

— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

## ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR KRISTEN THOMSON'S *I, CLAUDIA*

ACCLAIMED WORK BY CANADIAN PLAYWRIGHT RUNS JULY 22–AUGUST 15

**IN BRIEF** The Arts Club production of Kristen Thomson's *I, Claudia* runs **July 22–August 15** at the [Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre](#), 162 West 1st Avenue, Vancouver. Performance schedule: Tue, 7:30 PM; Wed, 7:30 PM, Thu, 4 PM & 8 PM; Fri, 8 PM; Sat, 2 PM & 7:30 PM; Sun, 2 PM. Tickets from \$39 at [artsclub.com](https://artsclub.com)

VANCOUVER, B.C. (June 29, 2021)—The Arts Club Theatre Company announced the cast and creative team for its upcoming production of *I, Claudia*, the acclaimed play by Canadian playwright **Kristen Thomson**. *I, Claudia* will run at the Arts Club's Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre **July 22–August 15** (media opening: Wed, July 28, at 8 PM).

In the role of Claudia and other characters, **Lili Beaudoin** will perform her first one-person show for the Arts Club, and **Marie Farsi** will make her directorial debut with the company.

The creative team also includes **Heipo C.H. Leung** (*The Great Leap*), Set Designer; **Barbara Clayden** (*Me and You*), Costume Designer; **Jonathan Kim** (*Kim's Convenience*), Lighting Designer; **Ben Elliott** (*Matilda*), Sound Designer; **Melody Anderson** (*Me and You*), Mask Designer; **Jane Li**, Assistant Set Designer; **Angela Beaulieu**, Stage Manager; and **Koh Lauren Quan**, Assistant Stage Manager.

Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** said, "*I, Claudia* was one of the first professional theatre pieces I saw when I moved to Toronto in 2001. Right away, I fell in love with this delightful, surprising, hilarious, and tender piece. This is a mask show, which is an uncommon form, so I am excited to see how our audience responds to this genre."

Corcoran added, "It's a pleasure to program Kristen's unique work for our stage, particularly since our production of her show *The Wedding Party*—at the very same venue—was cut short at the start of the pandemic last March."

Costume masks will signal character change in this "blissfully funny and unexpectedly touching" (*Toronto Star*) play. *I, Claudia* thrusts us into the life of a young girl coming into her own and struggling to fit in. On the verge of thirteen, she is negotiating the wild and woolly terrain of puberty. At school, she hides out in the boiler room. Her "siblings" are goldfish. Her favourite days are Mondays, when she sees her dad, who's her best friend. But now he's getting remarried.

Winner of the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play, *I, Claudia*, was published by Playwrights Canada Press. It has been adapted into a film that was featured on the CBC and at the Toronto International Film Festival.

All performances will be presented in adherence to safety guidelines established by the B.C. government, including a current indoor audience capacity of 50%. The health and safety of all patrons, staff, and artists is the Arts Club's top priority.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Lili Beaudoin** (Claudia) is a Vancouver-born performer who has lived and worked in cities all over Canada. Some of her notable stage credits include *The Nutcracker* (Caravan Farm Theatre); *Blind Date* (Spontaneous Theatre); *The Humans* (Theatre Calgary); *Gracie* (ATP & Belfry); *Sister Judy* (Arts Club); and *The Tempest*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Comedy of Errors* (Bard on the Beach). Elsewhere, Beaudoin's voice can be heard in several animated TV shows, such as *Beat Bugs*, *Littlest Pet Shop*, *Rainbow Ruby*, *Max Steel*, and *My Little Pony*. Beaudoin is a two-time Leo Award nominee for her work in voice-over, as well as the recipient of a Betty Mitchell Award for her lead role in Joan MacLeod's one-woman show *Gracie*.

**Marie Farsi** (Director) is an award-winning director and theatre maker who works in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal in both English and French. Recent directing credits include *Ghost Quartet* (Crow's Theatre); *The Assembly* (Porte-Parole/Associate Director); *The Boy in the Moon* (Crow's/Associate Director); *The Huns* (One Four One Collective); *Surveil* (Hip. Bang!); *All My Friends Are Animals*; *This, Here*; *Movements 1&2*; *Rivulets* (Babelle Theatre); *The 4th Graders Present an Unnamed Love-Suicide* (Rumble Theatre). In the 2018–2019 season, she worked as the Associate Artistic Director at Crow's Theatre with Chris Abraham. She is currently completing her training in classical direction as a participant in the Michael Langham Workshop at the Stratford Festival. She was also an assistant director at Bard on the Beach and the Arts Club. She is the recipient of the 2019 Ray Michal Award for Outstanding Body of Work by an Emerging Director; the Patron's Pick and Best of Fringe Awards at the Toronto Fringe 2019 for *The Huns*; and the Artistic Risk Award at the Vancouver Fringe 2018 for *Surveil*. More at mariefarsi.com

**Kristen Thomson** (Playwright) is an award-winning actor and writer for theatre, film, and television, and the recipient of four Dora awards, two ACTRA awards, two Canadian Comedy awards, a Genie, a Gemini, and a Leo. For Canadian Stage: *Someone Else* (also playwright/Crow's Theatre co-production), *Peggy Pickett Sees the Face of God* (Volcano Theatre copro), *Hysteria*, *Oleanna*, *Every Brilliant Thing*. *The Wedding Party*, for which she was both a performer and the playwright, enjoyed two successful runs at Crow's Theatre and a remount at the National Arts Centre in 2019. Elsewhere: *I, Claudia* (performer and playwright), first produced at Tarragon, and later Crow's Theatre/Soulpepper, toured internationally and was adapted for television. Other acting credits include *The Chairs*, *The Bald Soprano*, *The Lesson*, *School for Wives*, *Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Guardsman*, *Mirandolina*, *Uncle Vanya* (Soulpepper); *The Memory of Water* (Tarragon Theatre); *Problem Child* (Factory). Film and television credits include *Cardinal* (CTV), *Away From Her*, *I Shout Love*, *Flower and Garnet*, and *The Republic of Love*.

## ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club, one of the largest not-for-profit theatre companies in the country, is the principal gathering place for the theatrical arts in British Columbia. Comprising three unique venues across Vancouver, the Arts Club welcomes more than a quarter million guests annually, tours provincially and nationally, and engages students and artists alike through educational and professional programs.

Above all, the Arts Club is dedicated to the advancement of local artists telling stories from around the globe and, in particular, those of our region. From this, we believe that culture expands, an understanding of differences is nurtured, and art bursts forth. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.

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