

MEDIA RELEASE
February 19, 2018

ARTS CLUB TRIBUTE EVENT TO HONOUR CAREER OF BILL MILLERD

Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage
Sunday, March 4, 8 PM

Tickets at www.artsclub.com or the Arts Club Box Office at 604.687.1644

VANCOUVER, B.C.—On **Sunday, March 4**, the Arts Club will celebrate the 46-year career of Artistic Managing Director Bill Millerd at ***To Bill, with Love***.

This one-night-only presentation will be hosted by **Sara-Jeanne Hosie** (*Cabaret, Les Misérables, Mary Poppins*) and **Todd Talbot** (*Singin' in the Rain, It's a Wonderful Life, White Christmas*). Written by **Deborah Williams** of the Mom's the Word Collective and directed by **Valerie Easton** (*Bittergirl: The Musical*), the tribute will revisit many of Bill's incredible achievements, tied together with musical highlights from hit shows such as *Company, West Side Story, My Fair Lady*, and *Billy Elliot*. Attendees will enjoy performances by **Lauren Bowler, Shannon Chan-Kent, Jackson Davies, Warren Kimmel**, and more, plus an ensemble of many more familiar faces.

Williams says, "There are so many people who want to honour Bill. It's been difficult to pare it down to a one-evening event!"

All proceeds from the event will support the newly established **Bill Millerd Artist Fund**. The fund seeks to provide artists of all kinds—costume designers, directors, actors, playwrights, stage managers—with a scholarship to hone their craft, push boundaries, and further their skills.

On the importance of this endowment fund, Millerd says, "We know that theatre depends on artists developing their craft and on the kind of new voices that we want to have on our stages. Setting up this fund goes a long way towards ensuring that future."

ABOUT BILL MILLERD

Since 1972, Bill Millerd has been the Artistic Managing Director of Vancouver's Arts Club Theatre Company. During his time with the company, Millerd has expanded its operations to include year-round programming and regional and national tours. Millerd oversaw the construction of four theatres: the Granville Island Stage, in 1979; the Revue Stage, in 1983; the reopening of the historic Stanley Theatre (now the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage), in 1998; and the Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre, in 2015. During his Arts Club tenure, 600 plays have been produced, over 100 of which Millerd directed. Under Millerd's leadership, the company has staged over 120 Canadian works, including more than 80 premieres.

Millerd is a Governor of the National Theatre School of Canada, and has received a Jessie Award for Career Achievement, the Mayor's Arts Award, and the Herbert Whittaker Award for Distinguished Contribution to Canadian Theatre. In 1993, he was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada for his contributions to enriching the cultural community of Canada. He has been awarded an Alumni Award of Distinction and an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the University of British Columbia, and was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from Tourism Vancouver.

CONTACT

Sarah Barton-Bridges, Publicist: 604.687.5315, ext. 278, 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, Incoming 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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