

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE SOCIETY
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High-Resolution photo: [Tess Degenstein Blind Date.jpg](#)

Description: One actor. One audience member. One blind date.

Photo Credit: Tess Degenstein. Photo by Little Blue Lemon Photography

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fearless and funny, *Blind Date* blurs the lines between theatre, improv and social experiments in an evening of delightful comedy!

CHILLIWACK, BC –The charismatic Mimi, a red-nosed French clown, goes on a blind date with a new man every show, one willingly plucked right from the audience, in a performance that celebrates the beauty of human connections. On **January 30** the *Arts Club on Tour* brings *Blind Date* to Chilliwack, so come fall in love with Mimi and her audience-member-turned-Romantic-Hero in this unforgettably charming show.

Mimi has been a part of over 700 staged performances, but each performance is inherently unique. Mimi and her cast of waiters pick an audience member to join them on stage, where the two of them improvise an entire date for the audience. There is a loose structure that the show follows, to guide Mimi's chosen date.

Created by *Rebecca Northan*, ***Blind Date***'s framework allows for an incredible unscripted dialogue and improv show that is designed to foster a true connection between its actor and her chosen date. "The thesis of ***Blind Date*** has always been 'everyone is loveable'. There is great joy in leaning forward in your seat and watching two strangers attempt to connect. It's what being human is all about." Says *Northan*. "It has been an absolute pleasure to share this show with an ever-growing list of performers in the lead role. It has allowed me to fall in love with my friends over and over, as well as the strangers who end up sitting opposite them."

Before the show, Mimi mingles with theatre-goers in the lobby. From those she speaks with outside, she will eventually choose the man invited on stage to be her blind date for the evening. "There is always a handful of people who are convinced the Date is a plant in the audience. They are not. There is only truth, breathing, and profound listening coupled with open-heartedness and a playful spirit." *Northan* excitedly explains.

"I put the nose on and take on this clown character and then we mingle with people as they're coming into the theatre about a half hour before the show." Says actor *Tess Degenstein*. "We're looking for that spark. If you were at a cocktail party and having conversations with a bunch of people, who is the person you would want to go back and talk to, who you had great rapport with?"

"The purpose of the clown nose? To remind the audience and the gentleman I'm sitting across from that this is all just about play and theatre," says *Degenstein*. "If it was just two people sitting across from each other, sharing their real lives, the boundaries could start to blur."

Let Mimi pull you into this heartwarming and hilarious show, where the true question is: What would you do if it were you up there? Because it very well could be!

Blind Date is coming to the Chilliwack Cultural Centre on **January 30** at **7:30 pm**. Tickets in Zone A are \$45 for adults, \$40 for seniors and \$40 for youths. Tickets in Zone B are \$39 and tickets in Zone C are \$29. Tickets can be purchased at the Centre

Box Office, online at www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca, or by calling 604-391-SHOW(7469).

Blind Date is sponsored by: MNP, Unger Windows and Doors LTD, Kyle Hislop Royal LePage, The Chilliwack Progress, What's On!, the BC Touring Council, the British Columbia Arts Council, the City of Chilliwack, the Province of British Columbia, and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

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For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the O'Connor Group Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 360,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value close to \$6,000,000. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts, crafts and performance studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is registered under the British Columbia Society Act as a not-for-profit society (society number S-54973), and is a registered Canadian charitable organization under the Canadian Charities Directorate. (Charity number 805742897 RR0001)

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