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## Downtown art complex opens

### A&E Exhibit

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**Artscape Wychwood Barns** — Like many people in the city's downtown west end, I've been waiting for this new arts and environment complex to open. Finally, this month, it has. The old TTC barns have been taken over by Artscape and will feature a big covered barn, which will house a farmers market on Saturdays and various community events. As well, The Stop Community Food Centre will be running a greenhouse, a community kitchen and an indoor wood-burning oven—plus lots of educational programming. But for the city's kids and the arts, the big thrill is Theatre Direct's role in this new centre. The 35-year-old company is in charge of a brand new, 100-seat theatre and a rehearsal space. These rooms will be devoted to kid and family oriented theatre, music, dance and spoken word performances.

"We'll be showing intimate, pure theatre that is totally engaging," says artistic director Lynda Hill. "We always have a strong educational component and we never speak down to our audiences." Theatre Direct's season will really begin in January, with an art installation show for local schools, a remount of last year's *Binti's Journey* (a wonderful story about an African AIDS orphan based on a Deborah Ellis novel), and other theatre and dance pieces. As well, the Storytellers School of Toronto is a tenant in the building, so expect to see stories make an appearance in the new space. The barns, which are located on Christie Street south of St. Clair, will be hosting a community fundraiser on November 15 and the grand opening is November 20. To keep updated on all the new venue and its numerous events, visit [www.torontoartscape.on.ca](http://www.torontoartscape.on.ca) and [www.theatredirect.on.ca](http://www.theatredirect.on.ca).



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