



Media/Press Release

Toronto Fringe Media Contact: Damien Nelson at communications@fringetoronto.com
Media Rep. Contact: Sam Boer at ursamusical@gmail.com

Theatre-Concert Hybrid *Ursa: A Folk Musical* to Premiere at Toronto Fringe's NextStage Festival

The product of an acclaimed folk songwriter, a musical theatre multi-hyphenate, and a team of Ontario's most promising talent, this show will run for five performances in January 2022.

December 9, 2021 (Toronto, ON)—The Uncommon Folk Collective is pleased to present a new original show, *Ursa: A Folk Musical*, at the Toronto Fringe's NextStage Festival this January. Combining the joys of a folk concert with the timeless wisdom of a folktale, *Ursa: A Folk Musical* tells the story of a lonely bear, a restless small-town Ontario teenager, and the star-crossed friendship they forge. This unforgettable exploration of the anxieties and euphorias of young adulthood is full of fresh and surprising folk tunes performed by a live band.

Written collaboratively over weekly Zoom sessions throughout the pandemic, musical theatre renaissance man **Jake Schindler** and Canadian Folk Music Award nominee **Sam Boer** crafted this show as a creative life raft. Rather than stick to traditional divisions of labour in musical theatre (book, music, lyrics), Schindler and Boer linked at the arm and threw themselves into this show, crafting every element as a team. The result: a folk musical brimming with scrappy enthusiasm; a show that stretches folk music in completely new directions while telling a story that reflects on the challenges and rewards of head-over-heels friendship.

Ursa: A Folk Musical is being directed by **Margot Greve** (MFA Acting, X University) of [Mixtape Projects](#), and stars **Belinda Corpuz** of [Tita Collective](#) ("Producer's Pick," Toronto SketchFest, "Best Newcomer," Montreal SketchFest) and **Stephen Ingram** (recently seen in Theatre Aquarius' *Home for the Holidays*, the Grand Theatre's *Juno's Reward*, Victoria Playhouse Petrolia's *Summer of '69*, and Upper Canada Playhouse's *Glory Days*).

Ursa: A Folk Musical will run on Jan. 21, 23, 27, 28, and 30. Find out more via the Toronto Fringe [website](#), the show's [website](#), and the show's [Instagram](#).

Toronto Fringe Communications Manager: Damien Nelson, communications@fringetoronto.com
Media Rep. Contact: Sam Boer at ursamusical@gmail.com



*The Uncommon Folk Collective
in association with the Toronto Fringe Festival
present:*

Ursa: A Folk Musical

music / book / lyrics by Sam Boer and Jake Schindler

directed by Margot Greve

starring Belinda Corpuz, Stephen Ingram, Jake Schindler, and Sam Boer

stage managed by Taylor Young

graphic design by Abby Nowakowski

* * *

NextStage Festival, presented by the Toronto Fringe

July 21 – 31, 2021

Details, Tickets, and Memberships: www.fringetoronto.com/next-stage/about