



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Chan Centre Reveals Illuminating Spring 2022 Season Showcasing Canadian Creative Talents,  
Supported by its New Presenting Sponsor RBC**

*With Montreal's West African circus Kalabanté, JUNO-winning singer Elisapie, and more*

**Vancouver, BC — The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts** at the University of British Columbia announced the Spring programming for the Chan Presents series, supported by its new presenting sponsor RBC.

“RBC is thrilled to partner with UBC and the prestigious Chan Centre for the Performing Arts to bring this incredible Spring season of live events to Vancouver audiences,” says Martin Thibodeau, Regional President, British Columbia, RBC. “At RBC, we recognize the integral role the arts play in local communities, and we are committed to nurturing these opportunities in our own backyard.”

From February to April, the Chan Centre will be home to five events that offer stories of resilience.

“This is a diversely programmed slate of events that focuses on storytelling,” says Pat Carrabré, Director of the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. “We are offering patrons the chance for discovery. Whether it’s a new artist, a new sound, or a new narrative, each of our productions offers a unique perspective. This programming is a testament to the impressive breadth of ingenuity and artistry being produced in this country and I am pleased RBC is partnering with us to support these irreplaceable and invaluable creators.”

**Kalabanté Productions** opens the Spring season on February 24, transforming the Chan Centre into a high-flying circus with impressive physical feats that accompany a narrative of perseverance. A fusion of West African sounds with elements of jazz make this production a feast for the senses.

*Decolonize the Chan* mini-series takes place in March with three Indigenous artists taking the stage. Leonard Sumner, Elisapie, and Moe Clark were selected by the Chan Centre’s guest curator mezzo-soprano Marion Newman. On March 5, Anishinaabek singer and rapper **Leonard Sumner** performs tracks from his most recent album, *Thunderbird*. Unflinching in its narratives, the album is a fusion of hip-hop, spoken word, and rhythm and blues that brings home deep truths about residential schools, urban life, and the grief of losing a parent.

JUNO and Felix Award winner **Elisapie** is an Inuk singer, songwriter, film director and activist. On March 11, the genre-bending multilingual artist performs songs from her most recent album, *The Ballad of the Runaway Girl*. The critically-acclaimed album explores the sounds of folk, indie rock and blues.

On March 26, Two-Spirit Métis multi-disciplinary artist **Moe Clark** presents a poetic, multi-dimensional experience that resonates with healing, celebration, and deep spiritual connection. Combining creation stories with her vocal improvisations and soundscapes of live-looped voices, Moe Clark’s sounds traverse jazz, folk, trance, and têtewêhikan (hand drum) songs.

Finally, on April 28, **Sansei: The Storyteller** closes the season with Kunji Mark Ikeda telling the story of his Japanese-Canadian family’s internment after the bombing of Pearl Harbor during World War II. Through dance,

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historical audio, and narrative, Ikeda transfixes audiences with a sobering and compassionate retelling of this country's darkest chapters and the residual impact it has today.

The five events will be held at full capacity in the main Chan Shun Concert Hall, except Sansei which will be held at full capacity in the Telus Studio Theatre.

### **Chan Centre Presents Event Listings**

#### **Kalabanté: Afrique en Cirque | THUR FEB 24 at 8PM**

Combining theatre, dance, music, and some utterly astonishing physical feats, *Afrique en Cirque* is a high-flying, audaciously athletic feast for the senses. Bangoura's 12-piece Montréal-based troupe **Kalabanté Productions** fuses long-established African arts and European circus traditions to showcase exceptional dancers, contortionists, gymnasts, and equilibrists, as well as a group of highly skilled musicians. Their riveting performances burst from the stage with vibrant costumes, dynamic lighting design, and an impressionistic, affecting narrative of stolen dreams, community, and redemption.

#### **Leonard Sumner | SAT MAR 5 at 8PM**

A troubadour of the now, the Winnipeg-based Anishinaabek MC/singer/songwriter Leonard Sumner's new album *Thunderbird* is unflinching in its narratives, while its fusion of hip-hop, spoken word, roots, and rhythm and blues brings home deep truths about residential schools, urban life, and the loss of his mother. The album is a journey of love, grief, pain, and stories carried inter-generationally. Discover Sumner's head-bobbing beats, smoky flow, and his uncanny way of drawing you into dense, observational verses before dropping a killer chorus hook that resonates in your head long after you've finished listening.

#### **Elisapie | FRI MAR 11 at 8PM**

The genre-bending, multilingual artist Elisapie moves between Inuktitut, English, and French as she explores folk music, textural indie rock, poetics, and the breadth and depth of contemporary Indigenous culture. Hailed as "a powerful record, and a rare album where both the music and narrative are equally stunning" by *Exclaim!*, her latest full-length, *The Ballad of The Runaway Girl*, was shortlisted for the prestigious Polaris Prize in 2019. Elisapie confronts the violence of colonialism while harnessing the deep strength that comes from Indigenous interconnectedness to the land, animals, and people.

#### **Moe Clark: Feast of the Invisible | SAT MAR 26 at 8PM**

Drawing from indigenous creation stories, earth-based ceremonial practices and a deep desire for musical expansion, Métis 2Spirit singing thunderbird Moe Clark ignites the stage with six musicians bringing sounds of jazz, folk, trance and têtewhikan (hand drum) songs to life. Journey between visible and invisible worlds as animal and ancestral spirits come to life in this musical feast. At once mythical and magical, *Feast of the Invisible / wihkohkêwin*, is a multi-dimensional musical experience you won't forget.

#### **Sansei: The Storyteller | THUR APR 28 at 8PM**

##### **Telus Studio Theatre**

The December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor triggered the internment and dispossession of tens of thousands of Japanese-Canadians. In a tale that is both illuminating and profoundly personal, *Sansei: The Storyteller* weaves together dance, narrative, historical audio, and family recollections in a moving work that CBC hailed as both "timely" and "uniquely beautiful." With compassion and unexpected humour, **Kunji Mark Ikeda** shares his discovery of where he came from, how his family navigated their histories, and how the rampant racism of past generations has affected the Japanese community today.

### **Ticketing**

Past Chan Presents subscribers have the exclusive opportunity to purchase their tickets in advance of the general public. Tickets and subscription packages for the general public will go on sale Wednesday, December 15 2021.

Ticket Office: chan.tickets@ubc.ca or 604.822.2697  
Website: chancentre.com

### **About the Chan Centre for Performing Arts**

Since 1997, the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts has earned an international reputation for its striking design, stellar acoustics, and exceptional programming. Artists, critics, and patrons alike are unanimous in their praise of the facility, winning it a place among North America's top-rated performing arts spaces. Featuring three unique venues—the Chan Shun Concert Hall, the Telus Studio Theatre, and the Royal Bank Cinema—the Chan Centre is a vital part of UBC campus and community life where artistic and academic disciplines merge to inspire new perspectives on the world around us. Past performers and speakers include Wynton Marsalis, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Renée Fleming, Dan Savage, Yo-Yo Ma, Jane Goodall, Herbie Hancock, Lila Downs, and Anoushka Shankar.

### **About RBC**

Royal Bank of Canada is a global financial institution with a purpose-driven, principles-led approach to delivering leading performance. Our success comes from the 87,000+ employees who leverage their imaginations and insights to bring our vision, values and strategy to life so we can help our clients thrive and communities prosper. As Canada's biggest bank, and one of the largest in the world based on market capitalization, we have a diversified business model with a focus on innovation and providing exceptional experiences to our 17 million clients in Canada, the U.S. and 27 other countries. Learn more at [rbc.com](http://rbc.com).

We are proud to support a broad range of community initiatives through donations, community investments and employee volunteer activities. See how at [rbc.com/community-social-impact](http://rbc.com/community-social-impact).

### **Link to artist photos**

[chancentre.com/press-downloads](http://chancentre.com/press-downloads)

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