

MEDIA RELEASE
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ARTS CLUB WELCOMES STEPHEN DROVER AS ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

VANCOUVER, B.C.—The Arts Club Theatre Company has named **Stephen Drover** its Associate Artistic Director.

As Associate Artistic Director, Drover will be responsible for new play development programs. He will head activities intended to engage with British Columbia's professional theatre communities, through company and individual residencies at the Arts Club and professional development initiatives for artists. Drover will also act as the company's dramaturg and support Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** in new artistic endeavors. He will assume the new role on May 28, beginning part-time and transitioning to full-time in September.

Drover says, "I'm so incredibly excited and honoured to be invited onto this fantastic team! The Arts Club is a leader in both our community and our industry, and I can think of no better way to serve the artists and audiences of Vancouver than to call it my new home. I'm thrilled to work with Ashlie, Peter [Cathie White, Executive Director], and the entire company as we move towards bright horizons and new projects."

Corcoran says, "We are thrilled to collaborate with Stephen as our new Associate Artistic Director. Stephen, who is deeply passionate about the Vancouver theatre scene, brings years of experience as a dramaturg and director. He also has a keen interest in the professional development of artists, which will be a huge focus in this brand-new role at the Arts Club. He and I share a deep interest in providing access and opportunity to the theatre communities in British Columbia. That—and the fact that we already make each other laugh a lot—bodes well for this new, exciting collaboration. Welcome, Stephen!"

Since 2012, Drover has been the Artistic Director of Vancouver's Rumble Theatre. There, he formalized a mentorship program designed to foster relationships between emerging and established artists, which includes the Directors' Lab, the Living Room salon series, and the biennial Tremors festival. He also founded a commissioning program to generate new Canadian adaptations of classical texts. This program helped to create *Indian Arm* by Hiro Kanagawa (winner of the 2017 Governor General's Literary Award for Drama) and the critically acclaimed *The Society for the Destitute Presents Titus Bouffonius* by Colleen Murphy, both of which Drover dramaturged and directed.

Drover's directing talent has brought him to the Arts Club's stages for *Hand to God* (2017), *The Patron Saint of Stanley Park* (2010, 2011), and *Skydive* (2009). He will also direct *Mustard* as part of the Arts Club's 2018–2019 season.

Additionally, Drover sits on Studio 58's program advisory committee; has directed new play development processes with Playwrights Theatre Centre; and is a member of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas. He is an adjunct professor at UBC, where he teaches "Shakespeare Text Analysis and Performance." Drover has been a regular teacher and adjudicator for Theatre BC, the project coordinator for Electric Company Theatre, and an artist-in-residence at Newworld Theatre. He is also the recipient of the Ray Michal Award for Outstanding Body of Work by an Emerging Director.

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

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