



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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### **October's First Thursday events continue Calgary's fall celebration of culture**

(Calgary, AB) – Calgary celebrates the success of its first-ever Culture Month and launches into the remainder of the fall arts season with tonight's First Thursday events in the Cultural District.

First Thursday is Calgary's monthly cultural crawl. On the first Thursday of every month, arts organizations, attractions and restaurants in the Cultural District stay open late and offer special programming, deals and events, most of which are free.

Within a few blocks around Olympic Plaza, participants can enjoy a range of events for every taste.

Art Central starts the night off with a lineup of artists, events and exhibition openings including jewelry, visual art, books, figurines, textiles and more.

The EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts offers *A Night at the Opera* presented by the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Theatre Calgary's *Jake and the Kid* and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Calgary International Improv Festival.

Across the street, Triangle Gallery is hosting a book launch for local artist, Pat Strakowski, and The Palomino brings in *The Smokin 45s* for some rockabilly fun. On top of it all, the Calgary International Film Fest has screenings throughout the night with venues just a short walk from the District.

"Calgarians really came out to the over 700 events held during Culture Month," says Terry Rock, President & CEO, Calgary Arts Development. "But we want to show Calgarians and visitors to the city that there are ongoing ways to experience Calgary's arts and culture scene, like First Thursdays in the Cultural District."

### **Highlights of October's First Thursday include:**

**5-9pm**

**[First Thursday at Art Central](#)**

100 7 Ave SW, FREE

Dot, dot, line, line, spider crawling up your spine. Tight squeeze, cool breeze,

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now you've got the shiverers! Welcome in the month of October with superb exhibition openings, live music, artist demonstrations and much more. Admission is free! All ages welcome.

**5-9pm**

**[The Smokin 45s](#)**

The Palomino, 109 7 Ave SW

“...edgy rockabilly. A high energy feel that is almost classic pulp, harkening to the sound of America’s pop culture period of the late 50’s early 60’s if it were injected with Viagra and transported into the future of today’s culture... They sound like something that should be featured in the next Quentin Tarantino film.”

**6pm**

**[Book launch “Moon Nibbler: The Art of Pat Strakowski”](#)**

Triangle Gallery of Visual Arts , 104-800 Macleod Tr SE, FREE

Moon Nibbler: The Art of Pat Strakowski highlights 30 years of imaginative work by local artist Pat Strakowski. Several sculptures profiled in the book will be on display during the book launch and will be made available for sale and Pat Strakowski will be in attendance.

**7, 7:15, 9:15 & 9:30pm**

**[Calgary International Film Festival](#)**

Various locations located within walking distance of the Cultural District. Tickets available at the door or calgaryfilm.com. Check listings for details.

**7:30pm**

**[Calgary International Improv Festival](#)**

Engineered Air Theatre, Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts, \$15 at the door  
Act 1: Vancouver Theatre Sports League. Act 2: Rapid Fire.

**8pm**

**[CPO presents A Night at the Opera](#)**

Jack Singer Concert Hall, Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts, \$28-85,  
LiveRush \$19

Arias and choruses from The Magic Flute, Carmen, The Barber of Seville and more! Passion ignites, fury roars and romance simmers in an evening showcasing some of the best operatic arias and choruses. Music Director Roberto Minczuk leads these vocal stars and our own Chorus in a concert that promises to heat up the stage and light up the night.

**8pm**

**[First Thursday at Theatre Calgary](#)**

Jake and the Kid by W.O Mitchell

Max Bell Theatre, Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts, \$31-63.50, rush tickets \$25, Liverush \$20

It’s 1944 and drought threatens to destroy crops near the prairie town of Crocus. When hired-hand Jake claims he can make it rain, it’s not just the Kid who’s

caught in his tale. Will he make true on his promise and save the day, or is Jake just full of hot prairie air?

**8pm**

**[Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench Screening Party](#)**

Beat Niq, 811 1 St SW, \$15 for non members at the door.

Join us at Calgary International Film Festival's screening of Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench then the after party at Beat Niq Jazz and Social Club for live jazz and drinks.

For more information about these events or for full listings visit [CalgaryCulture.com/FirstThursdays](http://CalgaryCulture.com/FirstThursdays) and follow us on Twitter [@CultureDistrict](https://twitter.com/CultureDistrict).

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**Contact Information**

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**About Calgary's Cultural District**

Calgary's Cultural District is located downtown and is home to dozens of arts and culture hotspots like galleries, museums, theatres, concert halls and outdoor festival space, plus excellent shopping, dining and nightlife in the heart of the city. It's all within walking distance of downtown transit lines, several major hotels, Stephen Avenue Walk and Olympic Plaza, a key Calgary landmark that served as the medal ceremonies site for the 1988 Winter Olympic Games. This vibrant neighbourhood is filled with one of the highest concentrations of arts and culture venues in Canada, including the EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts, the recently restored Grand Theatre, Vertigo Theatre, the Glenbow Museum, the Art Gallery of Calgary, Cantos Music Foundation and Art Central, along with many other galleries, music venues and festivals.

**About Calgary Arts Development**

Calgary Arts Development was created in 2005 to lead long-term, strategic development of the arts sector in Calgary, guided by the 2004 Civic Arts Policy. Calgary Arts Development invests municipal arts funding of \$3.75 million annually in 160 local arts organizations, provides support to the arts community, private developers and public and private sector funders engaged in arts space projects and engages in strategic marketing initiatives to increase arts participation and raise awareness of Calgary's arts sector locally, nationally and internationally. Visit [CalgaryArtsDevelopment.com](http://CalgaryArtsDevelopment.com) for more information about our activities and initiatives.