



World Stage Design 2021 in Calgary, Alberta



The City of Calgary, framed here by the spectacular Canadian Rockies, will host World Stage Design 2021.

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION of Scenographers, Theatre Architects, and Technicians (OISTAT) has chosen Calgary, AB, Canada as the next destination for World Stage Design (WSD2021). From August 5 – 15, 2021, the University of Calgary's School of Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) with the Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology/Institut canadien des technologies scénographiques (CITT/ICTS), Canada's OISTAT Centre, will host WSD2021. World Stage Design is an OISTAT event held every four years that is comprised of four distinct components that are presented simultaneously: International Design Exhibition and Competition, Scenofest Conference, Theatre Architecture Competition (TAC), and Technical Invention Prize (TIP). In addition to the four components of WSD, the OISTAT World

Congress and the CITT/ICTS annual conference and trade show Rendez-vous will be on the UCalgary campus.

The **WSD International Design Exhibition** is a competitive, international, juried event with prizes given to first, second, and third place winners in a variety of disciplines within emerging and professional categories. The online submission platform is open.

The **Theatre Architecture Competition** (TAC) is a prestigious international ideas competition, aimed at students and emerging architecture practitioners. This competition will be open to international architecture students and emerging professionals. The criteria for submissions and design brief will be available in spring 2020.

The **Technical Innovation Prize** (TIP) is awarded to technicians working in theatre or any part of the entertainment industry who



IMAGE COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

make gadgets or devices that offer simple and smart solutions for backstage use. Criteria for submissions will be available in fall 2020.

OISTAT World Congress hosts 60 delegates from around the globe over three days for business and committee meetings. Commission meetings and elections will also take place in Calgary around the congress meetings.

CITT/ICTS Rendez-vous offers three days of workshops, backstage tours, social events, and networking opportunities for its members. It will feature a trade show with state-of-the-art technology for live performance. The trade show will be located on the main campus a short 300 m walk from the performance venues and meeting rooms of World Congress.



IMAGE COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The University of Calgary's Rozsa Centre will hold the OISTAT World Congress.

Scenofest is a premiere conference for design, theatre architecture, and technical theatre, spanning several days with performances, workshops, lectures, and keynote speakers. A multi-summit event, Scenofest will be focused on three themes. Located near Canmore, AB, Three Sisters is a mountain known for its three peaks and is a significant landmark to the area with stories and the name originating with the Stoney Nakoda First Nation. These sisters are individual peaks but also closely connected as they share a singular base, and extend from the same piece of earth. Like the base of the Three Sisters' mountain, the coming together of our Three Sisters will be a fertile and lively place.

Big Sister: Indigenous Ways of Knowing—We look forward to working with Elder Bottle, Saakokoto, to learn more about the Blackfoot way of living and how interaction with land, landscape, and storytelling have meaning for cultures of today. Scenofest will offer opportunities for professionals and students to explore the beautiful landscape in Southern Alberta and learn about Blackfoot ways of knowing the land, landscape, and storytelling. We are currently seeking submissions online.

Middle Sister: Ecoscenography—Coined by Tanja Beer, the term



IMAGE COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The University of Calgary's Reeve Theatre will host the WDS International Design Exhibition.

ecoscenography, conjures ideas of ecology, economy, landscape, scenographic theory, and possibility. We are living in complex times, facing climate change, animal extinction, and resource depletion. We look forward to events that will encourage innovation and hopeful exploration of the impossible.

Little Sister: Multiple Realities—The world of performance design has expanded to include virtual reality, artificial reality, and digital reality. Yet, we are still grappling with contextual and historical realities, cultural realities, and of course as designers, architects, and technicians we cannot escape material reality.

For information about all the events and activities in conjunction with World Stage Design 2021, including WSD International Design Exhibition submissions and Scenofest submissions, visit www.wsd2021.ca. ■



April Viczko is a performance designer with 25 years of professional theatre experience. She has worked at theatres in Ontario and across Western Canada and her more than 100 designs include 20 world premieres. She has been nominated for both a Dora Award and Jessie Award for her outstanding work in costume design. April received the Siminovitch Protégé Prize in 2006. In 2012 she received a Distinguished Researcher (Emerging) Award and in 2017 received an Excellence in Teaching (Established) Award from the University of Calgary. April is a Full Member of the Associated Designers of Canada and one of few who is accomplished in four disciplines: set, costumes, lighting, and projection design. <http://aprilviczko.com>