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## Queer Arts Festival 2023 + Talking Stick Festival present a day-long celebration of Two-Spirit & Indigiqueer artistry

### For Immediate Release

Vancouver BC, Jun 8, 2023 | **Queer Arts Festival (QAF)** and long-time artistic partners **Full Circle: First Nations Performance** have joined forces to create a day of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer arts events in honour of National Indigenous History Month, taking place at Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre (181 Roundhouse Mews) on Sunday, June 18, 2023.

**QAF 2023: Queers in Space** and Full Circle's **Talking Stick Festival 2023: Summer Reverb** will host a trilogy of events beginning at 3pm with *Love After the End: Joshua Whitehead & Friends*. The special literary panel features contributors to 2020's *Love After the End: An Anthology of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Speculative Fiction*. The groundbreaking sci-fi collection showcases a number of new and emerging Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer writers from across Turtle Island, edited and compiled by renowned author Joshua Whitehead. Participating authors include visionary Indigenous writers jaye simpson, Nathan Adler and Nazbah Tom.

A catered cinq-à-sept reception follows the literary event, featuring DJ Kota and a book signing with the participating authors, facilitated by independent and Indigenous-owned Massy Books.

To cap off the night, Turtle Island's first all-Indigenous burlesque collective Virago Nation will take the Roundhouse Performance Centre stage at 7pm. A festival favourite of the virtual *QAF 2020: Wicked*, Virago Nation returns to the festival with a brand new, in-the-flesh performance exploring the many facets of indigenous sexual rematriation. Using storytelling, comedy, pop culture, and striptease, Virago Nation's performance hopes to remind viewers that heteronormativity is inherently colonial and queerness is a gift to be celebrated.

Virago Nation is comprised of Indigenous burlesque artists Lynx Chase, Mandy Stroyer, Monday Blues, RainbowGlitz, Ruth Odare, Scarlet Delirium, Shane Sable & Sparkle Plenty. Special guest & drag performance artist Continental Breakfast joins the Viragos for their QAF 2023 performance.

Queer Arts Festival acknowledges that we operate with gratitude and as guests on the sovereign, unceded lands of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱ə'yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples. QAF programming is committed to bolstering the work of First Nations and Indigenous artists and working toward dismantling the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism.

Queer Arts Festival runs June 17 to 28, with events taking place at Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre, James Black Gallery, SUM gallery and VAG North Plaza. For QAF's full festival schedule, please visit [queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com). Talking Stick Festival runs June 1 to July 4 at various venues. Please visit [fullcircle.ca](http://fullcircle.ca) for more information.

### About the Queer Arts Festival [queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com)

The Queer Arts Festival is an annual, artist-run transdisciplinary arts festival. Recognized among the top festivals of its kind worldwide, QAF produces, presents and exhibits challenging, thought-provoking work that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. Each year, the festival theme ties together a curated visual art exhibition, performing art series, media art screenings, literary arts, and party events. QAF has garnered wide acclaim as "concise, brilliant and moving" (Georgia Straight), "easily one of the best exhibitions of the year in Vancouver" (Vancouver Sun), and "on the forefront of aesthetic and cultural dialogue today" (Xtra). The QAF team also operates year-round through programming & exhibitions at Chinatown's [SUM gallery](http://SUM gallery).

### About Full Circle: First Nations Performance [fullcircle.ca](http://fullcircle.ca)

First Nations Performance is a non-profit arts society that creates opportunities for Indigenous artists. Proudly located on the traditional, unceded territories of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱ə'yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, Full Circle produces programs and events such as the annual Talking Stick Festival to share history, stories and experiences of the First Nations People through their artistic work. Margo Kane (Cree/Saulteaux), an interdisciplinary artist and Indigenous arts leader, founded Full Circle in 1992. Upon establishing Full Circle, Kane's vision was to make a profound contribution to the development of Indigenous performance in Canada.

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SUM GALLERY

[sumgallery.ca](http://sumgallery.ca)