

2023

PERFORMANCE AND XR

XRTIST LINK-UP

PRESENTED BY

Single Thread Theatre Company
Electric Company Theatre

ABOUT THE XRTIST LINK-UP

The XRtist Link-Up program brings together performing arts students and game design students across Canada and challenges them to create a short virtual reality experience envisioned and directed by Northern high school students from Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation in the Yukon.

Each student attends the week-long PXR conference, experiences curated workshops with industry professionals, and showcases their creations on the final day of the conference.

The goal of this program is to build a community and network of young artists who have the tools to create in virtual reality, augmented reality and mixed reality, and to build digital infrastructure and digital literacy in remote northern communities.

2021 Participating Institutions:

George Brown College
Langara Centre for Entertainment Arts
Lethbridge College
York University
Yukon University
University of Victoria
Queen's University

The 2023 Link-Up includes:

- Free admission to all PXR events, including presentations by some of the most sought-after thinkers in XR
- A guided grouping session at which designer, performer, and Creative Lab student are introduced, and provided a framework for creating lasting collaborations beyond PXR 2021
- Two one-on-one mentoring sessions with XR creation facilitators, offering expertise in world design, XR storytelling, avatar embodiment, and digital dramaturgy
- A challenge for each group to build their own short Virtual Reality experience using a VR sandbox created by Single Thread, Electric Company and ToasterLab
- A showcase of each project, where each group will have an opportunity to represent their schools, share their creations, and network with industry professionals
- A VR student lounge where students can network and exchange knowledge and experiences with their peers from other institutions.

Program Cost:

The cost for admission, curated Q&As, individual mentorship, exclusive world access and builds, and the student showcase is \$500/student, to be paid by the participating institution.





PERFORMANCE AND XR

THE CONFERENCE

PXR started as a grand idea to gather artists and technologists in virtual reality to talk about digital art making and innovating through content. It would become the first and only VR conference on digital, mixed reality performance creation in Canada. Since 2020, Over four hundred artists, academics, influencers, producers and technologists, from diverse backgrounds spanning the country and the globe, have gathered together at PXR in the virtual reality platform AltspaceVR.

Single Thread Theatre Company and Electric Company Theatre initially brought together eight theatre companies, four tech firms, and over 30 speakers and presenters from seven provinces, four countries, two states and two territories to present PXR2020. Presenters included Oculus Executive Producer Yelena Rachitsky, Mammalian Diving Reflex's Darren O'Donnell, interdisciplinary Indigenous artist Casey Koyczan, Samuel Tétreault of Les 7 Doigts Circus & Athomas Goldberg of Shocap, Debi Wong from re:Naissance Opera, Dan Miller from Unity, Tyler McCulloch from Archiact, Catherine Bourgeois of Joe, Jack et John, Beth Kates of Playground Studios and Ian Garrett of Toasterlab.

Now in its fourth year, The PXR2023 Conference will expand on this successful foundation, prioritizing interactive, experiential presentations which innovate across the broad scope of mixed reality, building on the strengths of gathering in VR and designing spaces and experiences which optimize the content and the medium.



CHI OF PAYNE

PAST PRESENTERS



KENT BYE
PODCASTER &
EXPERIENTIAL JOURNALIST

Since May 2014, **Kent Bye** has conducted over 1200 Voices of VR podcast interviews featuring the pioneering artists, storytellers, and technologists driving the resurgence of virtual & augmented reality. He's a philosopher, oral historian, & experiential journalist helping to define the patterns of immersive storytelling, experiential design, & the ultimate potential of XR.

Yelena Rachitsky is an Executive Producer of Experiences at Oculus, overseeing dozens of groundbreaking, narrative-driven VR projects that range from Pixar's first VR project to original independent work. Prior to Oculus, she was the Creative Producer at Future of Storytelling (FoST), which aims to change how people communicate and tell stories in the digital age. Yelena also helped program for the Sundance Film Festival and Institute's New Frontier program and spent four years in the documentary division at Participant Media, working on films like Food Inc. and Waiting for Superman. She's passionate about big creative ideas that will make technology meaningful.



YELENA RACHITSKY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER,
OCULUS EXPERIENCE



NYLA INNUKSUK
FILM DIRECTOR, WRITER
& PRODUCER

Inuk artist **Nyla Innuksuk** makes films, media art and VR content. Her short film Kajutaijuq premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and was featured in TIFF's 2014 Canada's Top Ten Festival. A graduate of Ryerson University, she has made two films for the NFB's Stories from Our Land series: Inngirutu: The Thing That Sings! (2012), featuring accordionist Simeonie Keenainak, and Finding Home (2013). In 2017, Nyla started NKSK, her own VR production company, and became the first artist to be awarded the imagineNATIVE Indigenous VR/AR Residency, where she worked with A Tribe Called Red on their Indian City 360 VR experience as part of the Canada 150 SESQUI project.

PAST PRESENTERS

Jordan Tannahill is a Canadian novelist, playwright, and director of film and theatre. He has been described as being 'widely celebrated as one of Canada's most accomplished young playwrights, filmmakers and all-round multidisciplinary artists' (Toronto Star); 'one of Canada's most extraordinary artists' (CBC Arts); 'the enfant terrible of Canadian theatre' (Libération); and 'the hottest name in Canadian theatre' (Montreal Gazette).

As a filmmaker, Jordan's work has been presented in festivals and galleries the world over. His virtual reality performance Draw Me Close, produced by the National Theatre (UK) and the National Film Board of Canada, was presented at the Tribeca Film Festival and Venice Biennale in 2017, and ran at London's Young Vic Theatre in January 2019.



JORDAN TANNAHILL
NOVELIST, PLAYWRIGHT,
& DIRECTOR



DEBI WONG
CREATIVE DIRECTOR,
STORY, ORPHEUS

Debi is an interdisciplinary performance artist that loves to weave together sound, text, movement and technology to create contemporary stories. Her performances have been recognized as "unique and magical" (Rondo Classic) and "electric & poignant" (Schmopera). Debi is also the founding artistic director of re:Naissance Opera in Vancouver, BC. With re:Naissance she created #DidoAndAeneas (2014), an interactive, social-media opera and Acis & Galatea which was recognized by Vancouver Classical Music as one of the city's best operas in 2017.

www.reopera.com

Casey Koyczan is a Tlicho Dene interdisciplinary artist from Yellowknife, NT, that works with various mediums to communicate how culture and technology coincide together alongside the political, economic, and environmental challenges that we are presented with. A portion of his large scale installation work utilizes earth materials to evoke the idea of nature reclaiming architectural space; returning to its original place of being. Inspired by sci-fi and Indigenous Futurisms, Koyczan implements various techniques of interactivity, audio-video, and the engagement of the bodily senses to raise awareness about a variety of topics within his creations.

www.caseykoyczan.com



CASEY KOYCZAN
INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTIST
YELLOWKNIFE, NT

You can also follow Casey on Instagram at @caseykoyczanart



THE COMPANIES



SINGLE THREAD THEATRE COMPANY

Single Thread Theatre Company exists to create live theatrical immersive experiences. Since forming in 2003, the company has collaborated with over seven hundred artists to produce thirty-four productions for audiences across the globe, and has played a role in shaping enthusiasm and best practices for site-specific and immersive theatre in Canada and beyond.

Single Thread has collaborated with some of Canada's best theatre creators in creating site-specific work, including Judith Thompson, Waawaate Fobister, Kat Sandler, Adam Lazarus, Viktor Lukawski, Dave Carley and Antony MacMahon. The company frequently works with organizations as a content programmer for selected spaces. Recent partnerships have included Punchdrunk, Volcano Theatre, Outside the March, Parks Canada, Art Gallery of Ontario and Mackenzie House. In 2018, the company presented 'Ambrose' in Bangkok, Thailand as part of the Bangkok International Theatre Festival for which the company received the distinction of "Best International Artist".

Looking forward, Single Thread is developing immersive storytelling techniques as a teaching tool in Canadian schools through the Single Thread Education program. The company is also exploring the emerging medium of XR (augmented, virtual and mixed reality) as a means of telling stories to a broader audience through Single Thread XR.

ELECTRIC COMPANY THEATRE



Electric Company Theatre (ECT) is one of Canada's leading creators of world class live theatre, known for large-scale, innovative work integrating media and technologies in aesthetically fresh and unique productions. We create rich, detailed works, challenging convention and form while preserving a strong sense of story.

Electric Company Theatre is a registered Canadian charity dedicated to making art and supporting new creation. The company was formed in 1996, and is the artistic home of four senior Canadian theatre artists in Vancouver: best-selling author and playwright Carmen Aguirre, Siminovitch Prize winning director Kim Collier, Governor-General's Award winning playwright Kevin Kerr, and Olivier Award winning playwright Jonathon Young. ECT shows often tours nationally and internationally, and has been featured at the Edinburgh International Festival, Luminato, PuSh International Festival, Canada's National Arts Centre, On the Boards, Under the Radar (NYC), American Conservatory Theatre, and the Festival Trans-Amerique to name a few.

Over its 24-year history, Electric Company has created more than 28 original works, ranging from site-specific performance art and installation, to large scale hybrid theatre plays, to VR and cinema films, and more. Past works include: Betroffenheit, Anywhere But Here, Tear the Curtain!, The Full Light of Day, No Exit, Studies in Motion: the Hauntings of Eadweard Muybridge, Brilliant!, the feature film The Score, Lisa Jackson's multi-media installation Transmissions, and recently, the 2020 viral filmed performance Reframed, and The Magic Hour, a site-specific solo immersive experience.

CONFERENCE STAFF

Liam Karry, Executive Producer

Amanda Lin, Producer

Samantha Vu, Producer

Justine Katerenchuk, Events and Operations Manager

Debbie Deer, Fellowship Director

Nicole Eun-Ju Bell, Venue Producer

Myles Steel, Technical Director and World Builder

Cole Paskuski, Associate World Builder

Allie Wood, Public Relations Manager

Jasmine Noseworthy Persaud, Communications Manager (Summer)

Carla Ritchie, Managing Director ECT

Natalie LeFebvre Gnam, Managing Producer ECT

Valeria Ascolese, Communications & Marketing Coordinator ECT

Viplov Singh, Graphic Designer and Illustrator

Ruslan Makarov, 3D modeler

Baris Ozguz, 3D modeler

Paolou Emura, 3D modeler

CONTACT INFORMATION

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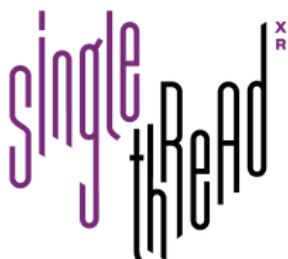
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ELECTRIC
COMPANY
THEATRE