We provide the optimal combination of environment, mentorship, networking, and inspiration, allowing creative talent to grow and new ideas to flourish. The results are outstanding: 90 per cent of our alumni go on to work professionally in their fields and nearly 80 per cent earn their living from their art.

The Artists' Fund supports participants in various programs by ensuring that core needs are met. Your support ensures excellence in our programs and that artists can attend Banff because of their talent, not their ability to pay.

"I am still trying to find the words for this experience. I could not have been prepared for it. Unforgettable and inspiring to say the least."

- Anonymous participant describing the Craft of Embodiment Dance Workshop, which featured choreographer Crystal Pite



MEMORABLE BALL WEEKEND MOMENTS

The Friday **Digital & Visual Arts Social** helped to kick off the ball weekend. Guests wound their way through open studios, enjoyed live music on the ceramics deck, wore floral sculptures, and toured Walter Phillips Gallery's exhibition by Israeli artist **Yael Bartana**, guest-curated by Sao Paolo's **Ana Paula Cohen**.

At the Friday night culinary festival guests then mingled with friends and artists, enjoying fine wine and cuisine before the Friday Night LIVE's performance showcase. Hosted by renowned playwright and Banff Centre alumnus **Daniel MacIvor**, and Banff Centre's Vice President Arts **Carolyn Warren**, the showcase featured a diverse line-up of performances from top Banff Centre artists in many disciplines.

Mentored in Banff by the legendary **Buffy Sainte-Marie**, Cree vocalist and rising star **Mariame Hasni** launched the festivities with her powerful voice and stage presence. Award-winning dancer **Peter Chu** performed Banff Centre alumna Crystal Pite's solo piece, *A Picture of You Falling*. DJ, music producer, and award-winning graphic novelist **Kid Koala** brought his own electricity to the evening by collaborating with the **Cecilia String Quartet**, 2010 Banff International String Quartet Competition winners.

The Friday night party continued in our Maclab Bistro lounge and patio with live music, cocktails, and great company.

After enjoying the optional guided Saturday morning walk and vivid mountaintop scenery, our chefs treated guests to the Musical Mountaintop Breakfast. **Saturday's three Creative Spotlights and Guided Arts Tour** offered unique glimpses into Banff Centre's multi-disciplinary programming.

Hosted by Program Director **Brian Calliou**, the **Indigenous Leadership & Management Spotlight** talk explored idea generation through an Indigenous lens of knowing and highlighted concepts of community, reciprocity and respect. In the Dance Spotlight, Artistic Director of Dance **Emily Molnar** offered a sneak peek of Banff Centre's contemporary dance program. This rare opportunity enabled guests to see a new work in progress and to experience the creative process with an international team of collaborators, including **Stephan Laks, Fernando Melo, and Ellen Lauren**.

In the **Literary Arts Spotlight**, Director of Literary Arts **Devyani Saltzman** highlighted details of Banff Centre literary arts programming and Literary Journalism Chair, RBC Taylor Prize-winning author and *Globe and Mail* columnist **Ian Brown** treated guests to a side-splitting reading from his

acclaimed book *Sixty*. In the afternoon Arts Tour, guests witnessed the unveiling of our new concert grand piano, toured and met artists in our theatre costume workshop, and experimented with interactive media and production technology in our media and audio studios.

Saturday's **Gala Ball** celebrated the richness that art brings to the world. The gala featured world-class performances by Banff Centre faculty including internationally acclaimed Canadian soprano **Adrienne Pieczonka**, and JUNO Award nominee and international trumpet virtuoso, **Jens Lindemann** paying tribute to the late Ken Taylor. After savouring a four-course feast, guests hit the dance floor to the sounds of the **Barry Shaw Band**, and enjoyed the late-night scotch lounge into the wee hours.

On Sunday, Banff Centre President & CEO Janice Price and Ian Findlay hosted their annual brunch. Guests then made their way to the Shaw Amphitheatre for afternoon performances by exceptional Banff Centre alumni: **Basia Bulat**, an indie singer-songwriter sensation known for her soaring voice and soulful lyrics, and **Ron Sexsmith**, the JUNO award-winning Canadian icon—the perfect conclusion to a superb 37th Midsummer Ball Weekend.

Contact

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