

What it meant to host Rendez-vous 2019 in Whitehorse, Yukon

EVERY YEAR CITT/ICTS host its annual conference and trade show, Rendez-vous. The event attracts delegates and exhibitors from all across Canada. Rendez-vous is an opportunity for CITT/ICTS members to attend numerous conference sessions, to meet other industry professionals, and to experience hands-on training workshops. As a national organization, CITT/ICTS's Rendez-vous travels across the country. The location varies from year to year to allow members from different regions of Canada to more easily attend: from the Atlantic cities of Halifax and St. John to the Pacific coastal lines of Vancouver and Victoria.

This year's distinctive 29th edition of Rendez-vous took place up in Northern Canada, in Whitehorse, Yukon. What made it so distinctive? More importantly, what did it mean for us to host Rendez-vous 2019 in Whitehorse?

Hosting Rendez-vous 2019 in Whitehorse meant taking a deep-dive into Yukon's rich First Nations cultures. The core of the conference was held at the beautiful Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. One of the conference sessions introduced delegates to the unique art and signification of traditional Regalia, where attendees were first smudged with cedar and sage smoke. A local White River First Nation artist initiated others to traditional beading. At our opening night and closing ceremonies, we were graced by the wisdom of the Elders, and the patience of Firekeepers.

Hosting Rendez-vous 2019 in Whitehorse meant recognizing the importance of inclusion. More specifically, the inclusion of different cultures and perceptions, of different traditions and practices. For instance, the conference started off with "Tech-Nique," where aspiring local youth were introduced to stage technologies, and concluded with a post-conference workshop on "Safer Spaces," which emphasized the importance of respect and inclusion in our work field.

Hosting Rendez-vous 2019 in Whitehorse meant opening our eyes to the diversity we are determined to embrace, and excited to celebrate. It meant travelling far (North!) to discover and appreciate local talents. It also meant sharing knowledge on lighting, sound, design, health and safety, human resources, indigenous practices, and much more with professionals from across the country.

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Vectorworks pre-conference workshop with Neil Barman at the Yukon College



"Capturing a Character: They Say You Don't Have to Draw, But You Do" conference session with Susan Benson at the Yukon Arts Centre



"Climate Change and Theatre Technology" conference session with Simon Marsden at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre



“Understanding Regalia” conference session with Mark Rutledge at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

Rendez-vous is also about recognizing individuals and companies that excel in their field of live performance in Canada with the CITT/ICTS Awards. On Friday August 16th, the conference delegates gathered for cocktails and dinner at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre’s Longhouse to honour our peers at the annual CITT/ICTS Awards Banquet. Created in 1998, the CITT/ICTS awards are designed to honour individuals and companies from a wide spectrum of the Canadian live performance community. Here’s a look at the 2019 Awards recipients:

- The 2019 Honorary Membership Award was bestowed on CAPACOA.
- The 2019 CITT/ICTS Technical Merit Award was awarded to Scott Miller, Principal and Senior Theatre Consultant of DWD Theatre Design + Consulting Inc.
- The 2019 CITT/ICTS Supplier (Corporate) Achievement Award was presented to Larry Darling, ShowTech AVL Vice-President.
- The 2019 CITT/ICTS Education Achievement Award was given to Janelle Rainville, Theatre and Production Manager at the



CITT/ICTS 2019 Awards Banquet

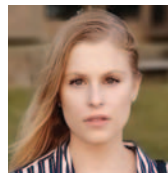


CITT/ICTS Annual Trade Show on the Yukon Arts Centre stage

University of Waterloo.

- The 2019 Ron Epp Memorial Award for Professional Achievement was bestowed on Gary Bailie, Yukoner and Founder of the Blue Feather Music Festival.
- The 2019 Dieter Penzhorn Memorial Award was presented to Michael Harris, Past President of CITT/ICTS.

Join us next year for CITT/ICTS Rendez-vous in London, ON, August 11 – 15. ■



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Also an emerging artist of the Montréal music scene, her interests revolve around the professionalization of artists and cultural workers and the betterment of their working conditions. She recently started working as coordination assistant at the CITT/ICTS national office where she had the opportunity to take part in Rendez-vous 2019.



Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre with the Firekeepers