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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2022

The 21st Annual Talking Stick Festival Celebrates National Indigenous History Month Featuring First Nations Talent in Performing Arts

Vancouver, B.C. - Proudly located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, **Full Circle: First Nations Performance** announces its 21st Annual Talking Stick Festival held in Vancouver from June 12th to July 3rd

This year's Festival is a mix of self-produced events and co-presentations with notable arts partners such as the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, Music BC, Urban Ink Productions, Western Gold Theatre, V'ni Dansi, The Queer Arts Festival and more. The festival kicks off in June to align with National Indigenous History Month. Showcasing First Nations talent in various disciplines including film, theatre, visual arts and music, Full Circle: First Nations Performance invites the public to explore Indigenous culture through the arts during this 22-day event.

This year's theme is "Come Together" which in the three most prominently spoke languages of this land translate to: K̓xwúsem (Squamish), m̓i qəqəʔt ct (Musqueam) and Qápqúthut (Tsleil-Waututh). Our people gather from all four directions to share stories and travel across our ancestral lands. In our creative expression, the eagles circle over the travelers, blessing them with the courage, wisdom, inspiration and strength to persevere across any terrain they encounter. There is symbolic meaning behind the elements that inspired this year's theme with further explanation on our [website](#).

Each year for the past 21 years, the Talking Stick Festival has gathered thousands of Indigenous and non-Indigenous attendees alike. "This year, we are happy to be fully integrated in the performing arts community leveraging local partnerships to provide more opportunities for our Indigenous artists to work alongside and be a part of local Indigenous and non-Indigenous productions" says Margo Kane.

Over the next 22 days, the festival will host a series of performances, showcases, workshops including *Let's Hear it! Live Uplifting Indigenous Artists* (Jun 25), *Indigenous Summer Stage* (Jun 24), *sacred skin* (Jun 13 – 30) and support local productions including the *TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival* (Jun 24, 25, Jul 1 – 3), *Stories That Transform Us* (Jun 12), *La Mitchin di Mitchif* (Jun 19 – 21) through marketing and the curation of Indigenous talent. Many of the events are FREE while some charge a nominal ticket price of \$10 per person at the door.



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TALKING STICK FESTIVAL PRODUCED EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

sacred skin (Visual Arts Tattoo)

Date & Time: June 13th – 30th from 6pm – 10pm daily
Location: SFU Goldcorp Center for the Arts, 149 West Hastings Street, Vancouver
Tickets: FREE

[sacred skin](#) explores the resurgence of Indigenous tattooing practices as they relate to cultural revitalization. This exhibition showcases the work of 7 Indigenous tattoo artists - Audie Murray, Dion Kaszas, GiG - K'aajuu G'aaya, Holly Mititquq Nordlum, Nahaan, Nakkita Trimble and Nicole Neidhardt.

Indigenous Summer Stage (Music)

Date & Time: Jun 24th from 4:30pm – 7:30pm
Location: šxwáxəxən Xwtl'a7shn (formerly QET Plaza), 149 West Hastings Street, Vancouver
Tickets: FREE

The [Indigenous Summer Stage](#) is a free lively outdoor showcase featuring the fresh sounds of Indigenous artists spanning multiple genres and nations. Featuring: Elaine Bomberry, Murray Porter, Tsatsu Stalqayu (Coastal Wolfpack), and Zach Saunders.

Let's Hear it! Live Uplifting Indigenous Artists (Music)

Date & Time: Jun 25th from 7pm – 10pm
Location: The Fortune Sound Club, 147 Pender Street East, Vancouver
Tickets: By Donation

[Let's Hear It! Live](#) is back for the 3rd emerging artist showcase in this 4-part live concert series spotlighting new and emerging talent from diverse communities around BC. This showcase celebrates new and thriving voices in music featuring up-and-coming Indigenous performers - Eros Taylor, Caitlin Goulet and Eagle Ex Machina at the Fortune Sound Club hosted by JB The First Lady.

TALKING STICK CO-PRESENTATION EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Stories That Transform Us (Film)

Date & Time: Jun 12th from 7pm – 8:30pm
Location: SFU Goldcorp Center for the Arts, 149 West Hastings Street, Vancouver
Tickets: Free (RSVP Required)
** [Online event](#): Jun 1st – Jul 3rd. Tickets: \$10

In partnership with Urban Ink Productions, [Stories That Transform Us](#) celebrates its 20th anniversary with a 90-minute documentary film that looks back on the depth and scope of its history through past productions with re-imagined creative shorts and theatrical works produced since 2001. The film centers around conversations with the three Artistic Directors, beginning with founder Marie Clements, followed by Diane Roberts, and finally the current director, Corey Payette.



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La Mitchin di Mitchif (Dance)

Dates & Times: June 19th from 2 - 3pm + post talk show @ 5pm

Dates & Times: Jun 20th – 21st from 8 – 9pm

Location: Scotiabank Dance Center, 677 Davie Street, Vancouver

Tickets: \$18 (students / seniors) / \$ 28 regular adults

Led by Artistic Director Yvonne Chartrand, V'ni Dansi ('Come and Dance' in Mitchif) is dedicated to sharing the stories and culture of the Mitchif (Métis), through both traditional and contemporary dance. [La Mitchin di Mitchif](#) is a new Indigenous contemporary dance work created through an international collaboration with Santa Fe's Dancing Earth.

TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival (Music)

Dates: June 24th, 25th, July 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Times: Varies (9pm or 11pm start)

Location: Ocean Art Works Pavilion, 1531 Johnston St, Vancouver,

Tickets: Varies (\$10 at the door and FREE after 11pm)

In partnership with [Coastal Jazz & Blues Society](#), Full Circle presents Indigenous musical performers at the TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival including DJ KoaKeA, Old Soul Rebel, and JB The First Lady, Francis Baptiste, DJ Kookum, Handsome Tiger, DJ O Show, DJ Paisley Eva and Sister Says. Check [schedule](#) and ticket information for more details

For more event information, go to our [website](#)

About Full Circle: Established in 1992, by Margo Kane (Cree/Saulteaux Métis), Full Circle is a registered Canadian non-profit, Indigenous Arts organization that provides a platform for Indigenous artists to create, work, and train in the Arts. We engage our community in year-round Indigenous programs (Moccasin Trek: Arts on the Move!, Indian Acts and the Aboriginal Ensemble) in addition to our annual signature event, the Talking Stick Festival.

Website: TalkingStickFest.ca

Videos: <https://youtu.be/gbanz9P02e8> (15 secs) or <https://youtu.be/XS855jDI1Cs> (30 secs)

Instagram: @talkingstickfst

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/talkingstickfest/>

Twitter: @talkingstickfst