FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2020

Kingston ON … The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts launches its ISABEL HUMAN RIGHTS ARTS FESTIVAL on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:30 PM with Alanis Obomsawin’s 53rd film, Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger, that documents the story of a young Indigenous boy who spent all five years of his life in hospital while the provincial and federal government argued over who was responsible for paying for the boy’s care.

Festival artists include: Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra with Maryem Tollar, Diely Mori Tounkara, and Naghmeh Farahmand (Safe Haven created by Alison Mackay), Art of Time Ensemble with Andy Maize and Josh Finlayson of Skydiggers and the Ralston String Quartet (All We Are Saying), Santee Smith with Montana Summers, Raelyn Metcalf, Julianne Blackbird, and Jonathan Fisher (The Mush Hole), Tom Wilson and the Kingston Symphony (Beautiful Scars, a National Arts Centre commission), and Holly Rose Lorenzon and Selina Chiarelli (Firebirds in Motion). The Festival closes with the H’art Centre’s Small Things with performances and contributions by over fifty remarkable H’artists and guest artists with a diversity of abilities. Film directors include Alanis Obomsawin, Philippe Bellaiche, Rachel Leah Jones, and Laura Mora. The Festival thanks film curators Susan Lord and Dorit Naaman of Queen’s Department of Film and Media.

Festival tickets can be purchased online https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/ or in person at (613) 533-2424 (M-F, 12:30-4:30 PM).

“The arts are a powerful voice in promoting awareness and action in human rights,” says Tricia Baldwin, Director of the Isabel. “We are privileged to partner with diverse artists and human
rights activists who have dedicated their lives to create a fairer and inclusive future for humanity. Nothing could be more important in this challenging political world climate, in which we are now immersed, than to inspire people to actively participate and create a political and legal environment that will protect world citizens from prejudice, hatred, and violence.”

FESTIVAL EVENTS

Film
JORDAN RIVER ANDERSON, THE MESSENGER
Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:30 PM
2019 / 65 minutes
Language: English
Director: Alanis Obomsawin
https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/jordan-river-anderson-messenger

Performance
SAFE HAVEN
Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra
Conceived, scripted, and programmed by Alison Mackay
Elisa Citterio, Music Director
Maryem Tollar, narrator and vocalist
Diely Mori Tounkara, kora
Naghmeh Farahmand, percussion
Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 7:30 PM
https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/safe-haven-tafelmusik-baroque-orchestra

Film
ADVOCATE
Monday February 3, 2020 at 6:30 PM
2019 / 108 minutes
Languages: Hebrew, Arabic, English with subtitles
Directors: Philippe Bellaiche, Rachel Leah Jones
https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/advocate

Performance
ALL WE ARE SAYING
Art of Time Ensemble
Andrew Burashko, Artistic Director
Ralston String Quartet
Andy Maize and Josh Finlayson of Skydiggers, Singers
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 7:30 PM
https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/all-we-are-saying-art-time-ensemble-rolston-string-quartet
Film

**MATAR A JESÚS**
*(Killing Jesus)*

**Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

2017 / 95 minutes

Language: Spanish with English subtitles

Director: Laura Mora

[https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/matar-jesus-killing-jesus](https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/matar-jesus-killing-jesus)

Performance

**THE MUSH HOLE**

Created and Produced by Santee Smith

Remount Production by Kaha:wi Dance Theatre

**Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:30 PM**

[https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/mush-hole](https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/mush-hole)

Performers: Montana Summers, Raelyn Metcalf, Julianne Blackbird, Jonathan Fisher

With production partners the Woodland Cultural Centre, Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity, Socrates Project - McMaster University, Art Gallery of Guelph, Thru The Red Door.

*Please be aware there are mature themes involved and not recommended for ages 12 and under.*

Free Event

**FIREBIRDS IN MOTION**

Isabel Lobby

Holly Rose Lorenzon, dance instructor, award-winning street dance artist, and Queen's student

Selina Chiarelli, storyteller, musician, and director

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 5 PM to 7 PM**

[https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/firebirds-motion](https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/firebirds-motion)

Performance

**BEAUTIFUL SCARS**

By Tom Wilson

Tom Wilson, Program Creator and Singer

Darcy Hepner, Conductor and Soloist

Kingston Symphony

**Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 7:30 PM**

[https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/beautiful-scars-tom-wilson](https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/beautiful-scars-tom-wilson)
Performance

H'art Centre presents
SMALL THINGS
A docu-dance about family and finding joy
Kathryn MacKay, Director
David Archibald, Music Director
Melissa Mahady Wilton, Director of Choreography
David Dines, Composer
Menka Nagrani, Guest Choreographer
Vincent-Nicolas Provencher, Guest Dancer
Performed by H'artists and guest performers

Friday, April 17, 2020 at 6 PM
Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 2 PM and 6 PM
https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/small-things

Signature sponsor: RBC Wealth Management Dominion Securities.
Supported by: Ontario Arts Council, Community Foundation of Kingston & Area, Anna & Edward O. Churchill Foundation, The Davies Foundation, Ballytobin Foundation, Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

The Isabel thanks Festival supporters:

Season Benefactor
Estate of Alexander Murray Jeffery

Festival Supporters
George Taylor Richardson Memorial Fund

For further information, please contact Tricia Baldwin, Director, Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at (613) 533-6000 ext. 75168 or tricia.baldwin@queensu.ca.