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## **4th Line Theatre announces 2021 Winter and Spring virtual programming**

**Millbrook, ON...** 4th Line Theatre is excited to announce an array of new virtual programming for its winter and spring 2021 season as part of its *Nexicom Presents 4th Line Theatre @ Home* series, developed to keep our community engaged and connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. The company first pivoted to virtual programming offerings in spring 2020, during the first COVID-19 lockdown, delivering live-streamed artist talks, conversations with local business leaders and politicians and play readings. The virtual series' were so well-received that the company continued to offer live-streamed programming in summer 2020, along with in-person events at the Winslow farm, their summer theatre venue. Once again, the live-streamed content was met with an overwhelmingly positive reception, encouraging the theatre company to continue its virtual programming into 2021.

Managing Artistic Director Kim Blackwell explains, "We have pulled together a series of interesting and imaginative initiatives for people to enjoy from the safety of their homes. We see a light at the end of this trying tunnel and with a few weeks left to stay home, 4th Line Theatre wants to offer you exciting art and information, right in your own home."

### **The Digital Festival of Light and Dark**

The theatre company launched its 2021 programming on Monday, January 25th with its first ever *Digital Festival of Light and Dark*. The Festival enables the community to engage with 13 regional artists' video creations, in the safety of their own homes through 4th Line's digital video gallery. The Festival is free of charge to watch and can be viewed by visiting the company's website or YouTube channel.

### **Artist Talks**

Following the success of the 2020 artist talk series *Kim Blackwell In Conversation With...*, the company's Managing Artistic Director will continue the series of live-streamed conversations in February 2021 with artists Linda Kash, Theresa Tova, Andrea Scott and Beau Dixon.

### **Business Breakfast Talks**

Blackwell will also host the popular *Friday Morning Business Breakfast Talks* series in February, where she will sit down with Leo Groarke, President and Vice-Chancellor of Trent University and Anne-Marie Kee, Head of School and Foundation of Lakefield College to talk about their lives, day to day challenges and opportunities of their businesses, and what led them on their chosen career paths.

### **Sizzlin' Series**

In February, the company will also launch Beau Dixon's *Sizzlin' Series*, a new video series focusing on regional BIPOC residents who are leading fascinating and inspiring lives. Dixon joined the 4th Line team as an Artistic Associate in November 2020 to assist the company in further developing its equity, inclusivity and diversity initiatives and strategies.

### **Propel Weekly Writing Program**

Also launching in February is a new initiative, *Propel Weekly Writing Program*. Anyone interested in participating is invited to join Kim Blackwell for one or all in this 11-week series of online, twice-a-week writing/creation workshops, designed to inspire writers and creators and to allow them to commit time to their projects. There will also be time in each session to discuss work and collect feedback.

All of 4th Line Theatre's virtual events are sponsored by longtime supporter Nexicom, who have always been an advocate of the importance of community connectivity. Due to their generous contribution, all virtual events are being offered free-of-charge.

More information is coming soon about all of 4th Line Theatre's upcoming virtual programming. Stay tuned to 4th Line Theatre's e-newsletters, social media channels and website for up-to-date information and details.

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4th Line Theatre's box office and administrative phone line is open. Call the box office at 705-932-4445 or toll free at 800-814-0055 for ticketing inquiries and event information.

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## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Kim Blackwell, Managing Artistic Director; host of *Kim Blackwell In Conversation With... Artist Talk and Business Breakfast Talk Series*; dramaturge; playwright**

Kim Blackwell is 4th Line Theatre's Managing Artistic Director and is a veteran 4th Line director/producer – 2021 marks her 27th season with 4th Line Theatre where she has directed 25 productions including 13 world premieres. Selected credits include: Artistic Director (2014 - Present), Artistic Producer (2009 – 2014), Artistic Associate (2001-2009), directing: *Bedtime Stories and Other Horrifying Tales* (2020); *The Fool of Cavan: A Christmas Caper*, *Bloom: A Rock 'n' Roll Fable* (2019), *The Other: A Strange Christmas Tale* (2018), *The Shadow Walk of Millbrook* (2016, 2018), *Who Killed Snow White?* (2018), *The Hero of Hunter Street* (2016), *The Bad Luck Bank Robbers* (2015, 2016), *The Real McCoy* (2013), *Queen Marie*, *St. Francis of Millbrook* (2012), *The Berlin Blues* (2011), *The Right Road to Pontypool* (2009, 2010), *Schoolhouse* (2007, 2008), *The Art of Silent Killing*, *That Summer*, *Crow Hill*, *The Cavan Blazers*, *Attrition*, *Gimme That Prime Time Religion* and many development workshops. She directed plays across Canada and the US. Her play *A Daughter* had its world premiere in 2020 as a part of the Open Spaces Theatre Festival and has been selected to be a part of the International Rural Women's Studies Conference hosted by University of Guelph in 2021.

### **Beau Dixon, Artistic Associate; host of *Sizzlin' Series***

Beau Dixon is an award-winning, self-taught actor, musician, singer/songwriter, playwright, music director and sound designer. As an actor and musician, he's performed on numerous theatre stages throughout Canada, the U.S and Europe. He's received two Dora Mavor Moore Awards, a Calgary and Toronto Critic's Award, and he's a finalist for the KM Hunter Award. His most recent play *Bloom: A Rock 'n' Roll Fable*, was produced at 4th Line Theatre in summer of 2019. Beau has also been inducted into Peterborough's 'Pathway of Fame' for his leadership in the arts. You can find his music on iTunes and other streaming services. [www.beaudixon.com](http://www.beaudixon.com)

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[Attached Photos:](#)

1. Kim Blackwell

2. Beau Dixon

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Our productions are made possible by the generosity of our donors and sponsors including:

**2021 Season Sponsor, Artistic Director Circle: Nexicom Group**

**2021 Major Sponsor, Producer's Circle: Exit Lift Lock Realty**



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