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The Cultch presents

FEMME SERIES—AT THE CULTCH

January and February 2019

Female identifying voices and experiences take the spotlight this winter at The Cultch

(Vancouver, BC) –The Cultch is proud to celebrate the power of female identifying voices this winter, from Jan 15 – Feb 16, 2019, with its third annual Femme Series (formerly Femme February & Femme January).

Amplifying female identifying voices has always been important to Cultch Executive Director, Heather Redfern. “This is our way to say, ‘Come on, guys: you’ve got to pay attention to this,’” Redfern told The Georgia Straight about the Femme Series in early 2018 “you have to do it deliberately. You have to commit to doing 50 percent of work [in your season] where the main thrust is from a female creation.” This year’s Femme Series is bigger and better, with even more special events—music, karaoke, new play-readings, and opportunities to mix and mingle. It continues the work from last year, with particular emphasis on deconstructing patriarchal language, expanding the limitations of the way gender is represented, and celebrating the intersectionality of the feminist perspective.

2019 Femme Series Events:

Jan 11: *WROL (Without Rule of Law)* by Michaela Jeffery—A new play reading presented by Touchstone Theatre, 8PM, Historic Theatre—FREE

Jan 12: Soft Cedar Presents: *Only a Visitor* album release, with special guest Wallgrin—Only A Visitor is a quintet that blurs genre boundaries by straddling the line between art music and pop. Their new album, *Technicolour Education*, focuses on the Chinese diasporic experience in Vancouver through generations of immigrant stories. 8PM, Historic Theatre—\$20

Jan 14: *Women in the Arts Mixer*, 5-7PM, Historic Theatre—FREE

Jan 14: *Pitch, Bitch, and Ditch with Pippa Mackie and Kim Harvey*—Join theatre creators and producers Kim Senklip Harvey and Pippa Mackie for an unforgettable night that puts the power in the hands of the patrons. 8-9PM, Historic Theatre—\$10

Jan 15 – 19: *Dakh Daughters* (Ukraine), York Theatre—Main Stage Season Production, see details below.

Jan 22 – 26: *Power Ballad*, Julia Croft/Nisha Madhan (New Zealand), 8PM, Historic Theatre—Main Stage Season Production, see details below.

Jan 25: *Feminist Karaoke with Julia Croft*, after *Power Ballad*, 9PM, Historic Theatre—FREE

Jan 27: Soft Cedar Presents: *Kaumakaiwa Kanaka’ole*, presented as part of CapU Global Roots Series—Kaumakaiwa brings to the stage an immense talent as a singer, chanter, and dancer as well as a deep understanding of her Hawaiian culture and her place as a modern, transgender (mahu wahine) Hawaiian in this contemporary world. She engages Indigenous thought to address today’s issues through music, chant, and sharing of spirit. 8PM, York Theatre—\$40

Feb 5 - 16: *Much Ado About Nothing*, Classic Chic Productions (Vancouver), Historic Theatre—Main Stage Season Production, see details below.

Details for individual Femme Series Main Stage Season Productions are below:

DAKH DAUGHTERS

Dakh Daughters (Ukraine)

WHEN: Jan 15 – 19, 2019

Jan 15, 8PM: Opening

Jan 16 – 19, 8PM

WHERE: York Theatre, 639 Commercial Drive.

TICKETS: Tickets from \$24. Single tickets on sale now through The Cultch's Box Office: 604-251-1363 or tickets.thecultch.com.

Six actresses take musical instruments into their hands in order to create a life-affirming performance about love, freedom, and beauty which—at the end of the day—will save the world.

Armed with a full complement of strings, keyboards and percussions, and drawing on the full breadth of their experiences, the Dakh Daughters bring to life semi-fairytale-like songs based on a mix of classical Ukrainian poetry, the words of Nobel-prize winners, fragments of popular hits from the past, and original works. With virtuosity they manipulate the rhythm; navigating the ups and downs of the moment to pull the crowd in unexpected directions—one moment, shaking the audience with a roar in the manner of avant-garde Slovenian groups, and the next minute transformed into fun-loving Hollywood beauties of the 1950's. *Dakh Daughters* create an atmosphere of a French saloon...where Mireille Mathieu befriends Marilyn Manson.

“They are genuinely original—mixing classical minimalism with passionate Ukrainian folk and a touch of “freak cabaret”, delivered with punk energy”— The Guardian

Director: **Vlad Troitskyi**, Performers: **Tetiana Havrylyuk, Solomiia Melnyk, Ganna Nikitina, Nina Garenetska, Nataliya Halanevych, Nataliia Charpe**, Composers: **Dakh Daughters Band, Vlad Troitskyi**, Costume Designer: **Vlad Troitskyi**, Sound Designer: **Maksym Taran**, Lighting and Video Designer: **Mariia Volkova**, Manager: **Iryna Gorban**

POWER BALLAD

Julia Croft/Nisha Madhan (New Zealand)

WHEN: Jan 22 – 26, 2019

Jan 22, 8PM: Opening

Jan 23 – 26, 8PM

WHERE: Historic Theatre, 1895 Venables St.

TICKETS: Tickets from \$24. Single tickets on sale now through The Cultch's Box Office: 604-251-1363 or tickets.thecultch.com.

“I am looking for a language that exists outside patriarchal definitions, of course that is not possible, but who is any longer interested in the possible” — Kathy Acker

Power Ballad is an angry, feminist, live art investigation of language and its sometimes hidden ideologies. Part performance lecture, part karaoke party, *Power Ballad* deconstructs gendered linguistic histories and rips apart contemporary language to find a new articulation of pleasure, anger, and femaleness.

With an '80s soundtrack to rival any school disco, *Power Ballad* is anarchic and loud; filled with feminist rage and...Annie Lennox

“Many shows lay claim to gender fluidity, but this is the real deal: othering, teasing, provoking. The tone moves between hysteria and terror, joy and despair” — The List UK

Performer/creator: **Julia Croft**, Director/creator: **Nisha Madhan**, Lighting Designer/operator: **Calvin Hudson**, Dramaturge: **Kate Prior**, Producer: **Lydia Zanetti for Zanetti Productions**

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Classic Chic Productions (Vancouver)

WHEN: Feb 5 – 16, 2019

Feb 05, 8PM: Preview

Feb 06, 8PM: Opening

Feb 07 – 09, 12 – 18, 8PM

Feb 10, 16, 2PM

WHERE: Historic Theatre, 1895 Venables St.

TICKETS: Tickets from \$24. Single tickets on sale now through The Cultch's Box Office: 604-251-1363 or tickets.thecultch.com.

Set in a mesmerizing theatrical world, this deadly serious and sublimely ridiculous story—of soldiers in love and women confined by tradition—is a bold and playful romp through the extremes of desire and ambition, loyalty and redemption.

Featuring their signature all-female cast, Vancouver's critically acclaimed Classic Chic Productions promises an evening of Shakespeare unlike anything you've experienced before.

**“It has been my experience that gender-blind casting speaks to a diverse audience—straight and queer, men and women—and is a true reflection of our complex contemporary community” —
Rebecca Patterson, Director**

Director: **Rebecca Patterson**, Artistic Director/Producer/Actor: **Christina Wells Campbell**, Production Manager/Producer/Actor: **Corina Akeson**, Marketing & Communications Director/Producer/Actor: **Michelle Martin**, Sponsorship/Producer/Actor: **Catherine Lough Haggquist**, Fundraising/Producer/Actor: **Bronwen Smith**

ABOUT THE CULTCH:

Since 1973, The Cultch (formally the Vancouver East Cultural Centre) has been one of Vancouver's most diverse and innovative arts and cultural hubs. The organization operates three theatrical venues, a gallery, and various ancillary spaces in the heart of East Vancouver. The Cultch offers dynamic contemporary programming in theatre, dance, music, and the visual arts, bringing world-class cultural presentations to thousands of citizens each year through its own programming and through providing rental opportunities for community users. Our purpose is to provide a venue for performance that serves a diverse and engaged public and provides space for artistic experimentation and development, building an audience for local companies and presenting cutting-edge national and international work.