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Announcing the return of the **BRAMPTON INDIE ARTS FEST** September 15-16, 2011

For almost a decade beginning in 1999, Brampton Indie Arts Festival (BIAF) was an annual event in Brampton's downtown core featuring underground and experimental performances of dance, music, visual artistry, theatre and more. **BIAF** was conceived by Rich Marsella, an educator and local musician at the time who wanted to create an opportunity to showcase modern and eclectic art, including his own. *"The BIAF is an attempt to stimulate, challenge and develop alternative arts in the cultural shadows of Toronto..."*

Unfortunately due to a number of factors the festival was dropped in 2008. This year, after a break of 4 seasons, theatre staff felt the time was right to reunite with Friendly Rich to launch the festival once again. Learning from the past, **BIAF** is going back to its roots to give audiences a true indie experience. Part of that includes using spaces at the Rose not normally accessible by the audience. For instance, the audience will be invited to share the main stage with the performers and the regular soft seat area will be a visual arts experience and teaser designed to lead the audience towards the actual performance.

This year the event will be appealing to an even wider audience than in the past. Rich explains in his original style, *"It's a festival for kids of all ages, from 3 to 103, anybody who can appreciate a good circus, without the maiming of horses"*.

NEW this year, theatre staff is working closely with the Brampton campus of Algoma University to incorporate the festival into official frosh week activities. Brock Olive, the Divisional Director for Algoma's Brampton Programming says, *"Algoma University @ Brampton is proud to participate in the Brampton Indie Arts Fest -2011. We are very excited and look forward to all of the great performances!"*

The festival is entirely free of charge and accessible for all ages. This year's lineup includes **Emcee "Curtains" the puppet** along with indie favourites **Dave Bidini, Lily Frost, Run With**

The Kittens, The Houseplants, Shuffle Demons and many more. For the complete festival schedule please visit www.rosetheatre.ca.

WHEN: BIAF will be held September 15 and 16 from 8:00 pm to midnight both days. Doors open a half hour prior to show time.

WHERE: The Rose Theatre Brampton is located at 1 Theatre Lane, Brampton Ontario. BIAF events will take place in four locations at the Rose: back of the Main Stage, in the Studio Two, in the lobby and on the fountain stage (weather permitting).

The Rose Theatre Brampton is a public state-of-the-art performing arts complex that is fast-becoming an icon in downtown Brampton. This high-technology facility boasts an 880-seat theatre, a 160-seat secondary hall and community space for meetings. The Rose Theatre Brampton is dedicated to presenting quality entertainment to the city's diverse audience, providing the local performing arts community with a venue for excellence in the performing arts, and preserving a Brampton heritage of live performance that dates back to 1922 and includes four active theatres. Parking is always free in the evening on show days.

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