



MEDIA RELEASE

Rendezvous with Madness Festival Embraces a New, Multidisciplinary Focus

TORONTO, July 9, 2018 – After 25 years as the largest — and first — mental health film festival in the world, the Rendezvous with Madness Festival is dropping the word “film” from its title (but not from its lineup) and embracing a wider range of multidisciplinary art forms along with the provocative films it has become known for.

While the dedication to bringing light to issues surrounding mental health, addiction, recovery and wellness remains, the 26th Rendezvous with Madness Festival includes media installations, visual art, theatre, film, panel discussions and in-conversation events. The new festival format better reflects the multidisciplinary focus of the festival’s parent organization, Workman Arts, and provides opportunities to a more diverse pool of artists living with mental health and addiction experiences.

“The ideas brought forward in this festival are exciting, fresh, and provocative, and promote greater dialogue about illness, recovery and resiliency,” said Workman Arts Executive Artistic Director, Kelly Straughan. “Expanding the festival to include all art forms allows us to include more artists with lived experience, present a broader range of ideas surrounding mental health and invite a wider audience to take part in the festival.”

Geoff Pevere, Rendezvous with Madness Film Program Director notes, “For 25 years, Toronto’s Rendezvous With Madness Film Festival has been at the vanguard of discussions concerning mental health, addiction and treatment. The use of film as a context in which to facilitate and encourage the sharing of personal experience is an especially intimate and powerful way of fighting the most important obstacle facing almost any kind of recovery: stigma. Nothing emboldens stigma like silence, and this festival — among the very first of its kind anywhere — has been dedicated to generating conversation through shared experience of the latest the international cinema has to offer on the turbulence of the human mind.”

The expanded Rendezvous with Madness Festival runs October 10 – 21, 2018, with the opening program timed to coincide with World Mental Health Day. Events will run throughout the 12-day period at several venues throughout Toronto. For festival updates and full line-up when it becomes available, visit workmanarts.com/rendezvouswithmadness.

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Workman Arts is the longest-running multi-disciplinary arts and mental health organization in North America, and supports the professional development of aspiring, emerging and established artists with lived experience of mental health and addiction issues.

For further information, interviews or images, please contact sara_kelly@workmanarts.com.