



PLAY·SMELTER

NEW WORK THEATRE FESTIVAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 19, 2020

PLAYSMELTER 2020 POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19

SUDBURY, ON – It is with a very heavy heart that we announce the decision to postpone the 8th annual PlaySmelter Northern New Works Festival as a result of ongoing COVID-19 concerns. We have made this determination out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our audience, artists, volunteers and festival staff.

“Sometimes you have to make that tough decision.”, says artistic director Lisa O’Connell, “Although incredibly disappointed, we know it’s the right thing to do.”

The PlaySmelter Festival is committed to the safety, health and well-being of everyone in the PlaySmelter community. We hope to resume our 8th annual festival in early Fall, once the unprecedented circumstances surrounding COVID-19 has resolved. We will follow instruction from Public Health authorities as we make that decision and at that time.

Featured programming this year is the Premiere Production of STRUCK! By Eric Rose, and First Look new works by Jesse Brady, Lara Bradley, Miriam Cusson and Thunder Bay playwright Eleanor Albanese among others. Professional Development Master Classes will be offered in playwriting, directing, puppetry and dramaturgy to Northern ON artists. A Conference on Touring Theatre in Northern ON will also occur during the festival attended by Northern ON producers, presenters and artists. All programming will be rescheduled to occur during the 8th annual PlaySmelter Northern New Works Festival.

“Ensuring the health and wellbeing of our guests, staff and artists is always our top priority, “says O’Connell, “we will be back.”

PlaySmelter Festival would like to thank Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, City of Sudbury and the Metcalf Foundation for their support of our 8th annual Festival.

The PlaySmelter Festival would like to acknowledging that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory and the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Atikameksheng Anishnaabeg.

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