

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ASHLIE CORCORAN REVEALS THE ARTS CLUB'S 2019–2020 SEASON AND ARTISTIC INITIATIVES

**VANCOUVER, B.C.**—At a media event this morning, Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** announced the Arts Club Theatre Company's 56th season, one she calls "a carefully curated mix of what Arts Club audiences love: great storytelling and fantastic theatricality." This season marks her second at the company's helm, alongside Executive Director **Peter Cathie White**.

"I aim to offer eclectic programming that sparks a connection with the audience," Corcoran said, "and to create theatre that celebrates local talent, emerging artists, and diversity, through this season and beyond."

The 2019–2020 season will open at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage with a co-production with **Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre: *A Thousand Splendid Suns***, the hauntingly beautiful play by **Ursula Rani Sarma** based on the best-selling book by **Khaled Hosseini**. Four other shows are programmed for the Stanley, including **Noises Off**, the play-within-a-play that was revived twice on Broadway, and ***carried away on the crest of a wave***, the Governor General's Award-winning play about the cataclysmic 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The winter musical and summer musical at the Stanley will be announced in the spring, as per their licensing agreements.

In addition, two plays will have their world premieres: the 2018 Alberta Playwriting Competition winner ***Cipher***, by **Ellen Close** and **Braden Griffiths**, in partnership with **Vertigo Theatre**; and local Siminovitch Prize-winner **Marcus Youssef's *It's a Wonderful Christmas-ish Holiday Miracle***, an Arts Club [Silver Commission](#). In partnership with the **Citadel Theatre**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play ***Cost of Living*** will be produced for the first time in Canada, and **Mischief Theatre's** production of ***Peter Pan Goes Wrong***, by **Henry Lewis**, **Jonathan Sayer**, and **Henry Shields**, will be produced for the first time in North America. Presented by arrangement with Mischief Worldwide, this production was originally presented in the West End of London by Kenny Wax and Stage Presence and will feature an all-Canadian cast.

The season will include co-productions with the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and **Prairie Theatre Exchange** in Winnipeg, and Vertigo Theatre in Calgary. "I believe that collaborations with other artistic institutions are vital to the health of any modern theatre company," Corcoran said. "By partnering with organizations across Canada, the Arts Club is participating in a national conversation about Canadian identity and art, and sharing the work of our local artists with a national audience."

Corcoran announced the Arts Club's new Silver Commission—***Mom's the Word 4***, the latest instalment from the B.C.-based **Mom's the Word Collective**. The Arts Club has also partnered with **Theatre Calgary** to co-commission **Hiro Kanagawa's** stage adaptation of ***Forgiveness***, **Mark Sakamoto's** family memoir of World War II. The book won the Canada Reads 2018 competition and is currently being developed into a TV miniseries. Kanagawa is a Governor General's Award-winning playwright from B.C.

Corcoran named **rice & beans theatre** as the Arts Club's 2019–2020 [Company in Residence](#). The Arts Club's newest initiative, the [Emerging Playwrights' Unit](#), will include **Scott Button**, **Bronwyn Carradine**, **Mily Mumford**, and **Zahida Rahemtulla**.



## STANLEY INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE STAGE

### **A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS <sup>1</sup>**

By **Ursula Rani Sarma**

Based on the book by **Khaled Hosseini**

In partnership with **Royal Manitoba Theatre Company**

Director **Haysam Kadri**

*The gripping story of two Afghan women, based on the best-selling book*

September 12–October 13, 2019 (Media opening: September 18)

### **WINTER MUSICAL TBA SPRING 2019**

*A family-friendly musical masterpiece for the holidays*

November 7, 2019–January 5, 2020 (Media opening: November 13)

### **NOISES OFF**

By **Michael Frayn**

Director **Scott Bellis**

*The classic play-within-a-play farce*

January 23–February 23, 2020 (Media opening: January 29)

### **CARRIED AWAY ON THE CREST OF A WAVE**

By **David Yee**

Director **Stephen Drover**

*A boundary-pushing theatrical journey*

March 19–April 19, 2020 (Media opening: March 25)

### **SUMMER MUSICAL TBA SPRING 2019**

*A big-hearted modern musical*

May 21–July 5, 2020 (Media opening: May 27)

## GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

### **THE BIRDS AND THE BEES**

By **Mark Crawford**

Director **Lauren Taylor**

*Love, lust, beekeeping, and the artificial insemination of turkeys meet in this raucous comedy*

September 26–October 26, 2019 (Media opening: October 2)

### **MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY**

By **Lauren Gunderson** and **Margot Melcon**

Director **Roy Surette**

*The festive Pride and Prejudice follow-up returns*

December 5, 2019–January 4, 2020 (Media opening: December 11)

### **CIPHER <sup>2</sup>**

By **Ellen Close** and **Braden Griffiths**

In partnership with **Vertigo Theatre**

Director **Craig Hall**

*Hipster noir meets corporate thriller—an investigation of a decades-old Vancouver Island cold-case murder*

February 6–March 7, 2020 (Media opening: February 12)

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<sup>1</sup> This production will be based on the original staging of the American Conservatory Theatre production by Carey Perloff

<sup>2</sup> The world premiere of the 2018 Alberta Playwriting Competition winner

## 'DA KINK IN MY HAIR

By **Trey Anthony**

*A resonant musical celebration of women of colour, set in a vibrant Toronto hair salon*

April 16–May 16, 2020 (Media opening: April 22)

Arts Club Theatre Company, Vancouver, and Citadel Theatre, Edmonton, present the North American premiere of The Mischief Theatre Production

## PETER PAN GOES WRONG

By **Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields**

Director **Adam Meggido**

Set Designer **Simon Scullion**

Lighting Designer **Matt Haskins**

Costume Designer **Roberto Surace**

Sound Designer **Ella Wahström**

Composers **Rob Falconer** and **Richard Baker**

Presented by arrangement with **Mischief Worldwide**

This production was originally presented in the West End of London by Kenny Wax and Stage Presence

June 25–August 22, 2020 (Media opening: July 1)

## GOLDCORP STAGE AT THE BMO THEATRE CENTRE

## COST OF LIVING <sup>3</sup>

By **Martyna Majok**

In partnership with **Citadel Theatre**

Director **Ashlie Corcoran**

*The 2018 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about caretakers and the realities of disability*

October 10–November 3, 2019 (Media opening: October 16)

## IT'S A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS-ISH HOLIDAY MIRACLE <sup>4</sup>

By **Marcus Youssef**

Director **Chelsea Haberlin**

*A new play that embraces the love and foibles of family*

November 21–December 22, 2019 (Media opening: November 27)

## THE WEDDING PARTY

By **Kristen Thomson**

In partnership with **Prairie Theatre Exchange**

Director **Ann Hodges**

*A ringside seat for all the laughs, debauchery, disagreements, and love at a family wedding reception*

February 27–March 22, 2020 (Media opening: March 4)

## EVERY BRILLIANT THING

By **Duncan Macmillan**

With **Jonny Donahoe**

Director **Ashlie Corcoran**

Starring **Naomi Wright**

*A daughter aids her mom through depression by listing everything worth living for, with help from the audience*

April 2–April 26, 2020 (Media opening: April 8)

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<sup>3</sup> The Canadian premiere of the 2018 Pulitzer Prize winner

<sup>4</sup> The world premiere of a 2017 Arts Club Silver Commission

## ON TOUR

### **BED & BREAKFAST**

By **Mark Crawford**

Director **Ashlie Corcoran**

*A charming comedy about being out and finding home*

October 3–November 2, 2019

### **THE SHOPLIFTERS**

By **Morris Panych**

Director **Morris Panych**

*Comic mishaps for society's haves and have-nots*

January 9–February 9, 2020

### **KIM'S CONVENIENCE**

By **Ins Choi**

Based on **Pacific Theatre's** 2018 production

Director **Kaitlin Williams**

*The wildly popular, award-winning play—now a CBC TV series*

February 13–March 15, 2020

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

### **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 venues across Vancouver, 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 programs.

Above all, the Arts Club is dedicated to the advancement of local artists telling stories from around the globe and, in particular, those of our region. From this, we believe that culture expands, an understanding of differences is nurtured, and art bursts forth. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.