

THE **UNITER**

FREE WEEKLY.
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9TH ANNUAL

SUMMER FESTIVAL GUIDE

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Cheers to a Delicious Summer!



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Across the Nation Celebration

June 8 feat. Land of Rice & Honey Saison

Bike Week Winnipeg

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June 15 - 25

Interstellar Rodeo

August 18 - 20 feat. Interstellar Wheat

ODDblock Comedy Festival

August 24 - 27

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Sun 11 am - 6 pm Winnipeg, MB

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@HalfPintsBrewCo



@HalfPintsBrewing



* ON THE COVER

Kathleen Bergen illustrates some of the highlights of our summer festivals.



CAMPING



OUTDOORS

INDOORS



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SUBMISSIONS

Submissions of articles, letters, graphics and photos are encouraged, however all new contributors (with the exception of letters to the editor) must attend a 45-minute volunteer orientation workshop to ensure that the volunteer understands all of the publication's basic guidelines. Volunteer workshops take place Wednesdays from 12:30 to 1:20 in room ORM14. Please email volunteer@uniter.ca for more details. Deadline for advertisements is noon Friday, six days prior to publication. The Uniter reserves the right to refuse to print material submitted by volunteers. The Uniter will not print submissions that are homophobic, misogynistic, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.

DISCOVER SUMMER

When it comes to summer festivals, we have an abundance of choice here in Manitoba. There are festivals for fishing, for homesteading, for chamber music, for film, for beer, for cheese, for ribs, and the list could go on. Music festivals range in scale from small, home-grown affairs to larger events with international headliners.

In this issue, our goal is to introduce you to at least one new festival that you haven't heard of before. And in making this issue, we were definitely introduced to a few that were new to us, too.

While it would be awesome to preview them all, well, that would make for a very, very long issue of *The Uniter*. We tried to highlight a few that we haven't featured before, and also those that our contributors were interested in learning more about.

There's a mix of events happening in Winnipeg and around Manitoba, through other towns, cities and rural areas. Some have cost associated with them, but there's a great deal of free fun to be had as well. And at each festival, there's often so much more to discover than the initial title may suggest.

Our pull-out listings section on pages 12-13 was made to be a handy reference for those times when you might wonder what's going on - perhaps someone new to the area is looking for recommendations, or you're looking to expand your horizons a bit.

Beyond our festival listings, be sure to check out uniter.ca/listings for more small local events happening around Winnipeg and Manitoba throughout the summer. Hopefully through this issue and through uniter.ca, we can help you discover something new this summer.

- Anastasia Chipelski

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Manitoba **SUMMER FAIR**

JUNE 7 - 11

Brandon, Manitoba
Keystone Centre

RCMP MUSICAL RIDE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7 & THURSDAY, JUNE 8

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OPEN LIGHT & HEAVY HORSE SHOW
APHC & APHCC SANCTIONED SHOW
YOUTH CATTLE SHOW

BEER GARDEN STAGE

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THE ROAD HAMMERS – SATURDAY, JUNE 10

MANITOBA SUMMERFAIR.COM



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TEULON, MB // JUNE 24 // [@DIYFEST](http://HOMESTEADERFEST.CA)

DIY
HOMESTEADER
Festival
HOMESTEADERFEST.CA
@DIYFEST
June 24
TEULON, MB

OVER 20
HIGH CALIBRE
WORKSHOPS

AND

LOCAL
LUNCH, MUSIC
& MARKETPLACE



AGASSIZ CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Something different for music lovers

CHARMAGNE DE VEER

 @CHARDEVVEER

When people think music festivals, it's usually folk, country or rock that come to mind. But what about a chamber music festival?

The Agassiz Chamber Music Festival aims to introduce (or re-introduce) music lovers to this art form that involves only four instruments – a grouping originally designed to fit into a palace chamber or large room.

"In many ways, chamber music is a very intimate experience. It's not like sitting in the Concert Hall with 2,000 others listening to the WSO. Eckhardt-Gramatté (Hall) seats around 200, and the audience truly has the feeling of experiencing the music in a chamber – a salon," Reid Harrison, the general manager of the festival, says.

But Agassiz goes further in differentiating the chamber music experience by bringing together artists from around the world with local musicians to create one-of-a-kind performances.

The festival will "create ensembles for one occasion only," Harrison says. "Each concert during the festival will have different combinations of musicians playing together, usually for the first time and very often for the last time."

The 2017 festival features 13 artists from Canada, the United States, the U.K. and local Manitoba musicians.

A unique event this year is called The Listening Booth, where cellist Leanne Zacharias performs for one audience member only.

"(It's) another way of exploring the idea of a recital. In this case, reducing the performance space and making it the ultimate intimate performance experience," Harrison says.

The Agassiz Chamber Music Festival is also extending its reach by offering those under 29 a special reduced rate of \$29 for the week.

"That gives the potential for a lot of music played by world-class artists for a small cost," Harrison says.



Michael Kim (piano), Axel Strauss (violin)

PHOTO BY MARK RASH

BLUE HILLS FIBRE FESTIVAL

Exploring the fibre arts through workshops and demonstrations

RACHEL BARBER

 @RACHELBAEB

The Blue Hills Fibre Festival is an essential experience for all knitting, spinning and crafting enthusiasts.

Closely following the shearing and lambing season, the festival brings together artisans and farmers from all over Manitoba to celebrate the fibre arts. This includes incorporating a diverse range of locally-grown fibre products and educating the public on every step of the process from preparing raw fibres (wool, alpaca, etc.) to knitting and felting.

Held at the Carberry Community Memorial Hall on June 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Blue Hills Fibre Festival will feature 19 vendors, selling everything from yarn, raw

wool, mohair and alpaca to knitting supplies and handmade bags.

"If you are into fibre arts, you can find anything you need here," festival coordinator Gail Kasprick says.

There will also be a handful of workshops on topics such as knitting, spindling, needle-felting and drum carding, in addition to a fleece preparation demonstration and a fleece show and auction.

Attendees can also participate in a spinning circle.

"People bring their spinning wheels, and we all sit around and spin and talk," Kasprick says.

"We always have a few extra wheels set up, so if anyone wants to take a crack at it, they can try it out for themselves."

Kasprick says that in previous years, there has been a diverse turnout.

"You'd think that it would be all middle-aged women, but it's not," Kasprick says. "There are a lot of young people who have picked up fibre arts."

Festival admission is free, but there is a registration fee for the workshops. As space is limited and workshops often sell out, Kasprick recommends signing up for sessions in advance through the Blue Hills Fibre Festival website.



Fibre arts vendors at a previous festival

SUPPLIED PHOTO

DIY HOMESTEADER FESTIVAL

Hone your skills and collect new ones

CHARLOTTE MORIN

 @CHRLSMORIN

The DIY Homesteader Festival puts an emphasis on taking a day off to learn do-it-yourself (DIY) skills in nature and encourages attendees to bring their new knowledge and experiences home.

"I think it really just boils down to having the time," festival co-founder Kris Antonius says. She says everyone is so busy nowadays that time has become a sort of currency. People choose to save time by purchasing products they could make themselves.

The festival, taking place June 24 in Teulon, hosts an array of skill-honing workshops. These include techniques that were essential 100 years ago, such as home butchery and spinning, but cater as well to

the tastes of the modern homesteader with courses in composting toilets, beekeeping and earth-friendly stoves.

The festival also recognizes Indigenous homesteading techniques with workshops in medicinal herb gardens and Indigenous crops. These workshops are important, since they showcase skills particular to Manitoban plants and climate, Antonius says.

The festival is also an opportunity for networking. Antonius says people tell her over and over how deeply inspired they are after meeting others who are on similar paths.

Where those adopting homesteading skills in modern day might feel alone in their communities, Antonius says the festival is a community in itself.

She says DIY can feel intimidating, in that people feel a pressure to get it right the first time.

"When you talk to a farmer about their products, they will tell you about the ways in which they have failed and had to try again," Antonius says.

It's an experience she says will help attendees relate to the farmer, and in turn, connect farm to home.



A blacksmithing demo

PHOTO BY JANINE KROPLA AND JOSH DOOKIE

WHEN
June 9 to 16

WHERE
Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, University of Winnipeg

\$\$\$
\$29 to \$105 for festival passes, free to \$30 for individual performances

DON'T MISS
The Listening Booth, 20-minute cello performances for one audience member at a time

WEBSITE
agassizfestival.com



WHEN
June 10

WHERE
Carberry Community Memorial Hall (Carberry, Man.)

\$\$\$
Admission is free, workshops vary \$0-20

DON'T MISS
The chance to try your hand at spinning on a wheel

WEBSITE
bluehillsfibrefestival.wordpress.com



WHEN
June 24

WHERE
Teulon, Man.

\$\$\$
\$87 until June 17; \$97 after (subject to availability)

DON'T MISS
Musical performances by Matt Moskal, Kayla Luky + Ian MacIntosh and Carly Dow

WEBSITE
homesteaderfest.ca



STARTING YOUR OWN DIY FESTIVAL

Advice from local festival organizers

JENNA ANDERSON

VOLUNTEER STAFF  @REALLYJENNA

So you've been around the block with festivals (and the block in this case means the campground, field, parking lot or wherever else a festival can be held). You've hosted a successful potluck or maybe a gift exchange. You have some unique ideas. But do you have what it takes to run your own festival?

"It can be very time-consuming and stress-inducing in the best kind of way," Adam Soloway of Real Love Summer Fest says.

Starting a DIY festival means having to do everything yourself – from mowing the grass in the field and putting up tents

to building stages and booking talent, Soloway says.

"You really have to plan out every step of the festival," Jamil Mahmood agrees. "Imagine you are a festival-goer and walk through from the time they arrive."

Mahmood, board chair and a founding member of Rainbow Trout Music Festival (RTMF), says organizers work most of the year to plan each upcoming festival. This includes arranging parking, ticketing and amenities – and that's just logistics. There's also the overall experience to consider.

"I think above all, a music festival should produce a feeling of community," Max Porozny says. "Music is what brings people together, but the relationships and bonds that people build with friends and strangers is what makes festivals so amazing."

Porozny, who's been attending local and international festivals for more than 10 years, thinks people love festivals for more than just the music.

"(Festivals) provide a sense of togetherness that I think is lost in our daily experiences," he says.

"People in Manitoba want to have a great time," Mahmood says. "We love our music and want to be outside enjoying it. You add a bunch of people, great food ... and you pretty much have summer goals for all Manitobans in one place."

When asked how to create a hit festival, Soloway says "I think the ones that are successful have unique aspects to them."

He refers to RTMF's local indie lineups (and, of course, its flowing river), Shine On's improv and pig roast and Real Love's quality headliners and touring bands as examples.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Festival-goers dance at Real Love Summer Fest.

One key aspect of outdoor events is, of course, the weather. Both Real Love Summer Fest and RTMF have dealt with major weather issues. Real Love is moving to a new site for this year's festival, while RTMF had to come up with an alternative parking solution on the fly in 2016 when their initial lot was completely flooded.

Flexibility is a key factor in surviving such events with a stronger plan for the next festival year.

And lastly?

Mahmood's advice: "Talk to other festivals, volunteer at every festival you can to learn, experience and be a part of them and don't be afraid to ask for help."

"Take risks," Soloway says. "You are an experience-maker and have the opportunity to provide hundreds of people with a weekend they won't forget. Do crazy things, and the rest will fall into place."

"Also, make sure you get enough Porta Potties," he adds.

Canada

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WINNIPEG FOLK FESTIVAL

Finding a place in the community

CHARLOTTE MORIN

 @CHRLSMORIN

Although the Winnipeg Folk Festival is only a half-hour drive from the city, festival artistic director Chris Frayer says it provides an immersive experience, unlike many other festivals.

Camping is available, and the festival is self-sufficient in terms of food and entertainment. Attendees can learn to live together in this micro-community and take a break from their day-to-day lives.

"(Bird's Hill Park) gets transformed during the four days in July from being a place in the wilderness to basically being a small village of about 15,000 people," Frayer says.

The artisans, food vendors, workshops, jam sessions and, of course, concerts give

people the opportunity to take in a lot at the festival. There's a sense of escapism from day-to-day life, created by a collision of all those factors, Frayer says.

The atmosphere at the festival is shaped by both the organizers and the people who participate, he says. For those living and relaxing in the densely populated area, the festival becomes a community for those few days.

"You get a really strong feeling that you're part of something that's bigger than you," Frayer says.

The fun continues into the festival campground, where giant games are set up and jam sessions go well into the night. There is quiet camping available for people who prefer a good night's rest, and those who go home to sleep are welcomed back into the community in the morning.

"Many people grow up with the festival," Frayer says. It's their community, and that's why they keep coming back, year after year.



Blowing bubbles at the festival

PHOTO BY JENN KOSTESKY

PORTAGEX

A piece of history

CHARMAGNE DE VEER

 @CHARDEVEER

For many Manitobans, Portage la Prairie is a bypass on the Trans-Canada Highway, a missed chance to experience this historic hub. PortageX is one reason to visit this summer.

Now in its 145th year, PortageX is one of western Canada's longest continuously running fairs.

"In 1872, fair people came to town on the train, by horse and buggy or by foot," Velma Nicoll, secretary for the Portage Industrial Exhibition Association (which hosts the fair), says.

"At this year's fair, we will bring back some of its history by having vintage displays," Nicoll says. These include quilts and antique cars and equipment.

There will also be "a display of livestock and poultry that were raised in the past before the rise in industrial agriculture," she says.

Although begun as an agricultural fair, PortageX has expanded to include a modern midway, rides, concessions and extensive live entertainment, including musical tribute bands celebrating the past.

Along with the music, performances will also feature many forms of dance, including Ukrainian, Indigenous, line-dancing and Prairie clogging.

And no fair would be complete without animals. PortageX includes horse shows and races, cattle demonstrations and one unique event.

"There will be a pen of alpacas, and the owner will show fair-goers how to spin alpaca hair into wool. Just keep your distance, as they like to spit when they become upset," Nicoll says.

PortageX offers up an opportunity to explore history in a modern fair environment.

"We challenge everyone to come to the fair and participate in a piece of our history, see agriculture up close and have some fun," Nicoll says.



Alpacas may spit at people when they're upset

PHOTO BY ANASTASIA CHIPELSKI

WINNIPEG FISH FESTIVAL

Something fishy at The Forks

SAM SWANSON

 @SAMUELLEVAN

Don't flounder your chance to learn about our regional aquatic animals at Winnipeg's annual Fish Festival.

Cast rods to catch fish, and cast ballots to win prizes.

The Fish Festival gives visitors a chance to learn the difference between baitcasters and spinning reels and about the best lures to hook Manitoba's fish.

Families visiting The Forks can find out all about sport and recreational fishing in the province, according to festival director Todd Longley.

"You can learn about all the different species of fish in Manitoba. Everything that swims in the Red River, we have on ice, so you can see up close," Longley says.

In addition to educational components, such as on-ice displays and information kiosks, the festival keeps fish fanatics engaged with hourly prize draws.

"At the end, we do the big prize, which is a fishing trip with me, which is pretty cool, because I've been a fishing guide since 1999," Longley says.

"The Winnipeg Fish Festival is a day full of fishing activities, including kids fishing activity stations, filleting demonstrations, kids casting lane, learn-to-fish clinics, catfish seminar, frozen fish display, pickerel rig-tying contest, arts and crafts," according to a provincial spokesperson.

The festival is organized by the Urban Angling Partnership between the Winnipeg Community Services Department and Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, with assistance from the Manitoba Wildlife Federation.

In addition to the annual summer festival, the Urban Angling Partnership also runs learn-to-fish programs for inner city youth and youth with disabilities.

Rain or shine, the Winnipeg Fish Festival won't flop on July 8 at The Forks. The festival will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is free.



Citycats guiding service offers fishing trips

SUPPLIED PHOTO

WHEN
July 6 to 9

WHERE
Birds Hill Provincial Park

\$\$\$
Advance adult four-day ticket prices range from \$229-\$304 with camping options available; Single-day tickets are \$68-\$88; See the website for youth/senior pricing; Children 12 and under are free

DON'T MISS
John K. Samson and the Winter Wheat

WEBSITE
winnipegfolkfestival.ca

WHEN
July 7 to 9

WHERE
Portage la Prairie, Man.

\$\$\$
\$10 per day, three-day pass for \$25

DON'T MISS
Waci-oyate Powwow at 12 p.m. at the Tent stage on Saturday

WEBSITE
portageex.com

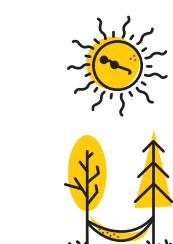


WHEN
July 8

WHERE
The Forks in Winnipeg

\$\$\$
Free
DON'T MISS
Hourly prize draws and the chance to win a fishing trip

WEBSITE
No site but more info is available on travelmanitoba.com under events



RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK FILM FESTIVAL

Experiencing film through the great outdoors

RACHEL BARBER

 @RACHELBAEB

The Riding Mountain National Park Film Festival combines an appreciation of the outdoors with great film experiences through movie screenings and digital media camps for students who want to expand their film-making skills.

When organizer Steve Langston founded the film festival five years ago, he says his goals were twofold: increase tourism to the area and change public perception on environmentalism through film.

With heritage log cabin theatre facilities and space for outdoor film screenings, Langston says the park was a natural fit for a film festival.

Langston, himself a filmmaker, notes the selection process is slightly different from other film festivals. The selection committee does their research beforehand, identifies the films they want to show and contacts the filmmakers directly.

"We find the films that we really like," Langston says. "It allows us to pick the best films in the world."

Filmmakers still have the opportunity to submit their films for consideration through the festival's website, which helps local films make it into the program.

"This year, we are going to play some dramatic short films, because people from the area have created them," Langston says. "I think it is important to give emerging filmmakers the opportunity to have their films displayed."

Langston estimates that out of the 25 to 30 films to be shown throughout the film festival, eight are by local filmmakers.

The festival programming will include a mix of genres, all loosely tied together by the themes of adventure, environmental concerns and local interest.

There will also be two streams of digital media courses for youth: a two-day camp in which kids shoot a short film and a five-day doc experience course in which students learn the basics of film and shoot a short documentary.

The film festival's lineup will be announced on its website on June 1.



An indoor screening at the film festival

PHOTO BY STEVE LANGSTON

WHEN

July 11 to 16

WHERE

Wasagaming,
Riding Mountain
National Park

\$\$\$

\$10 for a single ticket, \$100 for digital media camp registration

DON'T MISS

Short films
from those living
in the area

WEBSITE

rmnppfilmfest.ca



ARBORG FAIR & RODEO

From the farm to the festival

CHARMAGNE DE VEER

 @CHARDEVVEER

The celebration of agrarian life remains strong in Arborg, Man., as it celebrates its 93rd annual Arborg Fair & Rodeo.

The three-day event is packed with activities highlighting farming culture and practice. These include a pioneer camp reenactment, an antique tractor pull and, of course, a rodeo.

Many people view rodeos as pure sport, but Monique Smith, director of the Arborg Agricultural Society, which hosts the fair, emphasizes the fact that these contests were based on actual ranch practice.

Smith also points out that the tractor pull, a competition to see which machine can pull the heaviest weight, features "authentic old tractors that people used to use on the farm," rather than modified versions. Despite their practical uses, "it's fun to see which old tractor can pull the heaviest skid," she says.

This year, the fair is also celebrating Canada's 150th year. Participants and attendees will be encouraged to wear red and white "to see if we can get a little theme going," Smith says. There will also be contests for best patio plant and fairy garden (a miniature garden in a pot or wheelbarrow) with red and white themes.

The fair is not just about farming. Other events include a craft show, a petting zoo, a parade, wagon rides and an "old-time dance



with a live band," so people can practice their foxtrots and other steps, Smith says.

For animal lovers, there will also be a dog agility demonstration and a horseriding lesson demonstration.

The town of Arborg is located about 90 minutes from Winnipeg. After a short drive, the fair and rodeo is a great way to enjoy agricultural society in Manitoba.

WHEN

July 14 to 16

WHERE

Arborg, Man.

\$\$\$

\$10; \$25 for family of four; free for children under six

DON'T MISS

The antique tractor pull July 15 and 16 - a competition with original unmodified farm vehicles

WEBSITE

agsociety.net



Animals are a big part of the festival.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

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FIGHTING TO BE HEARD

Female artists slowly break into the boy's club of Manitoba music festivals

DANIELLE DOIRON

 @DMDOIRON

COPY AND STYLE EDITOR

As bands get set to take the stage at festivals across the province this summer, some Manitobans are questioning why more women aren't invited up to the mic.

Alexa Potashnik, a local beatboxer and verbal percussionist known as MC Woke, says she thinks female performers aren't always given the same chances as their male counterparts.

"I think the music industry is predominantly influenced by the patriarchy and misogyny," she says. There are areas of the rap scene she says are harder for her to navigate, especially because she's a woman of colour working in an industry dominated by men.

Potashnik is the founder of Black Space Winnipeg and the volunteer manager for Jazz Winnipeg. She's a familiar face in the city, but, as a female artist, she says she isn't always taken seriously.

"There's times when I've been overlooked or undermined, (but in) every competition I've been in, I'm the only woman that won," she says.

According to *Play Your Gender*, a Canadian documentary exploring gender issues in the music industry, less than five per cent of music producers are female. Most songwriters and technicians are also men, even though many of the biggest stars in the biz are women. In Manitoba's music scene, this gender divide also manifests itself in local festival lineups.

Twenty-five of the acts slated to perform at this year's Winnipeg Folk Festival have at least one female member, good for 36.2 per cent of the lineup, festival marketing and communications manager Kelly Romas says.

Only eight of the scheduled 40 Dauphin's Country Fest acts feature women (20 per cent), according to a *Metro Winnipeg* article published in April, and MTS Super-Spike hasn't booked any female artists to perform during its two-day event.

At some smaller-scale festivals, however, more women are set to take the stage.

Real Love Summer Fest (RLSF), a three-day indie event held July 28 to 30 in Teulon, Man., will see over two dozen rock, pop and folk artists take the stage. Sixty-seven per cent of the bands in the festival's lineup have at least one member who identifies as female or non-binary, RLSF co-director Gilad Carroll says.

"We are very cognisant of the fact that equality is hard to come by in the music industry," he says, explaining that RLSF tries to book talent that's "a little more underground" and from different genres, which naturally leads to a fairly diverse lineup.

This year's Rainbow Trout Music Festival (RTMF), taking place Aug. 18 to 20 near St. Malo, Man., will showcase an eclectic mix of rock, hip-hop, blues,

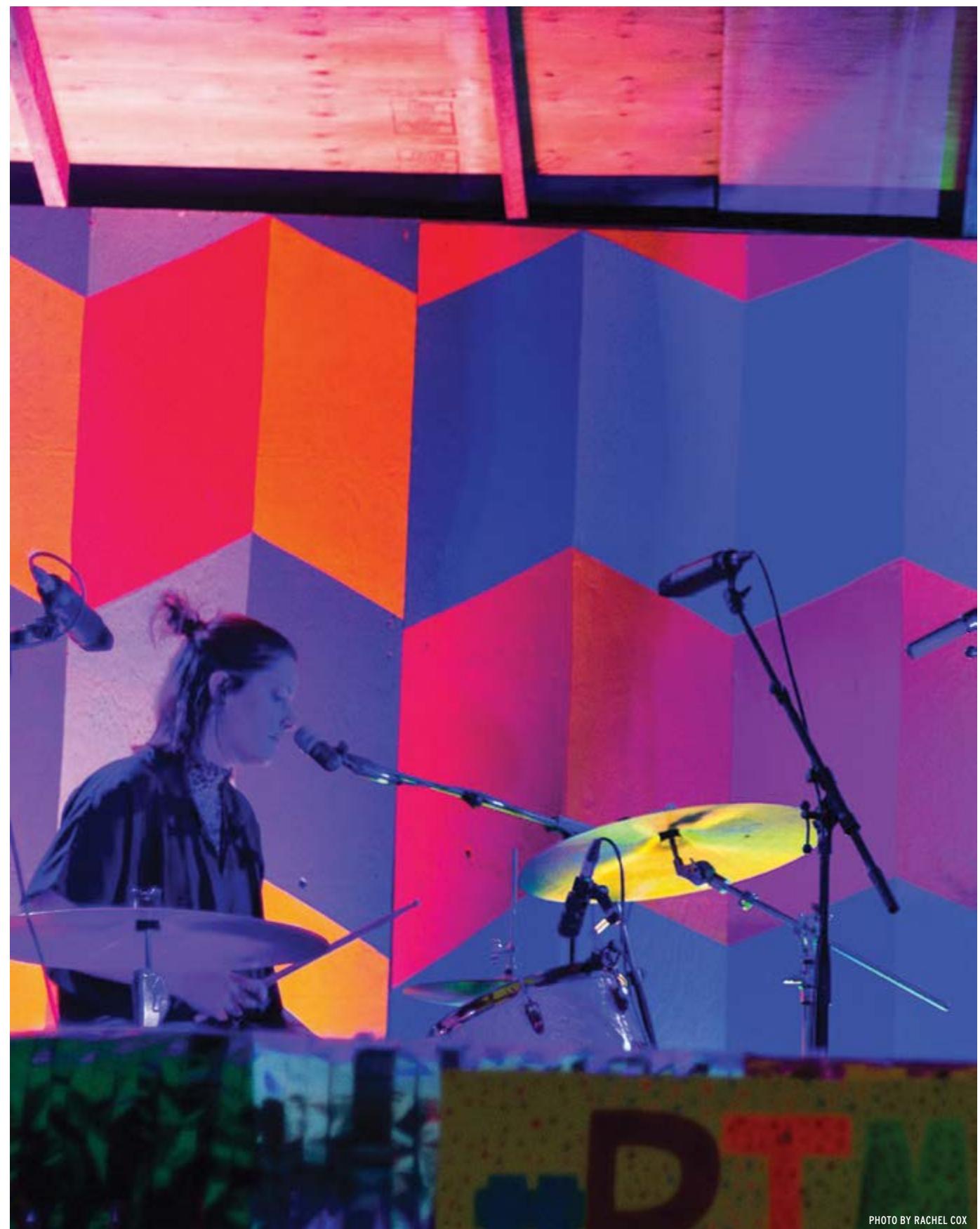


PHOTO BY RACHEL COX

Basic Nature takes the stage at Rainbow Trout Music Festival.

folk, funk and reggae artists. Over 60 per cent of these performers have at least one female or queer-identifying member, says RTMF artistic director Ben Jones.

Even more importantly, Jones says, 50 per cent of RTMF's acts have female or queer lead members.

"(This) is definitely our most balanced lineup to date," he says. "We are always working towards a more eclectic and varied lineup. That diversity in genre definitely translates to a more broad range of people being represented."

Still, Jones acknowledges that RTMF can still work to be more inclusive.

"Racial (and) ethnic diversity is something that we haven't managed to reach to the same degree, and that is definitely something we are aware of and that we are working towards," he says.

"Making sure that diversity is a part of the conversation is an important step, but setting goals and doing the work to achieve them is really key. We try to work with leaders from a variety of communities. In no way do we at the RTMF think that we have all the answers or that we get everything right."

One thing Jones says might help promote more gender and racial representation at festivals is involving more diverse people in organizing the events. Potashnik agrees.

"If there were more women in power, like festival producers and agents, I think

that would change (how women are represented in the industry)," Potashnik says. "Right now, there's mostly white men, who might not always be mindful of representation. It's a boy's club."

Katie Muirhead, communications co-chair for the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba (PCWM), helped organize a panel discussion in April about female roles and representation in the local music industry. She admits she didn't realize at first the extent of the gender gaps that exist in Winnipeg's music scene.

"A major discussion played out (at the event) after an audience member recalled an experience of trying to book her all-female band at a festival and being turned down because the festival 'already had an all-female band,'" she says.

Muirhead says the local, national and international music industries are dominated by men, but local festivals can help by giving new female artists chances at the stage.

"Don't keep booking the same bands over and over and over and over again," she says. "The music community in Winnipeg is tight-knit and incredibly talented, but I see the same festivals booking the same groups continuously."

"Don't see booking women as a quota – see it as an opportunity to expand your musical taste."

She also recommends reaching out to female and non-binary musicians for their suggestions about how to create more balanced lineups and supporting programs like Mama Cutsworth's DJ Academy for All Women and Non-Binary Folks that helps women get involved in more male-dominated parts of the industry.

Muirhead mentions some of the PCWM event attendees also raised questions about how well festivals and concert venues support musicians who are also mothers. Are there spaces for them to breastfeed? Are childcare services available?

Potashnik, who was one of the panelists at the PCWM event, also calls for established female artists to help up-and-coming performers, songwriters, technicians and producers.

"I think women need to stand in solidarity and be allies with one another," she says. "Established artists need to help you get access to studios and equipment and share resources."

Plus, Potashnik adds, it's important for women in the industry to stand up for themselves, as well as for each other.

"Women, too often, especially women of colour, are asked to do things for free. Stop doing shit for free," she says. "Be compensated. You have to protect your professionalism ... you don't have to say yes to everything."



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FESTIVAL LISTINGS

MAY 26 TO JUNE 4	PRIDE WINNIPEG FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	PRIDEWINNipeg.com
JUNE 1-4	WINNIPEG UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	WINNIEGUFF.COM
JUNE 2-4	PRairie WIND MUSIC FEST	CYPRESS RIVER	FIND ON FACEBOOK
JUNE 2-3	RIVER CITY DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	FIND ON FACEBOOK
JUNE 3	NEW BOTHWELL CHEESE & WINE FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	BOTHWELLCHEESE.COM
JUNE 4	BACK 40 FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	BACK40FOLKFEST.COM
JUNE 7-11	MANITOBA SUMMER FAIR	BRANDON	MANITOBASUMMERFAIR.COM
JUNE 8-11	KIDS FEST	WINNIPEG	KIDSFEST.CA
JUNE 9	ELLICE STREET FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	WECC.CA
JUNE 9-10	FLATLANDERS BEER FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	FLATLANDERSBEERFEST.COM
JUNE 9-10	NIVERVILLE OLD TYME COUNTRY FAIR	NIVERVILLE	NIVERVILLEFAIR.COM
JUNE 9-16	AGASSIZ CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	AGASSIZFESTIVAL.COM
JUNE 10-11	MONTCALM HERITAGE FESTIVAL	ST. JOSEPH	MUSEESTJOSEPH.CA/FESTIVAL
JUNE 10	BLUE HILLS FIBRE FESTIVAL	CARBERRY	FIND ON FACEBOOK
JUNE 15-25	JAZZ WINNIPEG FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	JAZZWINNipeg.com
JUNE 16-18	SUMMER IN THE CITY	STEINBACH	SUMMERINTHECITY.CA
JUNE 16-25	RED RIVER EX	WINNIPEG	REDRIVEREX.COM
JUNE 21	ABORIGINAL DAY LIVE	WINNIPEG	ABORIGINALDAYLIVE.CA
JUNE 22-25	NICKEL DAYS	THOMPSON	NICKELDAYS.CA
JUNE 23-25	THOUSAND OAKS GOSPEL CAMP MUSIC FESTIVAL	WINKLER	THOUSANDOAKSINC.ORG
JUNE 24	LA RIVIERE TURKEY FESTIVAL AND DUCK RACES	LA RIVIERE	FIND ON FACEBOOK
JUNE 29-30	FLIN FLON TROUT FESTIVAL	FLIN FLON	FIND ON FACEBOOK
JUNE 29 TO JULY 2	DAUPHIN COUNTRYFEST	DAUPHIN	COUNTRYFEST.CA
JUNE 30 TO JULY 1	OSBORNE VILLAGE CANADA DAY STREET FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	OSBORNEVILLAGE.COM
JULY 6-9	WINNIPEG FOLK FESTIVAL	BIRDS HILL	WINNIPEGFOLKFESTIVAL.CA
JULY 7-9	PORTAGE EX	PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	PORTAGEEX.COM
JULY 8	WINNIPEG FISH FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	FIND ON TRAVELMANITOBA.COM
JULY 11-16	RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK FILM FESTIVAL	WASAGAMING	RMNPFLMFEST.CA
JULY 13-15	CARMAN COUNTY FAIR	CARMAN	CARMANCOUNTRYFAIR.CA
JULY 14-15	ROCKIN' ON THE RED	LOCKPORT	HALFMOONDRIEVEIN.COM
JULY 14-16	SOCA REGGAE FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	SOCAREGGAEFESTIVAL.CA
JULY 14-16	ARBORG FAIR & RODEO	ARBORG	AGSOCIETY.NET
JULY 15	CRYSTAL CITY CARNIVAL	CRYSTAL CITY	CRYSTALCITYMB.CA
JULY 19-30	FRINGE FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	WINNIEGFRINGE.COM
JULY 20-23	MANITOBA STAMPEDE	MORRIS	MANITOBASTAMPEDE.CA

FESTIVAL LISTINGS

THE UNITER // JUNE 1, 2017

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JULY 21-22	SUMMER WINDS FAMILY MUSIC FESTIVAL	VICTORIA BEACH	SUMMERWINDSMUSIC.COM
JULY 21-23	BRANDON FOLK, MUSIC, AND ART FESTIVAL	BRANDON	BRANDONFOLKFESTIVAL.CA
JULY 23	CRIPPLE CREEK MUSIC FESTIVAL	MORDEN	FIND ON FACEBOOK
JULY 26-28	BALLET IN THE PARK	WINNIPEG	RWB.ORG
JULY 26-30	GIMLI FILM FESTIVAL	GIMLI	GIMLIFILM.COM
JULY 27-29	DISCO NEEDS A SQUEEZE	WINNIPEG	FIND ON FACEBOOK
JULY 28-30	BOARDWALK DAYS	WINNIPEG BEACH	WINNIPEGBEACH.CA
JULY 28-30	MANITOBA SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL	ALTONA	ALTONA.CA
JULY 28-30	REAL LOVE SUMMER FEST	TEULON	REALLOVESUMMERFEST.COM
AUGUST 1-2	TREATY & YORK BOAT DAYS	NORWAY HOUSE	FIND ON FACEBOOK
AUGUST 4-6	CANADA'S NATIONAL UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL	DAUPHIN	CNUF.CA
AUGUST 4-6	FIRE & WATER MUSIC FESTIVAL	LAC DU BONNET	FIRENWATER.CA
AUGUST 4-6	ROCKIN' THE FIELDS	MINNEDOSA	ROCKINTHEFIELDS.CA
AUGUST 4-7	ISLENDINGADAGURINN	GIMLI	ICELANDICFESTIVAL.COM
AUGUST 4-7	PIONEER DAYS	STEINBACH	MENNONTIEHERITAGEVILLAGE.COM
AUGUST 6-19	FOLKLORAMA	WINNIPEG	FOLKLORAMA.CA
AUGUST 11-12	CARBERRY HERITAGE	CARBERRY	CARBERRYHERITAGEFESTIVAL.COM
AUGUST 11-12	WINNIPEG BBQ & BLUES FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	WINNIPEGBBQANDBLUES.CA
AUGUST 11-13	KLEEFELD HONEY FESTIVAL	KLEEFELD	KLEEFELDPARK.CA
AUGUST 11-13	WINKLER HARVEST FESTIVAL & EXHIBITION	WINKLER	WINKLERHARVESTFESTIVAL.COM
AUGUST 17-20	MEME	WINNIPEG	MEMETIC.CA
AUGUST 17-20	VIRDEN INDOOR RODEO & WILD WEST DAZE	VIRDEN	VIRDENINDOORRODEO.CA
AUGUST 18-20	GIMLI MODEL FEST	GIMLI	GIMLIMODELFEST.COM
AUGUST 18-20	HARVEST SUN MUSIC FESTIVAL	KELWOOD	THEHARVESTSUN.COM
AUGUST 18-20	THE INTERSTELLAR RODEO	WINNIPEG	INTERSTELLARRODEO.COM
AUGUST 18-20	PLUM FEST	PLUM COULEE	RMOFRHINELAND.COM
AUGUST 18-20	RAINBOW TROUT MUSIC FESTIVAL	ST. MALO	RAINBOWTROUTMUSICFESTIVAL.COM
AUGUST 18-20	STONEWALL QUARRY DAYS	STONEWALL	STONEWALLQUARRYDAYS.CA
AUGUST 19	SWORDS AND SABRES RENAISSANCE FAIR	WINNIPEG	FIND ON FACEBOOK
AUGUST 24-27	ODDBLOCK COMEDY FEST	WINNIPEG	ODDBLOCK.CA
AUGUST 24-27	SHINE ON FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND ART	KERRY	FIND ON FACEBOOK
AUGUST 25-27	CORN AND APPLE FESTIVAL	MORDEN	CORNANDAPPLE.COM
AUGUST 25-27	RIBFEST 2017	WINNIPEG	RIBFESTWINNIPEG.CA
AUGUST 25-27	FALLJAM6	ST. ANDREWS	FIND ON FACEBOOK
AUGUST 26	MANITOBA FILIPINO STREET FESTIVAL	WINNIPEG	FILIPINOSTREETFESTIVAL.CA

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WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

Filling the lineup and the seats

SAM SWANSON

 @SAMUELEVAN

The Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival seeks to set a new attendance record with its fullest schedule yet.

To coincide with its 30-year anniversary, the 2017 Winnipeg Fringe will host 188 performing companies for indoor shows, according to festival producer Chuck McEwen.

"Half the companies, approximately, are from Manitoba, 30 per cent (are) from across Canada and 20 per cent (are) international."

The largest Fringe to date was its 25th annual event in 2012, which hosted 182 shows.

"With our 30th anniversary, we had a couple more companies wanting to participate, so we provided a few extra spots for them."

The largest Fringe Festival so far means some new theatre companies will be introduced, but McEwen assures Fringe-goers that their old favourites will be there, as well.

"Every year, there's the regular touring companies that come year after year, so we've got many of the more popular companies that Winnipeggers would be aware of."

His hot tip for the Fringe? Look for good deals on ticket prices.

"A lot of shows have a two-for-\$12 performance, where you can bring a friend, or they'll have discounts for students or seniors or matinees, so depending on how you like to buy your tickets, or how good of a deal you're looking for, you can always find a way to squeeze in a few extra shows on the best possible deal," McEwen says.

With the high number of companies taking part, Fringe organizers are expecting a large turnout.

"We're looking forward to seeing Winnipeggers coming out to provide a little extra support on our anniversary year. Come out to see one more show than you did last year. That'll help us set a new attendance record."



This year's festival will host 188 performing companies.

PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

DISCO NEEDS A SQUEEZE

Showcasing Winnipeg's hardcore punk scene

OLIVIA NORQUAY

Disco Needs A Squeeze (DNAS), Winnipeg's annual punk festival, brings bands with different levels of experience together.

"No one's ever done a punk – real punk – festival here in Winnipeg," Mischa Decter says.

Decter, who has been booking bands for The Handsome Daughter for two years, is one of three organizers of the hardcore punk festival. He runs DNAS with Mike Requeima of Genex and Steve Krysko of WHIP, who have both been putting on shows for 10 years.

Since starting DNAS in August 2016, Decter, Requeima and Krysko have established a festival curated from a small hardcore scene while still including new punk bands. They book popular underground groups alongside bands playing their first shows.

While this year's festival has "real corporate sponsors," Decter says, it still maintains the do-it-yourself attitude associated with punk music.

This year's festival begins on July 27 with Lumpy and The Dumpers from St. Louis and Winnipeg bands WHIP, Reality Group and new locals Honey.

New rap supergroup Secret Circle is playing their second-ever show on July 28 with Genex.



"It'll be interesting having grindcore fans see this rap band and little kids who only listen to rap see these brutal hardcore bands," Decter says.

The last night of the festival features Calgary bands Janitor Scum and Dri Hiev.

"Punk is always – in Winnipeg especially, I've noticed – has always been a very exclusive thing, (which) makes it very inaccessible for people to get into it," Decter says.

He says having a banner like this festival makes it easier for people to get involved.

WHEN
July 27 to 29

WHERE
The Handsome Daughter and The Good Will Social Club in Winnipeg, Man.

\$\$\$
Advance tickets
\$12-\$30

DON'T MISS
Secret Circle and Genex on July 28 at The Good Will Social Club

WEBSITE
Find them on Facebook



Genex will play The Good Will Social Club on July 28.

PHOTO BY DARROLLE PALMER

BALLET IN THE PARK

Bringing dance to the outdoor stage

GABRIELLE PICHÉ

Ballet in the Park, put on by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB), has been a summer mainstay since the '70s.

Taking place in Assiniboine Park from Wednesday, July 26 to Friday, July 28, this festival has showcased talented dancers since it began.

Ballet in the Park presents a new piece every year. This summer, the RWB is performing *Celts*, which blends ballet and Irish folk dance together, as well as including other dancing styles. According to Karen Campbell of the *Boston Herald*, *Celts* is "a stunner – a riveting, imaginative marriage of ballet and Irish folk dance with a modern sensibility." The piece is choreographed by Lila York.

RWB students will also perform in the park, but the piece they will execute is still unconfirmed.

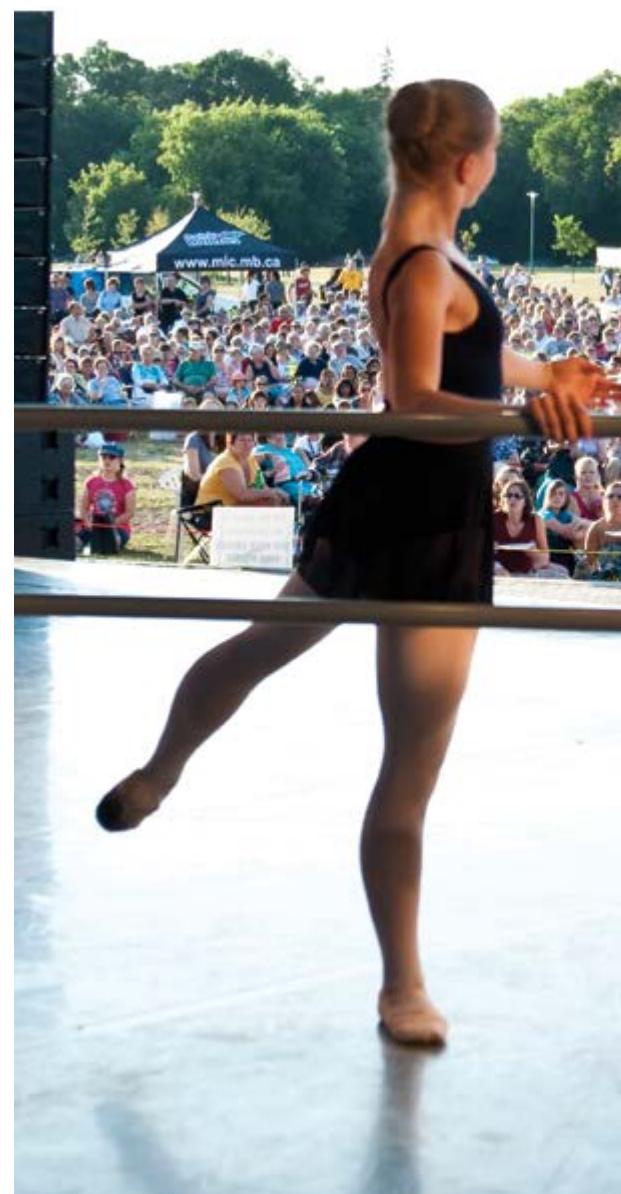
Ballet in the Park is a great way to exhibit the young dancers' talents, and it's also a fantastic way to show young people

the beauty of ballet, according to Arlene Minkhorst, director of the RWB school.

"Every year, children are dancing all over with us ... it's great to bring children too," she says. "It's a joy to watch them in the park."

The series is free, making it an easy outing for families. Kids are able to watch the dancers and gain cultural experience, expanding their minds to new forms of activity. There is plenty of open space, giving them room to dance about and explore ballet in an enriching environment, Minkhorst says.

As well, there are plenty of activities before the actual shows begin. Colouring and face painting are staples at the park, and food trucks will be on site. Ballet in the Park is more than a dance show: it's a cultural experience and a place to dance along with professionals.



The event showcases young and talented dancers.

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

WHEN

July 26 to 28

WHERE

The Lyric Theatre stage at Assiniboine Park

\$\$\$

Free

DON'T MISS

The performance of *Celts*

WEBSITE

rwb.org



GIMLI FILM FESTIVAL

Moviegoing: An exciting summer activity

JASE FALK



@JASETHEELF

From July 26 to 30, Gimli hosts what FilmFreeway calls the most successful film festival in Manitoba.

"We're at a unique time in the year. There's not a lot of film festivals in the summer," festival director Leona Johnson says.

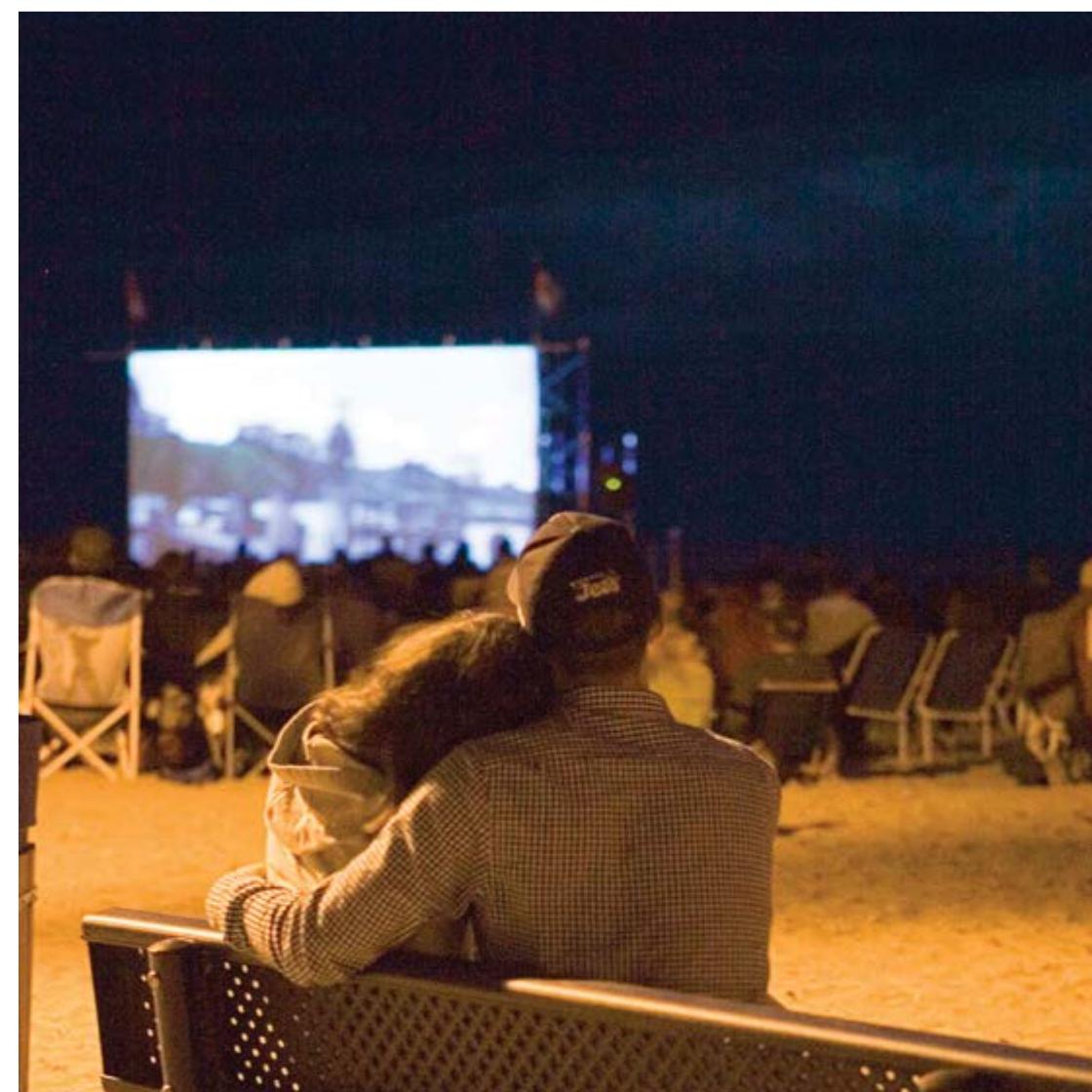
The Gimli Film Festival blends summer beach life with the art of cinema. The event showcases more than 100 feature films, documentaries and short films in both indoor film screenings and free movies on the beach.

Winnipeggers can drive an hour out to Gimli and enjoy "great, cutting-edge new films," Johnson says. These are the kind of films that otherwise would only be screened at larger film festivals.

While the Gimli Film Festival shows pieces from all over the world, it specifically highlights innovative work coming right out of Manitoba.

With programs like the RBC Emerging Filmmaker Competition – which offers \$10,000 for a Manitoba resident over the age of 18 to make a short film – the Gimli Film Festival focuses on promoting and supporting the work of local filmmakers.

The festival is also an opportunity for filmmakers to connect with their audiences.



"The filmmakers get to host Q&As at the end of their films and connect with the public and connect with each other as well," Johnson says.

For dedicated film buffs as well as casual viewers, it's an opportunity to see a film festival during the summer and experience amazing cinema from Manitoba and around the world.

WHEN

July 26 to 30

WHERE

Gimli, Man.

\$\$\$

\$10 for individual tickets, \$75 for access to all films (limited number of passes available)

DON'T MISS

Free screenings on Gimli Beach at sunset

WEBSITE

gimlifilm.com



Evening outdoor screenings are free to attend.

PHOTO BY CR MCKNIGHT

FOLKLORAMA

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FOLKLORAMA

Building community,
one pavilion at a time

GABRIELLE PICHÉ

Folklorama exhibits the wonders of the world's cultures through over 40 pavilions and runs from Aug. 6 to 19. Each pavilion showcases a different culture, including traditional dancing, food and decorations.

Pavilions bring their own flair and give an authentic taste of their culture, and when audience members walk out, they may leave with a greater awareness and understanding of the world they live in.

"Each (pavilion) tells us a different story from their cultural community," Martin Pasieczka, a financial committee member and former president of the two-week festival, says.

The German pavilion, for example, offers plenty of beer to try, while the Indian pavilion features Bollywood dancing for entertainment. By taking part in these experiences, alongside many more that Folklorama has to offer, folks expand their knowledge about the cultures found in Winnipeg.

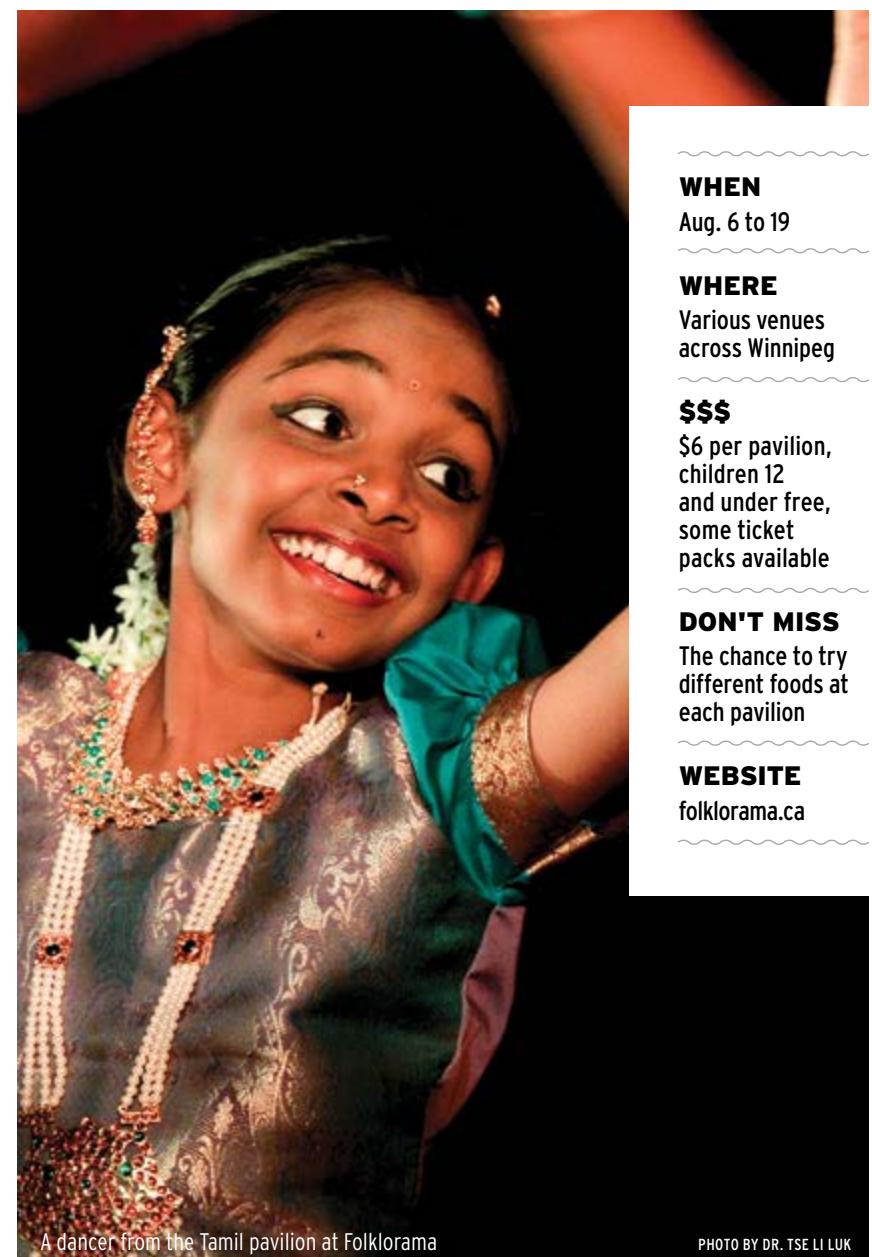
"(Folklorama) really helps to break down the barriers of people that would otherwise

have prejudice. Now we get to understand each other and why we do certain things. It's because of our cultural backgrounds," Pasieczka says.

Folklorama creates a safe environment for people to explore the world without culture shock, and, as Pasieczka says, it is "successful because people still want to celebrate who they are, where they've come from and where they're going."

Folklorama is a way to meet new people, and many unlikely friendships have formed because of it. Volunteers bond with their peers as they prepare each show, and guests have the chance to meet people they might have never crossed paths with otherwise, Pasieczka says.

Pasieczka sums up Folklorama by saying it is "building community, celebrating diversity and culture."



A dancer from the Tamil pavilion at Folklorama

PHOTO BY DR. TSE LI LUK

KLEEFELD HONEY FESTIVAL

Where honey meets chili

ANASTASIA CHIPELSKI

@ANACHIPS

Over one weekend this summer, the town of Kleefeld will be hosting some of the sweetest and spiciest treats in the country - and possibly the world.

The festival's fifth annual chili cook-off does double duty as the finals for the Canadian Food Championships. Entrants' creations will be judged by members of the Kansas City Barbeque Society. While the grand winner will receive a cash and travel package to send them off to Georgia for the World Food Championships, there's also a category for "people's choice."

"You have the chance to come in, taste five chilis, vote for your favourite of all of them, and there is a prize pack that goes to that person," Nicole Rempel, president of the Honey Festival Committee says.

\$5 gets attendees a sample platter of chilis - more than enough for a filling lunch, Rempel says.

On the sweeter side, John Russell honey will also be in attendance with both plain and flavoured honeys (think coffee, blueberry, maple or chocolate).

"Kleefeld has been known as the land of milk and honey for many years. It came into being in the early '60s when we had the highest amount of honey producers in the province of Manitoba," Rempel says.



While they're down from the 30 to 40 producers that filled the area in its heyday, they still boast at least a dozen producers as well as many individual hobbyists.

On the Friday evening, the festival will host an outdoor movie night under cover of their picnic shelter. Early risers can catch a free pancake breakfast at 7 a.m. on Saturday, and could stick around for a parade, concerts, a baseball tournament and more.

At the end of the evening, Rempel promises "the best fireworks in Southern Manitoba," (according to their sound guy).

WHEN
Aug. 11 to 13

WHERE
Kleefeld, Man.

\$\$\$
Free
(some food-based events have fees)

DON'T MISS
Trying a platter of champion chilis

WEBSITE
kleefeldpark.ca



Sample championship chilis for lunch at the festival

PHOTO BY RACHEL SARAH

MANITOBA ELECTRONIC MUSIC EXHIBITION

Bringing big names that are off the (pop) charts

SAM SWANSON  @SAMUELEVAN

The Manitoba Electronic Music Exhibition (MEME) has announced a couple of big names scheduled to headline this year's summer festival.

Both active in electronic music since the late '80s, The Orb and Mr. C are historically recognized icons of the genre.

The Orb has explored a variety of ambient acid techno sounds since 1988, and will play The Cube in the Exchange District on Aug. 18.

The early '90s dance-pop boom created space for alternative dance hits. According to MEME director Nathan Zahn, The Shamen was at the forefront, famous for hits like 1991's "Move Any Mountain."

The Shamen was fronted by DJ, producer and rapper Richard West, better known as Mr. C.

At 51 years old, Mr. C's iconic status is cemented in a three-decade career pioneering digital music.

Zahn calls Mr. C their "rockstar headliner."

Zahn compares Mr. C to Beck headlining the Interstellar Rodeo, which takes place the same weekend as MEME 2017.

"They're both kind of a big deal," Zahn says of Mr. C and The Orb.

MEME has developed a reputation for its local beat on underground electronic since Zahn created the festival in 2009.

"This festival is more of the eclectic, underground electronic music. We stay away from the commercial pop EDM (electronic dance music) hits," Zahn says.

Zahn points out that the music of MEME may not necessarily top the charts in North America, but it sees wider appeal abroad.

"This is not stuff that you hear on the radio typically, but internationally there's a big scene."



Mr. C plays the Park Theatre on Aug. 17.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

RAINBOW TROUT MUSIC FESTIVAL

Indie music and arts on the Roseau River

JENNA ANDERSON  @REALLYJENNA

Rainbow Trout Music Festival (RTMF) is a three-day indie music festival that takes place on the third weekend in August each year. Festival-goers head to the banks of the Roseau River, just a short drive south of St. Malo, Man.

"We do this because we love to be out there and have fun at the festival," Jamil Mahmood says. "And I think this comes through to people who attend."

Mahmood, board chair of the festival, also helped found RTMF. The festival features music in many genres, including rock, electro, hip-hop, blues, folk and more. Most of the artists are local, but each year a handful of out-of-towners are invited to play.

In addition to music and camping, festival attendees can shop at vendor booths that feature a variety of local artisans to purchase items such as jewelry, zines and pottery. They can also enjoy a variety of art projects that are installed throughout the festival site and serve as both landmarks and beautiful pieces of art, like the larger-than-life-sized colouring book created for last year's festival.

There are also fire pits and free water, but the location doesn't have cell service.

"We're more than happy to power down for the weekend," Mahmood says. "We imagine that the lack of wifi helps people physically connect more with one another and communicate face to face."

The festival, which is 100 per cent volunteer-driven, started with a handful of close friends and an idea.

"The first year of the fest was just a total unsanctioned, unorganized festival," Mahmood says. "It was more a bunch of friends gathering in the woods with bands."

Since then, RTMF has lined up the proper insurance and permits to ensure attendees have a safe – as well as fun – time. Now, eight years in, more than 900 people attend every year to enjoy the music and welcoming atmosphere.

Explore the full lineup for the festival on their website.



Floating down the Roseau River is a popular pastime.

PHOTO BY RACHEL SARAH

WHEN

Aug. 17 to 20

WHERE

Various downtown venues in Winnipeg

\$\$\$

\$70 for a festival pass

DON'T MISS

Mr. C at the Park Theatre on Aug. 17

WEBSITE

memefest.ca

HARVEST SUN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Slow down and join the village

ANASTASIA CHIPELSKI

 @ANACHIPS

A small but mighty festival in Kelwood, Man., offers up the chance to slow down and reconnect, all in the company of top-notch local performers.

The Harvest Sun Music Festival was founded by Nadia Kuhl along with her husband Delano, and they're now ringing in their 12th year.

"We have had many wonderful experiences over the years - challenges, growing pains and of course the joys of festival life and seeing how it brings amazing things to our community," Kuhl says.

Connecting to neighbours and rural producers is a key part of Harvest Sun. They showcase a "featured farmer" on their

website - like quinoa growers Ryan Pengelly and Alexandra Lozada of Tamarack Farms in Erickson, Man.

"While our goal is to bring the arts to our rural area, we do so in order to draw attention to the amazing local growers and makers on our area - buying and listening local is the cornerstone of the Harvest Sun," Kuhl says.

On the listening side, this year they're featuring Iskwe, Don Amero, Scott Nolan, The Noble Thiefs, William Prince, Raine Hamilton, Carly Dow and many more.

The small site helps foster more of a community feeling at the festival, where kids can take part in different activities and wander about on their own. Harvest Sun embraces the slower pace of rural life and welcomes Manitobans from all over to join in.

"Our audience is as varied as the beautiful landscape of our province - we have many local people who support us, and we also have people from all over the province who drive and spend the (weekend) in our little corner of the world," Kuhl says.

"The Harvest Sun is like an amazing little pop-up community within our little village."



Red Moon Road plays the Harvest Sun stage

SUPPLIED PHOTO

WHEN
Aug. 18 to 20

WHERE
Kelwood, Man.

\$\$\$
Early bird adult weekend pass \$80 until June 15. Camping pass \$25-50; Youth and puppy passes available as well as camping packages

DON'T MISS
Fare from local producers around Kelwood

WEBSITE
harvestsun.com



ODDBLOCK COMEDY FESTIVAL

Not your average block party

CHARLOTTE MORIN

 @CHRLSMORIN

Keeping venues close together is important for the Oddblock Comedy Festival.

"When the festival is in full swing and people are milling about, running from one venue to the next ... that's the energy we want associated with the festival," Kevin Mozdzen says.

Mozdzen and John B Duff are the co-founders of the festival. Together, they organize diverse lineups of more than 50 performers.

The Oddblock Comedy Festival takes place Aug. 24 to 27 in venues that are mostly no more than a block from The Park Theatre.

While tickets to the gala at the main venue cost \$25, there are also events with no cover charge, which make them more accessible to the wide range of budgets in the community.

The emphasis on location is a reminder that the festival is part of the Osborne

community, and that anyone participating is part of that.

"The other important component to choosing a venue is having a business that is excited to be part of the festival," Mozdzen says.

It can be challenging to adapt a restaurant or community centre for a show, but when a business is willing to make it work, it adds to the positive, community-centred atmosphere of the festival.

While the organizers hold no gender quota, they find the festival to be much more interesting with diversity. The festival showcases sketch and stand-up comedians ranging from groups such as H.U.N.K.S to solo acts by LGBTQ+ comedians like Chantel Marostica.

"If you don't like comedy, there isn't something for you," Mozdzen says. But as Winnipeg's only summertime comedy festival, Oddblock is a great bet for a good laugh.



Sam Jay performs at Oddblock 2016

PHOTO BY DWAYNE LARSON

WHEN
Aug. 24 to 27

WHERE
Various venues in South Osborne (Winnipeg)

\$\$\$
Early bird V.I.P. pass \$99 (subject to increase); Other events are free / ticketed

DON'T MISS
The opening gala on Aug. 24 at The Park Theatre

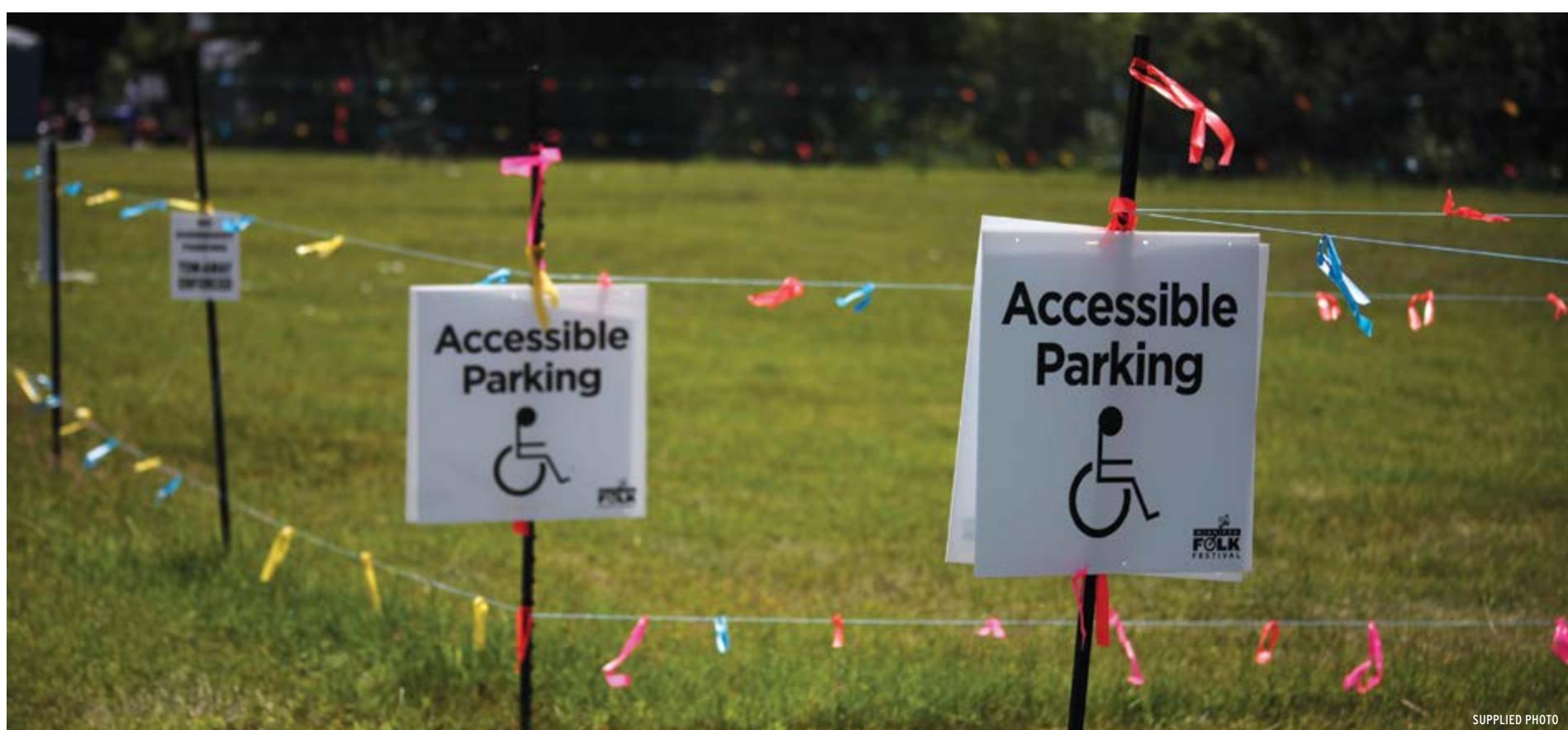
WEBSITE
oddblock.ca



 **FESTIVALS**

 **TOURS**

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SUPPLIED PHOTO

Festivals can plan ahead to include accessible parking and to decrease mobility barriers

FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS PLAN FOR ACCESSIBILITY

Reducing barriers can allow more Manitobans to enjoy festival culture

DANIELLE DOIRON



@DMDOIRON

COPY AND STYLE EDITOR

For many people with disabilities, heading to a festival isn't always as simple as packing a tent and booking a few days off work. In most cases, catching a show or checking out a concert takes a lot of prep work.

Derek Day, the acting manager of community inclusion and support services for the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities (SMD), organizes festival trips throughout the summer as part of SMD's adult recreation and leisure programs. When planning outings, he needs to consider any potential accessibility issues his group might face at a given venue.

"Festivals can definitely present accessibility challenges, especially the built-en-

vironment variety, from outdoor space to venues in and around the city," he says. Some people who take part in SMD's programs need to pre-arrange transportation and personal supports, which Day says can take time.

"Some of our consumers just can't head to a festival 'hot spot' and see how things unfold," he says.

What they can do, however, is work with festivals to help ensure facilities are more accessible.

This year, members of SMD's Summer Breakout program will attend the Winnipeg Folk Festival and volunteer as part of the camp cleanup crew. SMD is also

working on accessible customer service standard videos that the festival will use when training volunteers. Members of SMD's All Abilities Dance group will also perform during the Canada Summer Games opening ceremonies.

"In my opinion, summer festivals are part of the fabric of Manitoba," Day says. "At SMD, we want to continue to support people with disabilities to be included in the festivals as participants, volunteers and spectators."

Many festivals are also adapting their spaces and services to be more accessible.

The Winnipeg Folk Festival, for instance, devotes an entire page of its website to accessibility information, as well as text versions of the program book that can be used with screen-reading software. The four-day event offers free admission for support workers accompanying attendees who have disabilities and accessible camping areas, parking spaces and washrooms.

There will also be dedicated wheelchair seating areas and charging stations, sign language interpreters on site and vendors and ATMs with low counters at the Folk Festival.

At Dauphin's Country Fest, disability parking spaces, shuttle services and wheelchair-accessible washrooms are available.

Interstellar Rodeo has a designated wheelchair section, as do other festivals throughout the province.

The fourth annual Real Love Summer Fest (RLSF), a three-day event celebrating music, art and creativity, will take place in Teulon, Man. this year. The new location is much more accessible than the festival's previous venue in Gimli, co-artistic director Gilad Carroll says.

While the outdoor festival grounds and paths weren't necessarily built for wheelchair travel, he says, the land is fairly level, and RLSF will have volunteers on hand to help anyone who wants or needs assistance navigating the terrain. A van will also be available to drive people from the main parking lot to the festival site.

"The previous site would have been a lot more difficult to navigate," Carroll says, since most of the paths at the Gimli grounds were gravel. He also says there will be at least one accessible washroom large enough to accommodate a wheelchair or an aide worker.

"Everyone should be able to access arts and culture in our city," he says. "Winnipeg has a wonderful music and arts scene, and everyone should be able to take part."



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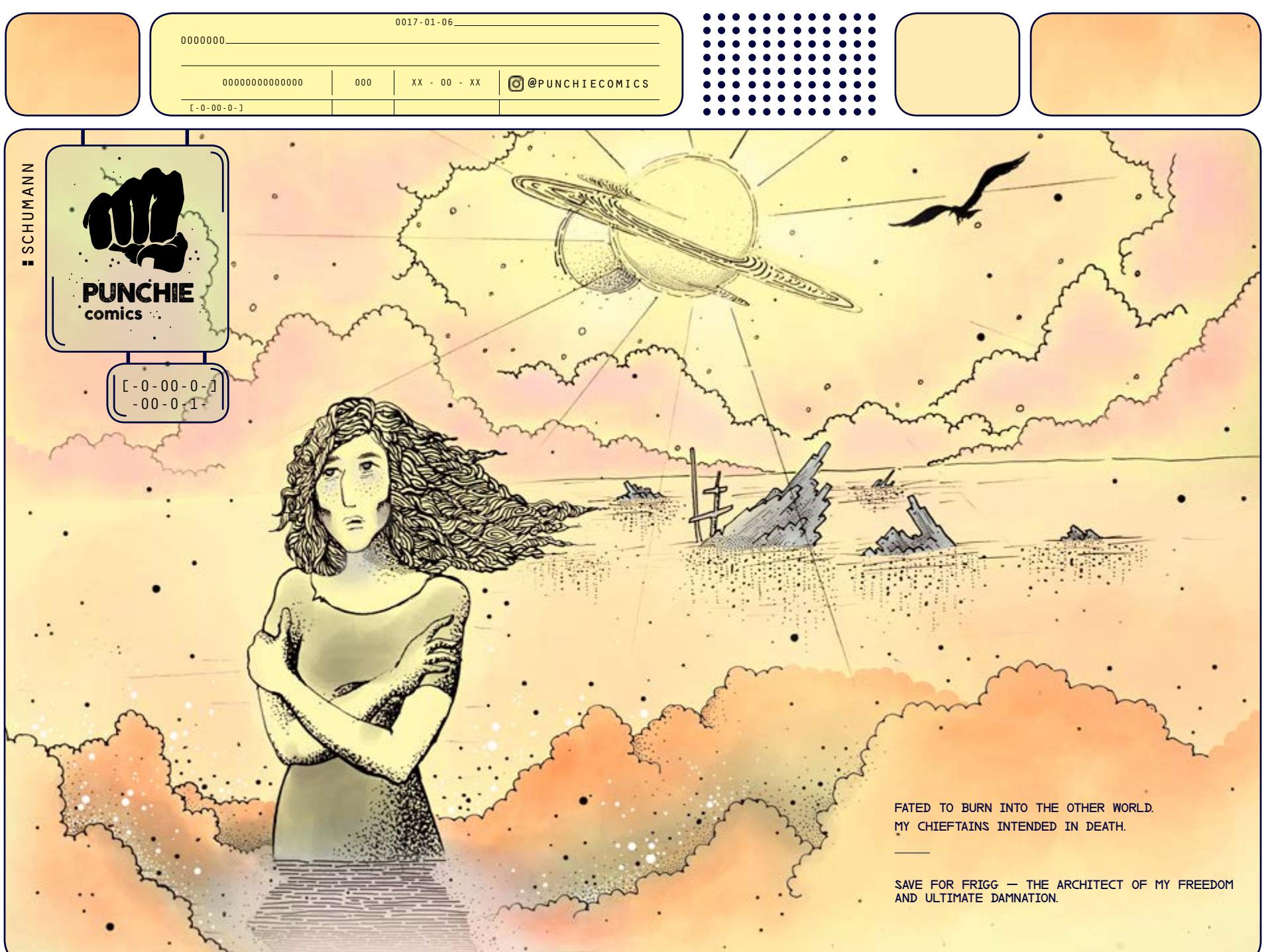
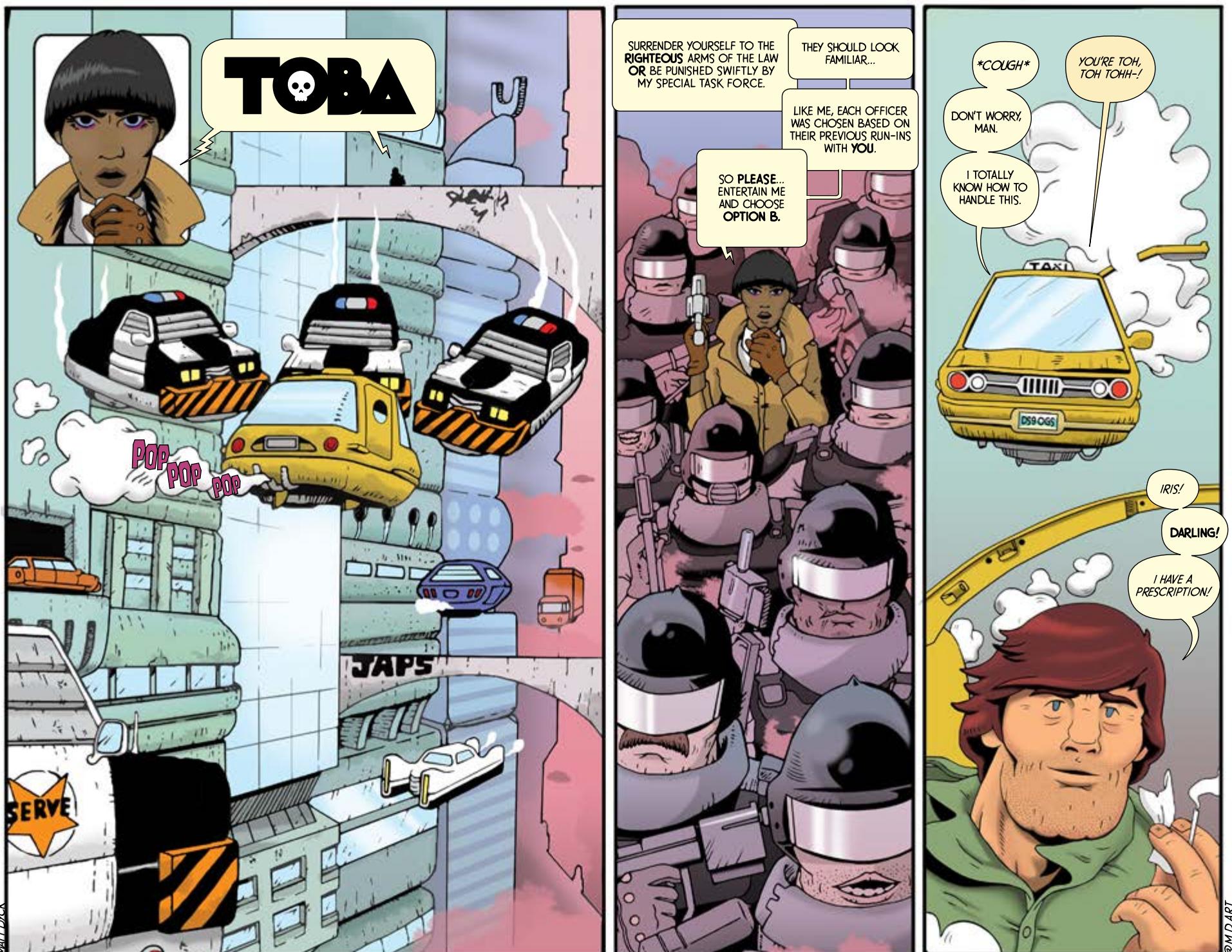
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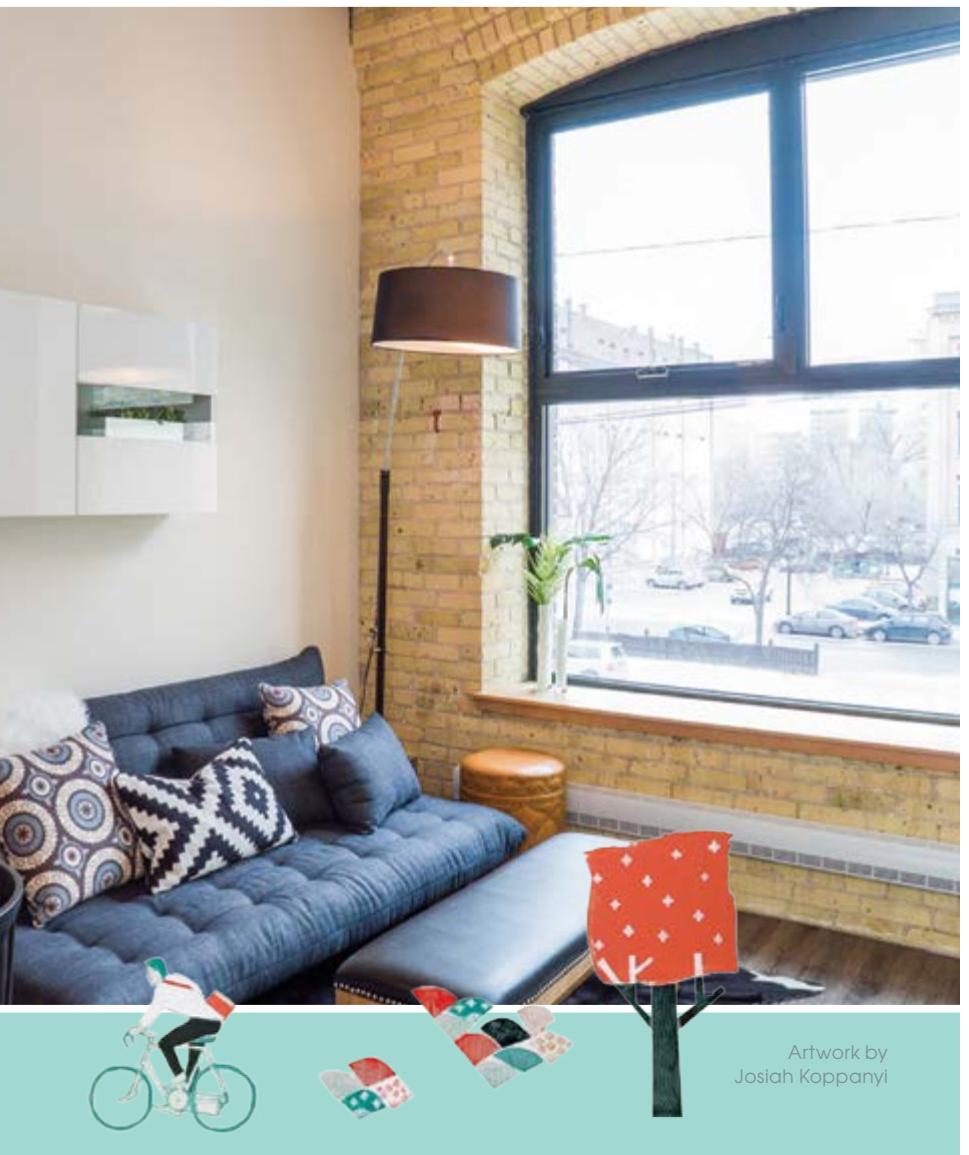
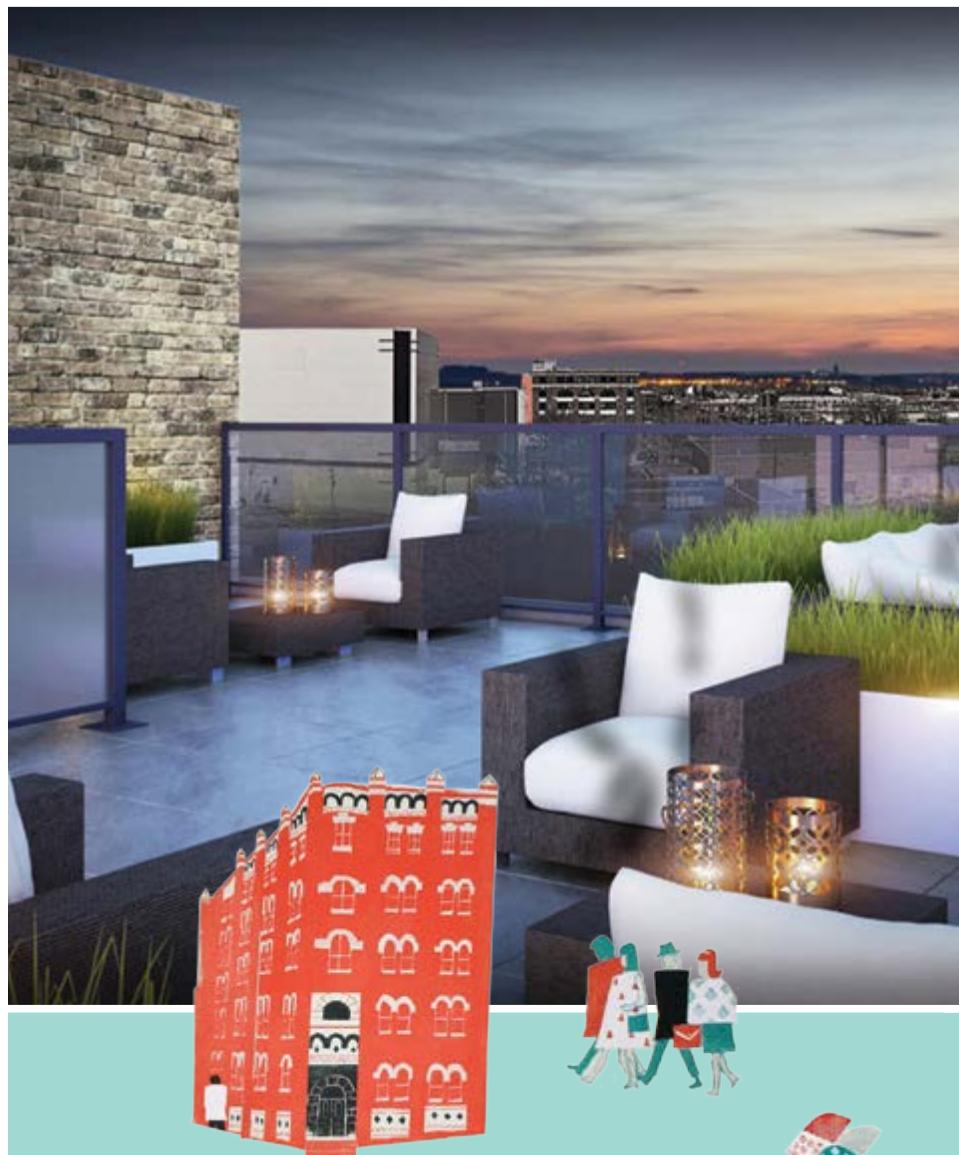


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