

NORDIC BRIDGES 2022

Collaboration. Storytelling. Action.

***A year-long celebration throughout Canada of art, culture and ideas
from across the Nordic Region***

November 2, 2021 || Toronto, ON || Nordic Bridges, a national initiative led by Harbourfront Centre in Toronto and supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers, will connect hundreds of creators from Canada and the Nordic Region throughout 2022 in a year-long exchange of art, culture, and ideas. With key programming pillars of artistic innovation, accessibility and inclusion, Indigenous perspectives, and resilience and sustainability, Nordic Bridges aims to inspire artists and audiences from coast to coast to coast. From January to December, the initiative will spark dialogue between Canadian audiences and artists while highlighting Nordic innovation. Programming includes performing arts (dance, theatre, and music), visual and digital arts, craft and design, literature, and film. Nordic artists will collaborate with and perform alongside Canadian artists at both established and new festivals and events across the country.

Nordic Bridges also includes the new Nordic–Canadian Fellowship in Environmental Journalism for emerging writers, and a year-long series of Nordic Talks, a platform for dialogue connecting Nordic and Canadian artists, thinkers, youth leaders, innovators and policy-makers. **Visit NordicBridges.ca for more details.**

“We believe that Nordic Bridges is a way to bring people back together, not only by building bridges with our Nordic collaborators but by once again gathering to share in art, conversation and community. Aligning with Harbourfront Centre’s mandate, the majority of Nordic Bridges programs will be free to the public. These presentations and commissions across the country will generate dialogue between Canada and the Nordic Region on culture’s role in the creation and promotion of sustainable societies and increasing awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, most specifically, the environment, inclusivity, and accessibility.”

– Marah Braye, CEO, Harbourfront Centre

Nordic Bridges connects the Nordic Region – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland – and Canada. This is the largest and most ambitious of recent Nordic culture initiatives in scope: previous programs include Nordic Cool at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC (2013) and Nordic Matters at Southbank Centre in London, England (2017).

CANADIAN PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

- Alianait Arts Festival (NU)
- Art Spin (ON)
- BreakOut West (MB, AB)
- Dancers of Damelahamid / Coastal Dance Festival (BC)
- DesignTO (ON)
- FIKA(S) Festival Nordique (QC)
- Harbourfront Centre (ON)
- Hot Docs (ON)
- Inside Out and re:Naissance Opera (AB/BC)
- Mundial Montréal (QC)
- Music Publishers Canada / Éditeurs de Musique au Canada (ON)
- National Arts Centre (ON)
- Nuit Blanche Toronto (ON)
- The Power Plant (ON)
- TOHU / Montréal Complètement Cirque Festival (QC)
- Toronto International Festival of Authors (ON)
- Toronto International Film Festival (ON)
- Yukon Arts Centre (YT)

Each programming partner will host Canadian and Nordic artistic collaborators during this year-long series of Nordic spotlights. Nordic Bridges programming includes World Premieres, North American and Canadian Premieres, and dozens of innovative, multidisciplinary experiences to explore.

THE ART

Nordic Bridges programming spans the country, and details will be updated throughout 2022.

Confirmed Nordic spotlights:

- **NORDIC LIGHTS**, a free, outdoor series of light installations opens at Harbourfront Centre (Toronto) on January 20, 2022, and invites Canadians to discover the best of Nordic contemporary light art this winter. This world premiere from the team behind groundbreaking **Norwegian light festival FJORD OSLO** is a unique immersive collaboration by leading visual artists, and lighting and video designers from **Canada, Norway, Sweden, Finland**, and **Denmark**, and is co-produced by **Fjord Studio**.
- The **Toronto International Film Festival®** will celebrate the best of Nordic cinema and filmmakers in a year-long series presented by TIFF Cinematheque. The celebration launches in January 2022 with a selection of films by acclaimed **Swedish director Roy Andersson** (*A Swedish Love Story*, *Songs from the Second Floor*). **SONGS FROM THE SECOND FLOOR: THE FILMS OF ROY ANDERSSON** is the first of three series that TIFF Cinematheque will showcase in 2022, in Toronto. The retrospective will also stop at the Winnipeg Cinematheque, The Cinematheque in Vancouver and La Cinémathèque québécoise in Montreal. TIFF's year-long program will highlight filmmakers from seven Nordic countries, celebrate women in film and feature Nordic film noirs for in-cinema screenings at TIFF Bell Lightbox (Toronto). As part of

its mandate to preserve film heritage, provide critical context for film and video art, and present classic and contemporary films from around the world, audiences can also look forward to seeing works from renowned directors including **Lone Scherfig (Denmark)**, **Iram Haq (Norway)**, **Pirjo Honkasalo (Finland)**, and **Amanda Kernell (Sweden)**.

- **SHARED TERRAIN**, curated by DesignTO at the annual **DesignTO Festival** (Toronto; January 21 to March 20, 2022), is a free, group art exhibition fostering collaboration between five Canadian and five Nordic artists and designers. Working together over three months, each pair of creatives will work remotely on a collaborative piece generated through conversations. Artists include: **Wednesday Architecture (Denmark)**, **Teemu Salonen (Finland)**, **Randi Samsonsen (Faroe Islands)**, **Katarina Spik Skum (Sweden)**, **Lillian Tørlen (Norway)**, **Carissa Baktay (Iceland/Canada)**, and **Anie Toole, Boris Yu, Justine Woods, and Laura Millard** of Canada.
- The North American Premiere tour of **STORY, STORY, DIE.** from **Norway's Alan Lucien Øyen** and his company **winter guests** brings award-winning contemporary Nordic stage work to Canada. Drawing from real-life experiences, Øyen's innovative multi-disciplinary dance and theatre works have gained critical acclaim and an international following. *Story, story, die.*, Øyen's latest work for seven international dancers, uses a striking cinematic structure to dig deep into questions of self-identity and the relationship between lies and love. In February 2022, it will be presented at the **National Arts Centre** (Ottawa), with tour stops in Toronto, Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver.
- **The Dancers of Damelahamid (BC)** produce the annual **Coastal Dance Festival (CDF) in Vancouver each March**, celebrating the stories, songs and dances of the Indigenous peoples of the Northwest Coast with guest national and international artists. It is the only festival in the greater Vancouver area focused on the professional presentation of contemporary expressions of Coastal Indigenous dance. As part of Nordic Bridges and its focus on Indigenous perspectives, the festival has programmed riveting new work from **Sami** artists **Stina Lorås with Johan Sara, Sara Marielle Gaup with OZAS, and Liv Aira with Marika Renhuvud.**
- *In October 2013, Nova Scotia choral director Scott Jones was stabbed in the back and had his throat cut in a homophobic attack that left him paralyzed from the waist down. In the following days his story garnered international attention, not only for its brutality, but also for Scott's uncommonly early path to forgiveness. I FORGIVE YOU, a world premiere theatre production from Newfoundland's Artistic Fraud, will debut as part of Nordic Bridges in 2022. Based on this true story and written by Scott Jones and Robert Chafe, I Forgive You features an original score by Ingi Garðar Erlendsson of Iceland's Sigur Rós.*
** I Forgive You is being developed with the assistance of the National Arts Centre's National Creation Fund, Canada Council for the Arts, Arts NL, the City of St. John's, Nordic Bridges, and Canadian Stage.*

- Many Nordic communities recognize sign languages as a basic human right by law, a stark difference to the realities in Canada. As part of Nordic Bridges, Deaf theatre artists from **Sweden**, led by **Debbie Rennie**, will mentor the core-creative team for **CAUSTIC EFFECT**, a new opera work-in-progress by **Monique Holt** (Librettist & Director) and **Landon Krentz** (Artistic Director & Performer) in a partnership between **Inside Out Theatre (AB)** and **re:Naissance Opera (BC)**. The production explores how language is seen, heard, and understood by combining music and the movement, rhythmic structure, and meter present in Visual Gestural Communication (VGC). Early excerpts from *Caustic Effect* will be streamed in September with more details to come. This Nordic Bridges mentorship will be a combination of online sessions and an in-person series of performance masterclasses providing much-needed theatre training access to Deaf artists in Canada.
- The **Yukon Arts Centre (Whitehorse, YT)** will host the only Canadian stop for **ARCTIC HIGHWAYS**, a collaborative, Indigenous, immersive touring visual art exhibition (September to November 2022). *Arctic Highways* invites viewers to explore what it means to be unbounded, spiritually and geographically, as told through contemporary Indigenous art works. It is a borderless journey across Northern Indigenous lands, cultures, and traditions with a shared history and a common future. Curated by Sami artists, the exhibit also includes work by **Maureen Gruben**, an Inuvialuk artist based in Tuktoyaktuk, NT, **Meryl McMaster**, a Canadian artist with nêhiyaw (Plains Cree), British, and Dutch ancestry, based in Ottawa, ON, and **Sonya Kelliher-Combs**, an Alaskan artist based in Anchorage, AK of Iñupiaq and Athabascan descent. The curators and artists include **Marja Helander** and **Matti Aikio (Finland)**; **Dan Jåma**, **Gunvor Guttorm** and **Máret Anne Sara (Norway)**; and **Britta Marakatta Labba**, **Laila Susanne Kuhmunen**, **Olof Marsja**, and **Tomas Colbengtson (Sweden)**.
 * *Arctic Highways* will also show in Washington DC, New York, Minneapolis, Chicago, Seattle and Snåsa in Norway before returning to Granö, Sweden in 2025. The exhibition is produced and financed by Mötesplats Granö and its founder Jan Wejdmark.
- **NORDIC NOIR** will be a spotlight of the **Toronto International Festival of Authors' inaugural Crime & Mystery Writing Festival** (Harbourfront Centre; June 3–5 2022), and TIFA's fall festival (September 22 – October 2, 2022). Participating Nordic masters of suspense will include best-selling authors from across the region.
- Throughout 2022, artists of all genres from each Nordic Region will be presented across **Harbourfront Centre's** programming. Early announcements include a solo exhibition of artist and graphic designer **Liv Aurora Jensen alias Liss Stender (Greenland)**, and singer-songwriter **Julia Clara (Åland)** who will be part of a summer-long Nordic music spotlight at Harbourfront Centre. Partnership and performance details will be released in the coming months.

BEYOND THE ART

The Nordic–Canadian Fellowship in Environmental Journalism

(June 2021 – October 2022)

There has never been a more urgent time to document how climate change affects communities, culture, and our planet. Recognizing the need to foster and encourage young voices, Nordic Bridges has created a fulsome journalism fellowship for ages 18–25 to promote best practices and fact-based reporting.

The 18-month fellowship offers the opportunity for 16 emerging journalists (eight Nordic and eight Canadian) to conduct reporting trips and contribute to an exhibition focusing on the current climate crisis. As part of Nordic Bridges, the fellowship also includes mentorships with experienced journalists and bootcamps featuring keynote speakers and panelists from Canada and the Nordic Region.

Learn more about the Fellows and Fellowship, [here](#).

Nordic Talks

(October 2021 – December 2022)

Looking Forward, a free, monthly series of talks at **Harbourfront Centre**, is a platform for dialogue between diverse Nordic and Canadian artists, thinkers, youth leaders, innovators, and policy-makers. Panelists will examine an array of topics focusing on innovation, accessibility, environmental sustainability, and Indigenous perspectives.

Confirmed talks include:

- **The Future of the Original Idea: Artistic Innovation in 2022** (January 19, 2022)
- **The Future of Black Youth on a Global Stage** (February 9, 2022); and
- **I QUIT! The Future of Happiness at Work** (March 9, 2022).

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For more information about Nordic Bridges visit NordicBridges.ca or follow @NordicBridges & #NordicBridges on all platforms.

Enter to Win: Nordic Bridges with Inspired by Iceland North America are running a year-long contest that launches today with three chances to win trips for 2 to Iceland! The contest is open to residents across Canada, and contest details are available in English and French. Learn more [here](#).

About Nordic Bridges

A year-long national initiative led by Harbourfront Centre in Toronto, Nordic Bridges fosters cultural exchange between the Nordic Region and Canada and is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Working with partners across Canada, Nordic Bridges will present contemporary art, culture and ideas throughout 2022. NordicBridges.ca.

About Harbourfront Centre

Harbourfront Centre is a leading international centre for contemporary arts and culture operating a 10-acre campus on Toronto's central waterfront. Harbourfront Centre provides year-round programming 52 weeks a year, seven days a week, supporting a wide range of artists and communities. We inspire audiences and visitors with a breadth of bold, ambitious and engaging experiences. We champion contemporary Canadian artists throughout their careers, presenting them alongside international artists, and fostering national and international artistic exchange between disciplines and cultures. We are a registered, charitable not-for-profit cultural organization.

About the Nordic Council of Ministers

The Nordic Council of Ministers is the official body for inter-governmental co-operation in the Nordic Region, including Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland. Their vision is to make the Nordic area the most sustainable and integrated region in the world by 2030. Joint Nordic Cultural Initiatives outside the Nordic region are initiated by the Nordic Council of Ministers for Culture and intended to strengthen the interaction between the Nordic cultural sectors and the rest of the world, while also raising the profile of the Nordic culture sectors abroad and generating added value for the participants and artists.

Nordic Bridges Supporters

Nordic Bridges is presented in partnership with The Nordic Council of Ministers.

Government Partners: Nordic Embassies in Ottawa, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund

Program Partners: The Nordic Culture Fund, Danish Arts Foundation, TAIKE: Arts Promotion Centre Finland, Nordic Culture Point

Official Transportation Partner: Icelandair

Official Media Partner: NEXT Magazine

Official Customs and Logistics Partner: Fisker Customs and Logistics

Official Contest Partner: Inspired by Iceland

Harbourfront Centre Programming Partners

Government of Canada, Government of Ontario, Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, City of Toronto, and the Waterfront Business Improvement Area

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Images, video clips, assets in French, and more information:

<https://nordicbridges.ca/media/>

Katie Saunoris (she/her)

National Communications Manager, Nordic Bridges

ksaunoris@harbourfrontcentre.com