

DOWNTOWN WINDSOR BECOMES

festival central



Windsor International
BUSKERS FESTIVAL

Downtown Windsor is poised to become the site of the city's newest theatre and performing arts festival, The Windsor International Fringe Festival.

This groundbreaking downtown event incorporates the wildly popular Chalk & Chocolate Festival, Buskin' to the Beat, The Visual Fringe and The Windsor International Buskers Festival.

This new and exciting festival concept will incorporate an abundance of innovative programming, blending the best of all three events into an across-the-board arts festival unlike anything seen in Windsor before.

The festival begins Friday, July 18, with an opening bash at the Windsor Armouries, and continues until Sunday, July 27, with performances in a variety of downtown locations. The official opening will take place at the Chalk and Chocolate Festival on July 19 as artists and chocoholics gather to create unique sidewalk art enhanced by chocolate sampling and musical entertainment. The next day, Buskin' to the Beat will enliven the same location with a program of live music and busking acts.

The Fringe Festival's 300 live theatrical performances will take place in the Downtown Mosaic during the 10-day festival. More than 30 performing arts companies and artists are scheduled to take part.

Every evening, venues ranging from the Capitol Theatre to the Art Gallery of Windsor will be scheduled with an exciting range of theatre performances by companies from as far south as North Carolina and as far west as Vancouver. Outdoor busking has

also been scheduled between theatre shows at each venue.

The Fringe Artists Pub Crawl will take participating artists and their audiences to a different hospitality venue in the Downtown Mosaic each evening for food, drinks and conversation with Fringe performers. The Visual Fringe, sponsored by Artcite, will dress downtown storefronts with visual displays, sparking the creativity and imagination of passers-by.

On the final weekend, Charles Clark Square, the Esplanade and the woodland setting of Senator Croll Park will come alive as buskers from all over North America perform their feats of derring-do. Within walking distance, the final weekend Fringe Festival performances will also be underway. On the final Sunday, The Best of the Fringe will add two additional performances from the two top-grossing shows, and the Buskerfest People's Choice Award will be given to the busker act that won the crowds' hearts.

"As a spectator, you will get a smorgasbord with a great range of performing arts," says Mona el Baroudi, Artistic Director of the Actors' Theatre of Windsor. "The Windsor Fringe is an arts incubator providing each participating artist or company a wonderful opportunity to showcase their work and raise their profile."

The festival group has lined up a roster of sponsorship partners that reads like the who's who of downtown Windsor supporters – the DWBIA, St. Clair College, the University of Windsor, the City of Windsor Department of Parks & Recreation, the Art Gallery of Windsor, Big Brothers Big Sisters, The Room, the Boom Boom Room and Plunkett's, to name just a few.

The Windsor International Fringe Festival promises to be eventful and invigorating for downtown Windsor. From theatre performances, to sidewalk chalk art and chocolate treats, to busking, the week will deliver non-stop entertainment. The Fringe promises something for everyone!

FRINGE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Opening Bash – Windsor Armouries

SATURDAY, JULY 19 – SUNDAY, JULY 27

- Fringe Performances – 30 performing arts companies, 300 performances, 6 downtown locations
- Fringe Artist's Pub Crawl – downtown bars and restaurants
- Visual Fringe – downtown business storefronts and windows

SATURDAY, JULY 19

- Official Fringe Festival Opening – Chatham and Pelissier St.
- Chalk & Chocolate Festival – Chatham and Pelissier St.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

- Buskin' to the Beat – Chatham and Pelissier St.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

- Buskerfest – Charles Clark Square

SUNDAY, JULY 27

- Buskerfest – Charles Clark Square
- Buskerfest People's Choice Awards – Charles Clark Square
- Best of the Fringe – two additional performances

For updates on performance times and locations, visit www.actors theatreofwindsor.com/education/fringe.html