

--- For Immediate Release June 4, 2017 ---

Never Too Old for Space Travel

SNAFU returns to the Toronto Fringe Festival



Interstellar Elder is what it sounds like: a dark physical comedy about 300-year-old woman traveling through outer space. One geriatric astronaut is entrusted with caring for the spaceship's cryogenically frozen 'human cargo': the last of humankind, hiding out and waiting for Earth to heal so that they may return to earth and begin a new civilization. *Interstellar Elder* opens Friday July 7th at the Toronto Fringe Festival located in The Theatre Centre on Queen Street West.

In this futuristic scenario, North American Prime Minister Justin Bieber takes it upon himself to end world hunger by deforesting the continent to plant thousands of acres of genetically-modified swiss chard. This Superfood takes over the entire planet, choking out all other forms of life and forcing a human exodus into space. "So we're working with hyper-realism," teases Hansen, one of the show's creators.

Hansen won this year's coveted CAFF lottery, where the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals (CAFF) allows the winner a guaranteed entry into any of the festivals they choose. Hansen chose nine cities across Canada including Toronto, which is notoriously the toughest lottery to get into. This year Toronto Fringe received over 730 applications for the 160 available slots. "This is my second time winning the CAFF lottery in the past three years, whereas some artists have applied for CAFF every year for the past two

decades and never been drawn. If I win CAFF a third time, I expect death threats from other fringe artists."

Multi-award-winning performer and playwright Ingrid Hansen is best known in Toronto for SNAFU's shows *Kitt & Jane: An Interactive Survival Guide to the Near-Post-Apocalyptic Future* (Toronto Fringe 2014, Best New Play Award from the Playwright's Theatre Centre) and *Snack Music* (Next Stage Festival 2015,) and her collaboration with Ginette Mohr and Kate Fenton performing in Mohr's play *The Truth About Comets* (Best of Toronto Fringe 2014.) *Interstellar Elder* is directed by SNAFU Co-Artistic Director Kathleen Greenfield, and choreographed by Atomic Vaudeville's Britt Small, who directed the Dora-Award-Winning Canadian musical *Ride the Cyclone*.

Interstellar Elder has only seven performances at the 2017 Toronto Fringe, and at past festivals SNAFU's shows sell out fast, so snap up tickets in advance for this one or you might get left stranded on earth.

"Hansen is tirelessly brilliant and charismatic." - *Charlebois Post*
"The party starts as soon as you walk in the theatre." ★★★★★ - *CBC*
"Charming, inventive, hilarious and touching."
Ingrid Hansen is a delightfully bratty performer." - *Montreal Gazette*

INTERSTELLAR ELDER is produced by theatre company SNAFU
Playing at the **2017 TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL**
Co-Created and Directed by Kathleen Greenfield
Co-Created and Performed by Ingrid Hansen
Choreographed by Britt Small
Dramaturgy by Emma Zabloski

Dates:

Friday July 7th - 5:45PM
Sunday July 9th - 3:30PM
Monday July 10th - 8:45PM
Tuesday July 11th - 2:45PM

Wednesday July 12th - 11:00PM
Thursday July 13th - 3:30PM
Saturday July 15th - 7:00PM

Venue: The Theatre Centre, 1115 Queen St W
Tickets: \$12 online at fringetoronto.com



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High-res photos available at <http://bit.ly/2s6WJVR>