

For Immediate Release: January, 2008  
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**buddies**  
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

**BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE**  
presents

# **THE 29<sup>th</sup> RHUBARB FESTIVAL**

**February 20 – March 2, 2008**

**Festival Director Erika Hennebury**

**EVENING PASSES \$15 - WEEK PASSES \$20 Box Office 416-975-8555 Web [artsexy.ca](http://artsexy.ca)**

**DIFFERENT PROGRAMMING EACH WEEK**

**Week One Shows: Feb 20 – Feb 24 / Week Two Shows: Feb 27 – Mar 2**

At Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St, Toronto, Canada.

## **CANADA'S PREMIERE NEW WORKS FESTIVAL RETURNS FEBRUARY 2008.**

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre proudly announces the return of the Rhubarb Festival, following a one-year hiatus. At this year's Rhubarb Festival, Buddies is offering close to one hundred participating artists (including **Hannah Moscovitch, Jess Dobkin, David Storch, Natasha Mytnowych, Shawn Hitchins, Jacob Wren, Erika Batdorf, Gil Garratt, Shannon Cochrane** and **Sean MacMahon**) a critic-free environment in which to play and experiment -- and, after suffering through a 'Rhubarb-Free' 2007, we are dying to sample this year's bounty!

Toronto theatregoers are invited to shake off those mid-winter blues and spend a cozy evening at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre's 12 Alexander Street digs. Rhubarb is a great chance to catch one-of-a-kind performances, cruise installations, meet the artists, socialize and dance the night away in Tallulah's Cabaret. Audience members are encouraged to see as many shows as they can in one night or to take their time, and come back again and again. Canada's premier new works festival is notorious for showcasing the most outrageous acts you'll catch all year-round, and Festival Director **Erika Hennebury** promises that this year is no exception. The 29<sup>th</sup> Rhubarb Festival line-up features radical new hybrids of dance, theatre, video, stand-up, musical theatre, opera, animation, storytelling and rock 'n' roll - *all under one roof*. Once in the door, you're in for a wild ride.

### **Returns with a Bang: The Rhubarb Festival Kick Off Bash**

Rhubarb officially returns on **Wednesday February 20**, with the unveiling of Week One shows (beginning at 8pm), and the **Rhubarb Festival Kick-Off Bash**, hosted by the one and only tap-dancing drag superstar, **Keith Cole**. This year's Rhubarb Festival Kick-Off Bash begins at 10:30pm with a special screening of Cole's **Rhubarb Video Project: *Vegetable or Fruit? Weed, Stalk or Root?*** (created from 2006 festival footage, and starring a bevy of theatre folk from Shaw Festival's Jerry Doiron and The Theatre Centre's Franco Boni, through to Buddies' founder Sky Gilbert and Festival Director Erika Hennebury), followed by special musical guest stars performing in Tallulah's Cabaret (line-up TBA), and the stylings of DJ **Shane MacKinnon**.

### **Week One Overview**

Each night of Week One (Feb 20-24) will feature presentations of brand new works created by **Erika Batdorf, Gideon Arthurs, Shawn Hitichins, One Reed Theatre** and Winnipeg's **Ian Mozdzen**. Solo & Mini-Stage devisors scattered throughout Week One include **Evan Tapper, Andrew Scorer, David Oiye, Chad Dembski, J.P. Robichaud, Allison Cummings, Jesse Stong, Chelsea McMullan, Cole J Alvis, Andrea Donaldson, Gil Garrat, Mary Beath Badian, Ian Carpenter**, and more. Week One also features the **Friday Late-Night Shorts** (Fri Feb 22, 10:30pm), a cabaret of short performances by **Jess Dobkin, Chy Ryan Spain, Allison Peacock, Lindsey Gillard** and Montreal's **PME-ART (Caroline Dubois, Claudia Fancello & Jacob Wren)**. Week One Festivities are rounded out by staged readings of new plays by **Michael Reynolds** and **Mark Shyzer**, participants in Buddies' **Young Creators' Unit** (Sat Feb 23, 7pm).

## Week Two Overview

Each night of Week Two (Feb 27–Mar 2) will feature presentations of brand new works created by Vancouver's the memelab (Jesse Scott and Mirae Rosner), Christopher Stanton, Norman Lup-Man Yeung, Hannah Moscovitch and Sean MacMahon. Solo & Mini-Stage devisors scattered throughout Week Two include J.P. Robichaud, Sam Stedman, Alexis Butler, Shannon Cochrane, Alistair Newton, Sherri Hay, David Bateman, Trevor Schwellnus, Ken MacKenzie, David Oiyee, Tobaron Waxman, The Problem Guy and more. Week Two also features a special one time presentation of *It's a Matter of Scale: The Nuclear Revolution (Dedicated to the Revolutions Part Six)*, created and performed by Small Wooden Shoe, directed by Jacob Zimmer (Fri Feb 29, 10:30pm). Week Two Festivities are rounded out by staged readings of new plays by Alisha Stranges and Jordan Tannahill, participants in Buddies' Young Creators' Unit (Sat Mar 1, 7PM).

## About Rhubarb

The Rhubarb Festival was first produced by Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in 1979, and is Canada's oldest festival of new Canadian theatre. The Rhubarb Festival is more than a festival; it is a commentary on theatre - on how we create it, on how we present it, and on how we experience it. Here we allow the *artist* and the *idea* to be the centre of attention. The trappings of traditional theatre are purged in favour of a stripped-down approach, where inspiration and invention are genesis. For almost 30 years The Rhubarb Festival has acted as a seeding ground for exciting new work from a host of groundbreaking Canadian artists, including Sky Gilbert, Daniel MacIvor, Daniel Brooks, Guillermo Verdecchia, Don McKellar, Diane Flacks, Gavin Crawford, Sonja Mills, Darren O'Donnell, Damien Atkins, Atom Egoyan, Jacob Wren, Ann-Marie MacDonald (and many more). And above all, Rhubarb is one helluva good time.

**“annual tonic of fresh and exciting theatre that invigorates Toronto”**

- The Toronto Star

# THE 29<sup>th</sup> RHUBARB FESTIVAL LISTINGS

## WEEK ONE LINEUP WED FEB 20 – SUN FEB 24

### 1848 EXPERIMENT #1

8pm, The Chamber

Created & Directed by Erika Batdorf

in collaboration with Kate Digby and Adam Seybold

From Erika Batdorf, recent winner of the 2007 Summerworks Prize, comes an engaging collision of dance and theatre. One actor and one dancer struggle to cross the mind / body divide.

### IT'S HARD TO COUNT TO A MILLION

8pm, Tallulah's Cabaret

A One Reed Theatre Ensemble presentation

Created and Performed by Megan Flynn, Frank Cox O'Connell, Marc Tellez and Evan Webber

Directed by Daniel Mroz

We started with a simple task: an interrogation of the most ubiquitous logical system we could think of.

We started with counting.

A presentation of One Reed's new performance work. One Reed was voted "Best Young Ensemble" by Now Magazine in 2006, and is known for intelligent and arresting new group-devised theatre.

### HOMOgenius

8:30pm, Tallulah's Cabaret

A Rabid Aardvark presentation

Created and Performed by **Shawn Hitchins**, Directed by **Adam Lazarus**  
Musical Direction and Arrangements by **Mim Adams**, Accompanist **Jonathan C. G. Bright**  
When did interior decorators become the spokespeople for the so-called “gay lifestyle”? Are condos overpriced internment camps for gays? What does it mean when a gay actor isn’t “gay enough” to play himself on television? Hitchins takes direct aim at the gentrification of the queer experience. In the process, he departs from cabaret and musical theatre to create a rocking, dangerously human experience.

## WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE: A MANIFESTO

9:15pm, Tallulah’s Cabaret

Directed & Conceived by **Gideon Arthurs**

Company: **Rob Baker, Megan Flynn, Erin Shields** and **Noa May Dorn**

**Gideon Arthurs was recently appointed Artistic Producer of the Toronto Fringe.**

Favourite childhood story, *Where The Wild Things Are*, suffers abuse for the greater good: re-imagined as a commentary on our insatiable appetite for consumption at all costs - and our gaping passivity in the face of tyrants.

## OBSCENE

9:45pm, The Chamber

Created and Performed by **Ian Mozdzen** (Winnipeg)

Directed by **Claire Borody**, Dramaturgy by **Tom Stroud**

Part vision of beauty. Part chaotic battlefield. Part jerk-off fantasy. *Obscene* exposes the conflicted inner world of one man’s obsessive need to mutilate his manhood through the act of self-castration.

Warning: Botched drag. Graphic imagery. Splosh.

## RHUBARB FESTIVAL KICK OFF BASH

Wed Feb 20, 10:30pm, Tallulah’s Cabaret

Rhubarb officially returns on **Wednesday February 20**, with the unveiling of Week One shows (beginning at 8pm), and the **Rhubarb Festival Kick-Off Bash**, hosted by the one and only **Keith Cole**. This year’s Rhubarb Festival Kick-Off Bash begins at 10:30pm with a special screening of Cole’s **Rhubarb Video Project: *Vegetable or Fruit? Weed, Stalk or Root?***, surprise musical guests and the stylings of **DJ Shane MacKinnon**.

## FRIDAY LATE-NIGHT SHORTS

Fri Feb 22, 10:30PM, THE CHAMBER

Rhubarb plays host to a raucous late-night line-up of short performances including everything from dance to live music, featuring ***Everything I’ve Got***, by **Jess Dobkin**, ***The Price of Bleach***, text and performance by **Chy Ryan Spain**, directed by **Kimahli Powell**, ***My Feelings and Shit***, created and performed by **Allison Peacock** and **Lindsey Gillard** and ***Hospitality one: the title is constantly changing***, created & performed by Montreal-based **PME-ART (Caroline Dubois, Claudia Fancello & Jacob Wren)**.

## NEW WORK FROM BUDDIES’ YOUNG CREATORS’ UNIT

Sat Feb 23, 7pm, The Chamber

**RECYCLED** by **Michael Reynolds** and **THE TRUTH ABOUT GOLDFISH** by **Mark Shyzer**

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, through *The Queer Youth Arts Programme*, supports the development of young artists in a variety of ways. With The Young Creators’ Unit, four queer artists under the age of 25 meet weekly with Evalyn Parry and Edward Roy to develop their work in a supportive and challenging creative atmosphere. Come early at 7pm and check out what they’ve been up to. Always interesting. Always inspiring.

## MINI-STAGE AND SOLO-STAGE PERFORMANCES

Open Nightly, 8:30 – 9:45pm, The Ante Chamber

Buddies’ Ante Chamber (the room connecting the two main theatre venues) houses Rhubarb’s two unique miniature black-box performance spaces: The Mini-Stage (for a maximum audience of twelve) and The Solo-Stage (for one audience member at a time). New programming every night!

Week One Mini-Stage and Solo-Stage performances rotate throughout the week, and include: *Anima* by **Evan Tapper**, *The Devolution of Darwin* by **Andrew Scorer**, *12 Secs* by **David Oiyee**, *save us!* by **Chad Dembski**, *Untitled 2008* by **JP Robichaud**, *The History of Awesome* by **Allison Cummings**, *Jessexxy Tarot Fairy* by **Jesse Stong**, *CHAT* by **Plural Productions (Chelsea McMullan and Cole J Alvis)**, *Guilt* by **Andrea Donaldson, Gil Garrat & Mary Beath Badian**, and *faceit* by **Ian Carpenter**.

## WEEK TWO LINEUP WED FEB 27 – SUN MAR 2

### roots + wires

8pm, The Chamber

Created and Performed by Vancouver's **the memelab**  
(**Jesse Scott** and **Mirae Rosner**)

Rhubarb has solicited the involvement of west coast performance art team, the memelab, to conduct engaging & humorous experiments for the audience, in an attempt to find alternatives to current models of power.

"I didn't think anyone could make Deleuze and Guattari funny" –anonymous

### A MINOR SYMPHONY IN BEES

8pm, Tallulah's Cabaret

Created by **Christopher Stanton** and Co.

Directed by **Christopher Stanton**

Performed by **Tara Beagan, Maggie Evans, Geoffrey Pounsett, Aaron Talbot**

A Hive presentation

Scientists are struggling to explain a mysterious collapse in global honeybee populations. A world without bees is a scary place, as they play a primary role in pollinating virtually all human food sources. So why are they disappearing? Why the same situation the world over? And why am I always yelling into my cell phone?

### LICHTENSTEIN'S AN 8: A NEW FORMULA TO QUANTIFY ARTISTIC QUALITY

8:30pm, Tallulah's Cabaret

Co-created and directed by **Norman Lup-Man Yeung**

Co-created by **Kathy Moretton**, Featuring **Laura Nordin**

So now we can apply science to better understand art. But what artist would agree to their work being assigned a numerical value like a pH rating? A hybrid of scientific lecture, artistic rabble-rousing, subversive slideshow, lo-fi cinema, and toy glockenspiel, this environmental-theatre-happening exposes how science and art are siblings, whether they like it or not.

### post-democracy

9:15pm, Tallulah's Cabaret

Written by **Hannah Moscovitch**, Directed by **Natasha Mytnowych**

Set and Lighting Design **Kim Purtell**, Featuring **Matt Edison & David Storch**

post-democracy takes you behind the barbed wire at the World Economic Summit, where a CEO of an international corporation desperately tries to keep one of his Executive's sexual indiscretions from jeopardizing a multi-million dollar deal. A voyeuristic glimpse inside disaster capitalism.

### AMATEUR TRACK & FIELD

9:45pm, The Chamber

created and performed by **Sean MacMahon**

Edward Gorey meets Spalding Gray under a whack of camouflage.

After years of collaboration (Oomph! Group, emergency exit) Rhubarb-favourite Sean MacMahon flies solo.

## FRIDAY LATE-NIGHT SPECIAL EVENT

Fri Feb 29, 10:30pm, The Chamber

### IT'S A MATTER OF SCALE: THE NUCLEAR REVOLUTION (DEDICATED TO THE REVOLUTIONS PART SIX)

Created and performed by **Small Wooden Shoe**, directed by **Jacob Zimmer**

Small Wooden Shoe tries to answer some questions about how very small things make very big changes. And about how both the very big and very small effect medium sized things, such as humans.

With white boards, transcription and maybe some singing.

## NEW WORK FROM BUDDIES' YOUNG CREATORS' UNIT

SAT, MAR 1, 7PM

**HELGA** by **Alisha Stranges** and **SQUASHED** by **Jordan Tannahill**

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Week Two Mini-Stage and Solo-Stage performances rotate throughout the week, and include: ***Untitled 2008*** by **JP Robichaud**, ***Performance Amnesia*** by **Sam Stedman** and **Alexis Butler**, ***Dream Interpretation*** by **Shannon Cochrane**, ***How to Recognize an Invert*** by **Alistair Newton**, ***The Dead Texan Colour Shitter*** by **Sherri Hay**, ***Applause*** by **David Bateman**, ***Famous Gestures*** by **Trevor Schwellnus**, ***A Mechanical Life*** by **Ken MacKenzie & David Oiyé**, ***Israel Eats Itself*** by **Tobaron Waxman**, and ***What's Your Problem?*** by **The Problem Guy**.

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