

MEDIA RELEASE
October 3, 2017

An Arts Club Theatre Company production

KING CHARLES III

By Mike Bartlett

Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage

October 19 – November 19, 2017 (Media opening: October 25)

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

Tickets from \$29 at artsclub.com or the Arts Club Box Office at 604.687.1644

IN BRIEF The Arts Club presents the Canadian premiere of *King Charles III*, running from October 19 to November 19 at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage. Set in England following the death of the queen, this inventive story of a king under pressure is a clever imagining of a future not yet written.

VANCOUVER, B.C.— The award-winning drama *King Charles III* has its Canadian premiere at the Arts Club this month. Based on an imagining of the British monarchy following the death of Queen Elizabeth, it is a Shakespearean play for a history not yet written. A political satire, *King Charles III* artfully questions the role of the monarch and the importance of public image in the 21st century. The play won for Best New Play at the Critics' Circle Theatre Awards and at the Laurence Olivier Awards.

"When I first heard about this play, I was immediately intrigued," Artistic Managing Director **Bill Miller** says. "Then, I saw the production in London and knew we had to do it."

The play opens with the queen's funeral and Charles's (**Ted Cole**) rise to the throne. In the wake of a recent hacking scandal, the newly minted king refuses to sign a bill limiting the freedom of the press and subsequently instigates political upheaval. While Prince William and Kate (**Oliver Rice** and **Katherine Gauthier**) vie for the throne, the affable Prince Harry (**Charlie Gallant**) begins an illicit relationship with Jess (**Agnes Tong**), a university student who is "quite poor but very distinctive."

Written in blank verse, the play is evocative of Shakespeare with modern twists—featuring compromising text messages and tabloid scandals alongside a ghost and a "gravedigger" figure serving up laughs. Director Kevin Bennett says, "My approach with the design team was to create a blend of Elizabethan and Shakespearean staging with a contemporary feeling. It's very epic and intimate at the same time."

"*King Charles III* isn't just a play about kings and queens or the British monarchy," Bennett adds. "It is about anyone who has tried desperately to build their own life and has struggled because of the situation they were born into. Can you be your own person and also be king? It is in this that I think the play will touch everyone's heart."

"Flat-out brilliant portrait of a monarchy in crisis" —*The New York Times*

Starring **David Bloom** (James Reiss), **Lauren Bowler** (Sarah/Ghost/TV Producer/Newspaper Woman), **Chris Cochrane** (Cootsey/Speaker/Sir Michael/Butler), **Ted Cole** (King Charles III), **Charlie Gallant** (Prince Harry), **Katherine Gauthier** (Catherine), **Shekhar Paleja** (Spencer/Butler/Paul/Sir Gordon/Archbishop), **Oliver Rice** (Prince William), **Agnes Tong** (Jess), **Gwynyth Walsh** (Camilla), **Simon Webb** (Mr. Evans), **Christine Willes** (Mrs. Stevens)

Director **Kevin Bennett** Set Designer **Kevin McAllister** Costume Designer **Christopher David Gauthier**
Lighting Designer **Darren Boquist** Sound Designer **Ben Elliott** Stage Manager **Rick Rinder** Assistant Stage

Manager **Rebecca Mulvihill** Voice, Text, and Dialect Coach **Alison Matthews** Assistant to the Director **Seamus Fera**

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

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