



MAMAM

ANIM

ITLA

**ANNUAL REVIEW 2019**



IDEAL ENTERTAINMENT  
FOR THE  
END OF THE WORLD

All the Sex I've Ever Had, Taipei.  
Photo: NTCH.



# CONTENTS

1	Message from the Artistic Director
3	Message from the Board President
5	Artist Statement
7	2019 Artistic Vision & Goals
12	On the Road
14	Our Impact
17	Young Mammals Around the World
20	New Work Development
21	F2F-IRL
24	Financial Report
27	Financial Vision & Goals
29	Thanks Mates
30	The Great Sex Legacy Fund
31	Become A Mammal Lover
33	The Mammalians







**Nightwalks with Teenagers,  
Mexico City.**  
Photo: Jana Eiting.

# MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**We are fully leaning into this frightening  
new decade, feeling the full force of  
the ferocious future in our fresh faces.**



Photo: Nicole Bazuin

And we are ready to take it on, with some ideal entertainment for the end of the world. Let's get this decade rolling, already! So we can build the incredible collaborative relationships that we've got happening galaxy wide: Japan, Switzerland, Taiwan, Germany, Italy, the UK, Slovenia, Iceland, Spain, Finland, Australia, France, Mexico, Holland, Ireland, and Mars. Yes, we're going to Mars!

*The Last Minutes Before Mars*, commissioned by Triennale Milano Teatro's FOG Festival and Zona K, brings together socially engaged performance and 360 video in the service of establishing the first colony on Mars. Soon we'll put the boosters on this project and start touring the universe.

Our nomination for ANTI Contemporary Art Festival's International Live Art Prize in Kuopio, Finland was a total surprise and precipitous honour, the dizzying heights of which generated intoxicating/debilitating vertigo and the desire to jump into Lake Kallavesi and swim to the bottom and stay there. Congrats to Montreal's Dana Michel for winning the award and sparing us the anxiety of an acceptance speech.

We continued to work on *Everything Has Disappeared*, a collaboration with Winnipeg's Hazel Venzon. This project envisions envisions a day in which every Filipino person in the entire world suddenly vanishes. It's a project about work and the world.

But most importantly: WE ARE COMING HOME!!!

We are exploding with excitement about our newest venture: Face-to-Face In-Real-Life (F2F-IRL), which sees us seeding and developing new talent and projects in our home city of Toronto while hosting some of our international colleagues to offer talks, workshops and other professional development opportunities for the local artists.

F2F-IRL is focused on what performance does best: bringing people together face to face, creating understanding across differences, and popping the annoying and isolating echo-chamber bubbles causing such catastrophic cacophony all around us, allowing us to hear more than just the sound of our own voices. As beautiful as our own voices may be...

So let's do this!! Say hello to the Terrifying Twenties! We got this!

Darren O'Donnell





# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

**2019 has been a very interesting  
and successful year  
for Mammalian Diving Reflex.**



We have continued our strong international presence while further developing and fostering fruitful relationships with international stakeholders.

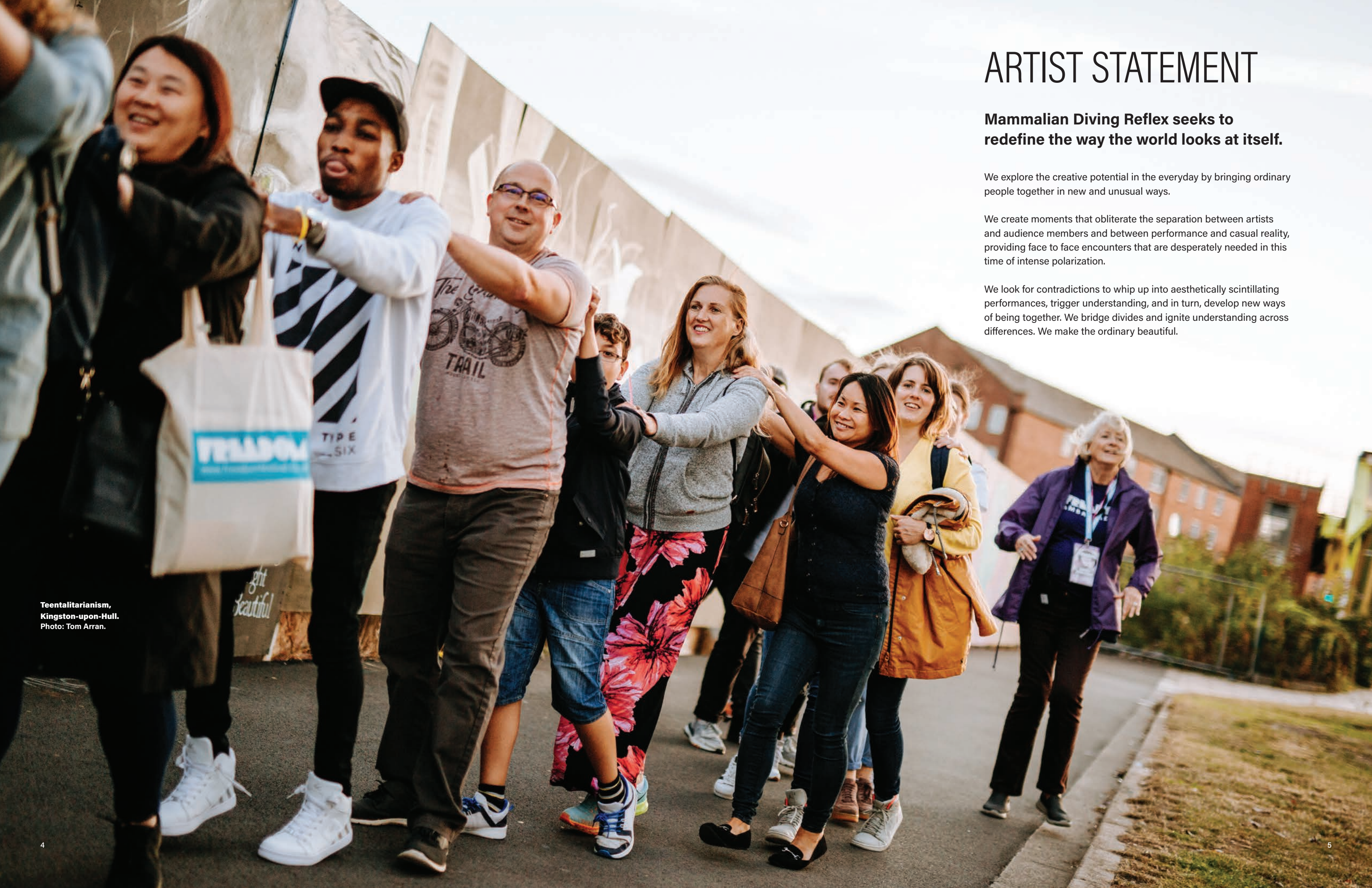
With regards to new projects, we have tapped into the type of innovative thinking that made us so prominent to begin with, beginning with a new project under development, *The Last Minutes Before Mars*, as well as the formation of the Mammalian lab, *Face-to-Face In-Real-Life*, a hub for individuals to come together to create and discuss new cutting edge ideas.

Mammalian continued to strengthen the internal functionings of the organization over the year, updating existing policy to reflect changes in the structure of the company. Looking forward into 2020 and beyond, Mammalian has very exciting plans to rejuvenate its presence locally in the Toronto arts scene as well as to continue our stellar showcase internationally. I encourage everyone to continue to support us and join in what is sure to be exciting times ahead.

Ahash Jeevakanthan

**Haircuts by Children, Burlington.**  
Photo: Rafeh Mahmud.





# ARTIST STATEMENT

**Mammalian Diving Reflex seeks to redefine the way the world looks at itself.**

We explore the creative potential in the everyday by bringing ordinary people together in new and unusual ways.

We create moments that obliterate the separation between artists and audience members and between performance and casual reality, providing face to face encounters that are desperately needed in this time of intense polarization.

We look for contradictions to whip up into aesthetically scintillating performances, trigger understanding, and in turn, develop new ways of being together. We bridge divides and ignite understanding across differences. We make the ordinary beautiful.

Teentalitarianism,  
Kingston-upon-Hull.  
Photo: Tom Arran.





# 2019 ARTISTIC VISION & GOALS

## **Strengthen our presence in Toronto, Ontario and Canada by:**

- Facilitating, supporting, and mentoring emerging local artists and producers.
- Network-sharing with peer organizations.
- Inviting international artists to showcase their unique practice.
- Seeding the creation of new work.

## **Develop *The Last Minutes Before Mars*, by:**

- Continuing to build a production model and process that can be replicated in a variety of locales.
- Sourcing opportunities to present the work.
- Folding the work into our touring repertoire.

## **Consolidate our touring repertoire, by:**

- Attending international arts markets to connect with new partners.
- Supporting international associates in their efforts to disseminate the work.
- Establishing international teams to pre-produce the work.
- Strengthening international teams to deliver the projects.

## **Maintain our international partnerships and networks, by:**

- Deploying international teams at the earliest stage to conceive new work.
- Connecting with youth we have worked with through our long-term partnerships with Bochum Schauspielhaus (Germany) and ZONA K (Italy) and Triennale Milano Teatro's FOG Festival (Italy).
- Developing new work with our international friends, including Taiwan's Prototype Paradise and other partners, with a focus on the Asian Pacific.

**All the Sex I've Ever Had, Taipei.**

Photo: NTCH.



"The work is not so much  
a performance about  
the empowerment  
of youth, but a temporary  
example of it."

— Dave Dymont, Canadian Art

**Haircuts by Children, Burlington.**  
Photo: Rafeh Mahmud.





"It's rare to find a show as open and uplifting as Mammalian Diving Reflex's *All the Sex I've Ever Had*."

—Mackenzie Manley, CityBeat

**All the Sex I've Ever Had, Cincinnati.**  
Photo: Hailey Bollinger.





# ON THE ROAD

National and International touring continues to be the backbone of our company. In 2019, we toured 10 projects to 9 countries and developed our new work *The Last Minutes Before Mars* in Milan, Italy. We performed for the first time in both Mexico and Taiwan, discovering new social intricacies that energized our performances in these countries.

March 16 - April 7  
***Teentalitarianism***

Presented by  
CAOS Centro Arti Opificio  
Siri & Indisciplinarte  
Terni, Italy

April 12-14  
***All the Sex  
I've Ever Had***

Presented by  
This Time Tomorrow at  
Cincinnati Contemporary  
Arts Center  
Cincinnati, U.S.A.

July 6-7  
***Haircuts  
by Children\****

Presented by  
Les Tombées de la Nuit  
Rennes, France  
\*French Premiere

September 13  
***Sex, Drugs &  
Criminality\****

Presented by ANTI  
Contemporary Arts Festival  
Kuopio, Finland  
\*World Premiere

September 28-29  
***Haircuts  
by Children***

Presented by  
Ontario Culture Days  
Burlington, Canada

September 30 -  
October 19  
***The Last Minutes  
Before Mars***

Developed in collaboration  
with ZONA K and  
Triennale Milano Teatro  
Milan, Italy

December 12-14  
***All the Sex  
I've Ever Had\****

Presented by With  
Pleasure Festival at Vooruit  
Ghent, Belgium  
\*Belgian Premiere

October 5  
***Nightwalks  
with Teenagers\****

Presented by Nuit Blanche  
Brussels, Belgium  
\*Belgian Premiere

July 26-28  
***All the Sex  
I've Ever Had\****

Presented by National Theatre  
& Concert Hall at the National  
Performing Arts Center  
Taipei, Taiwan  
\*Taiwanese Premiere

August 17 - September 1  
***Teentalitarianism***

Presented by Freedom Festival  
Kingston-upon-Hull, U.K.

August 15-16  
***Nightwalks  
with Teenagers\****

Presented by La Teatreraía  
& El 77 for ESENICA  
Mexico City, Mexico  
\*Mexican Premiere



# OUR IMPACT

Our touring projects  
were seen by

# 4,685

people across  
**THREE  
CONTINENTS**

We were mentioned  
and featured in

# 86

**INTERNATIONAL  
MEDIA ARTICLES**

Our tours  
directly engaged with

# 145

**LOCAL COLLABORATORS**

# 10

**YOUNG MAMMALS**

# 18

**ASSOCIATES  
& INTERNS**

We contributed to the book

## A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO DEVISING THEATRE

by **Jess Thorpe & Tashi Gore**,  
published by **Bloomsbury**

Our work was  
also featured at

## PERFORMING ARTS MARKET

in  
**SEOUL,  
SOUTH KOREA**

Online,  
our website  
was visited by

# 5,641

**PEOPLE**

We had

# 4,222

**FOLLOWERS**

across our  
social media platforms

## THE YEAR OF FINALISTS

Finally, we were infinitely  
proud to be both the Finalist for  
**ANTI Contemporary Art Festival's  
International Prize for Live Art**  
and the Finalist for **Ontario Culture Day's  
Spotlight People's Choice Award** for  
*Haircuts by Children.*





# YOUNG MAMMALS AROUND THE WORLD

**Our Young Mammal ethos  
is spreading across the world  
like soft butter on a toasted bagel.**

Mammalian has a deep history of long term engagement with young people, stretching back as far as 2006... In 2019, a few of the OG Young Mammals, The Torontonians, internationally toured with us on 50% of our projects. A special mention should go to Virginia Antonipillai, a Torontonian, who graduated from our teen-based projects to become the first Young Mammal on an *All the Sex I've Ever Had* tour!

Our German Young Mammals, Mit Ohn Alles, have been busy creating a ton of new work in Bochum, at both the Bochum Schauspielhaus and the Ruhrtriennale Festival, with a handful of these Young Mammals joining our international touring network.

We have also continued our Young Mammal long-term engagements with the UpLIFTers in London, U.K. and the ChamHULLeons in Hull, U.K., with the Milano Young Mammals being integral members in the creation and development of *The Last Minutes Before Mars*, which we detail later in the review, so give the page a cheeky turn and check it out!

**Nightwalks with Teenagers,  
Mexico City.**

Photo: Isabel Ahat.





“Whatever the hair result,  
the performance is refreshing.  
And a little orange hair dye  
to finish? A ray of sunshine  
for the day.”

— Stéphane Grammont, France-3

**Haircuts by Children, Rennes.**  
Photo: Nicolas Joubard.



# NEW WORK DEVELOPMENT

## THE LAST MINUTES BEFORE MARS

In October, we spent three weeks in Milan developing *The Last Minutes Before Mars*, a performance incorporating 360° video created in collaboration with students from ITAS Giulio Natta. Co-produced by Triennale Milano Teatro and ZONA K, *The Last Minutes Before Mars* is a performance about the exquisite boredom of life on Earth as we hurtle into a terrifying future. Following the world premiere in Germany at Schauspielhaus Bochum, we will be returning to Milan to present this other-worldly performance at Triennale Milano Teatro's FOG Festival. This project has been created with support from the Canada Council for the Art's Arts Abroad Co-Production grant.

## EVERYTHING HAS DISAPPEARED

We have been working with longtime collaborator Hazel Venzon on *Everything Has Disappeared*, which presents a fictional reality where the world's Filipino population—many of whom are economic migrants working low-level service and care jobs in affluent areas around the world—suddenly one day simply disappear. Featuring the research of economists, demographers, sociologists and human geographers, *Everything Has Disappeared* examines the contribution of Filipino migrant labour to the world economy and the implications to our global structure should it suddenly vanish.

**The Last Minutes Before Mars, Milan.**  
360° Photo: Konstantin Bock.



# F2F-IRL

## Face-to-Face In-Real-Life (F2F-IRL) is our freshest initiative in Toronto.

F2F-IRL creates opportunities for local Toronto-based performance and theatre artists to connect to each other, to us, and to the international artists we have developed relationships with over our past decade of international touring. We will create collaborative experiences within the Toronto theatre community using socially-engaged methods to inspire and nurture opportunities for a new generation of artists.

Currently we are working with five local artists and art collectives that are creating original new works that connect with marginalized and under-represented communities in fun, engaging and interactive ways. We have provided them with seed money for research and formed a study group that meets once a month to discuss our ideas and intentions, looking at tactile and practical ways to build the work, and offering dramaturgical support along the way.

In 2020, we will be actively working towards finding funding opportunities to bring international artists we admire to Toronto for cultural and artistic exchanges with our local community. We also plan to use our touring expertise to mentor an emerging artist or producer to shadow us on tour to learn about our socially engaged process.





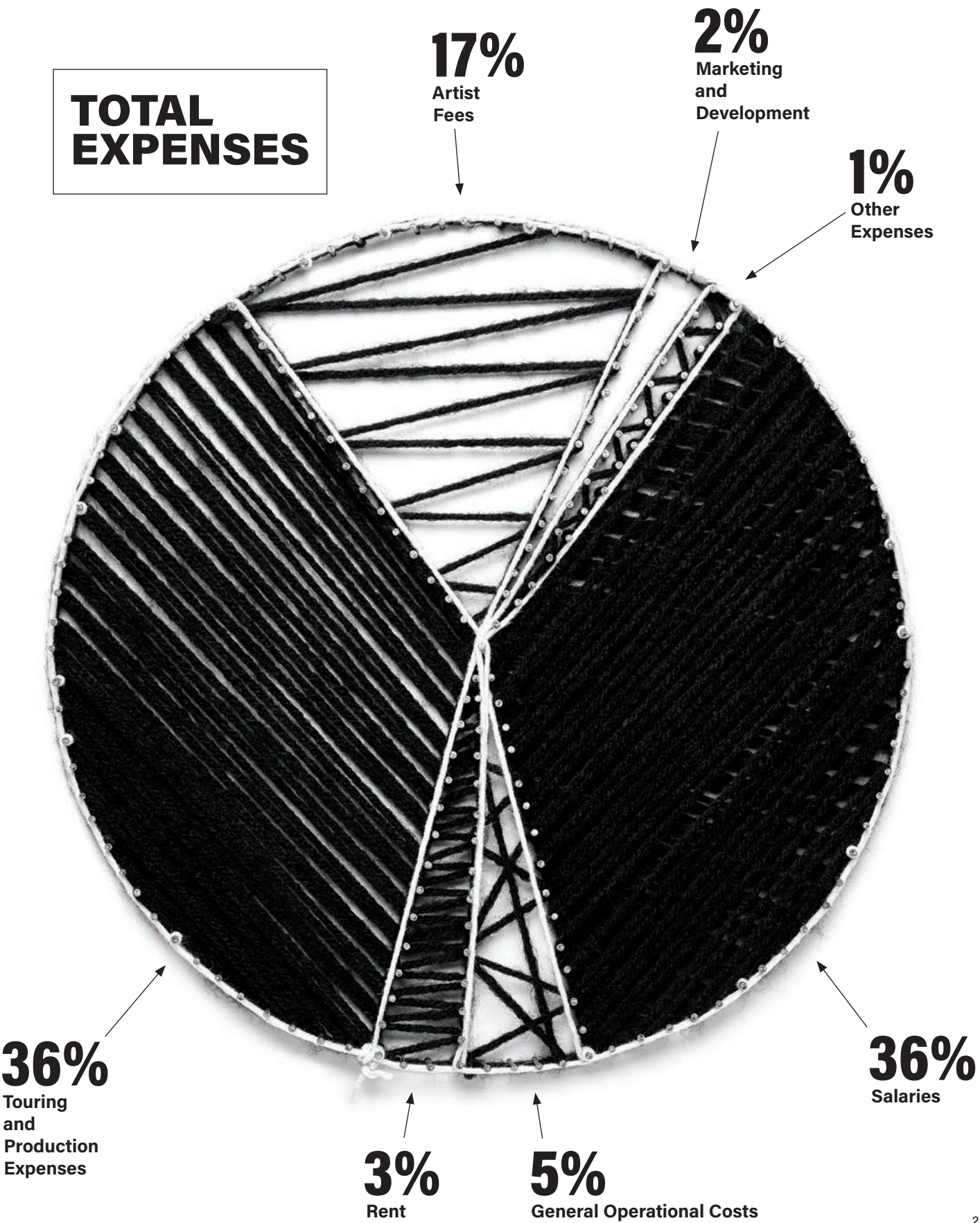
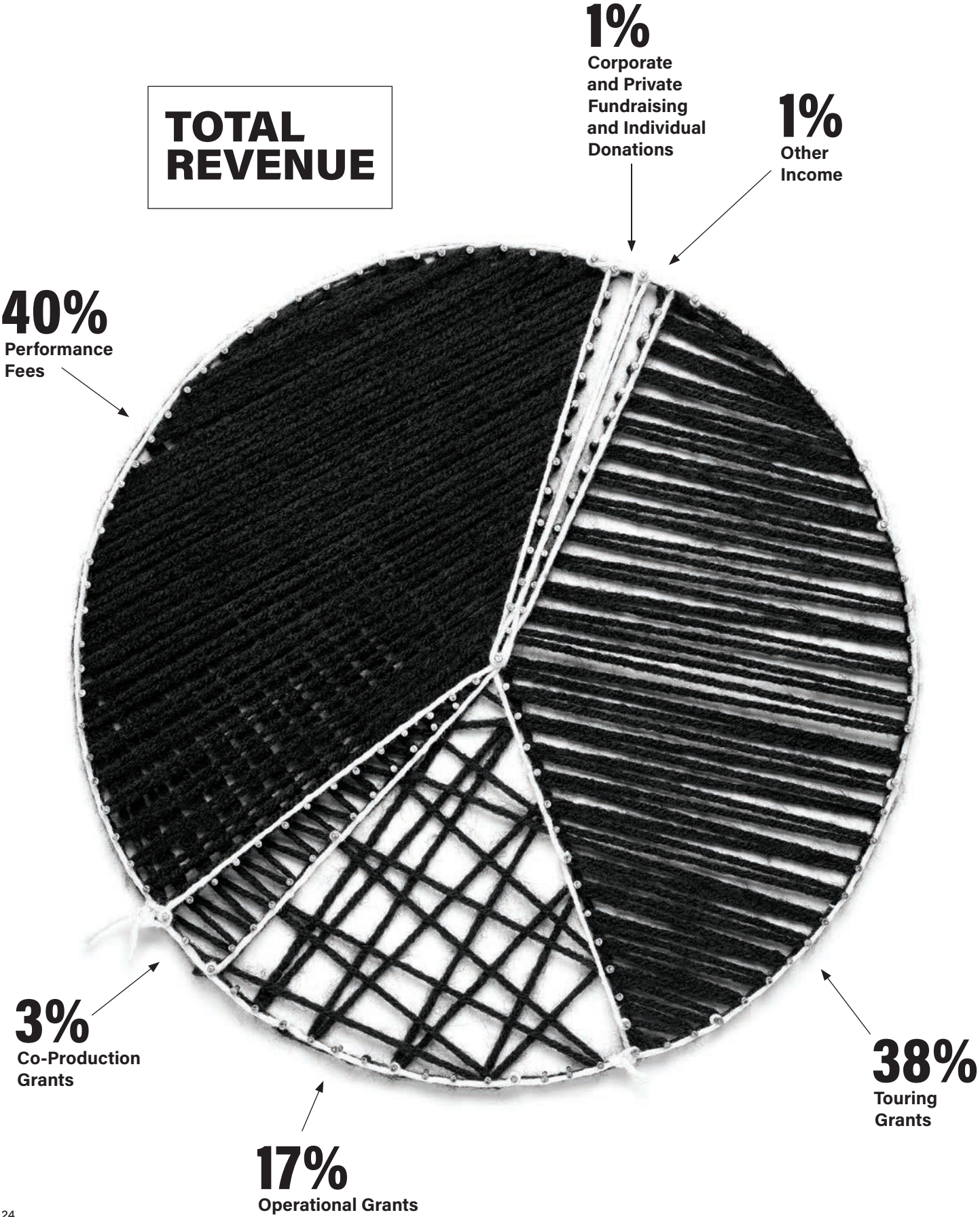
"One of the most exceptional shows  
(...) the performance is an  
ode to showing vulnerability."

— Jill Dhondt, HLN

**All the Sex I've Ever Had, Ghent.**  
Photo: Michiel Devijver.



# FINANCIAL REPORT







# FINANCIAL GOALS & VISION

**We have invested significantly into creating an exceptional touring engine for our work in recent years, yielding accolades and international recognition. However, because of this, our financial and social investment into local Toronto projects needed a bit of a boost.**

In 2020, our financial vision is for our total revenue to rely less on touring as we approach local community partnerships through corporate and private fundraising and individual donations to support our Toronto based work. This vision aligns with our Toronto reinvigoration and is summarized by these key financial goals:

- Decrease our reliance on touring grant revenue from 38% of total revenue to 29%.
- Sustain our performance fee revenue at 40% of total revenue.
- Increase our corporate and private fundraising and individual donation revenue from 1% of total revenue to 10%.

These goals could be pie in the sky, but we are determined to take a bite out of them and achieve what we have envisioned. We're Mammalians, remember? Been around for 150 millions years, plan on being here for at least 150 more.

**Teentalitarianism, Terni.**  
Photo: Ngawang Luding.





# THANKS MATES

**We'd like to thank the following  
Government Supporters and  
Private Donors for keeping the  
Mammalians financially chugging  
along throughout the year:**



## **Mammal Lovers**

Alex Mazer  
Andrea Nann  
Anna Zalik  
Barbara Fischer  
Cassie Barker  
Cindy Wan  
Dylan Reid  
Eileen Sommerman  
Eva Verity  
Gabe  
Karen Miranda Augustine  
Kate Monro

Loretta Chang  
Margaret Zeidler  
Margaux Williamson  
Marian Eagen  
Melissa Tsang  
Michael McNally  
Michael Shamata  
Naomi Campbell  
Nirmala Basnayake  
Sonya Popovich  
Anonymous x2

We know that begging for coins isn't the most attractive, but, as you can see, any form of support will allow us to continue to expand our artistic footprint and bridge divides across the world, one unique encounter at a time.





## THE GREAT SEX LEGACY FUND

At the end of 2019, we created *The Great Sex Legacy Fund* to connect past *All the Sex I've Ever Had* cast members across borders, language barriers and time. With former cast members contributing to the fund, they directly aid in making our tours happen by helping to alleviate high costs. The support of the fund also opens up the ability for cast members from different tours to communicate, share sexy stories and stay in the mammalian loop long past the end of their tour.



## BECOME A MAMMAL LOVER

If you would like to support  
Mammalian Diving Reflex,  
you can donate securely online  
at [mammalian.ca/support-us](https://mammalian.ca/support-us),  
call us at +1 (647) 224-3843  
or send a cheque to:

**Mammalian Diving Reflex**  
1087 Queen Street West, Suite 410  
Toronto, ON M6J 1H3  
CANADA





**The Last Minutes Before Mars, Milan.**  
Photo: Tina Fance.

# THE MAMMALIANS

## OUR STAFF

Darren O'Donnell  
Artistic Director

Alice Fleming  
Strategic Advisor

Annalise Prodor  
Operations Manager  
& Artistic Associate

Ryan Lewis  
Producer  
& Communications Coordinator

Isabel Ahat  
Financial Coordinator

Tina Fance  
F2F-IRL Producer

## BOARD

Ahash Jeevakanthan  
President, Nominations Representative  
& Young Mammal

Krys Verrall  
Vice President & Secretary

Alana Wilcox  
Treasurer

Dana Liu  
HR Representative  
& Young Mammal

Anupa Perera  
Director

Lucy Gaizely  
Director

Philip Dyck  
Director

## ASSOCIATES & YOUNG MAMMALS ON TOUR

Andrada Ciccotto  
Chiara Prodi  
Chozin Tenzin  
Craig McCorquodale  
Dario Scheffler  
Elisa Fasiello  
Emma Rose  
Fi Nicholson  
Fjoralba Qerimaj  
Genesis De León  
Hazel Venzon  
Isabel Ahat  
Jack Tully  
James Mapes  
Jana Eiting  
Jerwin Mostiero  
Katelan Braymer  
Kathy Vuu  
Kiera O'Brien  
Konstantin Bock

Melika Ramic  
Mervin Fajardo  
Morena Marra  
Ngawang Luding  
Rouvan Silogix  
Sanjay Ratnan  
Sara Ben Hamouda  
Sara Guttadauro  
Sorcha Gibbson  
Thipeeshan Balakrishnan  
Thule van den Dam  
Virginia Antonipillai

## F2F-IRL STUDY GROUP

Andrew Cameron  
April Leung  
Erin Brandenburg  
Graham Isador  
John Echano  
Justin DuBois  
Sarah Marchand





# HOW TO KEEP IN CONTACT

We are always open to new collaborations  
and exploring other-worldly ideas.

Keep in touch to find out when we're next in  
your corner of the universe!

Head to **mammalian.ca** to sign up  
to our quarterly e-Newsletter.

Email us at **hello@mammalian.ca**

On the off-chance that one of us is off tour  
and in the office; you can call us at

**+1 (647) 224 3843**

Send all ransom notes to:

**Mammalian Diving Reflex**

1087 Queen Street West, Suite 410

Toronto, ON M6J 1H3

CANADA