

MEDIA RELEASE

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED *BETROFFENHEIT* HEADLINES THE CITADEL'S 2017/18 BEYOND THE STAGE SERIES

June 14, 2017

(EDMONTON)

The Citadel Theatre's Artistic Director, Daryl Cloran, and Executive Director, Penny Ritco, announced today the Beyond the Stage (BTS) Series line-up for the 2017/18 season. This year's Series will feature four outstanding presentations – all of which are innovative, contemporary, genre-defying collisions of different art forms (music, theatre, and dance). Joining *Betroffenheit* are *Hadestown* creator and the queen of modern folk music, **Anaïs Mitchell**, in concert; *Freedom Singer*, a documentary theatre exploration of the historic realities and myths around the Underground Railroad, using hip hop, funk, and soul music; and *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*, a humorously dark and totally unique concert/theatre mash-up starring Canadian singer-songwriter **Ben Caplan**.

Betroffenheit will come to the Shoctor Theatre from March 30 to April 1, 2018. Created by award-winning choreographer **Crystal Pite** and pioneering playwright/performer **Jonathon Young**, this unforgettable hybrid of theatre and dance won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production, in addition to a Dora Mavor Moore Award. The Kidd Pivot/Electric Company Theatre production is epic, engrossing, and visually arresting, and touches on themes of loss, addiction, and recovery. With unflinching honesty, Pite and Young explore what happens to a person in the wake of trauma. Five extraordinary performers provide a glossy cabaret to Young's tragic central character using contemporary dance, comedy, drama, and text. *Betroffenheit* is presented by the Citadel Theatre and Brian Webb Dance Company.

Anaïs Mitchell, a Brooklyn-based singer-songwriter known for her narrative folksong, poetry, and balladry, will perform her eclectic music in The Club October 20 and 21, 2017. It will mark Mitchell's second performance in Edmonton this year, with the artist slated to perform at the Edmonton Folk Music Festival in August. Mitchell has toured with artists such as Bon Iver, Ani DiFranco, and The Low Anthem. All of these performers appeared on her 2010 folk opera album, *Hadestown*. Transformed into an Off-Broadway hit musical in 2016, *Hadestown* will have its pre-Broadway Canadian premiere at the Citadel in November 2017.

Freedom Singer, Project: Humanity's stunning documentary theatre piece infused with hip hop, funk, and soul music, will play in The Club October 25 to 29. Developed in association with Crow's Theatre and Vancouver's Urban Ink, *Freedom Singer* was inspired by the remarkable journey of singer-songwriter **Khari Wendall McClelland**. The Juno award-nominated McClelland retraces the steps of his great-great-grandmother, Kizzy, and – using

contemporary music styles – personalizes the songs that likely accompanied her and thousands of others as they escaped slavery in the U.S. and came to Canada.

Wrapping up the BTS Series is *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*, previously workshopped at the Citadel through its Play Development program prior to the premiere in Halifax, Nova Scotia earlier this year. 2b theatre company's **Christian Barry**, together with Ben Caplan and Dora Award-winning playwright **Hannah Moscovitch**, created this genre-bending music-theatre hybrid inspired by the real life story of Moscovitch's great-grandparents. Caplan plays the mysterious emcee in this examination of the refugee experience, viewed through the historical lens of Jewish immigrants a hundred years ago. The show is a humorously dark folktale woven together with a high energy concert. *Old Stock* will run May 9 to 13, 2018, in The Club.

With award-winning theatre, dance, and live music, the Citadel Theatre's 2017/18 Beyond the Stage Series is guaranteed to draw in new audience members and loyal patrons alike. The BTS Series Packages go on sale today and are just \$150, plus fees and GST. Single tickets for Beyond the Stage shows will be available for purchase August 1, 2017.

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Beyond the Stage Series Packages are available through the box office at **780.425.1820**.

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