



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TD READY
COMMITMENT**

Black Theatre Workshop Honours Eddy Toussaint With Prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King Achievement Award

The longest running Black theatre company in Canada invites all audiences to attend its most important annual fundraiser.

Montreal, QC – January 20, 2021: Black Theatre Workshop launches a revision of its Vision Celebration Gala to start Black History Month activities in Montreal, continuing in the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream.

The 35th annual **Vision Celebration Gala** will be a virtual event this year, streamed live on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) on **Saturday, January 30, 2021 from 7:00 to 8:30pm**. Hosted by Artistic Director Quincy Armorer and Board member Deanna Smith, it promises to be a night to remember.

This year, more than ever, Black excellence needs to be celebrated and elevated. The prestigious **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award** will be presented to Haitian dancer, choreographer, teacher and artistic director **Eddy Toussaint**. Founder of Ballet Eddy Toussaint and laureate of Montreal's Black History Month (2014), and the Prix Hosia de Laval (2019), Mr. Toussaint joins an illustrious group of past laureates of the award, including local stars Oscar Peterson, Oliver Jones, Dany Laferrière, Zab Maboungou and Gregory Charles.

"Eddy Toussaint is an inspiring leader in Montreal's artistic community, whose contributions to the performing arts spans decades. During these challenging times, the celebration of Black talent and culture is more crucial than ever before. We are honoured to pay tribute to all of this year's Vision Gala awardees, whose talents and remarkable accomplishments deserve to be recognized and celebrated."

Quincy Armorer, Artistic Director of Black Theatre Workshop.



The evening will also see us present the Dr. Clarence Bayne Community Service Award, which recognizes an individual dedicated to Montreal's cultural community, to local philanthropist Thelma Johnson. The Gloria Mitchell-Aleong Award and the Victor Philips Award will be presented to **Blxck Cxsper** and **Imzadi Amarante**, respectively.

Vision Celebration will be virtual this year, allowing audiences to enjoy the gala from the comforts of home. The event will feature special performances by two local talents: **Sarah Nairne**, an alumnus of Black Theatre Workshop's Artist Mentorship Program, and Juno Award-winning Jazz legend and local star, **Ranee Lee!**

Audiences are encouraged to register for this free event by clicking [here](#). By registering for the Virtual Vision Celebration, you ensure that your name will be included in the raffle draw and eligible to win one of our many wonderful prizes!

Please join us as we celebrate the artistic and ground-breaking accomplishments of the Black community and raise a glass in celebration!

As the longest running Black theatre company in Canada, Black Theatre Workshop continues to promote cross-cultural understanding and diversity in the arts through storytelling from an Afro-Canadian perspective. Join us as we proudly celebrate our 50th season!

For more information, please visit www.blacktheatreworkshop.ca/vision

- 30 -

Giordanno Bruno • Marketing Coordinator
Black Theatre Workshop
mkt@theatrebtw.ca