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Pyrotechnics from Calgary Tower a first in history

Quirky performance officially opens Beakerhead

[Calgary, Alberta] — Daytime pyrotechnics will be lit from the top of the Calgary Tower on Thursday for the first time in the tower’s history as part of a zany 25-minute opening ceremony for Beakerhead, the world’s newest art, science and engineering happening, taking place in Calgary September 11 – 15, 2013.

Five days of art, science and engineering in the streets and venues of Calgary are part of this unusual event, which originated in Calgary with ambitious aims to become a highly visible and contemporary expression of culture in Alberta.

“There are many good reasons to bring our creative and rational skills together through art, science and engineering. The best one is that it is fun. Beakerhead opens an entertaining door onto the worlds of science, art and engineering,” says co-founder and president Mary Anne Moser.

This morning’s opening ceremony, called “A Sequence of Unexpected Events,” starts with a dump truck, beach balls and parkour dancers, and leads to the apparent conjuring of well-known Canadian science broadcaster Jay Ingram in a giant petri dish. The newly cultured Ingram triggers a sequence that involves a crane and a 1000 kg spider, and ultimately results in pyrotechnics up from the base of the Calgary Tower and along the top rim, and lighting the flame atop the Tower’s caldron to recognize the official opening of this large-scale collaboration.

A two-minute video of the event will be available following the event at Beakerhead.org.

In its first year, Beakerhead has attracted more than 70 collaborating organizations, and over 150 volunteers. There are more than 40 events, both ticketed and free taking place within five days. It is expected to be an annual event in Calgary’s international tourism calendar that builds on the region’s authentic engineering roots.

In 2014, Beakerhead will take place September 10 to 14.

For more information, visit www.beakerhead.org, or visit the media site at www.beakerhead.nationalstudio.ca

- 30 -

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