Press Release: For Immediate Distribution

Join us in Celebrating the 2022 ***World Theatre Day*!**

March 23rd, 2022 – Playwrights Guild of Canada (PGC), together with the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres ([PACT](http://www.pact.ca/)) and l'Association des théâtres francophones du Canada ([ATFC](http://atfc.ca/)), will celebrate ***World Theatre Day*** on March 27th, 2022 with messages from theatre artists in Canada. Every year a messenger is selected from Canada as an ambassador of Canadian theatre. This year, we invited ***three*** artists/collectives to answer the question, “Where does theatre live for you?”

Created in 1961 by UNESCO, **World Theatre Day** is marked annually on March 27th by theatre communities worldwide. It celebrates the power of theatre as an indispensable bridge-builder for mutual international understanding and peace and promotes and protects cultural diversity and identity. Since its inception, **World Theatre Day** has been celebrated on the 27th of March (the date of the opening of the 1962 "Theatre of Nations" season in Paris) by International Theatre Institute ([ITI](https://www.iti-worldwide.org/)) Centres - of which there are now more than 90 throughout the world. Each year an outstanding figure in theatre or a person outstanding in heart and spirit from another field is invited to share their reflections on theatre and international harmony.

***Debajehmujig Theatre Group*** is one of the **World Theatre Day** Ambassadors and says, “If there is anything that we have learned from the pandemic, it’s that theatre doesn’t live in any specific location. Our stories live within each of us, in our hearts, minds and spirits.” Debajehmujig was the first - and remains the only - professional theatre company located on a Reserve in Canada. They create original work based on an Anishnaabag/Chippewa Nation worldview and build bridges between cultures, generations, and territories.

***Mishka Lavigne*** is the second Ambassador, writing a Francophone message for all Canadians. In her message she says, “Beyond our theatre spaces that were shuttered. Beyond our stages that were left in the dark. Beyond architecture, there are human beings.” Mishka is a Canadian playwright and translator and two-time Governor General’s Award winner for French-language drama for her two plays *Havre* and *Copeaux*.

***Makambe K. Simamba*** is another Ambassador sending out a message for **World Theatre Day**. In her message, she says, “Theatre lives in the rhythm and repetition of heartbeat. In grooves the texture of skin. In foundations of solid footing. In the hollowness of bright ears and the bass notes of eager mouths… Theatre lives.” Makambe is a Dora Award–winning playwright and actor for *Our Fathers, Sons, Lovers and Little Brothers*.

All three messages are being released in video form with French or English captions as well as ASL or LSQ Interpretation. The full messages are also available in text form in both English and French. Messages and information on the Ambassadors are available now on the PGC website: <https://playwrightsguild.ca/world-theatre-day/>

PGC, along with ATFC and PACT, encourage the community to share these messages to celebrate the joy and power of theatre in the days leading up to **World Theatre Day**. Together, we can amplify the inspiring words of our 2022 Ambassadors.

**World Day of Theatre for Children**

The World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People occurred on March 20th, 2022. The event was created by the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People ([ASSITEJ](http://www.assitej-international.org)) as a way to emphasize the value of theatre and the arts for children and reaffirm a commitment that every child has a right to artistic experiences created especially for them. This year, Lionel Lehouillier is the Canadian Ambassador who sent out a message for World Day of Theatre for Children. This message can be found on ATFC’s website [HERE](https://atfc.ca/fr/nos-activites/journee-mondiale-theatre-enfance-jeunesse).

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**About PGC**

Playwrights Guild of Canada is a registered national arts service association mandated to advance the creative rights and interests of professional Canadian playwrights, promote Canadian plays nationally and internationally, and foster an active, evolving community of writers for the stage.

**About PACT**

PACT is a member-driven organization of professional Canadian theatres that serves as the collective voice of its members. We are a leader in the national performing arts community, and a devoted advocate for the value of live performance. Since 1979 we have focused on providing a community where theatre professionals (both artistic and administrative) can come together to discuss important issues and work together to create innovative solutions.

**About ATFC**

ATFC is a national arts service organization. It represents and serves fifteen members, professional theatre companies operating in the Canadian Francophonie, as well as some four hundred freelance artists around them.

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