

MEDIA RELEASE  
April 5, 2017

An Arts Club Theatre Company PREMIERE production

# The Piano Teacher

By Dorothy Dittrich

April 20 – May 14, 2017

Arts Club's Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre

Media opening: Wednesday, April 26

**IN BRIEF** Arts Club Theatre Company's *The Piano Teacher* at the Arts Club's Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre (162 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue) from April 20 to May 14, 2017 (**MEDIA OPENING: April 26**). 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](http://www.artsclub.com).

VANCOUVER, B.C. — *THE PIANO TEACHER* EXEMPLIFIES ARTS CLUB'S COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING NEW WORK FROM LOCAL WRITERS

Soon after approaching the Arts Club with the idea for a new play about the transformative nature of music, playwright and musician **Dorothy Dittrich** was commissioned to turn her concept into reality.

Dittrich's new work, *The Piano Teacher*, follows a renowned classical pianist named Erin (**Megan Leitch**) who, after experiencing great loss in her life, is unable to find solace in the music that once brought her so much joy. As she struggles to play her beloved instrument, an unconventional piano teacher (**Caitriona Murphy**) helps release her past and a new friend (**Kamyar Pazandeh**) invites possibilities for the future.

As an Arts Club Silver Commissions Project, *The Piano Teacher* received four script workshops and two public readings, evolving to its final production draft.

Of the play's development journey, Dittrich notes, "The dramaturgical process provided a map, guidance, and support as I continued to make changes to the script. Conversations with dramaturg **Rachel Ditor** ensured that my intentions were being communicated through the script, and public readings were essential for gauging what worked and what didn't once the play was living in real time through the actors. Director **Yvette Nolan** has also aided the script by bringing life to the visual aspects of the script, indicating where words are not needed and what can be shown rather than said."

*The Piano Teacher* is the Arts Club's 11<sup>th</sup> Silver Commission produced since 2006, with other notable commissions including *Onegin* (Amiel Gladstone and Veda Hille), *The Waiting Room* (John Mann and Morris Panych), and *Tear the Curtain!* (Kim Collier, Jonathon Young, and The Electric Company).

Starring **Megan Leitch** (Erin), **Caitriona Murphy** (Elaine), and **Kamyar Pazandeh** (Tom).

Director **Yvette Nolan**, Dramaturg **Rachel Ditor**, Set Designer **David Roberts**, Costume Designer **Jenifer Darbellay**, Lighting Designer **Kyla Gardiner**, Sound Designer **Patrick Pennefather**, Stage Manager **Alison Spearin**, Apprentice Stage Manager **Sandra Drag**.

## **CONTACT**

Amy Lynn Strilchuk, Publicist: 604.687.5315 or [publicity@artsclub.com](mailto:publicity@artsclub.com). High-resolution images are available for download at [artsclub.com/media](http://artsclub.com/media). The username is **journalist** and the password is **photos4media**. Video footage is available by request and at [youtube.com/ArtsClubVan](http://youtube.com/ArtsClubVan) after April 21.

## **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.

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