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## **BIPOC Women Take the Lead in Vancouver’s Arts and Culture Scene**

*Female-identifying and non-binary BIPOC artists shaping the way we experience the city’s offerings*

**VANCOUVER, B.C. (October 14, 2021)** – It may be well past International Women’s Day, but that doesn’t change what the many female-identifying and BIPOC artists contributing to the redefining of arts and culture in Vancouver are doing. To them, leading, creating, and changing the world around them is what they do, and who they are every day – and this year’s #Indiefest is a showcase of their efforts and impacts.

Of note are a series of panels tackling visibility, identity, and how they inform creative expression; performances aimed at combatting rising anti-Asian racism locally and globally; and the many Asian female-identifying and non-binary arts leaders in the festival.

One of these change-making Asian women is [re:Naissance Opera’s](#) own Debi Wong, known internationally after only a few short years of building the organization. re:Naissance and Wong are proud to host this year’s IndieFest. “The programming this year lifts up but a few of the many female-identifying and non-binary BIPOC artists who are doing more than just showing up in our arts and culture scene; they are showing us, through their art, how we can build our communities in a more inclusive, respectful, and creative way,” said Wong.

Other female-identifying leaders joining the festival include acclaimed theatre and film artist **Renaë Morriseau**. Renaë opens the festival with **M’Girl, an Indigenous women’s ensemble** that performs percussive-based hand-drum songs that reflect the diverse cultural practices and personal stories of the group. **Shirin Eskandani**, as seen on *The Today Show* and in *The New York Times & Cosmopolitan*, grew up in Vancouver and will be joining #IndieFest to empower other local BIPOC leaders in her workshop series “Compassionate and resilient creative leadership.” **Valerie Sing Turner** premieres her first opera at IndieFest, co-directing and co-producing *Did I Just Say That*, a musical comedy that explores themes of feminism, racial intersectionality, and what it means to embody artistic risk in a patriarchal society.

“By innovating, creating, and including marginalized communities, these and many other talented BIPOC women and non-binary artists are making their mark in Vancouver’s art scene,” said Wong.

With a showing this talented, that mark is sure to be permanent.

*The full event schedule for IndieFest 2021 event schedule can be found at [indiefest.ca](http://indiefest.ca).*

### **About re:Naissance Opera**

re:Naissance Opera is a Vancouver-based indie company dedicated to changing the world one opera at a time. Producing modern-day operatic performances that represent and connect the diverse communities, people, storytelling media and voices unique to our home city of Vancouver, B.C., we are committed to and advocate for equity, diversity, social and artistic innovation, artistic excellence, interdisciplinary art-making, risk-taking, and cross-sector collaboration. re:Naissance Opera operates on the stolen ancestral and traditional lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔl (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Instagram: @opera\_reborn

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