

20

24H ▶ VERVE T.O.

THURSDAY  
MAY 31 2012

## HOT TICKETS



## TALIB KWELI

◉ **HIP HOP** Conscious rapper Talib Kweli performs at the Sound Academy, June 1. Tickets at Rotate This, Sounscapes, ticketmaster.ca

## CARNEGIE HALL SHOW

◉ **IMPROV** A monthly improv show w/ Matt Baram, Naomi Snieckus, Ron Pederson, Chris Gibbs. June 1 at Second City, thenationaltheatreoftheworld.com



## BEATLES TRIBUTE

◉ **POP** Steven Page and others celebrate the 45th anniversary of the release of *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. At Enwawe Theatre May 31-Jun 2. [artoftimeensemble.com](http://artoftimeensemble.com)

## BRY WEBB

◉ **INDIE** Bry Webb (of the Constantines) performs with rising indie rockers Del Bel. June 1 at 918 Bathurst Centre for Culture & the Arts. Visit [wavelengthtoronto.com](http://wavelengthtoronto.com)



## YO-YO MA

◉ **CLASSICAL** The cello virtuoso performs with Toronto Symphony Orchestra. May 31 at Roy Thomson Hall. Visit [roythomson.com](http://roythomson.com)

— SOME LISTINGS FROM NOW/MAGAZINE. [NOWTORONTO.COM](http://NOWTORONTO.COM)



From June 8-24, the grounds of Fort York National Historic Site will transform into a large-scale 'temporal village' and a glowing sculptural grid against the night sky as 200 tents house individual art installations inspired by the people who shaped Toronto's past.

## LUMINATO FESTIVAL

## Display evokes war's personal toll

CHARLOTTE PERCIVAL-GONZALEZ  
Special to 24 hours

Anyone peering into one of 200 tents around Fort York next month won't find sleeping bags and camping gear.

They'll find *The Encampment*, a huge art installation set up as part of the Luminato festival.

Designed by Thomas+Guinevere — artists Thom Sokoloski and Jenny-Anne McCowan — *The Encampment* is a metaphorical archaeological dig, unearthing human experience, instead of physical artefacts.

Focusing on the personal toll of the war of 1812, it celebrates the bicentennial of when the U.S. battled Canada.

"I think there's a real sense of mystery," shares McCowan. "A real sense of engagement with people in the past. We always focus on stories of individuals and people

connect with the work because it's about another person.

"There's a real sense of discovery as you go into the tents, people appear and disappear. As you move around the 200 tents there's a real sense of place and a real sense that things have changed. It's almost like hide and seek. It becomes a very unusual place, you meet people and talk to them and discover. It's so playful and really delightful for the public."

The pair worked with a team of 125 creative collaborators, with a different installation going in each tent.

Each installation tells a different story about the 1812 war, delving into tales of women, children, first nations people, the French population and the black population.

One focusses on a gossip called Anne Marie Powell. Married to a powerful figure in Toronto, she

could make or break people with her loose tongue. She loved writing letters, and an installation of letters and an image of Powell with a wax seal over her mouth is in one of the tents.

Another is a teepee constructed of wood slats and saran wrap, representative of Wyandott Indian chief Myerrah. He hoped people would remain independent of the war, but was enlisted to attack America and died.

"It's quite an amazing experience," says Sokoloski.

"People are talking about history like they've never talked about it before."

They researched the project using the historians at Fort York, city archives and ancestry.com.

It unearthed stories of love, loneliness, fighting, women home alone, children fighting on the other side, betrayal and treason.

The same stories you hear during wartime all over the world, points out McCowan.

At night, lanterns light up the tents, which can also be seen from the top of the Thompson Toronto hotel and surrounding condos. There will also be musical performances and multilingual storytelling around bonfires.

*The Encampment* promises an experience with history like you've probably never had before.

Adds Sokoloski: "I think when you set up a situation that is honest and authentic for creative people and for the public, and it's not just about art techniques or history, the public can relate to it, it creates a very moving, cathartic experience."

◉ **DETAILS** *The Encampment*, June 8-24, Fort York National Historic Site, 7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.