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For Immediate Release -

The 8th Annual Living Things International Arts Festival to feature unique performances from Romania, Madagascar and Germany

(Kelowna, BC) - The highly anticipated Living Things International Arts Festival is making its triumphant return to Kelowna for its eighth annual celebration from January 20 – 28, captivating audiences with a diverse showcase of theatre, music, dance, art, animation, and more. The Rotary Centre for the Arts is proud to be a co-presenter along with Inner Fish Performance Co. and Push International Performing Arts Festival for numerous events taking place in the Mary Irwin Theatre, January 23 – 26, 2024.

Established as a cornerstone event in Kelowna's vibrant arts and entertainment community, the festival has consistently garnered a devoted following since its inception and is a spectacle of live theatre, performance art, dance, and music. As part of the festival, The Rotary Centre for the Arts is presenting *Objects in Motion*, *Ramanenjana – a public lecture about a dance epidemic* and *Ramanenjana*.

“The Rotary Centre for the Arts is honoured to co-present the Living Things Festival this year with some unforgettable performances. We invite the community to engage, explore, and celebrate with us,” says Colleen Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of the RCA. “This festival is a cornerstone in Kelowna’s arts and entertainment community and symbolizes the vibrant fabric of creativity that defines our city. As we come together to witness diverse artistic expressions, let us embrace the power of the arts to unite, inspire, and ignite our imaginations.”

On January 23 at 7:30 pm, attend an evening of international, animated short films curated by local artist, professor, and animator Myron Campbell in a Living Things Festival favourite, *Objects in Motion*. Myron has selected new creations by seasoned and emerging filmmakers from across Canada and around the world. The films move from hilarity to pointed social critique, taking us to new places with innovative, formal exploration. The screening will be followed by a discussion and Q&A with Campbell and other guests.

On January 24 at 7:30 pm, Romanian choreographer and filmmaker Simona Deaconescu will give a free public lecture about a dance epidemic. She has dedicated over four years to studying the phenomenon of "choreomania," mass dance events that occurred throughout history in Medieval Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Her performative series on these "dance epidemics" has garnered awards and international recognition. In her latest piece, *Ramanenjana*, co-choreographed with Gaby Saranouffi, she explores this

phenomenon from Madagascar. The lecture will delve into *Ramanenjana* as a means of resistance against colonization and explore the challenges of presenting such politically charged subjects on the international stage. This is a free event, RSVP is required.

Two performances of *Ramanenjana* will take place on January 25 and 26 at 7:30 pm, a docufiction performance about a dance that made history.

Tickets can be purchased at [The Living Things Festival](#) or in advance at the [Kelowna Community Theatre](#).

About the Inner Fish Performance Co.

Inner Fish Performance Co. is a non-profit society that brings curated live theatre, dance and public art to Kelowna best known for its interdisciplinary performances and for producing the Living Things International Arts Festival.

About the Rotary Centre for the Arts

Located in the heart of Kelowna's Cultural District, the [Rotary Centre for the Arts](#) is a multidisciplinary visual and performing arts centre. The RCA improves the economic, cultural, and social quality of life in the community by fostering participation in, and appreciation of the arts. The RCA brings together individuals of all ages and backgrounds to share in the excitement of strengthening art and culture in the Okanagan celebrating creative expression through diverse art forms and disciplines. The Rotary Centre for the Arts respectfully acknowledges that it is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Syilx/Okanagan People.