

BuskerFest Announces **NEW ATTRACTIONS** for 2018!



19th Annual **Toronto International BuskerFest for Epilepsy** Woodbine Park, Labour Day Weekend August 31 – September 3 2018

Toronto, ON (August 16, 2018) – BuskerFest’s performer lineup continues to grow! World-class street performers from around the globe will converge on Woodbine Park in The Beach neighbourhood, over the Labour Day Weekend for the 19th annual [Toronto International BuskerFest for Epilepsy](#), Friday August 31 to September 3, 2018.

NEW performers confirmed: Long time festival favorites, electronic violinist **Dr. Draw** and beatboxer **Scott Jackson** will be performing their new duo act **Nemesis** for the first time at BuskerFest; **Sean Rooney, the Balloon Maestro**, creates musical soundtracks using instruments made of balloons; from Italy, Mario Levis, a skilled clown will transform everyday objects into items of amazement and amusement in his show **Hanger?**; **Michael Francis Magic** and his acclaimed yo-yo routine and many more!

You will find aerialists, acrobats, comedians, clowns, jugglers, daredevils, fire manipulators, musicians, magicians, high-skill circus performers and more among the over 100 street performers in this year's line-up. BuskerFest continues to be a signature fundraising event for **Epilepsy Toronto**, helping over 40,000 families across the GTA, and remaining the largest epilepsy event in the universe.

Some of the **NEW ATTRACTIONS** happening at this year's Toronto International BuskerFest include:

- **A first-time Guinness World Record attempt for yo-yoing:** **Michael Francis** is an energetic magician who brings the crowd to their feet, widely known for his acclaimed Yo-Yo routine. He’s already a two-time Guinness World Record holder and is attempting to break a new record for the most yo-yos spun simultaneously (*12pm, Friday, Aug. 31*). The previous record was 16, he will attempt 17.
- **The Mac and Cheese Festival** is successfully in its 4th year of dishing up over 50 of the cheesiest creations made by top chefs. The festivals will congregate in **Woodbine Park**, an ideal location providing space for all that BuskerFest has to offer along with ample amount of room for The Mac and Cheese Festival foodies to eat and enjoy the festivities.
- A **NEW token** system for food vendors including The Mac and Cheese Festival: Attendees will cash in their money for tokens, removing all cash transactions from food trucks and vendors, to deliver a faster and more effective festival experience.

Among some of the **TOP CHEFS** featured at this year’s festival are:

- **Chef Jagger Gordon**, the executive chef and brains behind **Feed It Forward**, is bringing his fresh, locally sourced, internationally inspired menu to BuskerFest.
- **Chef Alan Yau** from Golden Bubbles as part of The Mac and Cheese Festival with his creation, "Mac & Cheese Stuffed Waffle".
- **Chef Raquel Fox** from Baha Foods as part of The Mac and Cheese Festival with her delicious "Creamy Rock Lobster Mac and Cheese with Curry Oil".

- **Chef Russell Auckbaraullee** from Penthouse Catering as part of The Mac and Cheese Festival with his dish "Deep Fried Calzone Stuffed with Mac and Cheese".

More **GREAT ATTRACTIONS** happening at this year's Toronto International BuskerFest include:

- **Group Benefit Shows:** Happening Friday, Aug. 31 at 7:30pm, performers such as **The Circus Firemen, Wacky Chad, Jack Wise** and **FlameOz** will take to the main stage to perform in our annual **Fire Benefit Show, hosted by Toronto's own FireGuy!** They will graciously donate their tips following this spectacular fire show to Epilepsy Toronto. A Grand Finale benefit show featuring many of our other local and international performers will take place on Monday September 3rd at 5pm, where we will announce the People's Choice Winner and once again, the performers will donate their tips following the show to Epilepsy Toronto.
- **ASL Stages:** The following times offer shows accompanied by ASL interpretation
5:00 pm - The Circus Firemen; 6:00 pm - Wacky Chad; 7:00 pm - The Big Wheel Show. Non-verbal performances will happen each day throughout the festival with acts such as: Acrobuffos, Hanger?, Gaia, Jenny Jupiter, Meow Mur, Silver Elvis, and more.
- The **Little Big Top:** This tented performance stage featuring exclusive shows that won't be seen on any other stage. Grab a seat and catch one of the spectacular 15-minute performances running from 1pm to close of the festival each day.
- **Contests!** Take part in the **People's Choice Awards** and you could win! Stop by our info booth and vote for your favourite busker or enter our **photo contest** for a chance to win a \$100 Murphy's Law gift card and be featured on our social media pages.
- The popular **Family Fun Zone** includes Face-painting, balloon twisting, giant games, **Bébe Station** (*an all-purpose tent for parents who need to nurse, bottle-feed or change their little ones while at an event*) and the ever-popular **Be A Busker** area (an interactive area for kids to get hands-on experience in a few of the many busking arts). For those seeking a little thrill ride, a **Midway** with rides, games and bouncy castles will be located in the parking lot across from the festival.
- BuskerFest's licensed **Beer Garden** will be located in the Gazebo in the heart of the park surrounded by plenty of artisans, food trucks and buskers. Sit back and enjoy the entertainment around you!

Admission by Donation to [Epilepsy Toronto](#)

Dates: Friday August 31- Monday, September 3, 2018

Times: Friday, noon – 11 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.;
Sunday, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Location: Woodbine Park, in The Beach, 1695 Queen St. E.
(Coxwell Ave. at Lakeshore Blvd. E.)

For information visit: <http://www.torontobuskerfest.com/>

Facebook, Instagram & Twitter: @BuskerFestTO #BuskerFestTO

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For Media Enquiries: Melanie Carrey - Publicist, pr@torontobuskerfest.com,
416-526-8114. **Interviews on request.**

For photo downloads from past festivals (high res first, scroll down for lower res):

<http://torontobuskerfest.com/mediareources> Login: media Password: epilepsy.

The Mac and Cheese Festival

photos: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wh1c037o0m239by/AAAP0SNjrCPvJH7k3FXKt2i6a?dl=0>