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4th Line Theatre announces *Digital Festival of Light and Dark* programming

Millbrook, ON... 4th Line Theatre is excited to announce the array of programming for its first ever *Digital Festival of Light and Dark*. The Festival has provided 13 regional artists with micro-grants to create 12 five-minute digital showcases of their work. The *Digital Festival of Light and Dark* will be launching online on January 25, 2021. The Festival enables the community to engage with the artists' creations in the safety of their own homes through 4th Line's digital video gallery. The Festival is free of charge to watch.

Managing Artistic Director Kim Blackwell explains, "We wanted to support local artists. That was the genesis for the idea which ultimately became the *Digital Festival of Light and Dark*. I am excited to showcase the work of so many talented local artists from almost every conceivable discipline. These short, digital works will be a chance for 4th Line audiences to see the depth and breadth of regional artists and their creative worlds."

The projects encompass a myriad of artistic styles from dance to poetry to photography to puppetry and several more styles. The topics and issues explored include: the new silent nightlife in downtown Peterborough in lockdown; an exploration of physical vulnerability in the pandemic; and the story of a young girl trapped alone in a Welsh mine, to name only three.

The twelve video projects will be released on 4th Line Theatre's website and YouTube channel for viewing as of Monday, January 25, 2021 at 12:00 PM.

To view please visit 4th Line Theatre's website at www.4thlinetheatre.on.ca/festival-of-light-and-dark , or on 4th Line Theatre's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/4thlinetheatreVIDEO> .

Digital Festival of Light and Dark Details:

1. *How to Make Shadows* by Madison Costello

A short mock-instructional video guides you through the process of building an installation, while discussing the themes of light and dark.

Madison Costello bio

Madison is a Peterborough-based artist and Queens BFA graduate who explores vulnerability and human connection through her large, structural installations.

2. *Dark Eyes* by Naomi Duvall

A shadow puppetry vignette detailing an unusual and lost love. Written/performed by Naomi Duvall, directed by Shannon McKenzie with music/editing by Robert Hedge.

Naomi Duvall bio

Naomi is a regional actor, creator, feminist and emerging playwright. Dance, puppetry, comedy, passion and honesty feature in her work and she loves dogs.

3. *Shrouded* by Jennifer Elchuk (Opal)

This aerial silks solo explores darkness as a place of security, and light as exposing vulnerability, as experienced physically and emotionally during the pandemic. Performed by Opal (Jennifer Elchuk). Original music by aquapher (Jared Bremner).

Jennifer Elchuk (Opal) bio

Jennifer (Opal) has been active in the Peterborough arts community since 2006. Beginning in visual arts and dance, her current focus is aerial circus.

4. *18 Flames Per Second* by Josh Fewings

How did we get where we are now? Films, flames and 16mm projectors bring humanity to light through an abstract lens at 18 flames per second.

Josh Fewings bio

Josh is from Peterborough and is a professional musician in folk duo Mayhemingways. He is branching out into visual/film arts with “18 Flames Per Second.”

5. *Shadows and The Human Heart* by Frank Flynn & Madison Sheward

Shadows and the Human Heart articulates the exquisite mix of melancholy and joy. A beautiful melody and the elegant lines of classical dance pull heartstrings.

Frank Flynn & Madison Sheward bios

Frank is a writer and dramatist. His plays have been produced across Canada and as far afield as New Zealand and South Korea.

Madison is currently working towards her BFA in Musical Theatre Dance at the Chicago College of Performing Arts. Madison cannot wait to see where this journey will take her and is especially grateful to those who have supported her and continue to support her along the way.

6. *The many shades between light and dark, Art v COVID-19 in 2020* by Steafan Hannigan

Artists, Performers, Musicians and Directors reflect upon their life-changing experiences during the COVID-19 era, sharing their thoughts and feelings. Multimedia presentation photography/ audio/video.

Steafan Hannigan bio

Steafan is a multidisciplinary artist working in a variety of mediums including photography, video and music. Born and raised in Ireland, he currently lives in Baltimore, Ontario.

7. ***Before It Dies* by Mike Moring**

A power outage interrupts a stressful evening and presents an opportunity for quiet reflection for an estranged couple.

Mike Moring bio

Mike is an award-winning filmmaker and active member of Peterborough's theatre community. Pandemic permitting, he hopes to complete his first feature-length film in 2021.

8. ***Night Shift* by Tristan Peirce**

This story gives us a glimpse into the Peterborough Night Life. Bar hoppers and partygoers are nowhere to be seen. Rather, this current night life—amid Lockdown II and a stay-at-home order—is still and silent.

Tristan Peirce bio

Tristan is a photographer and videographer, based in Peterborough. He is excited to start 2021 creating and sharing his art at both 4th Line Theatre and the Art Gallery of Peterborough's group exhibition *Presently*.

9. ***Nerys in the Dark* by Kelsey Powell**

A young girl is trapped alone in a coal mine in 19th Century Wales. Backed into a corner she has no choice but to channel her frustration into hope.

Kelsey Powell bio

Kelsey is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Peterborough. He eagerly awaits the return of live theatre but in the meantime thanks 4th Line for this opportunity to express themselves creatively and keep the fire burning.

10. ***Accident* by Benj Rowland**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, because music and live events were cancelled, Rowland started playing live online as a way to make some income and keep his music/ performance practice alive. This video is a document of the performance space that he has developed, and will consist of one song performed with multiple live video overlays.

Benj Rowland bio

Benj is a singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist folk musician based in Peterborough.

11. ***Over and Under: Two Recitals* by PJ Thomas**

The imagery in these two poems refers to the play of sun and moon around the horizon and equinoxes creating light and dark.

PJ Thomas bio

PJ is a novelist who has recently turned to poetry. She successfully launched her first book of poems, *Undertow*, in the autumn of 2020.

12. *It's Political* by Laura Thompson

Found footage of women's performance and protest are layered, blended, and mashed up to explore the women's movement and its evolution, history, and future.

Laura Thompson bio

Laura is a designer based in Peterborough. Her video work draws on found footage to create moving collages that are surreal and dynamic.

Attached Photos:

1. Madison Costello
2. Naomi Duvall
3. Jennifer Elchuk (Opal)
4. Josh Fewings
5. Frank Flynn
6. Madison Sheward
7. Steafan Hannigan
8. Mike Moring
9. Tristan Peirce
10. Kelsey Powell
11. Benj Rowland
12. PJ Thomas
13. Laura Thompson

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