



CITADEL THEATRE

9828 – 101 A Avenue NW  
Edmonton, Alberta Canada T5J 3C6  
Tel: (780) 426-4811 Fax: (780) 428-7194  
Box Office: (780) 425-1820

Artistic Director BOB BAKER  
Executive Director PENNY RITCO

[www.citadeltheatre.com](http://www.citadeltheatre.com)

January 18, 2016

## **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR BOB BAKER TO STEP DOWN AFTER 17 “STUNNING” YEARS**

*(Citadel Theatre, Edmonton, AB)* After 17 years at the creative helm of Edmonton’s Citadel Theatre, Artistic Director Bob Baker is stepping down, and the search for his replacement is underway.

“We have been incredibly fortunate to enjoy Bob’s artistic vision, leadership and extraordinary direction over these years,” explained Board of Directors’ President, Sheila Witwicky. “He’s brought his creative force and business acumen to the demands of leading a large arts venue, theatre company and training academy. We couldn’t have asked for a better leader.”

Bob will transition to Artistic Director Emeritus of the Citadel in the summer of 2016, on a consultative basis, with continuing involvement in the Academy and direction of his celebrated production of Tom Wood’s adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*.

“Bob has done so much more than put on plays while he’s been here,” said Board of Governors’ Chair, Sol Rolingher. “He’s helped to make the Citadel the cultural heart of the City – and he’s had a huge impact on the national theatre scene. His contributions to Edmonton and Canada have been stunning. We’ve been very fortunate to have him in our midst.”

An Edmontonian, trained in the Fine Arts program at the University of Alberta, and known for his work across Canada, Bob accepted the opportunity to return to Edmonton to run its “big house” in 1999 and since then has overseen an ongoing renaissance of theatre, cabaret, artistic partnerships and arts training. With dozens of successful productions under his direction, Bob Baker has cemented the Citadel’s reputation as one of the top theatres in Canada.

“This is a very special theatre in a remarkably supportive city. I have been fortunate to be able to do what I love in a community that demands and deserves excellence. With the great goodwill and momentum generated by our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season there is no better time to step aside. This has been a great chapter for me, and I’m looking forward to my next creative adventures in directing and teaching,” remarked Baker.

Penny Ritco, the Citadel’s Executive Director and Co-CEO, said, “Bob and I have had a great ‘theatre marriage’ for the past twelve years. His pursuit of excellence and respect for the audience challenged us all in wonderful ways and I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish together. We both love this organization and are committed to seeing it through a transition into new leadership and on to the next fabulous 50.”

The search for a new Artistic Director for the Citadel Theatre has commenced. “It’s a cliché to say that these are big shoes to fill,” concluded Witwicky, “but suffice to say that the bar has been set incredibly high

and we are seeking a candidate with vision, energy, experience and brilliance. After 17 years of Bob, Edmonton would expect, and accept, nothing less.”

- 30 -

For further information, please contact Ken Davis, Director, Marketing and Communications, [kdavis@citadeltheatre.com](mailto:kdavis@citadeltheatre.com), Phone: 780.428.2108

*The Citadel Theatre is a not-for-profit organization that relies on the generous support of donors, sponsors, and foundation and government funders.*