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### Hamilton Fringe Festival Celebrates 13 with a Party Downtown

**July 13, 2016** - Get ready for the biggest party in the City of Hamilton this summer. Celebrating its thirteenth birthday from July 14-24 with 47 shows and over 300 performances in venues across the downtown core, the Hamilton Fringe Festival kicks off with **Steel the Scene** tonight at 7:30pm at the **Lincoln Alexander Centre**.

The Fringe Festival is happy to announce that both **Jeff Mahoney** (columnist with *The Hamilton Spectator*) and **Karen Ancheta** (director, playwright, and performer) have joined the list of special guest stars for the **Steel the Scene** competition, which include Ward 3 councillor **Matthew Green**, artist **Tor Lukasik-Foss**, local activist and radio host **Lyla Miklos**, actor **Barry Flatman** (currently appearing on *Fargo* and *Private Eyes*), and actor **Cadence Allen**. Theatre companies will also give 90 second previews of their shows. At the Kick-Off, **Frost Bites Festival** participants will be announced, giving audiences an idea of what's in store for the site-specific winter festival happening at the **Art Gallery of Hamilton** from **February 9-12, 2017**. The public is invited to follow a parade of stilt-walkers to an after-party at **The Baltimore House**, this year's official Fringe Club.

"The Hamilton Fringe is an important breeding ground for artist development," says Interim Festival Director Jessica Anderson. "We're welcoming both local and international artists. The festival is a great way to get people to check out our city's thriving arts and culture scene."

The Hamilton Fringe is one of 23 Fringe Festivals across Canada. It is a non-juried festival with all entrants chosen by lottery. With application fees kept as low as possible and 100 percent of ticket revenues are returned to the artists, the Hamilton Fringe is an artist-driven festival that brings innovative theatre to the city.

#### Fringe Kick-Off Details

- ✓ **Wednesday July 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, Lincoln Alexander Centre (160 King St E)**
- ✓ **After party at the Baltimore House (43 King William St)**
- ✓ **Find out more about the event [HERE](http://hamiltonfringe.ca/kick-off/): hamiltonfringe.ca/kick-off/**
- ✓ **Tickets \$13 at the door**

#### Fringe Club

- ✓ **The Baltimore House, 43 King William Street**
- ✓ **Opens at 11am each day during the Festival**
- ✓ **Show Fringe Backer Button for discounted \$5.00 pints**
- ✓ **Find out more about nightly Fringe programming [HERE](http://hamiltonfringe.ca/2016-fringe/fringe-club-programming/): hamiltonfringe.ca/2016-fringe/fringe-club-programming/**

**About the Hamilton Fringe Festival:**

The Hamilton Fringe Festival is an 11-day unjuried annual theatre festival that takes place each July in downtown Hamilton. Presenting live theatre in an informal, accessible and inexpensive environment, the Fringe strives to break down traditional boundaries between audience and artist, encouraging open dialogue between theatre-goers and theatre-creators.

For news and updates, check out [HamiltonFringe.ca](http://HamiltonFringe.ca)

Also: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Use the hashtags #turning13 and #HamFringe for all 2016 festival-related tweets!

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