

— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

## ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES FARREN TIMOTEO'S [MADE IN ITALY](#) AT THE GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

**March 17–April 17, 2022 (Media opening: March 23)**

**IN BRIEF** The Arts Club's production of *Made in Italy*, by Farren Timoteo, runs **March 17–April 17, 2022**, at the [Granville Island Stage](#), 1585 Johnston St., Vancouver, BC. Tickets from \$35. More info at [artsclub.com](http://artsclub.com)

**VANCOUVER, B.C. (March 1, 2022)**—Gather 'round as Salvatore Mantini, an Italian immigrant from Abruzzo, shares a tale of family, food, and music—all the while serving a meal, course by course. The hilariously heartwarming *Made in Italy* starts March 17 and will run through April 17 (media opening: Wed, March 23, 7:30 PM) at the Granville Island Stage.

Weaving the electrifying music of the 1970s with classic Italian tunes, *Made in Italy* tells the coming-of-age story of Francesco Mantini (**Farren Timoteo**), a teenager in rural Jasper, Alberta. Tired of living up to his traditional Italian-immigrant father's expectations and the constant bullying from his Canadian peers, Francesco takes inspiration from pop icons John Travolta and Rocky Balboa to reinvent himself as Frank Martin. Equal parts comedy and music, *Made in Italy* is a story of father and son finding themselves despite their differences.

This one-person show was commissioned by Western Canada Theatre, where its premiere in 2016 was met with great acclaim and sold-out houses. Successful productions at Citadel Theatre and Thousand Islands Playhouse followed. *Made in Italy*'s playwright and star, Farren Timoteo, was recognized in *Avenue Magazine*'s list of Edmonton's Top 40 Under 40 for his artistic contributions to the city. Since becoming Artistic Director of Alberta Opera in 2006, Timoteo's award-winning work as a writer and director has been seen by more than 70,000 students every season. Postponed from earlier this year due to COVID-19, *Made in Italy* will now start at the Arts Club's Granville Island Stage, following its run at Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton, Ontario.

Director **Daryl Cloran** said, "*Made in Italy* is a very funny story, with a surprising amount of heart. At its core is the relationship between a father and a son, who are pulled between two cultures and two homes and searching for their identity. Farren is an incredible performer with an uncanny ability to shift between multiple characters in the blink of an eye. There is a family dinner scene in which Farren plays all the members of the family sitting around the table. It is a hilarious tour de force; we're all transported to a lively—and full!—dinner party all performed by just one actor. The background of the 1970s provides an opportunity for great music and dance and showcases Farren's fantastic voice and impressive disco moves!"

The Arts Club's Executive Director **Peter Cathie White** said, "Filled with great Italian and disco songs that will have everyone singing along, this is a hilarious coming-of-age story about a kid with the heart of Rocky Balboa and the moves—and hair—of John Travolta. Farren truly is mesmerizing to watch—he shares his personal story with such charm and charisma that I know our audiences will love it."



All performances of *Made in Italy* will be produced and presented in adherence with the most current safety guidelines established by the B.C. government. Patrons aged 12 and over will be required to present their B.C. Vaccine Card, along with a picture ID, for entrance to Arts Club venues. The health and safety of all patrons, staff, and artists remain the Arts Club's top priority.

#### CAST

**Farren Timoteo** (Francesco Mantini), **Daniel Curalli** (Francesco Mantini Understudy)

#### CREATIVE TEAM

**Daryl Cloran** (Director), **Rachel Peake** (Associate Director), **Laura Krewski** (Original Choreographer), **Cory Sincennes** (Set Designer), **Cindy Wiebe** (Costume Designer), **Conor Moore** (Lighting Designer), **Mishelle Cuttler** (Sound Designer), **Chengyan Boon** (Associate Lighting Designer), **Celeste English** (Associate Lighting Designer), **Christine Leroux** (Stage Manager), **Jessica Bournival** (Apprentice Stage Manager)

#### SHOWTIMES + SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Tue–Thu at 7:30 PM, Fri & Sat at 8 PM, Wed at 1:30 PM, and Sat & Sun at 2 PM

[Sunday Salon](#): March 27, 2 PM

[Tuesday Talkback](#): April 5, 7:30 PM

[VocalEye Performance](#): Sun, April 10, 2 PM

#### SPONSORS

Season Sponsors: **BMO**, **CMHC Granville Island**, **CTV**, **IA Financial Group**, **Sandman Hotels, Inns & Suites, Vancouver Sun**

#### 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.

The Arts Club is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

#### MEDIA CONTACT

Jasmine Proctor

[publicity@artsclub.com](mailto:publicity@artsclub.com)

[artsclub.com](http://artsclub.com)

[facebook.com/theArtsClub](https://facebook.com/theArtsClub)

[twitter.com/theArtsClub](https://twitter.com/theArtsClub)

[instagram.com/TheArtsClub/](https://instagram.com/TheArtsClub/)

[youtube.com/ArtsClubTheatreCompany](https://youtube.com/ArtsClubTheatreCompany)