

*For Immediate Release*

## Award-Winning Film Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Live Orchestra Screening in the Jack Singer Concert Hall

October 10, 2023 - CALGARY – This November, Arts Commons Presents’ BD&P World Stage series launches into its 2023-24 season with *The Triplets of Belleville: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Film in Concert*. Screened in the magnificent Jack Singer Concert Hall, this audience beloved and critically acclaimed animated movie is accompanied by a live orchestra conducted by the original composer himself, Montreal-born Benoît Charest. Join Arts Commons Presents for *The Triplets of Belleville: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Film in Concert* on **Thursday November 2 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall** at Arts Commons. Learn more at [artscommons.ca/triplets](https://artscommons.ca/triplets).

The widely acclaimed *The Triplets of Belleville* premiered in 2003. Written and directed by Sylvain Chomet with a score composed by Benoît Charest, the movie immediately gained a following for its irreverent tone, stylized animation, and comedic premise. Paired with a rollicking score, the absurdist comedy earned two Academy Award nominations, a BAFTA nomination, a GRAMMY nomination, and won two Toronto Film Critics Association Awards for Best Canadian Film and Best Animated Film, among numerous other awards.

*“Everyone has their way to work, and every film has its problems to be solved, and everyone has their way to come about [solving] them,”* says Benoît Charest about his process of scoring the film. *“The tunes I did in Les Triplets were based on a form and a certain length, so the animators could animate the scene on it. They would have a musical piece, and they would base the animation on the musical piece to seem as if they were playing the instruments.”* And in translating that to a stage performance, he adds, *“The challenge is to play it flawlessly. It’s closer to a classical performance than a rock or jazz performance, where the structure and the content of the concert would evolve in different ways from one night to the other. I have to keep the troops on their toes.”*

The story follows Madame Souza and her cycling enthusiast grandson, Champion. Through a series of bizarre events, Madame Souza, and her faithful companion Bruno the dog, find themselves on a transatlantic journey to rescue her wayward grandson – encountering mobsters, grenade-lobbing elderly women, and a cast of other unexpected, quirky characters along the way. Hailed as “richly detailed and loaded with surreal touches” by *Rotten Tomatoes*, it “mixes story with art, creating a visual journey that is whimsically entertaining” (*Influx Magazine*).

**BD&P World Stage** enters its 23rd season of bringing the best that the world has to offer to Calgary's spectacular Jack Singer Concert Hall, giving our city the chance to experience something completely new. This season we welcome *The Triplets of Belleville: 20th Anniversary Film in Concert* conducted by the original composer himself, Montreal-born Benoît Charest, followed by a holiday concert celebration with **The Barra MacNeils: An East Coast Christmas**. The New Year brings Australian contemporary circus company **Circa** and their new show **Humans 2.0**, followed by Cuba’s leading contemporary dance company, **Malpaso with Arturo O’Farrill & the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra**. The season rounds out with **DakhaBrakha**, a multi-award winning Ukrainian folk music group and active ambassadors for Ukrainian music and culture, and multi-GRAMMY Award-winning jazz legend **Diane Schuur with Raul Midón**.

# MEDIA RELEASE



*"The BD&P World Stage series has held a vibrant space in the programming mission at Arts Commons for the past 20 years! Performances like The Triplets of Belleville: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Film in Concert brings the wonders of the world home to Calgary," says VP of Programming, Sarah Garton Stanley (SGS). "I love this film and can't wait to sit in the Jack and witness a piece of Canadian cinematic history accompanied by a live orchestra. It brings back the kid in me, full of wonder at the incredible imagination of humans!"*

Arts Commons Presents is the programming arm of Arts Commons, presenting a diverse line-up of concerts, speaker presentations, youth programming, and emerging artist showcases. Outside of the three signature series of BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, and National Geographic Live, Arts Commons Presents also shares special presentations that are just too good to pass up, including Calgary's celebrity songstress for **A Jann Arden Christmas on December 19 & 20, 2023**, and a unique orchestral performance narrated by Jann Arden, **National Geographic Film Concert: Secrets of the Whales on April 21 - 23, 2024**. To learn about all the shows in the 2023-24 season of Arts Commons Presents, visit [acpresents.ca](http://acpresents.ca).

**What:** Arts Commons Presents – The Triplets of Belleville: 20th Anniversary Film in Concert  
**When:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons  
**Tickets:** 403-294-9494 or visit [artscommons.ca/triplets](http://artscommons.ca/triplets)

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to ACP Signature Series Presenting Sponsor **Burnett, Duckworth & Palmer**, supporting sponsors **ALSA Road Construction** and **SerVantage Services** as well as the **Government of Canada** through **Canadian Heritage**, the **Government of Alberta** through the **Alberta Foundation for the Arts**, and our friends at **The City of Calgary**.

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**For media inquiries or more information contact:**

Alex Bonyun, Communications Manager  
403-294-7429 [abonyun@artscommons.ca](mailto:abonyun@artscommons.ca)

**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, TD Amplify Cabarets, as well as special presentations and our outdoor pop-up series, ArtsXpeditions. 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.