

Arts Club Theatre Company presents

LEAP FESTIVAL 2015

March 15–April 5, 2015
Revue Stage

Vancouver, B.C.—The Arts Club’s annual **LEAP Festival** will be held on four consecutive Sunday nights starting **March 15 at 7 PM** at the **Revue Stage** (1601 Johnston Street) on Granville Island. Six professional actors will bring 15 new works to the stage, penned by this year’s LEAP (Learning Early About Playwriting) students. The festival is the culmination of this year’s annual Arts Club youth program that began this past November. All four evenings are **free and open to the public**, and will give theatregoers a chance to hear fresh and distinct works representing a new generation of playwrights.

SCHEDULE OF FREE EVENTS:

- **Sunday, March 15, 7 PM:** Short plays by ten Level 1 students
- **Sunday, March 22, 7 PM:** One-act plays by four Level 2 students
- **Sunday, March 29, 7 PM:** A full-length play by Level 3 student
- **Sunday, April 5, 7 PM:** Awards ceremony and wrap party

“I am so inspired by this year’s crop of students. As each cohort progresses through the classes and workshops, the calibre of writing continues to impress me,” said **Shawn Macdonald**, LEAP instructor and program leader. “This year, there has been a fascinating variety in the content of the plays, showing a great level of insight, self-awareness, and maturity. If these students are any indication, the future of playwriting in Canada is bright!”

This comprehensive program offers full scholarships to all students. The first two levels are secondary school students between the ages of 16 and 18, and the third level is for college graduates. Students attend evening classes held at the Arts Club and also participate in online lectures and discussions via social media channels. They have had the opportunity to meet theatre professionals, including local playwrights and actors, and have attended many Arts Club shows. Graduates of the program get a real glimpse into the artistic and creative environment of producing contemporary theatre. In addition, the young playwrights will receive professional development beyond the festival with assistance on rewrites, edits to their plays, and help navigating the submission process to see their works developed further for the stage.

The LEAP program is generously supported by the Y.P. Heung Foundation, the TELUS Vancouver Community Board, Metro Vancouver, the RBC Foundation, Bonnie Mah, and the Gerald and Sheahan McGavin Capital Grant to the Arts.

CONTACT

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High-resolution images are available for download online: artsclub.com/media. The username is **journalist** and the password is **photos4media**.

ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club Theatre Company, founded in 1964, is the largest not-for-profit organization of its kind in Western Canada. Led by Artistic Managing Director Bill Millerd and Executive Director Peter Cathie White, it offers professional theatre at three venues—the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, Granville Island Stage, and Revue Stage—as well as on tour throughout the province.

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