

Arts Club Theatre Company's

# ReACT

New Plays in Progress

**November 2–8, 2015**  
BMO Theatre Centre

**IN BRIEF** Arts Club Theatre Company presents **ReACT: New Plays in Progress**, a free public reading series, **November 2–8, 2015**, at the BMO Theatre Centre (162 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave) in Olympic Village. See how new works are developed from script to stage with 5 plays from award-winning playwrights Jill Daum, Dorothy Dittrich, Anosh Irani, Alison Kelly, Stacey Kaser, and the Mom's the Word Collective. Admission is free. For more information, visit [artsclub.com](http://artsclub.com).

**VANCOUVER, B.C.**— Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, **ReACT: New Plays in Progress** showcases new works by Canadian playwrights. This year's playwrights are **Jill Daum, Dorothy Dittrich, Anosh Irani, Alison Kelly, Stacey Kaser**, and the **Mom's the Word Collective**, who will showcase 5 new works through a public reading and talkback discussion. This reading series demonstrates the Arts Club's commitment to fostering new works, making the creative process more accessible, and providing a public forum for feedback.

"Readings bring you to the heart of storytelling and a writer's imagination," said **Rachel Ditor**, the Arts Club's Literary Manager. "The playwrights this year include a wonderful mix of women's voices—between the writers and the actors, it's thrilling to be close to such talent, and have the chance to really talk about the work with artists who create it."

Artistic Managing Director, Bill Millerd, adds "ReACT public readings are a great vehicle for receiving feedback from audience members. This year's ReACT features a number of works that I am considering for programming next season – both for the Granville Island and Goldcorp stages."

## SCHEDULE OF FREE READINGS AT THE BMO THEATRE CENTRE

- **Monday, November 2, 7:30 PM**  
BMO Theatre Centre, Studio C  
*Forget About Tomorrow*, by Jill Daum
- **Friday, November 6, 7:30 PM**  
BMO Theatre Centre, Studio C  
*The Piano Teacher*, by Dorothy Dittrich
- **Saturday, November 7, 7:30–10:30 PM**  
BMO Theatre Centre, Studio A  
*The Men in White*, by Anosh Irani & *Mom's 4: WTF*, by Mom's the Word Collective
- **Sunday, November 8, 4 PM**  
BMO Theatre Centre, Studio A  
*The Day Before Christmas*, by Alison Kelly and Stacey Kaser

## PLAY SYNOPSES AND PLAYWRIGHT BIOS

### ***Forget About Tomorrow*** **By Jill Daum**

*Forget About Tomorrow* is a dramatic comedy that weaves together the experiences of Jane, Tom, and their two adult children, in the months following Tom's diagnosis with early-onset Alzheimer Disease. Each family member struggles with their own personal fears, questions about love, memory, and life's purpose, but when Jane questions the meaning of being loyal to a man who will ultimately forget her name, the family's unity is put into peril.

**Jill Daum** is a graduate of the Studio 58 Theatre Program at Langara College. She has worked professionally as an actor in theatre, film and television for over 35 years and is one of the performers and co-creators of the internationally acclaimed trilogy of plays *Moms the Word*, *Unhinged*, and *Remixed*. Jill also has a passion for promoting children's literature and works with Vancouver Kidsbooks when she can. You can catch her reviews of the best reads for children on BC's Global TV.

### ***The Piano Teacher***

**By Dorothy Dittrich**

When Erin Bruchman, a classical pianist, experiences the tragic loss of the life she knew, she finds herself also dealing with the loss of her own musical expression. *The Piano Teacher* tells the story of loss and new life and how one woman navigates her way through the difficult terrain of grief by seeking the help of an unconventional teacher. It is a play about friendship, music, healing, and art, while investigating the different meanings of loss, letting go, and the power of moving through the difficult passages.

**Dorothy Dittrich** has worked in the Vancouver theatre for a number of years as a Musical Director and Sound Designer/Composer. Her work in this area has garnered her Jessie awards and a number of nominations. Her plays include *The Dissociates*, *When the Moon Falls*, and *Two Part Invention*. She was the writer-in-residence at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto and her award winning musical *When We Were Singing* has been produced across North America. Dorothy has also just finished a piece for Mouthpiece, produced by Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture.

### ***The Men in White***

**By Anosh Irani**

Set in present day India and Canada, *The Men in White* is the story of two brothers, Abdul and Hasan, who are passionate about cricket. Abdul lives in Canada and works a kitchen and Hasan is still in Bombay, working at a chicken center. When the cricket club that Abdul plays for in Vancouver is on a major losing streak, the members of the club agree to sponsor Hasan as a "tourist" to play for them. *The Men in White* is about how home can be found in sport, the alienation that one feels in a new land, and how old wounds can stay hidden for years, then suddenly strike like snakes.

**Anosh Irani** was born and brought up in Bombay, and moved to Vancouver in 1998. He is the author of the novels *The Cripple and His Talismans* and *The Song of Kahunsha*, which was a finalist for CBC Radio's Canada Reads. His play *Bombay Black* won 4 Dora Awards, including Outstanding New Play. Irani was nominated for the Governor General's Award for Drama for his anthology *The Bombay Plays: The Matka King & Bombay Black*. His novel, *Dahanu Road*, was long listed for the 2010 Man Asian Literary Prize. His non-fiction has appeared in the *Globe and Mail* and the *New York Times*.

### ***Mom's 4: WTF***

**By Mom's the Word Collective (Jill Daum, Alison Kelly, Robin Nichol, Barbara Pollard, and Deb Williams)**

They're back! From the creative team of the Mom's the Word trilogy, comes *Mom's the Word: W\*%T the F#\*K*. The kids are grown, marriages have "evolved" and bodies are backfiring. Life doesn't get any prettier, but it never strays far from funny or poignant as the moms continue to blatantly mine their families' lives for every embarrassing detail. The moms are still up to their multiple chins in the proverbial creek of parenthood but unfortunately they can't remember where they left the paddle.

**Mom's the Word Collective** was born in the spring of 1993. Six women, who had once been exciting, glamorous, professional actresses, were now exhausted, pathetic, amateur mothers with 12 children under 6. They met every Saturday. They talked, they laughed, they whined, they complained, and they laughed some more. With a deadline looming, they agreed which stories had to be told. Thus, *Mom's the Word* was born. As their children grew taller and louder the moms grew older and wider. They sought protection using the only tool they had: public exposure. The shows were then in the teenage years, *Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged* and *Mom's the Word: Remixed*, the full meal deal. Their shows went on to be a ground breaking award-winning international sensation. *Mom's the Word* has been seen by 1.4 million people, translated for 19 countries, and continues uniting parents around the globe.

### ***The Day Before Christmas***

**By Alison Kelly and Stacey Kaser**

A comedy about the struggles of a "Type A" woman desperately holding fast to Christmas tradition as change sweeps through her family. In flashbacks, we see Alex Lee juggling family and work in the lead up to Christmas. But, as forces outside her control take over, her Christmas plans crumble, her perfectly

appointed home becomes a disaster scene, and her relationship with her husband hits a state of emergency. Will Alex learn that the only way to keep family close is to let them loose?

**Alison Kelly** has been making her living as an actor, playwright, and theatre educator for almost thirty years. She is one of the co-creators of the internationally acclaimed, award-winning hit, *Mom's the Word* and the sequels, *Mom's the Word: Unhinged*, and *Mom's the Word: Remixed*. Alison is also the writer or co-writer of *The Stay Fresh Special* (Vancouver Fringe, Night Wood Theatre), *Wince* (Van Comedy Festival) and *Conversations With My Mother* (Gateway Theatre) She is one of the originators of the comedy website Ranting Parent for which she writes and performs. Alison is a graduate of Studio 58 where she has also been teaching since 1988.

**Stacey Kaser** has written/produced television series in many different genres, ranging from supernatural (*The Collector*), to action/adventure (*Beastmaster*) and comedy western (*Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy*). She contributed to four seasons of the CBC flagship drama *North of 60*. Comedians Alison Kelly and Deborah Williams enticed her into doing theatre after their collaboration on an improv web series called Ranting Parent. *The Year Before Christmas* is the second script she has co-written with Alison. The first, *Conversations with My Mother*, premiered at Richmond's Gateway Theatre in 2014. She is currently completing a Master's Degree in Playwriting and Production Design at UBC. Through all these opportunities, she has learned the truth of the adage "dying is easy, comedy is hard."

#### **CONTACT**

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#### **ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB**

The Arts Club Theatre Company, founded in 1964, is Canada's largest not-for-profit urban theatre company. 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 Goldcorp Stage—as well as on tour throughout the province.

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