

— FOR RELEASE NO SOONER THAN 9 AM, AUGUST 24 —

ARTS CLUB ANNOUNCES NEW FALL THEATRE TRIO LAUNCHING IN SEPTEMBER

VANCOUVER, B.C. (August 24, 2020)—Today, Arts Club Theatre Company Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** revealed the company’s three-show fall theatre lineup, one she calls “a trio of bold, exciting one-person shows guaranteed to reinvigorate our audiences’ love and appreciation for live theatre.”

“Though we were heartbroken over cancelling our original 2020–2021 season, we’re excited to begin producing theatre safely once again,” added Corcoran. “The Arts Club won’t be doing any big blockbusters this year, but we are still very much committed to bringing high-quality, inspiring theatre to our stages. These three small yet fierce shows are a testament to the resilience of the performing arts community during this time.”

The performance and rehearsal models are uniquely designed to be as safe as possible for artists, staff, and audience members. Each show will have two rotating casts and crews, who will do seven performances each week and rehearse in separate halls.

“These smaller, more intimate shows allow us to be nimbler than we would be with larger productions,” explained Executive Director **Peter Cathie White**. “This ‘bubble method’ of alternating casts and crews is a brand-new way of producing theatre for the Arts Club, and we hope it will become a model for performances going forward as we continue to navigate our new normal.”

Over 30 freelance artists have been hired to create these shows, some of whom were previously contracted to work on shows for the Arts Club’s original 2020–2021 season.

“The instability of the pandemic has had an enormous effect on Vancouver’s professional theatre artists. In addition to the financial impact, it took away their ability to do the work they’re passionate about,” said Corcoran. “We’re looking forward to collaborating with these talented artists to create live theatre once again.”

The first show of the fall trio, **No Child...** by **Nilaja Sun**, will begin at the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre on Thursday, September 24. This bold examination of arts education in public schools had its initial off-Broadway run at the Barrow Street Theatre in 2006 and has since garnered the playwright 21 awards—including an Obie Award and two Outer Critics Circle Awards.

The Granville Island Stage will open its doors again on Thursday, October 22, for **Anosh Irani**’s tragicomedy **Buffoon**. This play—which follows the story of Felix the clown as he grows up, falls in love, and has his heart broken at the circus—had its world premiere at Toronto’s Tarragon Theatre in November 2019 and won the Dora Award for Outstanding New Play this year. It was originally part of the Arts Club’s 2018 ReACT: New Plays in Progress festival, which gave audiences a glimpse at plays in the early stages of development.



The theatre trio will wrap at the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre with a festive choice: ***The Twelve Dates of Christmas***, a bubbly holiday comedy by **GINNA HOBEN** about finding love in unexpected places. Hoben’s seasonal hit was inspired by both her own experience re-entering the dating world and her resolve to create more lead roles for women in holiday plays, which are dominated by traditionally male figures like Ebenezer Scrooge. It has been produced over 60 times across the globe and was previously programmed for the Arts Club’s 2020–2021 season.

All three shows will be staged in adherence to safety guidelines established by the B.C. government, including an audience cap of 50 patrons, staggered admission times, and a mandatory mask policy (with the exception of patrons with respiratory or other health concerns). The Arts Club is also taking [additional precautions](#) to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and welfare of patrons, artists, staff, and volunteers.

In addition to the in-theatre experience, patrons will be given the option to purchase tickets to a digital recording of each of the three productions, which will be available to view for a limited time.

FALL THEATRE TRIO LINEUP

NO CHILD...

By **Nilaja Sun**

For these overlooked teens, theatre is an expression of hope

September 24–November 8, 2020

Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre

Provocative and insightful, *No Child...* transports the audience to the underfunded Malcolm X High School in the Bronx, where an intrepid substitute drama teacher refuses to give up on a group of at-risk students—despite their hardened attitudes and tough-talking attempts to push her away. This play within a play, with 16 characters portrayed by one actor in a tour-de-force performance, is a powerful reminder of the transformative role of the arts in our lives.

Audience advisory: Coarse language

“Nilaja Sun’s gloriously uncynical gem reaches greatness”

—*NY Observer*

STARRING

Celia Aloma and **Ali Watson**

CREATIVE TEAM

Omari Newton (Director), **Kimira Reddy** and **Vanka Salim** (Set Designers), **Carmen Alatorre** (Costume Designer), **Gerald King** (Lighting Designer), **Owen Belton** (Sound Designer), **Harika Xu** (Lighting Assistant), **Pamela Jakobs** and **Jenny Kim** (Stage Managers), **Jasmin Sandhu** and **Duston Baranow-Watts** (Apprentice Stage Managers)

BUFFOON

By **Anosh Irani**

A clown finds love at the circus

October 22–December 6, 2020

Granville Island Stage

Born to circus folk who prefer trapezing over parenting, Felix quickly learns to turn life’s misfortunes into jokes. His longing for family and home is piqued at the tender age of seven, when he falls for an older woman, age eight—an event that kickstarts his journey to becoming a true buffoon. A story of love, loss, and the fate that binds us, *Buffoon* is a gut-wrenching one-man show that expertly walks the tightrope between hilarity and heartbreak.

“A profound, beautiful tragedy with a helping of laughs”

—*Mooney on Theatre*

STARRING

Kayvon Khoshkam and **Andrew McNee**

CREATIVE TEAM

Lois Anderson (Director), **Amir Ofek** (Set Designer), **Christine Reimer** (Costume Designer), **Itai Erdal** (Lighting Designer), **Joelysa Pankanea** (Sound Designer) **Caryn Fehr** and **Koh Lauren Quan** (Stage Managers)

THE TWELVE DATES OF CHRISTMAS

By **GINNA HOBEN**

A fun, flirty alternative to holiday conventions

November 19, 2020–January 3, 2021

Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre

Just a month after seeing her fiancé kiss another woman on national TV, Mary is ready to re-enter the dating world. Going on dates that range from comical to bad to comically bad, Mary grows increasingly pessimistic—until she meets someone who changes her outlook on life. This charming one-woman play puts a *Sex and the City* spin on the holiday season.

“A yummy buffet of the warm feelings one craves at the holidays”

—*BroadwayWorld.com*

STARRING

Genevieve Fleming and **Melissa Oei**

CREATIVE TEAM

Barbara Tomasic (Director), **Ted Roberts** (Set Designer), **Amy McDougall** (Costume Designer), **Sophie Tang** (Lighting Designer), **Kate Delorme** (Sound Designer), **Angela Beaulieu** and **Ronaye Haynes** (Stage Managers)

Titles, performance dates, venues, and creative teams subject to change.

For interviews, please contact Sarah McNeil at smcneil@artsclub.com or Madison Taylor at publicity@artsclub.com

ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club, one of the largest not-for-profit theatre companies in the country, is the principal gathering place for the theatrical arts in British Columbia. Comprising three unique Vancouver venues—the **Granville Island Stage**, **Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage**, and **Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre**—the Arts Club welcomes more than a quarter million guests annually, tours provincially and nationally, and engages students and artists alike through educational and professional programming. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.