



For Immediate Release

Arts Commons Presents Brings the Talent of Five Local Artists Together for Origins: Spirit in a Creative Fusion of Bold Expression

March 20, 2025 - CALGARY – TD Amplify returns with *Origins: Spirit*, the third showcase this season by TD Incubator artists that has been hailed as Calgary's most exciting underground performance series. Making waves in Calgary by providing a place for creativity to flourish, the TD Incubator program is establishing itself as a foundational part of Calgary's cultural community. TD Incubator participants have their moment on stage through the TD Amplify series, collaborating with their fellow cohort members to create something completely new. Join us to discover the creative collisions of *Origins: Spirit* on April 11, 2025, at 8:00 pm in the Engineered Air Theatre at Arts Commons.

Audiences looking to experience creative experimentation at its most interesting level will love the TD Amplify series. In this third installment, the TD Incubator cohort artists will explore the theme of "spirit" on stage. Whether it's through creative celebration, an emotional release, or the act of chasing a euphoric high, each artist will find their voice in their own unique way. *Origins: Spirit* features the creative talents of musician Kenna Burima, drag performer Mx Jendr, beatbox and hip-hop champ Eazy G, sand artist Kelly, and hip-hop artist Luke Little Chief. Taking a collaborative approach to performance, the cast brings their talents together for a true ensemble performance. Called an "outstanding show" featuring a "diversity of artists who each bring a unique flavour to what they do" where audiences "cry, laugh, and have so much fun," the TD Amplify series brings Calgary's underground to the forefront, demonstrating the well-spring of talent that exists right here in our community.

Arts Commons Presents is thrilled to be welcoming Artistic Producer of Calgary Young People's Theatre Jamie Dunsdon as director for *Origins: Spirit*. An acclaimed director, playwright, designer, and performer, Dunsdon will lend her extensive experience to help guide the expressive visions of these TD Incubator artists.

The TD Incubator program is entering its fourth year of supporting Calgary's vibrant community of artists. In addition to performance opportunities through the TD Amplify series, TD Incubator offers artists professional development workshops, mentorship, and networking opportunities provided by Arts Commons. A key part of the program is the opportunity for these artists to share their art with the public.

"Origins Spirit is a very exciting mix of artists, both performing and visual. Having a sand artist and a drag performer working on the same piece might seem impossible, but that juxtaposition of creative modes is actually where the most interesting and playful ideas come from. I'm absolutely on the edge of my seat waiting to see what they make together," says Jamie Dunsdon. "We are also lucky to have Kenna Burima joining us to bring her special brand of musical magic to the ensemble, and the work she has already started creating with Luke and Eazy G is so full of energy and good vibes, that I think the spirit in the room will be alive and soaring."

Each season of TD Incubator is guided by the vision of an outstanding artistic Fellow. Past Fellows include awardwinning R&B duo Sargeant x Comrade and former poet laureate Wakefield Brewster. This season, Arts Commons welcomes Migguel Anggelo – our first international Fellow. Miami and Brooklyn-based and Venezuelan-born, Migguel Anggelo is an interdisciplinary performing artist who expresses himself through costume, musical composition, movement, and theater work, evoking the "showmanship of Desi Arnaz and the performance art of Klaus Nomi"

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(Theater Scene). Arts Commons is thrilled to have such a seasoned and influential creative visionary inspiring this season's TD Incubator cohort.

"The way these artists are approaching the theme of spirit – with their whole hearts, minds, and combined talents – let alone the incredible performances they're developing lifts me to my feet every time – I so wish you were in rehearsals with me," says Josh Dalledonne, Associate Director Creative. "Expect joy, revelry and delight – expect to need to DANCE IT OUT after the show – that's how good these artists are. So, stick around for the after party, you won't regret it."

Join TD Amplify for its final showcase of the 2024-25 season with Origins: Freedom on June 6, 2025.

What:	Arts Commons Presents – TD Amplify Origins: Spirit
When:	Friday, April 11 at 8 p.m.
Where:	Engineered Air Theatre at Arts Commons
Tickets:	403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/spirit

You can learn more at <u>artscommons.ca/amplify</u>. Arts Commons Presents wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Naming Partner TD Bank Group.

For media inquiries, high resolution images, or more information contact:

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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, National Geographic Live, and TD Amplify series. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists to perform, exhibit, reach new audiences, and grow on a multitude of levels.

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