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For Immediate Release

A Cosmic Send-off to the 2022-23 Season of TD Amplify Cabaret Series from Arts Commons Presents as *Moon: Indigo Child* Brings Perception-Bending Music that Taps into Your Intuitive Self on the Dark Side of the Moon

Sargeant x Comrade perform live with musicians Shumaila Hemani and Alien Trap Lords to cap off a fabulous season of highlighting the experimental and blended forms of music, spoken word, dance, and design that our local artists have to offer.

May 15, 2023 - CALGARY – Step into the darkness with an evening of music you won't soon forget as the TD Incubator artists explore a perspective that can only be experienced by the light of the moon. The outer space talk show of interdisciplinary artists from **Arts Commons Presents** wraps up the year with *Moon: Indigo Child*, the fourth and final presentation in the 2022-23 season of the TD Amplify Cabaret series. An evening of genre-defying music from some of Calgary's best, join us and experience *Moon: Indigo Child* on **June 2 & 3 at 8 p.m.** in the **Engineered Air Theatre**.

Moon: Indigo Child is the final cabaret in the 2022-23 season curated under the theme of "lo-fi futures" by TD Incubator Fellows **Yolanda Sargeant** and producer **Evgeniy "Comrade" Bykovets**, aka **Sargeant x Comrade**. For this final performance, the Fellows step out of their role as hosts to share samples of their latest work along with DJ duo **Alien Trap Lords** and Sufi singer-songwriter **Shumaila Hemani**. Drawing their inspiration from the moon, they explore the nocturnal sides of our nature. What is illuminated in the darkness and how does it change how we view our existence? Synth music group **Alien Trap Lords** specialize in using their low bass frequencies to tap into the energies of the universe and award-winning Alberta-Sufi singer-songwriter and acousmatic composer **Shumaila Hemani** continues the journey with mesmerizing vocals and lyrics. The evening is tied together by the moody atmosphere provided by the vibrant projections of **Mackenzie Bedford**.

"We travel to the dark side of the moon in Moon: Indigo Child and lean into the artistic unknowns – what were those flashing lights in the sky and what does exist just beyond that horizon? Moon: Indigo Child is all about following your intuition, which is exactly what these artists are all about," says Josh Dalledonne, Associate Director of Programming.

Featuring the interdisciplinary artists of the 22-23 TD Incubator cohort, the TD Amplify Cabaret series opened with *Mars: Second Home* in November 2022, followed by the Black-love centric *Venus: Future Love* in February 2023 and *Earth: Mothership* in celebration of Earth Day and our connection with our home planet. Now we look skyward to our nearest neighbour with *Moon: Indigo Child* (June 2 & 3, 2023). The interdisciplinary artists involved in the TD Amplify Cabaret series are members of the TD Incubator program, an initiative designed to mentor and elevate the voices of Calgary artists who are in conversation with the pressing issues of today. As 2022-23 Fellows of the TD Incubator program, Sargeant x Comrade provided the artistic vision for the season, as well as guidance to the program participants.

"We have a strange relationship with the moon. It affects us through the tides and pulls on us when it's full – that's what this final cabaret is about. Most people think the best thing happens in the light, but there's something exciting about what happens in the dark," says Yolanda Sargeant. "I feel like all of the TD Incubator artists, including myself, have really grown off of each other through the program. I'm so happy to be a part of that, and helping these artists share their art with the world. As much as this might feel like the end, it's just the launch pad, the beginning of the mission. From here, the sky's the limit."

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Now in its fifth season, the TD Amplify Cabaret series has an established reputation for engaging local artists in conversation with the most pressing cultural, social, and artistic questions of today. Exploring subject matter as diverse as drag shows to the experience of Black artists living in the prairies to love notes to the universe, TD Amplify Cabarets push the boundaries of live performance. Stay tuned to learn more about the 2023-24 season of cabarets at artscommons.ca/cabarets and the announcement of the 2023-24 TD Incubator cohort at artscommons.ca/incubator.

What: TD Amplify Cabaret – *Moon: Indigo Child*
Where: Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre
When: Friday, June 2 & Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 8 p.m.
Who: Arts Commons Presents
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/moon

To purchase tickets to *Moon: Indigo Child*, or any of the TD Amplify Cabaret series, please call 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/cabarets.

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the Naming Sponsor of the of **TD Incubator** program and Title Sponsor of the **TD Amplify Cabarets** as well as the **Canada Council for the Arts**.

For media inquiries, high resolution images, or more information contact:
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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, Arts Commons Presents encompasses the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, National Geographic Live, PCL Blues, TD Amplify Cabarets, and Jazz. Arts Commons Presents programming also includes the work that we do alongside and in collaboration with community partners, like the summer outdoor pop-up performance series, ArtsXpeditions, and professional development programs to support Calgary's local artists.

The **TD Incubator program** is designed to support the artists who are increasingly choosing to move between and blend artistic forms – musicians who make their own films, dancers who are blending movement with visual art, actors who are expanding into spoken word poetry. Prioritizing artists from communities who reflect the diversity and vibrancy of Treaty 7 territory, the mission of TD Incubator is to accelerate these artists' careers. As the largest arts centre in Western Canada and a gathering space for all artistic disciplines, Arts Commons is uniquely positioned to grow, celebrate, elevate, and learn from these artists.

BIOGRAPHIES

Sargeant X Comrade is a collaboration between the Queen of Lo-Fi Soul, **Yolanda Sargeant** and producer **Comrade (Evgeniy) Bykovets**. Lo-Fi Soul was the new genre that the duo pioneered after not being able to find an appropriate label to fit their eclectic style. Sargeant X Comrade infuses jazz, soul, funk, dancehall, hip-hop, as well as other genres into a unique sound

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that combines the old with the new. Sargeant's rich vocals take centre stage while Comrade's production takes you on a multi-layered, genre-bending journey from beginning to end. Add some high-profile musicians and features in the mix and you have the Sargeant X Comrade rich formula for their own unique brand of music which has earned them multiple awards in 2021 and 2022.

Mackenzie Bedford is a telescope for queer space. The universe, by nature, is mysterious and queer. Exhausted by perspectives that lack the imagination and diversity it demands, she is revealing the queerness of the cosmos through colour, light, and movement.

You can find them animating, painting murals, or mapping projections across Alberta. In their free time, they are learning to perform burlesque. Their influences stem from growing up as a closeted queer kid in a small town, using an early 2000s internet connection to connect, explore and escape.

Due to the ever-increasing number of UFO sightings around the globe, an unnamed source within the government has facilitated the release of audio sessions attributed to the **Alien Trap Lords**. They function to create an atmosphere of acceptance around the subject of UFOs and to prepare the public for direct alien contact. The low bass frequencies in trap music have been deemed as the best method for brainwashing the youth and disrupting the lower chakras.

Shumaila Hemani, an award-winning Alberta-Sufi singer-songwriter and acousmatic composer "sings Sufi epics in South Asian Sufi tradition compellingly," (New Works Calgary) by "creating audible sculptures evoking powerful imagery and stirring potent emotion." (Edmonton Journal). Her voice and lyrics are locally celebrated for her "mesmerizing" and "emotionally nerve-striking" voice that carries "vocal virtuosity," expressing "radically different inner existential visions" (Calgary Herald). Ph.D. in Music from the University of Alberta, the Former Music Faculty, Semester at Sea, Spring 2020 voyage and the Faculty of Extension (University of Alberta), Hemani published her songs dedicated to the climate crisis in her country of origin, Pakistan, in her debut album, Mannat that was applauded as "powerful" in supporting victims of climate disaster with Sufi poetry (Calgary Herald).

Nominated for the Alberta Magazine Awards in Poetry (2022) and recipient of the Cultural Diversity Award, her original single: Anticipating was featured in the Cross-Canada tour for Suicide Prevention Awareness and Hope (2020) and has been critically acclaimed for expressing "a visceral emotionality and a deep musicality expertly ushering listeners into a place of contemplation" (Radio Airplay). Her acousmatic piece, Perils of Heavy Rainfall, received the Second Prize at the Listening During COVID contest, leading her to speak at the Canadian Music Climate Summit in Toronto in October 2022.

Hemani has performed for Celebrating Life (2022), Canadian Music Week (2021), the FACTOR-funded International Women's Day (2021), Banff Arts Centre (2015) and is currently the artist in residence at Trico Changemakers Studio, and the Global Music Match, and she is currently writing her monograph for Routledge's Islam and Human Rights series supported by the Asian Music Society Award (2022).