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The Weekender: Nuit Blanche, a David Sedaris reading and six other can't-miss events



1. NUIT BLANCHE (FREE!)

Nuit Blanche, Toronto's once-small all-night arts festival, has exploded. Now in its fifth year, there are more than 130 listed art projects in three cross-city zones, and it's time to admit there's no way a person could conceivably see everything. Check out our [top 10 must-see events](#) instead. Oct. 2. Various locations, [scotiabanknuitblanche.ca](#).

2. BLASTED

When this now-celebrated play first premiered in England in the mid-'90s, critics were less than impressed (the words "a disgusting feast of filth" were used). In the intervening years, opinion on the

work may have shifted, but *Blasted* hasn't become any less intense. Playwright Sarah Kane uses cannibalism, rape and brutality to draw parallels between domestic violence and war. On Sunday, check out the post-show pub, where some of the artists behind the play will be on hand for discussion at a "cocktail party meets book club." To Oct. 17. \$23-\$33. *Buddies in Bad Times Theatre*, 12 Alexander St., 416-975-8555, [totix.ca](#).

3. CIRQUE ÉLOIZE

It's not quite as famous as [that other Québécois contemporary circus troupe](#), but Cirque Éloize has created seven original productions since it was founded in 1993, including a performance at Vancouver's Cultural Olympiad earlier this year. They're in Toronto to celebrate the reopening-after-extensive-renovations-slash-50th anniversary of the Sony Centre (formerly the Hummingbird Centre and before that, the O'Keefe Centre). The show features hip hop, breakdancing, BMX bikes, acrobats, contortionists and jugglers. Oct. 1 to 9. \$35-\$77. *Sony Centre for the Performing Arts*, 1 Front St. E., 416-870-8000, [ticketmaster.ca](#).

4. AN EVENING WITH DAVID SEDARIS

Author and funnyman David Sedaris is at Massey Hall for this one-night-only speaking engagement, where he'll tell stories from his latest book, *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary*. The collection of stories—all told from the perspective of woodland creatures—proves that Sedaris is as hilarious and clever as ever. Oct. 2. \$32-\$52. *Massey Hall*, 178 Victoria St., 416-872-4255, [masseyhall.com](#).

5. TREEHOUSE TALKS (FREE!)

The Treehouse Group, a "collective of Toronto-area thinkers," regularly organizes salons and speaker series. The monthly Treehouse Talks, for example, feature interesting Torontonians talking about their work. Case in point: this month, Nogah Kornberg talks about teaching nine-year-olds about genocide,



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Amie Sergas expounds on the social value of roller derby, and Sasha Van Bon Bon explores decriminalizing the sex trade. *Oct. 1. MaRS Discovery District, 101 College St., Room CR3, treehousetalks.com.*

6. TORONTO PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL

This annual film fest, now in its third year, always has interesting offerings. Our suggested pick is *The Time That Remains*, a semi-autobiographical film by Elia Suleiman that depicts Palestine from 1948 to the present day in four episodes. Catch it this Saturday at the Bloor Cinema. *Oct. 2 to 8. \$10 per screening. Various locations, tpff.ca.*

7. CHILDREN'S TRUNK SHOW

Note that this is not a trunk show aimed at children, but at moms. The brainchild of Julie Ritchie, the event showcases the work of entrepreneurial parents who have created must-have items for kids (especially clothes and accessories), just in time for those enviable super-early Christmas shoppers. *Oct. 1 and 2. \$10. Holcim Gallery, Evergreen Brick Works, 550 Bayview Ave., childrenstrunkshow.com.*

8. AIDA

Verdi's tragic opera, which hasn't graced a Canadian Opera Company stage for 25 years, is the story of forbidden love (are there any operas about acceptable love affairs?). Set in ancient Egypt, he's a warrior and she's the Ethiopian slave of a bitchy princess who ruins everything. *Oct. 2 to Nov. 5. \$62-\$281. Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen St. W., 416-363-8231, coc.ca.*

(Images: [Bloor Cinema](#), [Christopher Paulin](#); [CFC Media Lab](#), [Nuit Blanche](#))

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