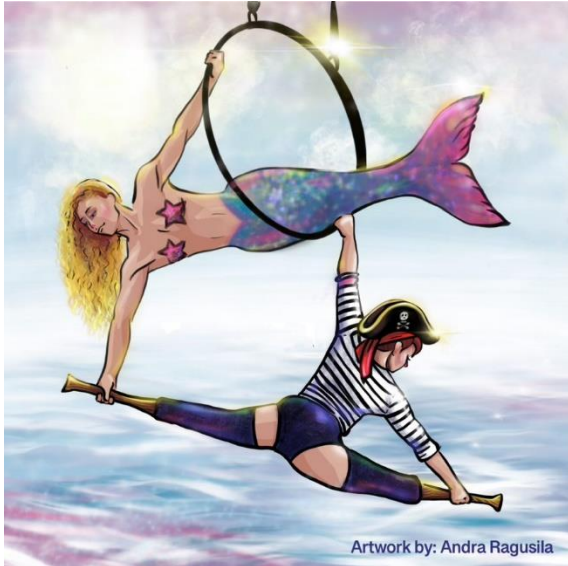


Hoops: A Circus Extravaganza! Visual Story

What to expect when you come to experience *Hoops*.



***Hoops: A Circus Extravaganza!* will be presented as part of CoMotion Festival 2022 at Harbourfront Centre. This resource is helpful for anyone looking to understand what they can expect at *Hoops*.**

For questions about access features offered at *Hoops* please contact:

Katherine Hale
Accessibility Coordinator, CoMotion Festival 2022
Email: khale@harbourfrontcentre.com
Phone: (416) 973-4960

We look forward to welcoming you to *Hoops: A Circus Extravaganza!*

Venue

Venue: Harbourfront Centre Theatre (also sometimes referred to as HCT)

Address: 231 Queens Quay West

Please visit the CoMotion Festival Access Guide for photos and information about the Harbourfront Centre Theatre and how to get here.

Date and Times

Saturday, April 24

2:00-3:00pm

4:00-5:00pm

The performance will be approximately 30 minutes long followed by a workshop that is 30 minutes long. The whole event will be 1 hour long.

Hoops: A Circus Extravaganza! Accessibility Information

The Harbourfront Centre Theatre has wheelchair-accessible seating.

Access Note: The ramp leading up to the Harbourfront Centre Theatre is 33" wide. The doorways to the single-stall restrooms in this building are 28.5" wide.

There are two additional universal gender-inclusive accessible washrooms in the Harbourfront Centre Main Building, one in the east corridor and one in the west corridor.

Volunteers and Harbourfront Centre staff will be available to assist with getting into the theatre 30 minutes before each show and can provide Sighted Guide to people who need "Curb-to-Seat" support.

Headphone-based assistive hearing devices are available in the Harbourfront Centre Theatre. Equipment is limited and should be reserved in advance.

Both performances will be presented with ASL Interpretation and will be Relaxed Performances. During the performance the theatre lights will stay slightly up, and audience members are welcome to come and go as needed. Sounds from the audience are welcome and expected.

Audio description introductory notes will be provided ahead of the performance and will be open to the audience. No extra equipment is needed.

This performance has two parts – *Red Dress* and *Pirate Tales*. *Red Dress* will be presented with low vision-friendly integrated creative access. During *Pirate Tales*, there will be open audio description, sound effects like water splashing and music without lyrics.

Low vision-friendly descriptions will be offered during the workshop.

After the performances, there will be an informal touch tour where audience members can engage with the performers and the props. Priority will be given to Blind or low vision patrons and anyone else who will benefit.

To purchase a wheelchair-accessible seat, reserve hearing assist equipment, or request Sighted Guide “Curb to Seat” service, please contact the Box Office by email at tickets@harbourfrontcentre.com or call (416) 973-4000 and choose Option 1.

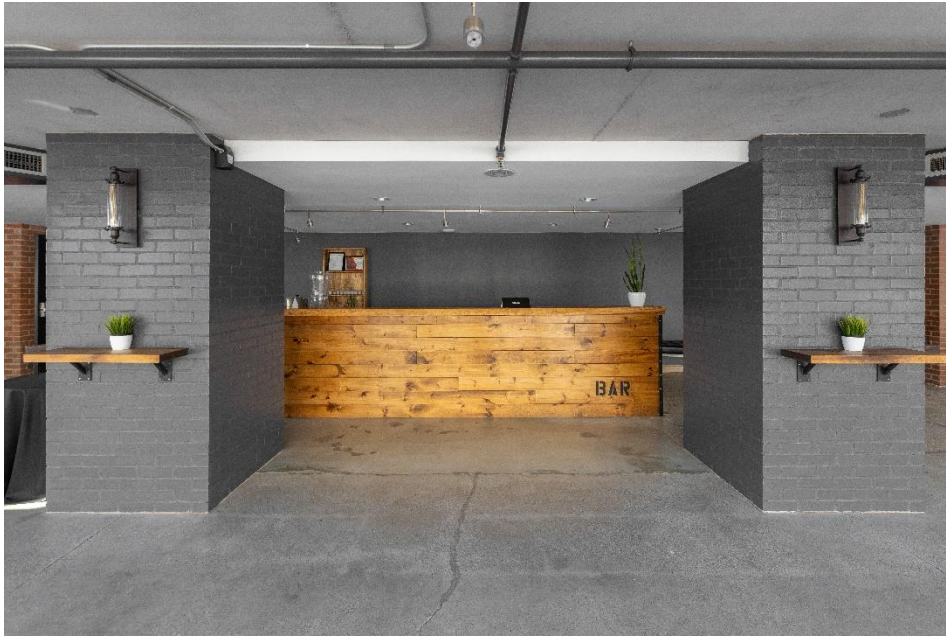
Before the Show

When you arrive at the Harbourfront Centre Theatre, you will enter the main lobby and may use either the stairs or the ramp to go up to the next level. In this area, you can pick up tickets or audio description equipment at the Box Office, use the washrooms, or access the theatre space.

Before the show starts, the main lobby might have a lot of people waiting for the theatre to open, and people may be talking loudly.



You can go through the glass doors into the Harbourfront Centre Theatre lobby when you are ready. There may be a bar open in this lobby, and this is where you will find the doors to the theatre.



Harbourfront Centre staff and volunteers will be available to help find the theatre space and your seat if you would like assistance.

If you need to leave the show for any reason, you are welcome to sit in either of these lobby spaces and you can ask the Harbourfront Centre staff or volunteers for help if you need it. You may still hear some sounds from the show while in the lobby, but it should be quieter than inside the theatre.

Box Office

If you are visiting the Harbourfront Centre Theatre for *Hoops*, you will need to have a ticket for the event. Tickets for this event are free. If you bought tickets at home, you might have printed them out, or you may have a digital copy on your phone.

Paper stock tickets are available on an as-needed basis, so you may also have a paper ticket that you pick up at the Box Office. The paper tickets are lime green with black writing and a black Harbourfront Centre logo.



When you enter the theatre, you will show your ticket to an usher. The usher can help you find your seat if you would like assistance.

Harbourfront Centre Theatre

The Harbourfront Centre Theatre will seat a maximum of 100 people for *Hoops*. On the main level of the theatre, there will be floor seating for kids with colourful mats and pillows and wheelchair-accessible seats. Behind this will be traditional row seating with seat rows and numbers.

Please note the balconies are only accessible via stairs (no elevator access).



The doors to the theatre will be opened 30 minutes before the show is set to start.

Brief Audio Description Introductory Notes (about 2 minutes long) will be given just before the performance and will be open to the whole audience.

People you Might See

The Performers



Artist: Erin Ball



Host: Elizabeth Morris



Artist: Jayeden Walker



Musician: Bon Evans

The artists will be wearing different outfits or costumes during the performance.

Visitor Service Representative or Ticket Seller: This person will be at the Box Office and will help you pick up your tickets or help you buy tickets for the show. This person will also help you pick up your Audio Description receiver and earpiece if you use the service.

House Manager or Supervisor: This person will be moving around the space to answer questions and make sure you get into the theatre and experience the show.

Usher: This person will check your ticket before you enter the theatre space. This is a good person to ask if you have questions or would like help finding your seat.

House Technicians: These people will run the lights and sound for the show, and they sit in the "booth" which is a small room at the back of the theatre.

Volunteers: Harbourfront Centre volunteers will be available to answer questions and aid if needed and will be wearing t-shirts that identify them as volunteers.

Operations Staff (Custodians): These people will make sure that the venue is kept clean and tidy.

Security: These people are there to make sure things are safe.

ASL Interpreters: The show on Saturday, April 23, 2022, will be presented with ASL Interpretation so that you will see an ASL Interpreter on stage.

When the Show Begins

You will know the show is starting when the theatre lights dim slightly. This is a Relaxed Performance so the theatre lights will stay slightly up, and you will be able to see if you need to leave the theatre during the show. People in the audience will stop talking and it may be very quiet.

The audio description introductory notes will play for about 2 minutes, and then the host will come on stage to start the show.

During the Show

This section contains information about what to expect during Hoops: A Circus Extravaganza! If you would prefer not to know what happens, you may skip this section.

Radio Circus: Red Dress Performance

Circus artist Erin Ball, musician Bon Evans and access consultant Amy Amantea worked together to seek questions about incorporating access into circus acts and exploring song lyrics as an avenue of creative access. This work is the result of that first exploration. Erin Ball spins on a hoop in the air to music and lyrics by Bon Evans.



Pirate Tales Performance

A pirate and mermaid navigate the waters of their unlikely friendship in this Disability-centered aerial act. A family-friendly circus show, it demonstrates that what sets people apart can bring them closer together. The piece will be presented with open audio description.



Description:

Hula Hoop Workshop

This workshop is an exploration with hula hoops facilitated by Erin Ball and Jayeden Walker. We'll all work together to find fun ways to interact with hoops. Everyone welcome!

To learn more about the artists, you can [find their bios on the CoMotion Festival 2022 event webpage](#).

Relaxed Performance

If you need to take a break during the show, you can move around the theatre or go into the lobby, where it will be quieter. You may still hear some of the sounds from the show while you are in the lobby, but it should be quieter than inside the theatre space. Sounds from the audience (such as “stim” sounds) are welcome and expected during the show.

If you need a place to take a break before or after the show, there is a **Chill Out Space** available in the Harbourfront Centre Main Building at 235 Queen’s Quay West. More details are available in the CoMotion Festival Access Guide.

When the Show Ends

At the end of the show the lights will go back on. People may clap their hands or make other sounds to show that they enjoyed the show. You may join in if you like, but you don’t have to.

Sometimes people make loud sounds if they really enjoyed the show (like loud whistling). If you find this overwhelming, it may be helpful to prepare a plan for this moment such as plugging your ears when the clapping starts.

We want to hear from you!

If you have questions about the information in this visual story, please contact:

Accessibility Coordinator: Katherine Hale

Email: khale@harbourfrontcentre.com

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