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## **Charm City Fringe Calls For Performers**

Applications open for fourth theatre fest; Artist payouts increased; New Spring Event

BALTIMORE, Md. – The Charm City Fringe Fest, Maryland's biggest Fringe theatre and performing arts festival, is calling for performing artist applications and band/comedian applications for its return engagement on November 8-15, 2015.

Performing artist applications and materials are available on the festival's website, <u>charmcityfringe.com/application</u>. Artists of all backgrounds, performance genres, and experience levels are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is June 28, 2015.

Expanded from one venue in 2012 to locations spanning Baltimore City's Station North, Mt. Vernon, and Hampden neighborhoods, Charm City Fringe Fest continues to grow in 2015 with more artist slots, free events, and collaborations with local businesses. Guaranteed artist payouts from ticket sales are also increasing up to 30% for 2015, detailed in the application.

Co-founders Zach Michel and Michael Brush are excited to again begin the acceptance process. Michel and Brush see the structure of the festival benefitting artists of all levels.

"Everyone can apply—new companies with full casts and crews, traveling one-person shows, established companies looking to try something else. That's the fun of Fringe and we're really excited by the artists we got out last year. We're looking to improve and expand on that," says Brush.

"It's already shaping up to be a good year," adds Michel. "We've gotten to a point where audiences are taking notice of Fringe and are as excited as we are to see who comes out. It means that artists can reach new audiences, and audiences can count on seeing new and fun ideas from both area and visiting artists."

In addition to expanding the festival, Charm City Fringe is rebooting Nights on the Fringe, its first-ever festival format. An immersive arts experience wholly separate from the Fringe Festival, Nights on the Fringe will take place the weekend of June 26<sup>th</sup> at Baltimore Theatre Project: gallery work and walkabout performers in the lobby, a house band, hosts, and a full bill of staged performances. 100% of ticket revenue is paid to the artists and 100% of royalties from any original works are retained by the artist.



Also a non-profit arts education initiative, Charm City Fringe launched its Fringe Kids program in March. Fringe Kids is a place where Baltimore's youth and young artists can learn all aspects of theatre – from acting to producing – to breed a new generation of active and involved citizens within Baltimore: businesspeople, artists, entertainers, and arts supporters alike. Charm City Fringe first began this process in 2013 by working with the Choice Program to offer volunteer opportunities for youth in the community.

## **About Charm City Fringe**

Charm City Fringe, Inc. aims to cultivate Baltimore as a hub for theatre and the performing arts and expand and enhance creative learning opportunities for Baltimore's youth. Through an annual theatre festival and regular educational community workshops, they look to connect and develop Baltimore's theatre community, attract new and diverse audiences, and reach out to communities not commonly represented.

Visit www.charmcityfringe.com for more information.

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