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PERFORMING ARTS

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Your donation helps us keep ticket prices accessible and our programming electrifying.  
It's easy to do online: Monthly tax-deductible donations can be made at [canadahelps.org](https://canadahelps.org).

CONTACT

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PUBLIC ENERGY PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS  
A THEATRE PASSE MURAILLE PRODUCTION

THEATRE



Photo: Frank Kuznik

Vivian Chong  
**BLIND DATES**

Mar 20, 2025  
Market Hall PAC  
Peterborough, Ontario

# BLIND DATES

A THEATRE PASSE MURAILLE PRODUCTION

## VIVIAN CHONG

**Show length:** 65 minutes, followed by a 15 minute Q&A and a lobby reception

**Written, Performed & Composed by** Vivian Chong

**Directed and Dramaturged by** Marjorie Chan

**Set Design by** Echo Zhou

**Sound Design by** Gloria Mok

**Lighting Design by** Steph Raposo

**Stage Management by** Flávia F. Martin

**Non-visual Dramaturgy by** Jessica Watkin

**Projections & Captioning Consultant** April Leung

**Access Support & Dramaturgy Associate** Mandy E. MacLean

**Production Management by** Aidan Hammond

**Touring Production Management by** Carlos Varela

**Venue and Touring Technician** Chris Sutherland

### Production Crew

**Set Construction and Technical Support:** David Fisher

**Scenic Paint:** Edith Nataprawira

Music (in the order it appears)

All music and lyrics by Vivian Chong

Performed by Vivian Chong

*Lily Pad* – instrumental piano

*Cabin Fever* – ukulele and vocals

*One Blue at a Time* – piano and vocals

*Mirror Image* – instrumental piano

*Self Made Woman* – piano and vocals

*How We Met* – piano and vocals

### Special Thanks to

Stacie Dunlop, Njo Kong Kie, Diana Tso, Neha Ross, Olivia Zotti

## NEXT FROM PUBLIC ENERGY PERFORMING ARTS:

### MURMURATION

#### LE PATIN LIBRE

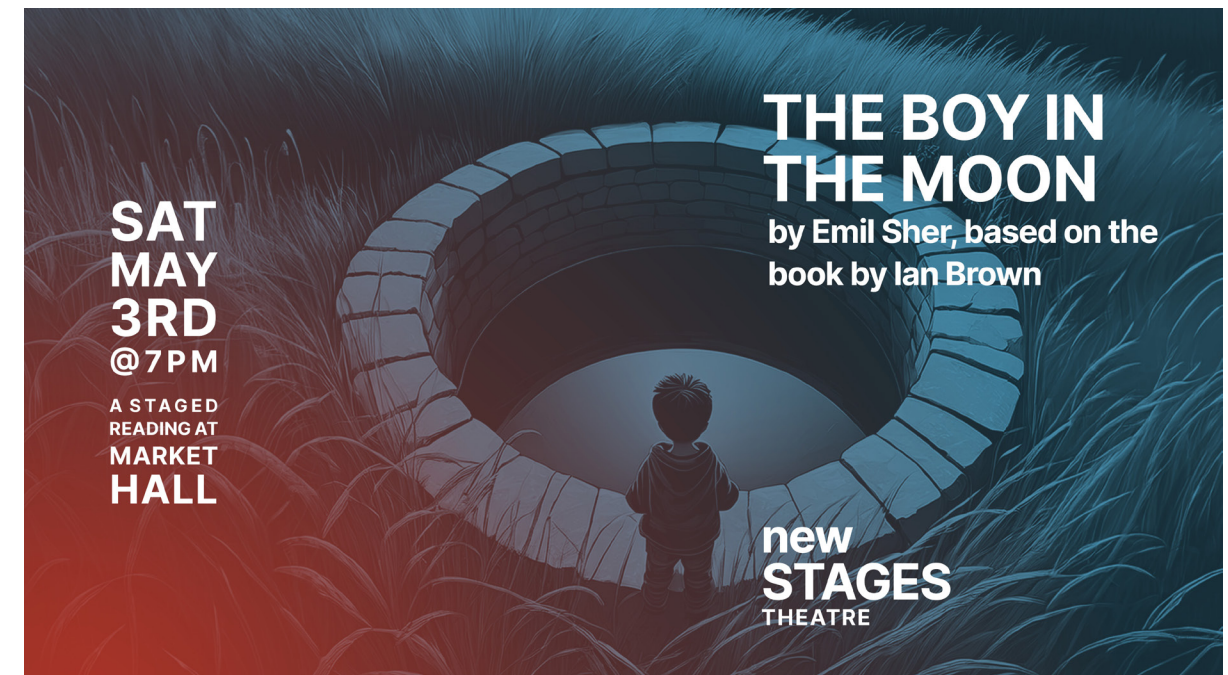
APRIL 8TH

THE PETERBOROUGH MEMORIAL CENTRE

The maverick, internationally renowned dance company Le Patin Libre (Tiohtià:ke/Montreal) has assembled a company of 15 virtuoso skaters from 7 countries. Together they perform the stunningly original Murmuration, based on the aerial ballets of swarms of birds. Like a murmuration, the dancers move at high speeds around the rink, nearly careening into each other, coming together as one, instantly changing direction and splitting into separate flocks. The visual effect combines with the sharp sounds of blades cutting across ice and spraying snow as they continuously stop and start – altogether an unforgettable performing arts experience.



## UPCOMING IN THE COMMUNITY:





**ACCESSIBILITY:**

**Relaxed Environment**

A Relaxed Environment (RE) is created for audiences who have various access needs that a traditional theatre environment does not accommodate. Before a Relaxed Environment performance, audiences will get a venue guide and an access guide.

During a Relaxed Environment performance an audience member can: enter and exit the theatre, move around throughout the theatre, can make noise or sounds, and those who need to keep their phone on will be able to do so as long as it is on silent or on vibrate. Throughout the show, there will be some light over the audience.

**Environmental Warnings**

- Water Based Haze
- 2 instances of flashing lights

**Content Warnings**

Mentions of Harassment

**Blind Friendly Performance**

Elements of the show have been created or adapted to better include Blind audience members.

**Captioned Performance**

AI generated captions will appear on a screen onstage, capturing all spoken text for this performance.

**Access Guide**

An Access Guide is a package that aims to support people with communication difficulties, learning disabilities, English as a second language and Autistic People. It can be used to help anyone access and understand the play. The package may include spoilers. Copies of the Access Guide have been circulated in advance of the show and are available at the box office.

**Venue Guide**

A Venue Guide provides detailed information to navigate to and within the venue. Copies of the Access Guide have been circulated in advance of the show and are available at the box office.

**NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT:**

Hey friends, I’m Vivian Chong. I hope you enjoy my theatre show *Blind Dates*. As a theatre creator, I’m here to entertain and enlighten you and bring more joy in this world. Sometimes when we make new connections, it might not always be successful. We get scared by the largeness of it, and it challenges us.

Sometimes we forget who we are. And I get scared, too. I’m with you on that. Whenever that happens, remember who you are and bring your best forward. Then you remember how to recreate new connections, make new friends, and find new experiences. Everything is for our growth. Remember who you are and then you can radiate your best outward.

We need more love in this world. Love is here for all of us.

**Vivian Chong**

Playwright, Composer and Performer, *Blind Dates*

**CAST**



Vivian Chong

**Vivian Chong | Playwright, Performer, Composer**

I am an artist, potter, sculpter, painter, singer song writer, playwright, theatre creator, actor, dancer, drummer, film maker, comic book author, yoga instructor, tri-athlete.

Dora Award nominee, finalist of the Toronto Book Award. Youth leader for the blind community, accessible yoga teacher, audio description consultant

**Image description:** Vivian posing in front of graffiti in mexico wearing yellow sunglasses and purple top.

**Photo credit:** Jeff Dusome

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Thank you so much for joining us at this production of *Blind Dates*. We're so thrilled to have Vivian Chong create and perform with us this season, bringing her blend of song and storytelling to our stage. Developed through TPM's BUZZ Program, the show also benefitted from support from Diaspora Dialogues, and the Ontario Arts Council.

For *Blind Dates*, it has been an incredible journey of affirming's Vivian's desire to speak to her intersectional experience of finding love. This has been reflected in our approach in rehearsals, access and transportation support, and with the collaboration of the amazing designers of the project (Echo Zhou, Gloria Mok, and Steph Raposo). Every design aspect has been carefully considered to provide the most accessible and empowering experience for the creator/performer – from the adjustment of performer-friendly lighting, to audio-led dramaturgical discussions, as well as a tactile set.

For the audience, there has been consideration to make the production as 'Blind-Friendly' as possible as well. The set itself with different surfaces provides staging information for the audience as Vivian moves around it. We created a tactile wall on the way into the theatre, that provides access to some of the textures of the show, as well as an audio visual description of the set. Additionally, the run is relaxed, with re-entry permitted and as well, Vivian's text is projected above the stage via AI for audiences who might require surtitling support for the show.

We're so thrilled at TPM to be able to offer such a diverse season with so much representation from the Deaf and Disability community on our stages. Although not our specific intention to program in this way, at the same time it is indicative of our continued commitment in working in these communities, including both development of the plays as well as building trust with artists. At TPM we are interested in works with a potential to create conversation, that can affirm or challenge, and ultimately entertain.

Enjoy *Blind Dates*!

**Marjorie Chan**  
Artistic Director, TPM  
Director & Dramaturge, *Blind Dates*

Learn about  
the rest of the  
creative team  
behind *Blind  
Dates* →



ABOUT PUBLIC ENERGY PERFORMING ARTS:

Public Energy Performing Arts is Peterborough's animator of dance, theatre, performance and interdisciplinary work. Since 1994 we have presented a mainstage series of artists drawn from across Canada and beyond, commissioned new work in concert with other Canadian presenters, supported the development of the local dance, theatre and performance community and nurtured audiences that are knowledgeable and passionate about the performing arts.

Public Energy works in Treaty 20 territory situated in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations. We honour that we are in Nogojiwanong, the Anishinaabe word for "place at the end of the rapids", a gathering place where stories have been shared for millennia. We acknowledge the Indigenous people for their stewardship of these lands and we recognize our responsibility to foster respectful relationships with the water, the land, and its people. Public Energy recognizes that treaties did more harm than good, criminalizing cultural practices and displacing Indigenous people from their territories. We commit to doing all we can to repair this legacy by providing a platform for the voices and artistry of Indigenous artists to be heard and respected.

SPECIAL THANKS TO PUBLIC ENERGY'S GENEROUS SPONSORS & FUNDERS:

