

— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

ARTS CLUB TO RELEASE INVESTIGATIVE HISTORICAL PODCAST

VANCOUVER, B.C. (March 16, 2021)— A year after the initial closure of theatre and live events due to COVID-19, the Arts Club Theatre Company announced the release of *This Is Something Else: Consciously Eclectic Histories of the Arts Club*, a 5-part limited podcast series exploring more than 50 years of Vancouver’s theatre scene and the making of Canada’s largest urban theatre company.

Created and hosted by documentary theatremaker **Andrew Kushnir**, and inspired by investigative podcasts like *This American Life* and *Nice White Parents*, the Arts Club-commissioned project takes a distinct approach to history. *This Is Something Else* focuses less on dates and events, and casts a focused eye (and ear) to the complex relationships between people, places, and big ideas. The first episode will be released everywhere podcasts are available on Wednesday, April 7; further episodes will be released weekly.

“This show isn’t about history being a thing of the past,” Kushnir said in a statement, “but a recognition of how history lives in our bodies, every day, and all around us. What if ‘history,’ instead of a noun, was a verb? Something in motion—something for us to move with, in the now? Perhaps the best way to get some glimpse of the future is to dance with how we got there.”

Over the course of five episodes, Kushnir explores a wide range of themes and topics, culled from over 72 hours of original interviews with 43 artists, historians, administrators, and patrons. Featured guests and interviewees include **Bill Millerd, Anosh Irani, Kim Collier, Morris Panych, Donna Wong, Ann Mortifee, Omari Newton, Jerry Wasserman, Marcus Mosely, Katrina Dunn**, and many others. The podcast examines the Arts Club’s history, from its beginnings at the Seymour Street Theatre to its current status as Canada’s largest urban theatre company. It shines a light on the remarkable women who fought for Vancouver’s cultural institutions and some of the Arts Club’s noteworthy ups and downs. He also delves into the cultural forces that have had a hand in forming the Vancouver professional theatre ecology, be it the counterculture movement of the 60s, the city’s real estate market, artists’ relationship to the land, or the global pandemic we currently find ourselves in.

Andrew Kushnir is the playwright behind the documentary plays *The Middle Place*, *Small Axe*, *Towards Youth: a play on radical hope*, and a collaboration with Vancouver’s Khari Wendell McClelland called *Freedom Singer*. His Toronto-based company, Project: Humanity, is a leading developer of Verbatim Theatre and creates award-winning interview-based dramas. *This Is Something Else* is an Arts Club commission and Andrew’s very first podcast. His team of collaborators includes Project Assistant **Preeti Dhaliwal**, Sound Editor **Kevin Gault**, and Composer **Jeff Cancade**.

This Is Something Else is generously supported by ITC Construction Group, BMO Financial Group, KPMG, and long-time patron Lee Grills. The Arts Club would also like to thank the Canada Council for the Arts, the BC Arts Council, and the City of Vancouver for their ongoing support.

CREATIVE TEAM

Created and hosted by Andrew Kushnir

Podcast Assistant and EDI Consultant Preeti Dhaliwal

Sound editing by Kevin Gault

Original music by Jeff Cancade

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.