

TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL

Danse Macabre Access Guide



July 3-12, 2026
Tarragon Theatre Mainspace

This guide uses plain language to provide audiences, particularly neurodiverse audiences, with specific sensory details of programming in advance to help guide your experience.

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About Danse Macabre

Danse Macabre unfolds in the charged heartbeat of a Mas Camp, where feathers, wire, and memory collide on the eve of Toronto Carnival. Here, a queer Trini-Canadian Costume Designer dares to conjure a vision—one that reaches beyond spectacle into the ancestral, the sacred, the unfinished.

What begins as creation becomes invocation, from the ruptures of enslavement to the enduring pulse of African spiritual memory, the King of the Band's costume emerges as both offering and provocation. But as the work grows in scale and intention, so too does the resistance – when a costume rooted in Black history and myth is embodied by a white figure on the Carnival stage. The Mas Camp becomes a battleground of truth and imagination. The living clash with the ancestral. The seen wrestles with the unseen.

Moving between Toronto's streets and the metaphysical terrain of Carnival cosmology and Yoruba myth, Danse Macabre asks: Who owns memory? Who dares to embody it? What does it cost to remember truthfully? And in the end, what must be surrendered to dance with history?

Run Time

75 minutes with no intermission

Content Warnings and Advisories

Please be advised that Danse Macabre includes/mentions/references/depicts...

The N word and graphic violent language.

Cast and Characters in order of appearance



Keira Marie Forde plays the role of **Frame**, an ancestral spirit that is an extension of Cisco's imagination and inner voice.



Theresa Gomes plays the role of **Tantie**, the matriarch of the mas camp. She carries the traditions of the carnival on her shoulders and is determined to see it maintained.



Shelby Mwambu plays the role of **Tantrum**, a queer, overly eager Black Lives Matter Activist and young and upcoming costume designer, and a successful and progressive section leader.



King Cosmos (Henry Gomez) plays the role of **Magic**, the mas camp's wire bender and costume builder. His skill is a dying tradition and he is determined to show the androgynous Tantrum how to 'bend' the wire.



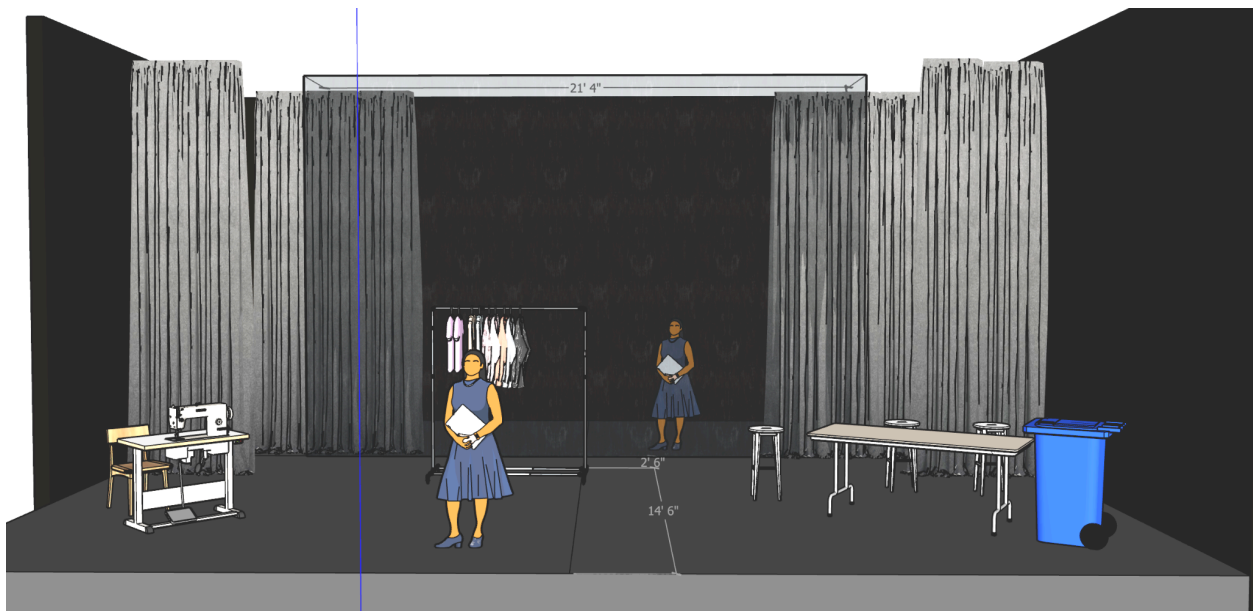
Uche Ama plays the role of **Cisco**, a Queer carnival costume designer and bandleader determined to produce a costume of African consciousness portrayed by a white male.



Thomas Fournier plays the role of **Marc**, a white French creole descendant of Trinidad. He is very generous and always eager but is continuously challenged by Tantrum for his ancestral colonizing past.

Set

The set consists of a raised work table on stage left which a number of costume items are strewn, around the table are high stools. Upstage right is a small table with a sewing machine on it and a chair. Upstage Centre, three panels of cloth material hang from the grid. Images are projected on these panels that also serve as a scrim. Down stage left, the costume Danse Macabre standing at about 8 feet. It's building is in progress. By the end of the play the costume is completed and taken off stage and returns for the King and Queen of the Bands competition at Lamport Stadium.



Costumes

The actors wear all black and would add pieces to their costume to assume various roles in Memory. Removing it when returned to the Present. The character, Frame represents the Yoruba ancestral masquerade, The Egungun. They wear a multi coloured costume covered from head to ankles and their identity is concealed.



PHOTO OF COSTUME

Get in Touch

If you have any questions or concerns about this access guide or planning your visit to **DANSE MACABRE** at the 2025 Toronto Fringe Festival, please reach out.

Contact Mitzi Benjamin Allen

Media/ Marketing Manager

Email: hamamitzi@gmail.com

Phone: 437-552-7245

If you want to tell the Fringe about your experience or have feedback that you would like to share, you can call, write, or send an email to the Fringe.

Our address is:

100 Broadview Avenue, Suite 400

Toronto, ON

M4M 3H3

Our email address is:

access@fringetoronto.com

Our phone number is:

416-966-1062

Thank you for coming to the 2025 Toronto Fringe Festival.