



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Suitcase in Point announces 2022-2023 season of original multi-arts programming and signature arts events

Final season for Artistic Director Deanna Jones spurs a season of change

Tuesday Nov. 1, 2022, St. Catharines, ON - Suitcase in Point Multi-Arts Company launches its 21st season of original programming and events by embracing and celebrating change. This season will be the final season for Artistic Director Deanna Jones, who co-founded the company with fellow Brock University Dramatic Arts alumni in 2001.

Jones says, “My time spent with Suitcase in Point has been the honour of my life! I am grateful beyond belief for all of the support, strength, knowledge and countless laughs shared with everyone over the years. The growth that this organization has brought to me as an artist, as a community member, as a thinker and a dreamer is immeasurable. I look forward to witnessing the next chapter of Suitcase in Point. The power, energy and community initiatives we have planned for this season will build upon our foundation for the new leadership to come.”

Over the past few months the Suitcase crew has been doing some big thinking, sharing, reflecting and planning a season of change. No matter what, we have all experienced some form of change and we question, what can that do for us? What does change do to us? Suitcase in Point has projects in store that aim to explore these questions through a season of off-the-charts arts experiences that will invite us to think about it together.

“The past two decades of Suitcase in Point’s creative festivals, cabarets, new plays, immersive experiences and many mentorship opportunities are a testament to Artistic Director and founding member Deanna Jones,” says Suitcase in Point’s Board Chair Rebecca Cann. “I speak for the whole board when I say how grateful we are for her unwavering leadership over the past 20 years, not to mention throughout the coronavirus pandemic. We look forward to working with Deanna in her final season as the Board begins a process to identify new leadership to continue the legacy begun by her and the founding members of Suitcase in Point.”

Through June 2023, the 21st season of Suitcase in Point includes the following:

Suitcase Scratch Nights - Last Friday of every month at The Green

What's better than a finished piece? A work in progress, some might say. Join us for the last Friday of every month for an evening of creativity where you'll get to check out some incredible local and visiting artists who are testing out new material. Stick around for good music and hangs with other folks in the community.

SIP TV: The Big Pitch - Dec. 3 at Oddfellows Temple (Donor preview Dec. 2)

Welcome to SIP TV, inspired by the golden age of television and modern day streaming services. Imagine commercials, movies, news, soaps, infomercials, late night TV, daytime TV, talk shows, variety, reality TV, bingeable shows on Netflix, Crave, Hulu hoop ... you get the deal. It's an on-demand streaming service, but all the programming is live. Get ready to bust a gut, the Suitcase in Point cabaret team is chomping at the bit to share this all new, all original LIVE sketch comedy show with you this December.

Metanoia (In two Parts)

Part One: Metanoia: A Community Mixtape - January 2023, Online

Inspired by the success of Suitcase in Point's Freedom (2020) and Lost & Found (2021) Mixtapes, Metanoia: A Mixtape will be an original audio experience that explores the concept of profound change, radical transformation and the unending variables of life. Are you interested in being a part of this community conversation? Keep an eye out for our invitation to contribute in November.

Part Two: Metanoia: The Experience - February 2023, Various Locations Downtown St. Catharines

A series of site-specific audio, visual and performance installations that will momentarily alter a variety of public spaces in downtown St. Catharines. This installation tour will be an evolution of the Metanoia Mixtape, bringing various interpretations of change to life, while literally transforming the everyday landscape and architecture of public spaces in downtown St. Catharines.

The 15th Annual In the Soil Arts Festival: June 9 - 16, 2023, Downtown St. Catharines

The 2023 In the Soil Arts Festival will showcase new work from local and visiting artists in theatre, music, comedy and site-specific installations. This year In the Soil Arts Festival will offer one-week of incredible new works from local and visiting artists, as well as a showcase of Suitcase in Point's Arts Mentorship Program participants (The Nest Residency and In the Scene Youth Theatre Intensive).

We strongly encourage artists to submit ideas that challenge typical venues, presentation formats and audiences experiences. We will prioritize submissions that look to change or alter the everyday landscape of our downtown core.

Arts Mentorship Programs: The Nest Artist Residency (November 2022 - June 2023)

An 8-month opportunity for emerging directors, playwrights, poets, musicians, designers, divisors, and creators of all kinds that are looking for the necessary space and mentorship to cultivate ideas into works that are provocative, innovative, and ambitious. Residency in the

Nest involves a public presentation at In the Soil Arts Festival 2023 to showcase the work-in-progress that each resident creates over an eight month period.

Arts Mentorship Program: In the Scene Youth Theatre Intensive (March - June 2023)

In the Scene (previously titled *Electric Innovations*), is a 12-week theatre program for youth aged 14–19. Participants will be offered a weekly creative outlet to train, create and perform under the guidance of renowned Canadian theatre artists. This 12-week intensive will be offered every Saturday, starting on March 18, 2023 and result in a showcase of the participant's work at In the Soil Arts Festival 2023.

Arts Mentorship Program: Workshop Series

Suitcase in Point offers workshops throughout the year to build artistic skills in a variety of disciplines. Stay tuned for upcoming workshops and registration information!

More information at suitcaseinpoint.com

View launch announcement video at <https://youtu.be/Hi3sN8JfjM>

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About Suitcase in Point

Founded in 2001, Suitcase in Point is a courageous ensemble of artists and producers who engage and excite the Niagara community with multi-arts performances and events, including original comedy and the In the Soil Arts Festival. Through original work and collaborative community projects, we provide audiences with unique perspectives on contemporary life and culture. Our approach and our work aim to challenge perspectives and encourage change, tolerance, and self-awareness with an aim to promote a healthier, more connected community. Suitcase in Point nurtures new generation artists through mentorship and residency programs, provides studio space for development and rehearsal, and creates meaningful connections between emerging and established artists from across Canada.

About Deanna Jones

Deanna Jones is a Niagara-born artist, actor, writer, director and producer. She is also co-founder and Artistic Director (2007-current) of St. Catharines based, Suitcase in Point Multi-Arts Company. Deanna has co-created, directed and performed in over 60 original plays and multi-arts projects with Suitcase in Point and other companies from Niagara and across Canada. She has toured to festivals nationally and internationally in her over-20 year experience as a professional artist. Her acclaimed play, *The Keith Richards One Woman Show* was nominated for a Dora award in 2015 and was presented at multiple festivals and theatres throughout Western Canada. Deanna's experience producing arts events is extensive, including Niagara's In the Soil Arts Festival from 2009-present. In 2017 and 2018, Deanna was Assistant Producer for the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre's Celebration of Nations, an Indigenous performing and visual arts gathering. In 2011 Deanna received the City of St. Catharines Emerging Artist of the Year Award and in 2019, she was a nominee for Niagara's Women in Business Cultural Arts Award. Deanna has a B.A. in Theatre from Brock University and has trained with One Yellow Rabbit, Philippe Gaulier, Upright Citizen's Brigade and SITI Company.

Contact

Deanna Jones

Artistic Director, Suitcase in Point and In the Soil Arts Festival

deanna@suitcaseinpoint.com

289-324-1920