

MEDIA RELEASE  
May 17, 2018

## **ARTS CLUB COMMISSIONS NEW WORK BY KIM SENKLIP HARVEY WITH A LIVING TREATY**

**IN BRIEF** A living treaty will be signed on **Friday, May 18, at 8:15 AM at the BMO Theatre Centre** between **Kim Senklip Harvey**, as an Indigenous artist, and the **Arts Club** and the **Citadel Theatre**, as her settler allies, regarding the commissioning of new works.

**VANCOUVER, B.C.**—Arts Club Theatre Company Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** has announced a new Silver Commission: **Kim Senklip Harvey's** *Break Horizons*. The piece will be co-commissioned with the Citadel Theatre, in Edmonton.

Corcoran heard Harvey speak about Indigenous-led artistic practices and was inspired by what she shared. “I had already been introduced to Kim’s dramaturgical ideas behind her play, *Break Horizons*, and was also excited by them.” Corcoran says. “I asked Kim to consider what an Indigenous-led practice might look like within the context of a Silver Commission. Kim generously gave a lot of thought to this idea, and collected her ideas within a living treaty, which we will sign on Friday. This agreement is an exciting re-examination of how to engage with our Indigenous partners.”

Citadel Theatre Artistic Director **Daryl Cloran** adds, “Kim is a visionary artist and a real thought-leader in the professional theatre community. I am very proud to be partnering with the Arts Club to support this exciting new project, and I thank Kim for building a collaboration based in Indigenous practices so that we can begin our relationship in a meaningful way.”

The living treaty will be between Harvey, as an Indigenous artist, and the Arts Club and the Citadel Theatre, as her settler allies. The agreement will come into effect with a ceremonial protocol, including a talking circle to share the treaty’s intentions with the community. A celebratory feast will follow, signaling the completion of the ceremony and the beginning of the treaty’s journey.

Harvey says, “I’m elated to be entering into this treaty with the Arts Club and the Citadel Theatre, an achievement stewarded by the Indigenous artists who have come before me. At the core of this treaty are the values of trust, love, and respect, which are exactly what *Break Horizons*, a story about Indigenous transformation and justice, needs. This means that as an Indigenous artist, the foundation of our relationships is in the Indigenous paradigm of artistic practice that we create and I exist in, and that has never been created before.”

### **ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**

Kim Senklip Harvey comes from the Syilx, Tsilhqot'in, Ktunaxa, and Dakelh Nations and is a director, playwright, and actor. She completed the BFA program at UBC and worked on the national tour of Kevin Loring’s *Where the Blood Mixes* and the world premiere of Corey Payette’s *Children of God*. Her first full-length play, *Kamloopa*, focuses on three Indigenous women’s understanding of indigeneity and the journey of reclaiming Indigenous matriarchy.

In 2017, Harvey was shortlisted for the Gina Wilkinson Prize for her work as an emerging female director, and she participated in the Banff Residency “Centering Ourselves: Writing in a Racialized

Canada.” She was also appointed as one of two artists to take part in the National Theatre School’s inaugural Artistic Leadership Program, which aims to steward the next generation of artists to lead the major artistic institutions in this country.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB’S SILVER COMMISSIONS PROJECT**

The Silver Commissions Project provides funding for a playwright to complete a new play. Established in 2006, the program has produced notable works such as *Onegin* (Amiel Gladstone and Veda Hille), *The Waiting Room* (John Mann and Morris Panych), and *Tear the Curtain!* (Kim Collier, Jonathon Young, and The Electric Company).

#### **CONTACT**

Media access to the ceremony is available by RSVP to Sarah Barton-Bridges, Publicist: 604.687.5315, ext. 278, or [publicity@artsclub.com](mailto: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 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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