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Announcing the 20th Annual

# SUMMERWORKS FREE & PWYC PROGRAMMING



*New this year! Performance Bar and Playground mash-up arts, theatre, music and child's play*

It's coming...August 5-15, 2010

Toronto's annual SummerWorks Theatre Festival is proudly adding two bold new initiatives to its roster of 42 productions, three guided walking tours, and ten nights of concerts. The first ever **Performance Bar** and **Playground** add a new element of play to the festival. Both are held at the Lower Ossington Theatre (LOT). The **Performance Bar** is pay-what-you-can and **Playground** is free.

## **Fiasco Playhouse at the first-ever SummerWorks Performance Bar**

Local improv heroes **The National Theatre of the World** host **Fiasco Playhouse** at the first-ever SummerWorks Performance Bar: ten wild nights of music, theatre and performance from Toronto's best live acts. The National Theatre of the World (Ronald Peterson, Naomi Snieckus and Matt Baram) collides with some of the coolest and craziest theatre-makers, musicians, performance artists and vaudevillians in a hare-brained, unpredictable extravaganza. Acts range from the weirdest art you've ever seen to the prettiest songs you've ever heard – featuring the likes of **Grand Analog**, **Colleen & Paul**, **Zeesy Powers**, **Istvan Kantor**, **Allie Hughes**, **Maylee Todd**, **Bob Wiseman** and **Jeremy Bailey**.

The brainchild of SummerWorks' **Michael Rubinfeld** and **The National Theatre of the World** (*The Carnegie Hall Show*, *Improptu Splendor*), **Fiasco Playhouse** blends talented guest artists with a virtuosic experiment in long-form improvisation. From a crack-team, hell-bent on pushing the boundaries of utter catastrophe, **Fiasco Playhouse** is a singular wild experiment each night of the SummerWorks Festival. **Fiasco Playhouse** takes over the ground floor of The Lower Ossington Theatre (100A Ossington Avenue) every night of the SummerWorks Festival, August 5 – 14, 2010 at 9pm. Doors open at 8pm, and admission is PWYC. Air conditioned.

Full program details available at [www.summerworks.ca](http://www.summerworks.ca), and [www.thenationaltheatreoftheworld.com](http://www.thenationaltheatreoftheworld.com)

## **Playground**

*"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation."* - Plato

Designers Beth Kates and Ben Chaisson (*Bigger Than Jesus*, *Dark Star Requiem*) will turn the Front Rehearsal Hall of the Lower Ossington Theatre (100A Ossington Avenue) into an interactive wonderland. In a big room lined with projectors, screens, cameras, headphones, speakers, mixers, and microphones, the new **SummerWorks Playground** blends dazzling technology with memories of our childhoods. Action figures, Lego, blocks, balls, and hula hoops remind us what it means to goof off and explore - the only limits are your imagination. The **Playground** is open each day of the SummerWorks Festival (August 5 – 15, 2010) for all ages to come and enjoy. Children are welcome, and admission is free.

Curators Dan Daley, Cara Gee and Natasha Greenblatt have dreamt up events to engage the spirit and technology of Playground both inside and outdoors, including a pillow fight, scavenger hunt, capture the flag, craft day, dance-class and music-video-making. CALL FOR SUPPLIES – If you have any lego, action figures, barbies, dinky cars, building blocks kicking around your house, please donate generously to SummerWorks contact [dan@summerworks.ca](mailto:dan@summerworks.ca) for more details!

Full program details available at <http://www.summerworks.ca/2010/playground.php>

MEDIA INQUIRIES: