

 **WILD ROOTS**
THEATRE
Presents



Bike

and ²⁰²⁶
Circuses
Magic Hour

AT NUIT BLANCHE

THE FORKS GREENS // BEHIND THE HUMAN RIGHTS MUSEUM
SEPTEMBER 26TH // CULTURE DAYS

**7 PM -
MIDNIGHT**

FEATURING:
DANCE // ACROCYCLE //
TALK SHOW

SCAN ME! 



 **CONSEIL DES
ARTS DU
MANITOBA
ARTS COUNCIL**

**Winnipeg
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narratives

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SPIN CYCLE

FEATURING JO BURDON, CORA MATHESON, AND DAINA LEITOLD

"Spin Cycle" - a physical theatre performance conceived by Daina Leitold, Brenda McLean, and Jo Burdon. Written and Directed by Daina Leitold*. Set and Costume Design by Daina Leitold. Sound Design by Diaphanie. Performed by Jo Burdon*, Cora Matheson* and Daina Leitold*.

A comical journey mirroring society's dependence on energy and the continuous cycles we fall into as we produce, market and sell so much stuff. The piece explores privilege in the face of the climate crisis and our obsession with self-care and pampering at the price of the environment and our overall wellbeing.



LET'S NOT STAY AWAKE THROUGH DARK NIGHTS"

FEATURING ANAÏS BOSSÉ, ODÉAH ROY, AND ALEX ELLIOTT



"Let's not stay awake through dark nights" - a dance piece choreographed by Alexandra Elliott Dance. Set and Costume Design by: Brenda McLean. Makeup Design by Aileen Audette. Sound Design and Composition by Dasha Plett, Alex Elliott and Adrian Berry. Performed by Anaïs Bossé, Odéah Roy and Alex Elliott. Inspired by an Icelandic lullaby, the dance follows a family of outlaws forced from their home who must learn to sustain themselves in a harsh climate and landscape using only the land's resources.



MEN EXPLAIN THINGS TO US...AND WE LIKE IT! CLIMATE CHANGE EDITION

FEATURING GISLINA PATTERSON AND DASHA PLETT

"Men Explain Things to Us... and We Like It! Climate Change Edition" - an interactive experience created and hosted by Gisлина Patterson and Dasha Plett of We Quit Theatre.

A late-night talk show featuring... YOU! We Quit Theatre invites audience members into the candy-coloured world of 70's public access television to share their hot takes on the environment, climate change, and where we go from here.

September 26th, 7pm to 11:45pm
at Nuit Blanche

A three-ring performance cycle that repeats every hour.
Wild Roots Theatre is proud to present

Bike and Circuses 2026 - Magic Hour

Bike and Circuses - Magic Hour offers a new twist on a signature Wild Roots event, stretching performances into the dark. The show consists of three distinct performance pieces, featuring acrobatic spin-class enthusiasts cycling through time, a fierce family confronting a harsh environmental landscape, lively talk show hosts ready to “gab”, and a sensational circus barker to direct your attention.

Located on The Forks grounds, near the foot of L'Esplanade Riel, the event will offer equal parts spectacle and environmental awareness, with performances bringing to light themes related to climate change and sustainability.

The show runs 45-minutes. Stop in for a short spin or stick around to take in the whole cycle.

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION

Aileen Audette- Makeup Artist

A professional Make-Up Artist for over 12 years, Aileen has lived and worked in both Vancouver, Canada and Melbourne, Australia. An Alumni of Vancouver Film School Make-Up and SFX program, she found her passion for Make-Up through theatre as an Honours Theatre Graduate at the University of Winnipeg. A founding member of the clown troupe The Talentless Lumps, she is a performer, playwright, and theatre educator Wild Roots Theatre and has taught at Manitoba Theatre for Young People.

She works in independent and union film in Winnipeg, Manitoba and has designed for professional theatre for several years. Her makeup credits include work with Farpoint Films, A24, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Winnipeg Independent Theatre, and Rainbow Stage. A Make-Up Permittee with IATSE 856, she has been an Artist with MAC Cosmetics since 2013.

She currently teaches Make-Up at the University of Winnipeg in the Theatre and Film Department. www.aileenaudette.com

Anaïs Bossé - Dancer

Anaïs Bossé (she/her) is a queer emerging contemporary dancer, creating art on Treaty One Territory in Winnipeg, MB. As an artist she is drawn towards collaborative creation projects and improvised scores, short films, and fine arts such as painting. She has been involved in the Winnipeg dance community for a decade, continuously studying and creating the art form.

*Jo Burdon - Creator/ Performer

Jo Burdon (they/them) is an all-around creative striving to learn as much as possible in this life. Most recently, Jo played Puck in Dreamz, an experimental feature-length film adaptation of A Midsummer Night's Dream (High Five Freddie), and will be available to stream in October 2026. Outside of artistic pursuits, Jo is passionate about bicycles. You'll find Jo instructing mechanics courses, coaching riders, facilitating workshops for coaches, or riding with friends.

They're thrilled to be joining the Wild Roots team in Spin Cycle for this year's Nuit Blanche, and can't wait to share this quirky high-energy piece with the crowd!

Alex Elliott - Choreographer/ Dancer / Creator

After performing her work in New York, Alex Elliott and Hurricane Sandy came face to face. Physically demanding and emotionally charged, her work made it back to her hometown of Winnipeg and beyond. Her dances have been presented in New York, Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Regina, and Halifax. Alex thanks Tedd Robinson for his ecstasy charged commission Logarian Rhapsody. She is the Artistic Director of her own company Alexandra Elliott Dance, as well as Art Holm, a multidisciplinary performance series in Winnipeg. Headshot photo is by Pablo Riquelme

Toby Hughes - Circus Barker / Technician

Toby is a member of the musical improv company Outside Joke, and has performed as an actor on Winnipeg stages for two full Jovian years. He also works as a pyrotechnician, and two recent cool flame memories are running the campfire for The Shadow Beyond the Pines at the RMTC Warehouse and burning down the Man at the Burning Man Festival.

*Cora Matheson - Performer

Cora is a Winnipeg-based actor, director, and artist educator with over 15 years of experience in the acting industry. A graduate of George Brown Theatre School, she spent many years working in Toronto before making her way to Winnipeg where she continues to work on stage and screen. Recent artistic credits include playing Sarah in East of Berlin (Glitter & Stardust; 2026 Fringe), leading roles in Hallmark's Hannukah on the Rocks and Holiday Hotline, and working as Assistant Director in RMTC's Indecent. Cora jumps at any chance she gets to blend her two passions together - environmental advocacy and storytelling - so she is very grateful to be putting this diddy on its feet. Enjoy!!

Odéah Roy - Dancer

Odéah (she/her) is a French-Métis emerging contemporary dance artist based in Winnipeg, MB. Driven by her queer identity, her main artistic interest is non-gendered partnering. She is also drawn towards collaborative and playful choreographic processes, as well as interdisciplinary approaches to dance creation.

Her recent work includes performing in the Young Lungs 20th Anniversary Festival as a dancer for Jennifer Essex's "REPLICAS", dancing in New Dance Horizons' "QUADRIGA" (Saskatoon and Thunder Bay), and training at Summer Arts Blast Off Intensive in Toronto.

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION CON'T



We Quit Theatre- Creators/ Performers/ Designers

We Quit Theatre is the performance project of Winnipeg artists **Dasha Plett and Gislina Patterson**. Their most recent project, GLORY!, premiered in Winnipeg in 2025 and will travel to Toronto in 2027. Alongside We Quit Theatre, Gislina is an active writer, director, dramaturge and audio describer. Dasha is a professional sound designer and composer, writer, and intermedia performance maker. Visit the quitters online @wequittheatre or wequittheatre.ca.

***Daina Leitold - Artistic Producer/ Creator/ Performer/ Designer**

Daina has been creating Theatre for the Planet since 1996.

She is passionate about creating and participating in theatre that sparks conversation, personal reflection, and elicits change in the perspectives or habits of the audience and artists involved. Common themes in her work are environmental destruction and positive environmentalism, political and social systems, and the individual's power to create widespread positive (or negative) change.

Daina is an award-winning actor, set and costume designer and theatre educator. She is also the Artistic Producer of Wild Roots Theatre.

Ava Darrach-Gagnon - Event Producer

Ava is a bilingual, Winnipeg-based artist passionate about growing her craft. A graduate of the University of Winnipeg's Acting: Honours Program, she has performed professionally in theatre, commercials, television, and film for over ten years. This October, you can catch her playing the title role in Les Fourberies de Scapin at Théâtre Cercle Molière (TCM).

Alongside acting, Ava has begun training and working as a theatre director. In 2025, she was selected for the National Mentorship Program at RMTTC, and recently trained with the Association des théâtres francophones du Canada in Le corps de l'interprète et direction d'intimité. Having assistant directed on several professional productions, her most recent credits include Murder on the Orient Express (RMTTC) and Tiny Beautiful Things (PTE).

Over the last two years, Ava has been deeply committed to Wild Roots Theatre, contributing to a multitude of projects in all kinds of capacities. She has steadily expanded her involvement, working first as a facilitator, then as an administrator and tour manager, and is now stepping into her first producing role. All of her endeavors fuel her passion for the artistic process, furthering her artistry to produce complex and meaningful work.

Brenda McLean - Event Producer/ Creator/ Designer

Brenda McLean (she/her) is an interdisciplinary artist based on Treaty 1 Territory in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She designs, directs, and dreams up imaginative worlds through movement, clown, physical theatre, and costume design.

She is delighted to be back producing Bike and Circuses after the 2022 and 2024 series—a biennial outdoor environmental spectacle blending circus arts, theatre, dance, ecological awareness, and community engagement in parks. Through this project, she channels her passion for active environmentalism and physical storytelling into a vibrant, site-specific experience.

She is deeply thankful to be part of Wild Roots Theatre, a company that values innovation, sustainability, and the power of performance to inspire change. Working with this passionate team fills her heart—and handlebars—with gratitude.

* The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance•Opera•Theatre Policy.

WILD ROOTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Deborah Gay-de Vries, Jessica McGlynn, Sam Campbell, Hayden Maines, Aileen Audette, Av Darrach-Gagnon, Sarah Higgins, Eric Rae, Karen Lind, Tiffany Prochera, Qiuyan Yuan, Alissa Watson

Bike and Circuses Land Acknowledgment

Wild Roots Theatre operates on unceded land in Treaty One Territory. This is the home of Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Long Plains First Nation, Peguis First Nation, Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation, Sagkeeng First Nation, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation, Swan Lake First Nation and the birthplace of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge that the treaties were not signed in good faith by the colonial powers, nor were the agreements held on their end, which continues to harm Indigenous peoples and communities to this day.

We acknowledge that our drinking water in the City of Winnipeg is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, a community who from 1997 until just a few years ago lived under a boil water advisory, while Winnipeggers used this resource from their land with little thanks and no reciprocity. We also acknowledge that most of our hydro-electricity comes from Treaty Five Territory in northern Manitoba, where the building of hydro dams and their existence has created long-term ecological changes for plant and animal species and for the Indigenous communities who called the areas home. Tataskweyak Cree Nation is fighting to save the sturgeon impacted by Manitoba Hydro's Churchill River Diversion. They've started a petition that you can find on Wild Roots Theatre's Facebook page.

We present Bike and Circuses - Magic Hour at The Forks, located at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, which has been a meeting place for over 6,000 years. We are grateful to be on this land and hope our work can help present truth and encourage reconciliation.

Support Team:

Kurt Tittlemier from Nuit Blanche event support

Aria Hoppa - Costume Support - Spin Cycle

Rachel Baziuk - Set and Props Support - Spin Cycle

Tiva Kawakami - Props Support - Spin Cycle

Scott Wilson - Set Support - Spin Cycle

Red Rover Entertainment - Technical Support

Eric Bossé - Technical Support

Arthur MacKinnon - Photography and Video

Ash Singh - Logo Design

Dave Pruden - Graphic Design of "Lady on Bike"

Bike Art created by youth from **The WRENCH**

Project Funding Support: We are honoured to have support from the following:

Winnipeg
Foundation

CONSEIL DES
ARTS DU
MANITOBA
ARTS COUNCIL

Prairie Dawn
Foundation

Johnston
group

DUECK
BUILDERS



narratives



Red Rover - Technical Support

Thank you to Katherine Johnston
and the team at Rover Rover for
their technical support in making
this show come to light!



THANK YOU

Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Eric Bossé, Christopher Sobczak, Diane Leitold, Jo Burdon, Greg Klassen, Karl Thordarson, The WRENCH, Shannon Syrunyk at Marshall Fabrics, Rachelle Tui at the Forks, Kaitlyn Pyett at Parks Canada, and Nuit Blanche

And the many volunteers who have helped make this happen!

