

**NATIONAL PROGRAMMING UPDATE: NORDIC BRIDGES 2022**  
***A celebration of Nordic visual art, dance, theatre, film and more!***

**April 4, 2022 | Toronto, ON | Nordic Bridges, a year-long exchange of art, culture and ideas between Nordic and Canadian artists led by Harbourfront Centre and supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers, continues this spring with premieres and events across the country.**

**Nordic Spotlights across Canada in April, May and June include:**

- Deaf rapper **Signmark** (Finland), and artists **Gudrun Hasle** (Denmark), **Erla Björk Sigmundsdóttir** (Iceland) and **Jenni-Juulia Wallinheimo-Heimonen** (Finland) at **Harbourfront Centre's CoMotion Festival**, one of the largest Deaf and disability arts festivals in Canada.
- The 15<sup>th</sup> annual **Coastal Dance Festival** presented by Dancers of Damelahamid (BC), with premiere work from Indigenous Sámi artists **Liv Aira**, **Marika Renhuvud**, **Sara Marielle Gaup**, and **Camilla Therese Karlsen**.
- The North American premiere tours of dance work *The Days* (Finland) by **Maria Nurmela** and **Ville Oinonen** presented by **BC Movement Arts** with **The Dance Centre** and *Story, story, die.* from **Alan Lucien Øyten** and his company **winter guests** (Norway).
- Theatre from **Teatret Gruppe 38** (Denmark), **Kitt Johnson X-act** (Denmark) and **The National Theatre of Greenland** at **Harbourfront Centre's JUNIOR festival**.
- Feature films presented by the **Toronto International Film Festival** including work by **Lone Scherfig** (Denmark), **Amanda Kernell** (Sweden), **Iram Haq** (Norway), **Pirjo Honkasalo** (Finland), **Katrin Ottarsdóttir** (Faroe Islands) and 22 documentaries by Nordic filmmakers at this year's **Hot Docs Festival**.
- Musical acts including **Jenseeraq X Uummatit**, **ISÁK**, and **Sara Ajnnak**, and performances of *Those Who Run in the Sky* (The National Theatre of Greenland) at Iqaluit's annual **Alianait Arts Festival**.
- Monthly **Nordic Talks**, presented free at Harbourfront Centre, and much more.

See full programming details, below.

Nordic Bridges launched in January with celebrated outdoor light art exhibition *Nordic Lights* at Harbourfront Centre, DesignTO's collaborative visual art exhibition *Shared Terrain*, TIFF's national tour of films by Swedish auteur Roy Andersson and through the support of BreakOut West in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The key programming pillars of Nordic Bridges are artistic innovation, accessibility and inclusion, Indigenous perspectives, resilience and sustainability. Nordic Bridges connects the Nordic Region – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland – with Canada.

Visit [nordicbridges.ca](http://nordicbridges.ca) for more details.

## SPRING PROGRAMMING: NORDIC BRIDGES

**Design Matters | Harbourfront Centre (Toronto, ON) | FREE**

**Until April 10 | [nordicbridges.ca/event/design-matters](http://nordicbridges.ca/event/design-matters)**

*Design Matters* presents objects and methods of design and fabrication that soon may become part of our everyday lives. Invited designers **Caracara: Aleksi Vesaluoma and Aleksi Puustinen** (Helsinki-based), **Jenny Nordberg** (Sweden), **Jesper Eriksson** (Sweden) and **COMPANY: Aamu Song and Johan Olin** (Finland) showcase works that allow for reflection over the true meaning of functionality, durability and beauty. Curated by **Anders Jansson**. Presented in partnership with BILDMUSEET/UMEÅ UNIVERSITE.

***A Home of One's Own: Nordic Women Filmmakers* | Toronto International Film Festival (Toronto, ON)**

**Until April 16 | [nordicbridges.ca/event/nordic-women-filmmakers/](http://nordicbridges.ca/event/nordic-women-filmmakers/)**

TIFF's spotlight on Nordic women filmmakers includes 14 titles from key filmmakers who emerged around the turn of the century — **Lone Scherfig** (Denmark), **Amanda Kernell** (Sweden), **Iram Haq** (Norway) and veterans **Pirjo Honkasalo** (Finland) and **Mai Zetterling** (Sweden). The series also includes **Svala Hannesdóttir's Greed** (1952), the first Icelandic narrative film directed by a woman, and *The Man Who Was Allowed to Leave* (1995), the fractured folktale by the Faroe Islands' **Katrin Ottarsdóttir**, who has almost single-handedly established Faroese cinema.

**Dancers of Damelhamid | Coastal Dance Festival (BC)**

**April 20–24 | [damelahamid.ca](http://damelahamid.ca)**

As part of Nordic Bridges, Coastal Dance Festival will premiere works by four Indigenous Sámi artists from Norway and Sweden. An evening dedicated to contemporary Indigenous dance – a festival first – will feature a duet from Swedish Sámi contemporary dancers **Liv Aira**, artistic director of the Sámi-based Invisible People Contemporary Dance and **Marika Renhuvud**, a dance educator and member of Aira's dance company. The festival will also present several traditional Indigenous artists, including Norway's Sámi singer and activist **Sara Marielle Gaup**.

**CoMotion Festival | Harbourfront Centre (Toronto, ON)**

**April 20 – May 1 | [harbourfrontcentre.com/series/comotion](http://harbourfrontcentre.com/series/comotion)**

CoMotion, Harbourfront Centre's new international Deaf and disability arts festival curated by award-winning Blind writer, director, actor and dramaturge Alex Bulmer, celebrates art informed and shaped by the lived experience of disability or Deaf culture, with an international perspective from this global community of artists in a multidisciplinary program including visual arts, music, performances, digital art, workshops and panel discussions. **Nordic Spotlights at CoMotion include:** a live performance by Deaf rapper **Signmark** (Finland); two exhibition premieres from Denmark's **Gudrun Hasle** and Iceland's **Erla Björk Sigmundsdóttir**, commissioned by Harbourfront Centre and the inauguration of Harbourfront Centre's first International Visual Artist-in-Residence: Finland's **Jenni-Juulia Wallinheimo-Heimonen**, whose family-oriented, drop-in workshop *Ramp is a Red Carpet* will have participants working with reclaimed textiles to create a giant carpet.

**Nordic Films | Hot Docs Festival (Toronto, ON)**

**April 28 – May 8 | [hotdocs.ca](https://hotdocs.ca)**

World premieres and North American premieres are included in the 22 documentaries from Nordic creatives appearing at this year's Hot Docs Festival. The 2022 Hot Docs Festival will screen films in cinemas across Toronto in accordance with public safety protocols, and offer a selection of festival films online to audiences across Canada. Nordic films will screen across numerous festival programs, including Special Presentations, which will feature *Calendar Girls* (Sweden) directed by **Maria Loo** and *A House Made of Splinters* (Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Ukraine) directed by **Simon Lereng Wilmont**.

**Sasha Huber: YOU NAME IT | Shona Illingworth: Topologies of Air**

**The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery (Toronto, ON) | FREE**

**Until May 1 | [thepowerplant.org](https://thepowerplant.org)**

Swiss-Haitian-Finnish artist **Sasha Huber** uses performance, photography, film and other media to investigate colonial residues left in the environment. Huber's first solo show in North America features over a decade's worth of work prompted by the cultural and political activist campaign "Demounting Louis Agassiz," which seeks to redress the racist legacy of the Swiss-born naturalist and glaciologist Louis Agassiz (1807–1873).

In her first major solo exhibition in Canada, **Shona Illingworth** (Denmark) presents works that explore how space is occupied today. She probes how current modes of governance, surveillance and weaponization are invading our interior worlds and transcending the borders of nation-states to create new frameworks of dominance and colonization. *Topologies of Air*, a video installation, is expanded for its Toronto debut, surveying how humans have radically transformed the sky since the advent of modernity, turning it into a complex and multilayered space.

**JUNIOR | Harbourfront Centre (Toronto, ON)**

**May 21–23 | [harbourfrontcentre.com/series/junior/](https://harbourfrontcentre.com/series/junior/)**

JUNIOR, Toronto's international children's festival, is Harbourfront Centre's multidisciplinary festival for children ages 4–14. Through theatre, dance, music and art, JUNIOR explores what it means to be connected to each other and the community around us – at a time when personal connection has never seemed more important.

**Nordic Spotlights at JUNIOR include: Teatret Gruppe 38** (Denmark) with *A Story of a House That Turned into a Dot*; *Spoiiiiiiiiing*, a magical performance for children and their adults from **Kitt Johnson X-act** (Denmark) and performances of *Those Who Run in the Sky* from **The National Theatre of Greenland**.

**MOTIVE Crime & Mystery Festival | Toronto International Festival of Authors (Toronto, ON)**

**June 3–5 | [festivalofauthors.ca](http://festivalofauthors.ca)**

NORDIC NOIR will be a spotlight of the Toronto International Festival of Authors' inaugural crime and mystery writing festival, MOTIVE, presented at Harbourfront Centre this June. Nordic masters of suspense will be among the lineup of internationally bestselling authors taking part in interviews, musical performances, book signings and more, both in person and digitally. Look for TIFA's program announcement on April 26.

***Story, story, die.***

**National Arts Centre (Ottawa, ON): June 7–8**

**DanceHouse (Vancouver, BC): June 22–23**

**Harbourfront Centre | Part of TORQUE (Toronto, ON): June 28–29**

**[nordicbridges.ca/event/story-story-die-hc](http://nordicbridges.ca/event/story-story-die-hc)**

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 this June. Drawing from real-life experiences, Øyen's innovative multidisciplinary 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.

***The Days* | Presented by BC Movement Arts**

Sointula, BC | June 14–16

Alert Bay, BC | June 18–19

Port McNeill, BC | June 21

**[bcmovementarts.com](http://bcmovementarts.com)**

Vancouver, BC | June 24–25, **Presented by The Dance Centre in partnership with BC Movement Arts**  
**[thedancecentre.ca](http://thedancecentre.ca)**

Based in Sointula on Malcolm Island, British Columbia, the BC Movement Arts Society (BCMAS) brings rural and urban together by presenting professional local, national and international contemporary dance performances. Residencies and outreach activities work in tandem with the dance artists to enhance community and artist engagement in culturally underserved areas of British Columbia. Supported in part by Nordic Bridges, BCMAS will present the North American premiere tour of contemporary dance work *The Days* (Finland). *The Days* invites the audience to share an encounter with exceptional Finnish dancers **Maria Nurmela** and **Ville Oinonen** in a world of ever-shifting negotiations, complex feelings and comic disconnection, constructed from a singular physical concept that is sustained throughout the work.

## **Alianait Arts Festival (Iqaluit, NU)**

**June 30 – July 3 | [alianait.ca](http://alianait.ca)**

Known as the world's circumpolar stage, the Alianait Arts Festival spotlight Inuit and other circumpolar and Indigenous artists while bringing together exciting world-class musicians, circus acrobats, dancers, storytellers, actors, filmmakers and visual artists from across the globe. This year's lineup includes musical performances by **Jenseeraq X Uummatit**, and **Ivaana**, a hip hop collaboration between artists **ISÁK, Sara Ajnnak, Uyaraq, Andachan, Da Bartali Crew**, and **Kimmernaq**, and performances of *Those Who Run in the Sky* from **The National Theatre of Greenland**.

## **Nordic Talks**

**Harbourfront Centre (Toronto, ON) | [nordicbridges.ca](http://nordicbridges.ca) | FREE**

This free, monthly series (presented live with an audience and recorded for online viewing) provides a platform for dialogue between diverse Nordic and Canadian artists, thinkers, youth leaders, innovators and policymakers. Panelists examine various topics focusing on innovation, accessibility, environmental sustainability and Indigenous perspectives.

Upcoming talks include:

### **THE FUTURE ISN'T SOON ENOUGH: DISABILITY IS DIVERSITY**

Live, in-person event: April 27 | Online release: May 19

Part of CoMotion, International Deaf and Disability Arts Festival.

Featuring panelists **Jenni-Juulia Wallinheimo-Heimonen** (Finland), **Landon Krentz** (Canada) and **Sean Lee** (China/Canada), moderated by **Jess Watkin** (Canada).

### **THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET: BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AS AN ACT OF RECONCILIATION**

Live, in-person event: May 25 | Online release: June 16

### **THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE GASTRONOMY**

**Live, in-person event: June 22 | Online release: to be announced**

Featuring panelist Chef **Viktor Eriksson** (Åland). Other participants to be announced.

## **BEYOND THE ART**

### **The Nordic–Canadian Fellowship in Environmental Journalism**

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 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](#).

## **Arctic Arts Summit (Whitehorse, YT)**

**June 27–29 | [arcticartssummit.ca](http://arcticartssummit.ca)**

The Arctic Arts Summit brings together Arctic countries and the Indigenous Nations of the circumpolar region to strengthen arts and culture, develop circumpolar ties and promote sustainable collaboration. The 2022 Summit will be co-hosted in Canada by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Government of Yukon, collaborating with partners in Canada and across the circumpolar North. The Arctic Arts Summit includes six months of digital programming leading up to the event, and available at [arcticartssummit.ca](http://arcticartssummit.ca).

**For more information about Nordic Bridges visit [NordicBridges.ca](http://NordicBridges.ca) or follow @NordicBridges and #NordicBridges on all platforms.**

**Enter to Win:** Nordic Bridges with Inspired by Iceland North America are running a year-long contest offering trips for two 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 | [nordicbridges.ca](http://nordicbridges.ca)**

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 supports the presentation of contemporary art, culture and ideas throughout 2022.

## **Nordic Bridges Programming Partners**

Alianait Arts Festival | Art Spin | Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland | BC Movement Arts Society and The Dance Centre | BreakOut West | Dancers of Damelahamid/Coastal Dance Festival | DesignTO | FIKA(S) Festival | Harbourfront Centre | Hot Docs | Inside Out Theatre and re:Naissance Opera | Mundial Montréal | Music Publishers Canada | National Arts Centre | Nuit Blanche Toronto | The Power Plant | TOHU / Montréal Complètement Cirque Festival | Toronto International Festival of Authors | Toronto International Film Festival | Yukon Arts Centre

## **About Harbourfront Centre | [harbourfrontcentre.com](http://harbourfrontcentre.com)**

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 | [norden.org](http://norden.org)**

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

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, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, City of Toronto

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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](mailto:ksaunoris@harbourfrontcentre.com)