

RUTAS Festival 2024 Access Guide



Marketing image for **Rutas Festival 2024** , text: “RUTAS 2024 FESTIVAL: Cartografías Personales Cartographies” in white, below an image of a torso of a nude person holding a circular object where their face should be. In the circular object there are two faces, directed towards each other. At the left of the poster, text; Festival Internacional de Artes Escèicas SEP 26 - OCT 6. At the bottom of the poster, text: rutas.ca. There are a collection of logos in white; Aluna Theatre, In Partnership with: Factory, theatre passe muraille, School of the Arts York U, Hemisphere Encounters, CALTAC, TD Ready Commitment, Ontario Arts Council, METcal Foundation, Ontario, Toronto Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, Canada.

What is included in this Access Guide?

This information package aims to help anyone access and understand the play. In particular, the guide may assist those who have different needs for communication including, but not exclusively, Autistic People, those who communicate using multiple languages, as well as others who may be challenged by some theatrical constructs.

Thank you to TPM's Access Sponsor



Relaxed Environment

RUTAS Festival 2024 will be performed at Theatre Passe Muraille which is a Relaxed Environment Venue. A Relaxed Environment is designed to create a more welcoming atmosphere for all audience members, including those who could specifically benefit from a more informal approach, and a 'relaxing' of formal theatre conventions.

A Relaxed Environment includes:

At the theatre:

- A very low-level house light in the audience
- the ability for anyone to come and go from the space, get up and move, as needed
- Ability to leave your phone on silent or vibrate
- A more open approach to audience movement or sound
- May also include a quiet space to sit
- May also include a Peer Support facilitator on select days

This Access Guide, that includes:

- An introduction to the play and some of the key elements
- Specific environmental, content and trigger warnings

RUTAS Festival 2024

Rutas Festival runs from September 26 to October 6, 2024 and performance dates and times can be found on our ticketing page. Rutas Festival events will occur over two weeks at Theatre Passe Muraille. Rutas Festival events will also occur at Factory Theatre. More information for events at Factory Theatre can be found on their website.

The First week of RUTAS Festival

- The Residency Showcase of **Gringas** will happen in the Main Space Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 5:00 pm. Gringas is a staged reading that will include seven performers and will be performed in one act lasting sixty minutes. This is a ticketed performance.
- The installation **Keeoukaywin** will happen in the Back Space Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 3:00pm - 7:30pm. This is an unticketed installation.

The Second week of RUTAS Festival

- There will be an **Opening Reception** for the second week of Rutas Festival 2024 on Oct. 3 at 8:00 pm that will take place in the Lobby Theatre Passe Muraille.
- Performances of **Reminiscencia** will happen in the Main Space Theatre Thursday Oct. 3 at 7:00 pm - Saturday Oct. 5 at 7:00pm. Reminiscencia will include one performer and will be performed in one act lasting sixty minutes. This is a ticketed performance.
- The installation **Sandwich Board Hall** will happen in the Back Space Theatre on Thursday Oct. 3 and Friday Oct. 4 at 5:30pm, as well as Saturday Oct 5 at 12:00 pm. This is an unticketed installation.
- There will be a **Public Workshop** with the artistic team of Reminiscencia on Oct. 5 at 10 am. This Public Workshop will occur in the Mainspace Theatre. You can register for this workshop on our ticketing page.
- The **Aluna Cabaret** will be on Oct. 5 at 9:00 pm. Events will occur throughout Theatre Passe Muraille. A night of music, dancing, and fun. This is an unticketed cabaret style performance .

How to Experience RUTAS Festival

Relaxed Space - If you leave the theatre at any time there is a Relaxed Space in the lobby you can visit. Our Relaxed Space is a quiet space equipped with comfortable seating, blankets, and sensory objects for any patrons who need a break from the performance or would like to experience it in a more low-intensity environment. If you ask an usher they will show you to this area.

Projected Translations - **Reminiscencia** (week two), will be spoken in Spanish and there will be translations (in English) projected.

Performances Spaces for RUTAS Festival 2024

Rutas Festival events at Theatre Passe Muraille will use two spaces: **The Main Space Theatre** for performances and staged readings, and **The Back Space Theatre** for both installations.

The Main Space Theatre will be open to audiences 30 minutes before the set start time of a performance and the Front-of-House manager will announce when the theatre is open in the lobby. A ticket is required to enter the performances: **Gringas** (week one) and **Reminiscencia** (week two).

The Back Space Theatre will be open to the public from 5:30 - 9:30pm. No ticket is required to enter the installations: **Keeoukaywin** (week one) and **Sandwich Board Hall** (week two).

Performance Advisories & Common Questions

Are there any performance advisories?

Gringas (Performance in Main Space Theatre).

- **Environment Warnings:** The use of live and amplified sounds (including thunder and yelling).
- **Content Warnings:** Portrayal of Drug use, portrayal of the birth of a baby, strong language, and partial nudity. References to suicide, racism, colonialism, homophobia, and mental health.

Keeoukaywin (Installation in Back Space Theatre)

- **Environment Warnings:** the use of amplified sound, projections, video, flashing and sudden lights.
- **Content Warnings:** references to colonization and racism. A character wears a clown mask.

Reminiscencia (Performance in Main Space Theatre)

- **Environment Warnings:** Spanish is spoken and English Translations will be projected. The use of projection, video, flashing lights, and strobe. The use of live and amplified sounds (including sounds that are surprising and sudden). The audience is invited to participate in sing along, and the lyrics will be projected. The use of blackouts at the top of the performance.
- **Content Warnings:** A video of a man being tear gassed by a police officer. References to classism.

Sandwich Board Hall (Installation in Back Space Theatre)

- **Environment Warnings :** Options to view the piece with or without a VR Headset, VR, the use of projections including low lighting states, the use of amplified sounds.

Age limit: The suggested age for all Rutas Events at Theatre Passe Muraille is 13 +.

What Access Components are available during the performance run?

Projected Translations

This is similar to a captioned performance, where spoken dialogue and all elements of sound are projected onto a screen to enable access for audiences who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing or anyone who needs additional visual or text based reinforcement of the play. Created with both practicality and artistry in mind, and is visible to the entire audience.

Reminiscencia (week two), will be spoken in Spanish and there will be translations (in English) projected. These projected translations will not include elements of sound.

Need More information?

If you require more information please reach out to Theatre Passe Muraille's Dramaturgy & Accessibility Associate (Metcalf Foundation Performing Arts Intern) Mandy E. MacLean at mandym@passemuraille.on.ca.

Plot Details for Week One

The following section of text contains Plot Details that could be considered spoilers! Please continue to the section titled Set Details if you do not want to know what happens (the end of the plot section is highlighted)!

The first week (Sept. 27 - 28, 2024) will include performances of Gringas in the Main Space Theatre.

Gringas takes place under the Muskoka sun, where 7 Latina -teenagers from across the Latin American diaspora are at language camp, learning Spanish for the first time. Inside cabins, bathing in lakes, and in magical dreamscapes, these young women are determined to find themselves before the summer is up. This play is a beautiful and hilarious bi-lingual coming-of-age story, covered in cigarette smoke, that promises to resonate with anyone who has experienced girlhood or the struggles of being a first or second-generation immigrant.

The first week (Sept. 27 - 28, 2024) will also include the installation Keeoukaywin in the Back Space Theatre.

The installation is described as "Circus tent spirit radio". and is conceived and created by artist Rihkee Strapp. Our collective dreams are woven into the stories we tell — around campfires, within our communities, and increasingly on Social Media. Keeoukaywin, the michif word for Visiting, places us in a room with a circus tent, on whose cloth walls Miskwa the MAD clown is projected from dream and digital spaces to our reality, to deliver the prophecy of the White Lodge to the community.

End of Plot Details for Week One.

Plot Details for Week Two

The following section of text contains Plot Details that could be considered spoilers! Please continue to the section titled Set Details if you do not want to know what happens (the end of the plot section is highlighted)!

The second week (Oct. 3 - 5, 2024) will include performances of *Reminiscencia* in the Main Space Theatre.

Malicho Vaca Valenzuela walks on stage and sits behind a computer, facing the audience. Behind him is a giant screen showing the progression of the stories and images he collects and brings together. His voice remains calm and steady. There is nothing that could offend anyone, no violence.

At first glance, *Reminiscencia* appears to be a personal story. Slowly it becomes a detailed investigation of the past of a country and of its collective memory.

Reminiscencia traces the personal history of a family through the evolution of a city, leading us through a series of small stories and questions that turn out to become larger and more important than ever imagined. The revelation of an ugly past serves to help us create a better future by not repeating the mistakes of the past.

This piece emerged during the Pandemic. Malicho wanted to create a theatre that responded to the times. He didn't want to simply recreate live theatre as an online experience. He felt the need to create theatre from a place of intimacy, of closeness; a Revolution of Tenderness, as he calls it.

During the lockdowns, the only way we could connect with each other was through the cold screen of a computer. With his digital version of *Reminiscencia*, he wanted to envision the experience as a sort of an online bonfire where people could huddle around and listen to a story.

In the piece Malicho asks: What will happen to the traces we leave when we are no longer here? Will the voices we use on the streets be stored on an external drive? What stories will Google tell about us when we are no longer here? Will we be able to find each other, touch, and conjure together the reality we desire?

The second week (Oct. 3 - 5, 2024) will also include the installation of *Sandwich Board Hall* in the Back Space Theatre.

End of Plot Details for Week Two.

Set Details for Week One



Gringas will be performed in the Main Space Theatre. Gringas will be presented as a staged reading with no set. Performers will use music stands for the duration of the performance.

The picture to the left features a black Music Stand.



Keeoukaywin will be open for viewing in the Back Space Theatre. There will be a large circus tent in the center of the space that will serve as a projection surface. Patrons are welcomed to visit inside the tent which will be rigged above them. Visitors can see the video from inside the tent. There will be a giant piece of astroturf laid out on the floor which patrons are welcomed to sit, stand, roll or lay on.

The picture above features a black, light green, and grey drawing of a circus tent. There are additional drawings of show posters in the background.

For details on lighting & sound levels for week one please read the Performance Advisories & Common Questions.

Set Details for Week Two

Reminiscencia will be performed in the Main Space Theatre. The Main floor of the theater will include a large projection surface. There will be a desk located on the right side of the stage.



The picture to the left features a drawing of the set for Reminiscencia. There is a projection surface suspended from the ceiling that touches the floor. On it there are colorful photos of various people. In front of the projection surface there is a performer and a desk on the stage right side.

Sandwich Board Hall will be open for viewing in the Back Space Theatre.

Patrons are invited to engage with the by way of a VR headset. In addition to this images will be hung on the walls of the space (“a storyboard wall”), and images projected to allow patrons to engage with the work without the use of a VR Headset. On October 5th, patrons are invited to view the comics that 4 artists will be working on inside the space. These comics will be located on a large table against the audience risers.

For details on lighting & sound levels for week two please read the Performance Advisories & Common Questions.

Seating Conditions for RUTAS

Gringas and **Reminiscencia** will be performed with traditional theatre seating with the audience seated together on one side of the playing space.

Keeoukaywin and **Sandwich Board Hall** will be open for viewing in the Back Space Theatre. During **Keeoukaywin**, there will be a giant piece of astroturf laid out on the floor which patrons are welcomed to sit, stand, roll or lay on. Additional hard back seating will be available in the space for both installations.

If you have specific seating requests not outlined in this document (and would like this arranged in advance) we invite you to communicate this to our Front House Staff using info@passemuraille.on.ca or by calling 416-504-7529.

The End of the Performance

At the end of each performance in the Main Space Theatre, or the end of your viewing in the Back Space Theatre, you are welcome to come and go from the space or visit the lobby, washroom, or Relaxed Space.

Venue Guide

Click [HERE](#) for more details, including maps, parking information, FAQs, and the Theatre Passe Muraille Visual story!