

—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

## CANADIAN SUPERSTAR AND ARTS CLUB ALUM MICHAEL BUBLÉ STEPS FORWARD TO SUPPORT COMPANY'S RE-OPENING CAMPAIGN

**VANCOUVER, B.C. (May 11, 2021)**—Today, the Arts Club Theatre Company announced that Canadian performer and longtime Arts Club friend **Michael BublÉ** has stepped forward to support the not-for-profit company's efforts to re-open its doors. [BublÉ has created a personal video](#) to encourage donations to the Arts Club's fundraising campaign, on now to July 31.

Before becoming an international superstar, the Burnaby native performed at both the Arts Club's Granville Island Stage and the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage. In 1998, BublÉ starred in Dean Regan's musical *Swing!*, which was the inaugural Arts Club production at the revitalized Stanley.

"The Stanley opened with the big band musical *Swing!* featuring the young, talented, charismatic Michael BublÉ. What a thrill it was to feature Michael on our stage before he stepped into worldwide fame," said Artistic Director Emeritus **Bill Millerd**.

The Arts Club is now at another pivotal moment in its history. After 15 months of suspended operations, the organization is turning to the community for help as it emerges from the impact of the pandemic. Since the initial ban on public gatherings, 24 productions have been cancelled and, as a result, the Arts Club has laid off and cancelled contracts for over 660 artists and staff. The company has lost more than \$13 million in ticket revenue.

While the Arts Club produced one-person shows last fall at its Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre and offered digital streaming, all three of its venues now remain dark. This summer's fundraising efforts will be vital to the company's re-opening.

"Just know this: that without places like the Arts Club, there wouldn't be close to as many opportunities for Canadian artists to learn and work and grow," shares **BublÉ** in his video appeal. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

"We are very grateful that Michael is amplifying our message during this difficult time—a time when we've felt so buoyed by the support of our community," said Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran**. "We look forward to welcoming theatre lovers in person and flourishing again."

—MORE—



## ABOUT THE MATCHING CAMPAIGN

The **Longhedge Foundation**, a longtime Arts Club supporter, has generously pledged **\$100,000 to match all gifts** made to the Arts Club **from May 11 to July 31**. Tax-deductible donations can be made online at [artsclub.com](http://artsclub.com), or by calling 604.687.5315, ext. 847. All proceeds from the campaign will support the re-opening of the Arts Club's three venues.

## 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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