



Montreal theatres teeming
with live performances

Description

Intercultural Conversations encourages theatrical dialogue between the various cultures in Montreal

July 14, 2022

The Montreal theatre community has re-entered the building! Applications for the **Cole Foundation's Intercultural Conversations-Conversations Interculturelles (IC-CI) program** are back to the same number as pre-COVID times; companies are planning ahead with business as usual.

For the **recent spring competition, eleven companies** were given vital grants to share diverse and inclusive theatrical stories in Greater Montreal for a total of **\$209,950** for the **2022-23 season** as well as added funding for post-show audience talkbacks to continue the conversation initiated in the play.

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Ongoing *Intercultural Conversations-Conversations Interculturelles* funding follows many scripts from commissioning to production and often onto translation and a subsequent production in another language. Another positive trend is revisiting a successful script to revise and improve it further, extending its reach.

For these recent submissions, Indigenous-themed productions and commissions are at the forefront, with six works from Indigenous artists. Cole Foundation President and Chairman, **Barry Cole**, is proud to announce this latest round of grant winners. "The Cole Foundation is supporting and developing an increase in Indigenous works and culture. Not only are Indigenous-run companies applying regularly, but longstanding mainstream Montreal companies, both English and French, are producing a wide variety of styles and diverse stories about Indigenous Peoples' lived experiences."



Duos en vitrine – Image: Julie Beauchemin

The dialogue is refreshed

Theatres are brimming with new ideas, having used the closures of the pandemic as time for creative percolation. Five out of the eleven companies received grants for new commissions. Theatrical styles and presentations on stage include drama, comedy, storytelling, dance, history, autobiography, music, installation art, videos, podcasts, oral traditions, and cooking.

Play submissions encompass a widespread range of cultures and identities, including Jamaican, Chinese, and traditional Quebec and Acadian folklore. Stories from Indigenous Peoples include Inuit, Innu, Dene, Wolastoqiyik/Maliseet and Anishnaabe, with many plays seeking to illuminate the common ground between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous cultures.

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Upcoming works, written by both emerging and awarded playwrights, present themes and ideas about second-generation immigrants living a double life, love stories inspired by people in the neighbourhood, collective rituals of celebration and mourning, intergenerational Indigenous and Black women around the theme of love and eroticism, and the privilege of colour. Productions are aimed at all ages, from children to seniors.

Recipients of the latest competition

The Foundation’s support during this time of recovery has meant the world to the theatre companies. “This important Cole Foundation grant allows **Systeme Kangourou** to open our creative space to a wide range of people of all ages from diverse communities. Our artistic approach is rooted in new ways of meeting each other

and, in the case of ***Fantômes***, to collectively question the ways in which we cohabit with our dead,” said **Anne-Marie Guilmaine**, co-artistic director of Système Kangourou.

Zach Fraser is the artistic director of **Infinithéâtre**. “We are honoured that the Cole Foundation is able to support our Artist in Residence as she develops a new work for the stage. Originally from Kuujuaq in Nunavik, **Sylvia Cloutier** is a unique and versatile artist; radiant, eloquent, and seeking to examine colonialism and climate change as she looks to the past and envisions potential futures,” said Fraser.



Delphine rêve toujours – Image: Marianne Duval

“For several years now, les **Productions Ondinnok** has collaborated with artists from different backgrounds and has brought Indigenous talent to the fore. Our languages form the portrait of this new generation. The Cole Foundation’s mandate and contribution to culture are essential to Montreal’s landscape,” said **Dave Jenniss**, artistic director, Ondinnok.

Talisman Theatre is thrilled to get the support of the Cole Foundation. “We created quite a bit during the pandemic but never shared it with live audiences. These funds will help remount the work,” said **Lyne Paquette**, artistic director, Talisman Theatre.

“Receiving the *Intercultural Conversations-Conversations Interculturelles* grant for **Ce monde-là** enables **Youtheatre** to revive this wonderfully-written play for a new generation of teen audiences. After largely focusing on digital productions for the past few seasons, the company is thrilled to return with such a timely and incisive piece,” said **Hanna Nes**, Outreach Coordinator, Youtheatre.



“Receiving the support of the Cole Foundation allows le **Théâtre I.N.K.** to reconnect to the citizens and spectators who are our first sounding board when a work is created. The Theatre seeks inspiration from the neighbourhood and this is especially true with its **Duo en vitrine** series, where Montrealers are invited to share their stories of love, commitment and deep respect for each other. We are grateful to collaborate with the local people who enrich our work in so many ways,” said **Marilyn Perreault**, co-artistic director, le Théâtre I.N.K.

Commissioning grants

Centaur Theatre/Talking Treaties: Tiotia:kè Collective – Stone and Bone by Ange Loft, Barbara Kaneratonni Diabo and Lehente Foote

Productions Onishka – Nichumis by Émilie Monnet (also production grant)

Infinithéâtre – Home by Sylvia Cloutier

Duceppe – Manikanetish by Naomi Fontaine (also production grant)

Théâtre aux Écuries/Système Kangourou – Fantômes by Anne-Marie Guilmaine and company

Production grants

Jamais Lu – Tiohtia:ké: cartographie de récits autochtones by various artists

Youtheatre – Ce monde-là by Hannah Moscovitch

Ondinnok – Toqaq Mecimi Puwiht /Delphine rêve toujours by Dave Jenniss

Théâtre aux Écuries/Nervous Hunter – Bonnes Bonnes by Sophie Gee

Talisman Theatre – Habibi’s Angels: Commission Impossible by Kalale Daltan and Hoda Adra

Théâtre I.N.K – Duos en vitrine by various artists

There are two annual Intercultural Conversations-Conversations Interculturelles grants, in October and April. The deadline for the next competition of the award is **Friday, September 30, 2022**, at 5 pm.

Theatre companies interested in applying for a grant can download the necessary application forms and information from the Cole Foundation’s website at

colefoundation.ca/en/programmes/intercultural-conversations

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Feature image: *Ce monde-là*, by Robert Desroches

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The **Cole Foundation** is a private family foundation based in Montreal, initiated in 1980 by the late J. N. (Jack) Cole, a Montreal businessman and philanthropist. It supports research in pediatric leukemia and related diseases, as well as a programme of support for community initiatives, including Intercultural Conversations. The catalyst for Intercultural Conversations was the Bouchard-Taylor Commission which recognized the multi-cultures of Montreal and the need to increase the intercultural dialogue between these communities. Barry Cole has had a 30-year career in the management of the performing arts, with an emphasis on classical music. He has been the Chair and President of the Cole Foundation for the past 12 years.



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