



For Immediate Release: May 28, 2018

## UPSTREAM DOWNTOWN

at the 2018 Toronto Fringe Festival

*It loves humanity. It hates humanity. It's fishy.*

(Toronto) - **Animacy Theatre Collective** in co-production with award winning company **Common Boots Theatre** is thrilled to present their new research-based and devised work **UPSTREAM DOWNTOWN** at the **Toronto Fringe Festival July 4 - 15, 2018**. Created with the support of the Ontario Arts Council, Celebration Barn Theatre, Scarborough Arts, The Arts and Letters Club and the TRCA.

In **Upstream Downtown**, the world is experienced through the bodies of Sojo and Beagle, two salmon-human amalgamates, who have been evicted from their watery dwelling and must play play their very best "human" in order to survive in a world dominated by suits (not scales). All the while they continue to search for home, food, room (or reproductive!) mates, and a bit of multispecies' love. Hiccups along the way include: a swim out of the water, a hook in the mouth, a pregnancy, and four cans of chatty salmon. A research-based, physical theatre comedic play about salmon and humans finding home in Toronto.

Directed by Award Winning Playwright & Actor **MARTHA ROSS** // Created and Performed by **MORGAN JOHNSON** and **ALEXANDRA SIMPSON** // Choreographed by Dora nominated choreographer **ALYSSA MARTIN** // Music Composition by **ANDERS AZZOPARDI** and **STEFAN HEGERAT** // Stage Management by **NOA KATZ**

**Show Dates and Times:** Friday, July 6, 6:45 pm / Saturday, July 7, 1:45 pm / Sunday, July 8, 3:30 pm / Monday, July 9, 1:00pm / Wednesday, July 11, 7:30 pm / Thursday, July 12, 11:00 pm / Sunday, July 15, 4:30 pm

### ABOUT

Salmon are often found on our dinner plates, but are seldom swimming around our minds asking philosophical questions about home, reproductive rights, settler-Indigenous relations, feminism, and interspecies narratives. What can salmon tell us about domestic, public, and watery spaces? Salmon also have a remarkable connection to place, using homing abilities to find their way back to their native streams and rivers. As two female artists of European ancestry, living as settlers on Indigenous land, we are interested in how to address the complexity of 'home' when our access to land is predicated on the history of colonial/patriarchal violence. How can interspecies performance challenge and influence Western and colonial modes of thinking and knowing? How do we go forward? For Sojo and Beagle, who are just as complexed about these big questions as any of us, the answer is to just keep swimming.

### ABOUT ANIMACY THEATRE COLLECTIVE

Animacy Theatre Collective (ATC) is focussed on the creation of original, experimental and interdisciplinary theatre works. We tell stories that: are driven by women, use humor and physical storytelling to raise social awareness, and create characters who defy pre-existing borders (human, nonhuman, gender, sexuality). Our work focuses on physical theatre (mask [building and performance], clown, dance and improvisation), playwriting and multimedia to create research-based and devised plays. ATC was formed through a shared belief in the necessity – especially in the current political climate – of bringing research into conversation with communities through stories that are funny, physical and imaginative.

Tickets are available at [fringetoronto.com](http://fringetoronto.com)

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[www.animacytheatrecollective.com](http://www.animacytheatrecollective.com) - @animacytheatrecollective - #UpstreamDowntown