

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

The Slide Guitar Chops of Jack Broadbent Brings the 25th Anniversary Season of PCL Blues to a Rocking Close with Arts Commons Presents

March 21, 2023 - CALGARY – Returning to Calgary by popular demand, Jack Broadbent performs his newest album *Ride* in the intimate venue of the Engineered Air Theatre. “His most rugged and powerful performance to date,” (Holler Country) *Ride* takes you on a road trip through a vibrant mix of blues, alternative rock, Americana, and folk with one of the best slide guitarists in the business. Join Arts Commons Presents and experience Jack Broadbent live as part of the **PCL Blues** series from **Arts Commons Presents** on **Friday, April 14 & Saturday, April 15, 2023**.

Last in Calgary for his sold-out 2017 performance as part of the PCL Blues series, Jack Broadbent is a viral star who has proven that he can go the distance with each new release. His rise to internet fame came in 2014 while he was busking in Amsterdam and a passerby posted a recording of his performance to YouTube. The video clocked over 327,000 views as the wider world marveled at Broadbent’s singular self-taught slide-guitar talent. From there he has only gotten bigger and better, releasing six albums as well as opening for names like Ronnie Wood of The Rolling Stones, Peter Frampton, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Tony Joe White. Critics who saw his appearance at the 2016 Montreux Jazz Festival called him “the new master of the slide guitar.”

With *Ride*, Broadbent has a few more surprises up his sleeve. Recorded in Quebec during the height of the pandemic, the album transformed into a fully formed slide guitar tribute to rock’n’roll rather than Broadbent’s originally envisioned acoustic album. Fortunately, critics couldn’t be happier, praising, “Jack Broadbent demonstrates once again his remarkable and almost unrivalled talent on the slide guitar” (Loudertanwar) and “a simmering, spicy jambalaya of boogie, rock, and blues” (Rock & Blues Muse).

“We started playing some of the more rock 'n' roll stuff I had, and we couldn't deny that there was a kind of vibe happening. We built on those grooves and ended up with the rock 'n' roll record I've been wanting to make for a long time,” says Broadbent. “I feel like this album is the best work I’ve done. For me, writing songs in different styles and not being afraid of casting a wide net is certainly a great advantage for improving your writing—it means eventually you have a boundary-less landscape to work with.”

Nearing the finale of its 25th anniversary season, the PCL Blues series is testament to Calgary’s love affair with the blues genre. The 2022-23 season of the PCL Blues series has celebrated GRAMMY Award-winning superstars to homegrown favourites and everything in between, demonstrating the remarkable diversity of the genre.

“The 22-23 season has really showcased the wide variety that the Blues genre can encompass,” says Stephanie Hutchinson, Associate Director, Programming at Arts Commons. “From returning favourites, to masters of their instruments, and powerful vocalists, we couldn't be prouder of our 25th Anniversary lineup!”

As the presenting arm of Arts Commons, Arts Commons Presents brings speaker series, concerts, and other live experiences to Calgary to enrich the city’s diverse cultural offerings. Stay tuned for exciting announcements from the 2023-24 season of Arts Commons Presents coming up this spring at artscommons.ca/presents.



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What: PCL Blues: Jack Broadbent
Where: Arts Commons (Engineered Air Theatre)
When: Friday, April 14 & Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 8 p.m.
Who: Arts Commons Presents
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/broadbent

To purchase tickets to PCL Blues: Jack Broadbent, or enquire about subscriptions to the 2022-23 season of PCL Blues, please call 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/presents.

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, National Geographic Live, PCL Blues, TD Amplify Cabarets, and Jazz, as well as the work that we do in the community. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists on a multitude of levels.

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