

— FOR RELEASE NO SOONER THAN NOON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 —

ARTS CLUB'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ASHLIE CORCORAN REVEALS THE 2020–2021 SEASON AND ARTISTIC INITIATIVES

VANCOUVER, B.C.—This morning at an Arts Club Theatre Company event, Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** revealed the show lineup for the company's 57th season, one she calls "a vibrant combination of beloved classics and bold new productions, packed with incredible music and storytelling." The 2020–2021 season will mark her third at the company's helm, alongside Executive Director **Peter Cathie White**.

"Above all, the Arts Club aspires to enrich the lives of our community members with meaningful storytelling," Corcoran said. "This season, I aim to stay true to this goal by programming beautiful, richly textured stories that reflect our diversity and shed light on the human experience."

The new season will open at the Arts Club's flagship venue, the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, with ***Sense and Sensibility***, a playful adaptation of the classic Jane Austen novel. Four other shows are programmed for the Stanley: ***Elf: The Musical***, the holiday comedy based on the beloved film; ***Network***, the thrilling, Tony Award-winning media satire; ***The Legend of Georgia McBride***, a musical romp about an Elvis-impersonator-turned-drag-queen; and ***ELVIS The Musical***, a new biographical sensation about the King of Rock 'N' Roll.

Multiple shows will be produced for the first time in Canada, including ***Dance Nation***, a cutthroat coming-of-age story about competitive dancers. Additionally, two plays will have their world premieres: ***ELVIS The Musical*** and ***The Cull***, a tense drama by **Michele Riml** and **Michael St. John Smith** in which relationships unravel over the course of a dinner party. ***The Cull*** is also the latest Arts Club [Silver Commission](#) to be brought to life onstage.

The Arts Club announced its Silver Commissions for the 2020–2021 season as well: ***My Father Is the Greatest Man in the World***, by **Tai Amy Grauman**, and a new adaptation of ***Cyrano de Bergerac***, by **Christine Quintana**.

The season will include partnerships with the **Citadel Theatre** in Edmonton and the **Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre** in Winnipeg, as well as with a company in Eastern Canada that has yet to be announced. "By deepening relationships with organizations across Canada, the Arts Club not only expands its creative capacity, but also contributes to a nation-wide conversation about the importance of theatre," said Corcoran. "These partnerships allow us to pool our resources to create productions that strive for the highest levels of artistic excellence."

Corcoran also introduced the playwrights in the 2020–2021 [Emerging Playwrights' Unit](#): **Erik Gow**, **Pippa Mackie**, **Justin Neal**, and **Lili Robinson**. This unique initiative allows playwrights in the early stages of their careers to workshop and receive dramaturgical input on new works. Additionally, the Arts Club is currently accepting applications for the upcoming season's [Company in Residence](#), as well as the [Bill Millerd Artist Fund](#), a program that assists B.C. theatre artists with expenses related to training opportunities that will advance their artistic development, such as courses and mentorships.



STANLEY INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE STAGE

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY¹

By **Kate Hamill**

Based on the novel by **Jane Austen**

Director **Rachel Peake**

This spirited adaptation tells the story of the Dashwood sisters with a fresh feminist voice

September 10–October 11, 2020 (Media opening: September 16)

ELF: THE MUSICAL

Book by **Thomas Meehan** and **Bob Martin**

Music by **Matthew Sklar**

Lyrics by **Chad Beguelin**

Based on the New Line Cinema film written by **David Berenbaum**

Director **Stephen Drover**

Choreographer **Julie Tomaino**

Music Director **Ken Cormier**

Starring **Andrew McNee**

The hilarious tale of a human who thinks he's an elf

November 5, 2020–January 3, 2021 (Media opening: November 11)

NETWORK²

Adapted for the stage by **Lee Hall**

Based on the **Paddy Chayefsky** film

In partnership with the Citadel Theatre and the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre

Director **Daryl Cloran**

Starring **Jim Mezon**

News becomes show business in this adaptation of the prophetic film

January 21–February 21, 2021 (Media opening: January 27)

THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE

By **Matthew Lopez**

Director **Sherry J. Yoon**

When his act is replaced with a drag show, an Elvis impersonator embraces a new way of life, with hilarious—and fabulous—results

March 18–April 18, 2021 (Media opening: March 24)

ELVIS The Musical³

By **Sean Cercone** and **David Abbinanti**

Musical Arrangements and Orchestrations by **David Abbinanti**

Based on a concept by **Floyd Mutrux**

In partnership with the Citadel Theatre

Director **Ashlie Corcoran**

This groundbreaking, brand-new bio-musical tells the King's story through the eyes of those who knew him best, and features over 40 of his greatest hits

May 13–July 4, 2021 (Media opening: May 19)

¹ Canadian premiere of *The New York Times* Critics' Pick (2014 and 2016)

² Canadian premiere of the Tony Award–winning play, produced in partnership with the Citadel Theatre and the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre

³ World premiere of the highly anticipated new musical, produced in partnership with the Citadel Theatre

GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

THE CULL⁴

By **Michele Riml** and **Michael St. John Smith**

Director **Mindy Parfitt**

Secrets come to light and relationships unravel in this new dinner party drama

September 24–October 25, 2020 (Media opening: September 30)

SCROOGE IN ROUGE⁵

An English Music Hall Christmas Carol

Book and Lyrics by **Ricky Graham**

Additional Material by **Jeffery Roberson**

Other Interesting Bits by **Yvette Hargis**

Original Music Composed by **Jefferson Turner**

Director **Dean Paul Gibson**

Performed in the style of a British music hall, this zany take on the Charles Dickens holiday classic is packed with catchy songs and bawdy jokes

November 26, 2020–January 3, 2021 (Media opening: December 2)

MADE IN ITALY

By **Farren Timoteo**

Based on the original Western Canada Theatre production

Director **Daryl Cloran**

In this heartfelt comedy, an Italian teenager in 1970s rural Alberta reinvents himself in the stylings of John Travolta and Rocky Balboa

February 4–March 7, 2021 (Media opening: February 10)

CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND⁶

By **Lauren Yee**

Featuring songs by **Dengue Fever**

Director **Ashlie Corcoran**

This award-winning play blends comedy, history, and music to create a fierce yet funny tribute to family bonds

April 22–May 23, 2021 (Media opening: April 28)

A CLOSER WALK WITH PATSY CLINE⁷

By **Dean Regan**

Director **Mike Payette**

Featuring the unforgettable music of Patsy Cline, this play tells the story of the famous country singer's rise to fame with heart and humour

June 17–August 1, 2021 (Media opening: June 23)

NEWMONT STAGE AT THE BMO THEATRE CENTRE⁸

DANCE NATION⁹

⁴ World premiere of a 2017 Arts Club Silver Commission

⁵ Canadian premiere of one of the most produced plays of 2019–2020, as per *American Theatre*

⁶ Canadian premiere of the play, which won the 2018 Horton Foote Prize for Outstanding New American Play

⁷ The 30th anniversary of the original 1991 production, which premiered on the Granville Island Stage

⁸ Formerly Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre

⁹ Canadian premiere of the Pulitzer Prize finalist

By **Clare Barron**

In partnership with TBA

Director **Meg Roe**

Choreographer **Crystal Pite**

“Cuteness is death” in this bold, blood-pumping story about a team of pre-teen dancers

October 8–October 25, 2020 (Media opening: October 14)

THE TWELVE DATES OF CHRISTMAS¹⁰

By **Ginna Hoben**

Director **Barbara Tomasic**

This charming one-woman play offers a side-splitting, contemporary alternative to the usual conventions of the holidays

December 3, 2020–January 3, 2021 (Media opening: December 9)

TEENAGE DICK

By **Mike Lew**

In partnership with TBA

Director **Ashlie Corcoran**

Community Partner Realwheels Theatre

Richard III meets Mean Girls: this clever Shakespeare adaptation reimagines the protagonist as a teenager navigating the treacherous terrain of high school

February 18–March 14, 2021 (Media opening: February 24)

ON TOUR

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

By **Duncan Macmillan**

With **Jonny Donahoe**

Director **Ashlie Corcoran**

Starring **Naomi Wright**

In this uplifting show, a girl helps her mother cope with depression by listing everything worth living for, with help from the audience

September 30–November 8, 2020

THE CULL

By **Michele Riml** and **Michael St. John Smith**

Director **Mindy Parfitt**

Secrets come to light and relationships unravel in this new dinner party drama

January 6–February 7, 2021

THE BIRDS & THE BEES

By **Mark Crawford**

Director **Lauren Taylor**

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

February 17–April 4, 2021

Titles, performance dates, venues, 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

¹⁰ Canadian premiere of the holiday comedy

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.