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Media Release attached

Back by popular demand – 4th Line Theatre’s virtual Artist Talk series: *Kim Blackwell in Conversation With...*

Millbrook, ON ...Even as the world has begun to open up, the demand from audiences, hungry for insightful arts programming that can be enjoyed from home, has encouraged 4th Line Theatre to program a second series of free-of-charge, virtual live stream artist talks this summer.

The organization’s successful virtual Artist Talk series offered this past May, created in response to the importance of finding ways to bring the world of theatre into people’s homes, engaged audiences nationwide. Participants joined live from as far away as Reykjavik, Iceland and more than 2,800 people have viewed recordings of the events online since their original air dates, inspiring a follow-up series. **Nexicom Presents 4th Line Theatre @ Home - *Kim Blackwell in Conversation With...*** will illuminate the political realities of the Canadian theatre scene, featuring two Canadian theatre artists on the cusp of the present seismic shift in Canadian arts ecology, as they grapple with the issues surrounding anti-black and systemic racism that indigenous artists and cultural workers are facing in the arts sector and beyond.

The series, which honours the achievements of women in the Canadian theatre landscape, will be live streamed on two Tuesday evenings in July and August. The series will open on Tuesday, July 28th with *Kim Blackwell in Conversation With...* **Jani Lauzon**, a Juno nominated singer/songwriter, Gemini Award winning puppeteer, award-winning screen actress and multi-nominated stage actress originally from East Kootenay, British Columbia. Then on Tuesday, August 25th, Blackwell will speak with **Sedina Fiati**, a Toronto-based performer, producer, director, creator and activist for stage and screen.

Managing Artistic Director Kim Blackwell is excited to launch this new Artist Talk Series as part of 4th Line’s Epic Women’s Directing Project, launched in May 2017, to provide female Canadian directors the opportunity to train and work in the company’s unique community-based, epic model. Proudly sponsored by Supporting Roles Interactive Training Inc., the Epic Women’s Directing Project aims to address the issues around gender parity in the performing arts.

“I am absolutely thrilled to sit down and talk to two of Canada’s most exciting theatre artists who are also very politically active,” says Blackwell. “I think this is a real opportunity to listen and understand what issues need to be addressed in Canadian theatre.”

Sponsored by longtime supporter of the theatre Nexicom, who have always been an advocate of the importance of community connectivity, the event series is being offered free-of-charge. This event is limited to 100 live attendees, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

All live stream events begin at 7:00 PM and will run approximately 90 minutes including a Q&A session. Visit the following link to register the live-streamed virtual event, you will receive an email prior to the event with a link to the live stream webinar via the Zoom video platform.

To register, please visit 4thlinetheatre.on.ca or call the 4th Line Theatre Box Office at 1-800-814-0055

About Nexicom

For over 120 years Nexicom has provided state-of-the-art telecommunications products and services to the communities throughout the Kawarthas. From telephone and television, to high speed fibre optic internet and security services Nexicom has you covered. Serving both residential and business services to the rural and urban communities with pride. Award winning customer service, great prices, and reliable networks. Nexicom more than you expect.

BIOGRAPHIES

Kim Blackwell, Managing Artistic Director; host of *Kim Blackwell In Conversation With... Series*

Kim is a veteran 4th Line director/producer – 2020 marks her 26th season with 4th Line Theatre where she has directed 24 productions including 12 world premieres. Selected credits include: Artistic Director (2014 - Present), Artistic Producer (2009 – 2014), Artistic Associate (2001-2009), directing: *The Fool of Cavan: A Christmas Caper* (2019), *Bloom: A Rock 'n' Roll Fable* (2019), *The Other: A Strange Christmas Tale* (2018), *The Shadow Walk of Millbrook* (2016, 2018), *Who Killed Snow White?* (2018), *The Hero of Hunter Street* (2016), *The Bad Luck Bank Robbers* (2015, 2016), *The Real McCoy* (2013), *Queen Marie, St. Francis of Millbrook* (2012), *The Berlin Blues* (2011), *The Right Road to Pontypool* (2009, 2010), *Schoolhouse* (2007, 2008), *The Art of Silent Killing*, *That Summer*, *Crow Hill*, *The Cavan Blazers*, *Attrition*, *Gimme That Prime Time Religion* and many development workshops. She was nominated for the John Hirsch Award for Directing Excellence in 2009 (Canada Council) and 2014 (Ontario Arts Council). Kim was inducted into Peterborough's Pathway of Fame in September 2016.

Sedina Fiati

Sedina is a Toronto-based performer, producer, director, creator and activist for stage and screen. Proudly Black and queer, Sedina is deeply invested in artistic work that explores the intersection between art and activism, either in form or structure or ideally both. Favourite and recent artistic projects: *Every Day She Rose* (Nightwood Theatre, co-director), *Switch: The Village* (collective member, QTBIPOC street performance, Buddies in Bad Times 2018 & 2019), *Feminist Fuck It Festival* (multidisciplinary festival, co-creator and co-producer), "Tokens" (performer, web series). Sedina Fiati is no stranger to 4th Line, having been a frequent performer in various workshops and performed as Mamie on the 4th Line Stage in 2012 in *Queen Marie* and was Assistant Director for *The Bad Luck Bank Robbers* in 2015. She also performed in *The Blind Eye* with Mysterious Entity in 2017. Upcoming projects: *Switching Queen(s)* (devised street performance), "Last Dance" (a web series).

Jani Lauzon

Jani is a multidisciplinary artist of Metis ancestry. She is a nine-time Dora Mavor Moore nominated actress, director and writer, a three-time Juno nominated singer/songwriter, a CAMA nominated singer/songwriter, an award-winning screen actress, a Gemini Award winning puppeteer and a Toronto Theatre Critics award-winning director. Awarded "Best Actress" at the American Indian Film Festival and the Dreamspeakers Film Festival for her portrayal of Doris in "A Windigo Tale." Dora-nominated and Toronto Theatre Critics award-winning Director for *Almighty Voice and his Wife* (Soulpepper). As a puppeteer she enjoyed working with Ernie Coombs on "The Mr. Dress-Up Show" and won a Gemini for her role as Seeka in the series "Wumpa's World." She takes pride in her alternate career as an artist educator that began at Claude Watson School for the Arts in the early 1980s and has continued in institutions such as The Centre for Indigenous Theatre, Humber College and The National Theatre School. Her company, Paper Canoe Projects produces her original work including *A Side of Dreams*, *I Call myself Princess* and *Prophecy Fog* as well as her two films "eu-tha-na-sia" and "Just One Word."

Jani has been a strong advocate for inclusivity of cultural and physically diverse artists on Canadian screens through her work as the Diversity Advocate at ACTRA for over 20 years.

Attached Photos:

1. Kim Blackwell, 4th Line Theatre's Managing Artistic Director, host of *Kim Blackwell In Conversation With... Series*
 2. Sedina Fiati
 3. Jani Lauzon
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Our productions are made possible by the generosity of scores of donors and sponsors including

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