



ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION OF **BURNING MOM**

A DIFFERENT KIND OF ROAD TRIP
By Mieko Ouchi

March 27 to April 20, 2025
(Media opening: April 2, 2025)

IN BRIEF The Arts Club Theatre Company's production of *Burning Mom* plays **March 27 to April 20, 2025**, at the Granville Island Stage, 1585 Johnston Street, Vancouver. Tickets from \$29. More info at artsclub.com

MARCH 6, 2025, VANCOUVER, B.C. // Traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh and səliłwətał Nations – The Arts Club Theatre Company's production of *Burning Mom* is coming to the Granville Island Stage. Written and directed by **Mieko Ouchi**, *Burning Mom* is an inspiring comedy, and 99% true story, about not delaying your aspirations.

After suddenly losing her husband, Dorothy (**Susinn McFarlen**) makes an unusual decision that shocks her family. She decides to take their RV on a road trip no one sees coming: from Calgary to Burning Man, in Nevada. After all, it's only a 21-hour drive to a weeklong culture festival and party with no plumbing in the middle of a desert—how hard can it be? *Burning Mom* is a stirring odyssey of self-discovery and tale of how art, everlasting roads, and human connection propel her along the way.

"I think even though the play came out of my dear father's passing, it's become a story about life, about finding that path back to life again," said playwright and director Mieko Ouchi. "The desert provides the most moving images of Burning Man—the scale and the size of these minuscule humans in this incredibly empty space. I think it's a beautiful metaphor for that sense of loneliness and how solitary we as humans are in the world in those moments of grief. I hope people leave with that sense of possibility that they could do something fantastical like what my mom did, because it *is* totally possible."

"Audiences will be captivated by Mieko Ouchi's personal, funny, and heroic story of her mother grappling with grief and personal identity following the death of her lifelong partner," said **Ashlie Corcoran**, Artistic Director of the Arts Club. "I love art that can be as specific as Mieko's piece while also speaking to our audience about the universal experiences of life: love, grief, and personal empowerment."

You'll laugh and cry as Dorothy's story invites you to take risks and enjoy the small moments in life—come along for the ride!

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Mieko Ouchi is an actor, director and celebrated Canadian playwright based in Edmonton, Alberta. Her plays have been produced across Canada since 2003. Her first full-length play, *The Red Priest*,

was a finalist for the Governor General's Award, and later won the Carol Bolt Prize. More recently, Ouchi's play *Consent* won a Sterling Award for Outstanding Production of Theatre for Young Audiences. She has worked as Playwright-in-Residence at a number of institutions, acted and directed in theatres across the country, and was the Artistic Director of Concrete Theatre until late 2020 when she became Associate Artistic Director at the Citadel Theatre. She has also worked in film and television, her award-winning film work being shown at international film festivals, and on CBC and Bravo. In 2023 Mieko was honoured with the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Award, and is a finalist for 2025 Gina Wilkinson Prize.

CAST

Susinn McFarlen (Dorothy)

CREATIVE TEAM

Mieko Ouchi (Director), **Patrick Rizzotti** (Set Designer), **Kirsten McGhie** (Costume Designer), **John Webber** (Lighting Designer), **Kim Clegg** (Projection Designer), **Ashley Au** (Sound Designer), **Ana Camacho** (Assistant Set Designer), **Rebecca Mulvihill** (Stage Manager), **Harlow Nguyen** (Apprentice Stage Manager)

Season Sponsors:



ABOUT THE [ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY](#)

The Arts Club Theatre Company is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, in particular the [xʷməθkʷəy̓əm](#), [Skwxwú7mesh](#), and [səlilwətał Nations](#). We invite you to reflect on your relationship to these lands.

The Arts Club is one of the largest not-for-profit theatre organizations in the country and 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.

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