

Arts Club Theatre Company presents its annual public play reading series

REACT: NEW PLAYS IN PROGRESS

October 18–20, 2018
FREE ADMISSION

IN BRIEF The Arts Club presents **ReACT: New Plays in Progress, October 18–20, 2018**, at the **Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre** (162 West 1st Ave) in Olympic Village. This year's public play reading series features three scripts from playwrights **Dave Deveau**, **Anosh Irani**, and **Marcus Youssef**. Admission is free; RSVP required. For more information, visit artsclub.com.

VANCOUVER, B.C. (October 10, 2018)—Now in its 18th year, **ReACT: New Plays in Progress** showcases new works by Canadian playwrights, read aloud by a company of actors. After each reading, audience members are invited to take part in a discussion with **Ashlie Corcoran** (Artistic Director), **Stephen Drover** (Associate Artistic Director), and the artists. The ReACT reading series demonstrates the Arts Club's commitment to fostering new works, making the creative process more accessible, and providing a public forum for feedback, as some of Canada's most talented actors, directors, dramaturgs, and playwrights bring new scripts to life.

Associate Artistic Director Stephen Drover said, "ReACT is an exciting opportunity to get a sneak peek at scripts we've been working on via our **Silver Commissions Project**, plus other scripts we think are pretty fantastic. This year we feature three remarkable scripts from some inspiring Vancouver playwrights. **Dave Deveau's** new play *In My Country*, a black comedy, is set in a fast-food restaurant and explores the lives of newcomers to Canada as they negotiate their differences and make hamburgers. Siminovitch Prize winner **Marcus Youssef** brings us a holiday play about family, tradition, and what it means to find your own path during the festive yet complicated season with *It's a Wonderful-ish Xmas Holiday Miracle*. Finally, Governor General's Award nominee **Anosh Irani** is back with a one-person show called *Buffoon*, about a boy raised in a circus and trying to find love."

These public readings are free of charge. Reservations can be secured at artsclub.com.

SCHEDULE OF FREE READINGS AT THE ARTS CLUB'S GOLDCORP STAGE AT THE BMO THEATRE CENTRE

Thursday, October 18, 7:30 PM

In My Country, by Dave Deveau

A contemporary black comedy set in a fast-food restaurant that explores the lives of immigrants as they acclimatize to the Canadian mosaic.

Friday, October 19, 7:30 PM

It's a Wonderful-ish Xmas Holiday Miracle, by Marcus Youssef

Chloe and Simon's mom and dad have separated. Dad has a new partner and mom is rediscovering her Jewish roots. And then their dead grandma shows up. *It's a Wonderful Life* meets *Modern Family* in this contemporary fable about a blended family just trying to make things work during a complicated season.



Saturday, October 20, 7:30 PM

Buffoon, by Anosh Irani

Felix was born into the circus. Both his parents are trapeze artists, but Felix is a clown. How did he turn into such a buffoon? Find out at Anosh Irani's new one-man show.

PLAYWRIGHT BIOS

Dave Deveau is an award-winning writer whose work has been produced across North America and in Europe. He is the Playwright in Residence for Zee Zee Theatre, which premiered his critically acclaimed plays *Nelly Boy*, *Tiny Replicas*, *My Funny Valentine* (Sydney Risk Prize, Jessie Award nomination, Oscar Wilde Award nomination – Dublin), *Lowest Common Denominator*, and *Elbow Room Café: The Musical* (with Anton Lipovetsky). Deveau's plays for young audiences were commissioned and premiered by Green Thumb Theatre and continue touring: *Out in the Open*, *tagged*, and *Celestial Being* (Jessie Award nomination) His first screenplay, *Us in Nine Months* (based on *Tiny Replicas*), will shoot this year with Sociable Films. His newest YA play, *Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls*, premieres in Toronto this season with Roseneath Theatre. He is represented by Marquis Literary.

Anosh Irani has published four critically acclaimed novels: *The Cripple and His Talismans*, a national bestseller; *The Song of Kahunsha*, an international bestseller and a finalist for CBC Radio's Canada Reads and the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize; and *Dahanu Road*, which was nominated for the Man Asian Literary Prize. His play *Bombay Black* won five Dora Mavor Moore Awards, including Outstanding New Play, and his anthology *The Bombay Plays: The Matka King & Bombay Black* was a finalist for the Governor General's Award for Drama. *The Matka King* received a Jessie Award nomination for Outstanding Original Script as did his latest play, *The Men in White*. His latest novel, *The Parcel*, was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, and was longlisted for the 2017 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature and the 2018 Dublin Literary Award. It was chosen as one of the best books of the year by *The Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, the CBC, *The Walrus*, and *Quill & Quire*. Irani teaches Creative Writing in the World Literature Program at Simon Fraser University.

Marcus Youssef's plays—about half of which were co-written with friends and colleagues—include *Winners and Losers*, *Leftovers*, *Jabber*, *How Has My Love Affected You?*, *Ali & Ali and the aXes of Evil*, *Everyone*, *Adrift*, *Peter Panties*, *King Arthur's Night*, *Chloe's Choice*, and *A Line in the Sand*. They have been performed in dozens of theatres or festivals across North America, Australia, and Europe. Youssef is the recipient of the 2017 Siminovitch Prize. Other awards include the Canada Council Staunch-Lynton Award, Rio-Tinto Alcan Performing Arts Award, Chalmer's Canadian Play Award, Seattle Times Footlight Award, two Arts Club Silver Commissions, a Governor General's Award nomination, and the Vancouver Critics' Choice Award. Youssef is Artistic Director of Vancouver's Newworld Theatre and co-founded the artist-run production studio PL1422. He is Editorial Advisor to Canadian Theatre Review, a Canadian Fellow to the International Society of Performing Arts, and recently finished a stint as Senior Playwright in Residence at the Banff Centre Playwrights Lab.

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