



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE  
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS

**Atlantic Scene**  
*A festival of Atlantic Canadian arts and culture*  
**April 22 to May 4, 2003**

More than 200 established and emerging artists from the East Coast will be heading to the nation's capital between April 22 and May 4, 2003, for the National Arts Centre's Atlantic Scene – the first in a series of biennial regional festivals showcasing the best in Canadian arts and culture from coast to coast.

These artists will appear in over a dozen venues in Ottawa-Gatineau, performing a wide range of musical genres such as classical, rock, pop, jazz, blues, world beat, folk, Celtic, Acadian, Aboriginal and more. Atlantic Scene will feature French and English theatre, stand-up comedy, dance, and a major retrospective of Atlantic Canadian film. A visual arts exhibit, literary readings and culinary delicacies from the East Coast will also be part of this great showcase.

“The National Arts Centre wants to show the rest of Canada the bold, fresh and confident artistic scene of contemporary Atlantic Canadian culture,” said Peter Herndorf, President and CEO of the National Arts Centre. “Atlantic Scene will draw national attention to Atlantic Canada and give Canadians a far better understanding of the culture, history, values and traditions of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador.”

**Opportunities for artists**

The National Arts Centre is producing and programming Atlantic Scene as part of its role promoting culture and the performing arts across Canada. The festival will help emerging and established artists find an audience outside of Atlantic Canada. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will make it possible for the National Arts Centre to invite international arts presenters to attend the shows and seek out new talent and touring productions for audiences beyond the two-week festival. CAPACOA, the association serving the live touring industry in Canada, is also set to invite Canadian arts presenters to gauge talent at the festival.

“Atlantic Scene is a wonderful opportunity for performers from a multitude of disciplines to shine – not only for an appreciative public – but for buyers and presenters as well,” said Kari Cullen, Producer and Executive Director of Atlantic Scene. “We expect this festival to provide the extra boost some of our artists need to further their careers.”

### **Partners and sponsors**

Atlantic Scene is made possible through the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage, as well as the Tourism and Culture ministries and secretariats of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. In fact, in what is considered a first for this type of event, the National Arts Centre has entered into a unique agreement with these provinces to ensure the festival accurately reflects the cultural and linguistic makeup of the region, and promotes cultural tourism to the East Coast. A partnership with CBC/Radio-Canada will enhance the visibility of the orchestra tour and artists participating in Atlantic Scene through broadcast and promotion. Print media sponsors the *National Post* and the *Ottawa Citizen* will also help tell the stories emerging from these two initiatives.

### **Venues**

In addition to the National Arts Centre, The Museum of Civilization, the National Library and National Archives, the National Gallery and the Canadian War Museum have all agreed to lend their stages to the festival or to use their public programs for Atlantic Canadian themes. Festival performances will also take place at the Casino du Lac-Leamy, Barrymore's Music Hall, Yuk Yuk's, and other selected venues in the National Capital region.

### **Selecting the lineup**

Atlantic Scene programmers are working in consultation with arts professionals on the East Coast to determine the lineup of performers. Professional artists who want to ensure they are considered for the festival are encouraged to complete an Atlantic Scene Theatre, Dance, Comedy, Performance or Music application form. Forms are available at [www.nac-cna.ca](http://www.nac-cna.ca). The deadline for submitting applications is November 1, 2002.

### **For information, please contact:**

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