

MEDIA RELEASE
May 5, 2017

An Arts Club Theatre Company production

Hand to God

By Robert Askins

May 25 – June 15, 2017

Arts Club's Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre

Media opening: Wednesday, May 31

IN BRIEF Arts Club Theatre Company's *Hand to God* at the Arts Club's Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre (162 West 1st Avenue) from May 25 to June 15, 2017 (**MEDIA OPENING: May 31**). Tuesday–Thursday at 7:30 PM, Friday & Saturday at 8 PM, Wednesday at 1:30 PM, and Saturday and Sunday at 2 PM. Tickets start at \$29, inclusive of taxes and fees. Call the Arts Club Box Office at 604.687.1644 or visit www.artsclub.com.

VANCOUVER, B.C. — THE IRREVERENT COMEDY WITH A WICKED PERSONALITY

In a church basement in suburban Texas, Margery (**Jennifer Lines**) leads three teens in puppetry rehearsals for Sunday services. Things take a twisted turn when her son, Jason (**Oliver Castillo**), creates a hand puppet named Tyrone that is possessed with a delightfully dark personality of its own, contrasting its master's meek demeanor and provoking the group to investigate their own motives and morals. See if Jason can exorcise his demons in this black comedy that's been hailed as the funniest show on Broadway—hands down.

Director **Stephen Drover** says, “**Robert Askins** wrote this play loosely based on his own life experience. Raised in a very faith-based community, his mom ran a puppetry ministry and his dad died when he was 16, which was when Askins turned away from religion. He wrote *Hand to God* as a commentary on faith and how we deal with that loss of faith, while provocatively asking audiences: are we good and sometimes slip, or are we bad and sometimes behave?”

Nominated for five Tony Awards in 2015, including Best New Play, *Hand to God* swept the USA and UK since closing on Broadway in January 2016. This Arts Club production will be its Canadian premiere.

WARNING: This show is not for children. It is intended for adult audiences with a dark sense of humour and a penchant for truth-talking hand puppets.

“Ferociously funny” — *The New York Times*

Starring **Mike Gill** (Timothy), **Julie Leung** (Jessica), **Jennifer Lines** (Margery), **Oliver Castillo** (Jason/Tyrone), and **Shekhar Paleja** (Pastor Greg).

Director **Stephen Drover**, Set Designer **Brian Ball**, Costume Designer **Ines Ortner**, Puppet Designer and Coach **Jeny Cassidy**, Lighting Designer **Jeff Harrison**, Sound Designer **James Coomber**, Stage Manager **Angela Beaulieu**, Assistant Stage Manager **Liz King**, Apprentice Stage Manager **Koh McRadu**.

CONTACT

Amy Lynn Strilchuk, Publicist: 604.687.5315 or publicity@artsclub.com. High-resolution images are available for download at artsclub.com/media. The username is **journalist** and the password is **photos4media**. Video footage is available by request and at youtube.com/ArtsClubVan after May 26.

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 the Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre—as well as on tour throughout the province.

Website: artsclub.com

Twitter: twitter.com/theArtsClub

Facebook: facebook.com/theArtsClub

Instagram: instagram.com/theartsclub

YouTube: youtube.com/ArtsClubVan

#HandtoGodArtsClub