



PRESS RELEASE

ACT North of 50 Presents "The Social Exchange" – A Comedy Bridging Generations

Windsor, February 6, 2024 – ACT North of 50 is thrilled to announce its latest production, "The Social Exchange," a comedic one-act play written by Cristina Orlando and directed by Chris Rabideau. This intergenerational comedy promises to bring laughter and insights as it explores the perspectives of today's seniors and youth.



Photographer John Chan, The Exchange Workshops



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About North of 50 Program

Established in 2018, the North of 50 program by ACT Windsor focuses on seniors, including those from racialized and newcomer groups, low-income individuals, and members of LGBTQIA2S+ communities. The program empowers seniors aged 50 and above, allowing them to lead and participate in various arts-based practices such as storytelling, journaling, movement, visual arts, and mental health workshops. Promoting volunteerism and mentorship, North of 50 has become a unique platform for seniors to share their voices and experiences through the arts.

Evolution of North of 50 Program

Chris Rabideau, the director of "The Social Exchange," explains, "North of 50 is a theater program dedicated to individuals over the age of 50. The program is unique because it stages productions that examine social issues in our community. Recently, the program has expanded to add multi-generations when needed but keeping the senior focus."

Authentic Representation of Seniors' Voices

To ensure the authentic representation of seniors in the community, ACT Windsor involves seniors in the planning process. Chris Rabideau states, "We start by having a committee made up of seniors. In that meeting, we discuss ideas for where we should go next. ACT works as a collective, offering opportunities for input and collaboration throughout the program."



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About "The Social Exchange"

"The Social Exchange" is a sketch comedy that highlights the perspectives of today's seniors and youth. Written by Cristina Orlando, the play delves into the challenges faced by four generations – Boomers, Gen X'rs, Millennials, Gen Z'rs, and a glimpse of the Alpha generation – as they navigate the modern world. The narrative unfolds through humor, exploring the gifts of knowledge exchanged between the old and the young.

Creative Process Behind "The Social Exchange"

Cristina Orlando shares insights into the creative process, stating, "We held four free workshops, inviting the community to participate in improv exercises focused on topics like technology, life goals, mental health, and more. The ideas and viewpoints gathered from these sessions served as springboards for writing the sketches."

The play's creative evolution involved a collaborative effort, with feedback from participants during table reads influencing the development of scenes. Under the direction of Chris Rabideau, the cast brought the sketches to life, enhancing the stakes of each scene.

Addressing the Generational Gap Through Comedy

Cristina Orlando emphasizes the universal appeal of comedy, saying, "Comedy has a universal appeal, connecting with audiences on various topics, even the tough ones." "The Social Exchange" addresses the generational gap by humorously poking at it from different perspectives, bringing to light the unique history and experiences of each generation.

Join ACT North of 50 for "The Social Exchange" and witness a comedic exploration of the generational dynamics in today's society. Come and enjoy a night of laughter, insights, and the celebration of diverse voices.

Show Dates

February 29, March 1 and 2 at 7:30pm

March 3 at 2:00pm

Tickets

Adults \$25 + Eventbrite fees
Seniors/Students \$22 + Eventbrite fees

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MEDIA OPPRTUNITIES

- Interviews with the Director, Cast, and Crew
- February 8, 12, 15, 19, 22 between 6:30pm – 8:30pm
- February 11, 18, 25 between 2:00pm – 5:00pm
- High-Resolution Photos and B-Roll Footage
- Live Social Media Coverage




Writer Christina Orlando & Director Chris Rabideau

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