

MEDIA RELEASE

June 28, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arts Club Theatre Company Welcomes New Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran

Vancouver's Arts Club Theatre Company, Canada's largest professional not-for-profit urban theatre company, has identified **Ashlie Corcoran** as its new Artistic Director to replace Bill Millerd upon his retirement in 2018. Corcoran, currently Artistic Director with Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, Ontario, will assume the artistic leadership of the Arts Club in October, when she will begin programming the 2018–2019 season.

Artistic Director **Bill Millerd** says, "I'm thrilled to welcome Ashlie to the Arts Club as my successor this fall. Ashlie is an award-winning director with the ability to excite audiences whether she is directing large musicals, classical dramas and comedies, or experimental new work. She is also passionate about new play development and education initiatives—two programming areas where the Arts Club has invested energy and resources for many years."

"Ashlie is a dynamic and versatile theatre director and an experienced Artistic Director who will bring a new perspective to the Arts Club," adds Executive Director **Peter Cathie White**. "I know she will thrive in the role, and I'm excited to see her invigorate our organization as we work closely together in the coming seasons."

"I am ecstatic to be joining the Arts Club Theatre Company, an organization I deeply care about, in a city that I love," says Corcoran. "I am excited to immerse myself in Vancouver's cultural community, build on Bill Millerd's phenomenal legacy, and collaborate with Peter and the Arts Club's fantastic staff and board. My vision is for the Arts Club to be internationally renowned, driving the development of local theatrical talent and voices, while deeply engaging with its community, audience and stakeholders. This will be a homecoming for me—born and bred in White Rock, BC, I am thrilled to once again live in my home province close to my family. I can't wait to get started!"

Corcoran was born in White Rock, British Columbia, and attended Queen's University, graduating in 2001 with an honours degree in Drama. She then earned a Master of Arts in Directing from Goldsmiths, University of London, in 2004. Corcoran returned to Canada and founded Theatre Smash in Toronto in 2005, and launched a successful freelance directing career in both theatre and opera. The Dora Award–winner completed the Urjo Kareda Residency for emerging theatre artists at Tarragon Theatre in 2011 before joining the Thousand Islands Playhouse in 2012 as Artistic Director. Earlier this month, she opened the Shaw Festival's 2017 season with the hit musical *Me and My Girl*.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Arts Club Theatre Company, I want to welcome Ashlie to the Arts Club family," says Arts Club Board Chair **Bruce Flexman**. "Ashlie is an exceptional theatre artist and a true rising star in Canadian theatre who will preserve and enhance the reputation of artistic quality built by Bill Millerd over the past 45 years. I want to express my deep gratitude to the 28

Vancouver-based theatre artists who participated in our consultation process in March. Their thoughtful input reflected their deep investment in our community and their feedback was both solicited and heard by our Search Committee.”

Bill Millerd, who announced his retirement in late February, will assist in Corcoran’s transition before retiring in early 2018 during his 46th season as Artistic Director. Vancouver-based consulting firm Alexander Whitehead Executive Search was retained by the Arts Club and received over 35 expressions of interest from individuals across Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

CONTACT

Amy Lynn Strilchuk, Publicist: 604.687.5315 or publicity@artsclub.com.

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