

13th Annual PuSh International Performing Arts Festival

Jan 16 – Feb 5, 2017

Theatre | Dance | Multimedia | Music
pushfestival.ca @pushfestival

The PuSh International Performing Arts Festival is Vancouver's mid-winter festival featuring acclaimed local, national and international artists. The PuSh Festival presents ground-breaking work in the live performing arts: theatre, dance, music, and various forms of multimedia and hybrid performance. This year's Festival includes works by artists and companies from Australia, Canada, England, South Africa, Belgium, South Korea, Portugal, Germany and Italy.

At PuSh we are striving to make the festival accessible to all. Here is the selection of shows that offer special provisions or are generally accessible to people who might not feel welcome in a traditional theatre environment or people with sensory sensitivities.

Relaxed Performances are specifically designed to welcome people who will benefit from a more relaxed performance environment, including people with on the Autism Spectrum, sensory and communication disorders, neurological disorders or a learning disability. There is a relaxed attitude to noise and movement coming from the audience and light and sound effects are adapted to minimal level that is never startling. Many people feel that relaxed performances offer a more dynamic theatrical experience, which benefits everyone.



Touretteshero (UK)

[BACKSTAGE IN BISCUIT LAND](#)

Jan 30 – Feb 1 | Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre | \$39.70 | Group booking price \$26

Supported by the British Council, Arts Council England and Vancity
Biscuit, biscuit, biscuit: Jess Thom just can't stop saying the word. As a woman with Tourette syndrome, she has verbal and physical tics that make her incapable of staying on script, but that hasn't stopped her from becoming a powerful writer and performer—quite the opposite, in fact. Her show uses comedy, puppetry and song to bring her world to audiences.

Thom loved the theatre as a child, but the intensity of her tics made it increasingly difficult to attend, a situation that culminated three years ago when she was asked to sit in isolation during a performance. Instead of never returning to the theatre, Thom found the only seat in the house she wouldn't be asked to leave: the stage.

- All shows of 'Backstage in Biscuit Land' will be relaxed performances
- Special seating arrangements can be made for people not feeling comfortable sitting in close proximity to other patrons



Tiago Rodrigues/ Teatro Nacional D. Maria II (Portugal)

[BY HEART](#)

Jan 19 -21 | Performance Works | \$39.70

Group booking price \$26

Supported by Consulate General of Portugal Vancouver

Words: they can be crossed out, drowned out, suppressed in countless ways, but once they exist inside of us they are inviolable. Rodrigues gives us a show about the power of art, not just to inform and inspire, but also to elude. Words can move freely beyond the constraints of government oppression—if only we remember them.

- This show has one person speaking to the audience in an intellectually engaging performance with limited sensory stimulation. There are no strong lighting or sound effects.
- This show has audience participation



Paines Plough/ Pentabus Theatre Company (UK)

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

January 26–29 | Performance Works | \$39.70

Group booking price \$26

Supported by the British Council and Arts Council England

You're six years old. Mum's in hospital. Dad says she's "done something stupid." She finds it hard to be happy. So you start to make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world.

1. Ice cream
2. Kung Fu movies
3. Burning things
4. Laughing so hard you shoot milk out your nose

A play about depression and the lengths we will go to for those we love. Based on true and untrue stories.

- This show has one person speaking to the audience in an intellectually engaging performance with limited sensory stimulation. There are no strong lighting or sound effects
- This show has audience participation



Black Arm Band (Australia)

DIRTSONG

February 4 | Queen Elizabeth Theatre| \$28 - \$50

Group booking price for Tear 1 tickets \$31

Presented with Coastal Jazz

"Those who lose dreaming are lost." That's an Aboriginal proverb that serves as a motto for Black Arm Band, Australia's spectacular performance company. With driving percussion, didgeridoo virtuosity, and some of the most soulful vocals you've ever heard, this show will bowl you over. Touring for the first time in Canada—in the 150th year

of a nation born from the displacement of its Indigenous peoples—dirtsong is more poignant than ever.

- This performances is a beautiful, engaging musical and visual experience
- Enclosed viewing spaces are available for anyone who would prefer to view the show in a more relaxed environment
- The relaxed spaces are wheelchair accessible
- For people wanting to sit in the auditorium, there are screens in the lobby to follow the show should they want to leave the auditorium but still see the rest of the show
- Please note the light and sound levels will **not** be adapted for sensory sensitivities

Accessible seating can be reserved for all performances.

This are preferably booked at least two weeks prior to the event.

Complimentary companion tickets are available through the Access2 program with the purchase of a full-price ticket.

We have great offers available for group bookings saving over 30% on full price tickets.

Prices on this document include all taxes and fees and have been rounded.

Group sales will be accepted until January 9th, full payment is due at time of booking.

Subject to availability. No refunds or exchanges.

For full details and to discuss accessibility needs or to book for groups over 20 people please contact:

Accessible PuSh Coordinator Anika Vervecken

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