

MEDIA RELEASE
March 2, 2018

An Arts Club Theatre Company production

THE HUMANS

By Stephen Karam

Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage

March 22–April 22, 2018 (Media opening: March 28)

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 Stephen Karam’s Tony Award–winning drama, *The Humans*, plays at the Arts Club’s Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage from March 22 to April 22, 2018.

VANCOUVER, B.C.—Both biting funny and poignant, *The Humans* is a richly detailed, compassionate portrait of an ordinary family at odds, with itself and with the uncertainties of life, amidst a changing America.

When three generations of the Blake family descend on a rundown lower Manhattan duplex for Thanksgiving dinner, each family member’s fears and burdens are magnified. Erik Blake (**Kevin McNulty**) worries about his daughters—Aimee (**Briana Buckmaster**), for her recent breakup and health concerns, and Brigid (**Samantha Rose Richard**), for her new neighbourhood and employment prospects. Erik and his wife, Deirdre (**Nicola Lipman**), attempt to mask their own anxieties, too, while simultaneously caring for his aged mother (**Gina Stockdale**).

A Broadway hit, *The Humans* won the Tony Award for Best Play in 2016 and was named as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The Pulitzer committee called the play “a profoundly affecting drama that sketches the psychological and emotional contours of an average American family.” Karam’s earlier works include *Emma* (2000), *Girl on Girl* (2005), *Columbinus* (2005), *Speech & Debate* (2006), and *Dark Sisters* (2011).

Director **Amiel Gladstone** says, “Stephen Karam has written a deeply personal play about families and fear. Sometimes our fears are worse than we could ever imagine, and sometimes the things that go bump in the night are just the neighbours doing their laundry. *The Humans* looks at what it’s like to be alive right now, our place in our families, and what happens to us as we get older. It’s an unblinking, elusive, challenge of a play.”

Of the production’s unique set, set designer **Drew Facey** says, “I love how old spaces shift and grow with time; how bad renovations and poor utility repairs lead to a textured and often peculiar arrangement of space. I think that the two-story set provides an exciting cross section into the lives of the characters in the play and becomes a character in its own right.”

“Funny, mournful, richly detailed, and deeply humane” —*The Guardian*

Starring **Kevin McNulty** (Erik Blake), **Nicola Lipman** (Deirdre Blake), **Briana Buckmaster** (Aimee Blake), **Samantha Rose Richard** (Brigid Blake), **Gina Stockdale** (“Momo” Blake), and **Parm Soor** (Richard Saad)
Director **Amiel Gladstone** Set Designer **Drew Facey** Costume Designer **Jenifer Darbellay** Assistant
Costume Designer **Alaia Hamer** Lighting Designer **Adrian Muir** Sound Designer **David Mesiha** Stage
Manager **Jan Hodgson** Assistant Stage Manager **Peter Jotkus**

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 Director Ashlie Corcoran 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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