

## MEDIA RELEASE

May 30, 2016

### **New Artistic Director Announced for Edmonton's Citadel Theatre and Academy**

(Citadel Theatre, Edmonton, AB.) The Board of Directors of the Citadel Theatre is delighted to announce the new artistic director of Edmonton's venerable 50 year old theatre is **Daryl Cloran**, currently Artistic Director of Western Canada Theatre (WCT) in Kamloops. Daryl begins his tenure with the Citadel in September, 2016.

The nation-wide search, which also attracted interest from international candidates, connected the Citadel's search committee, assisted by Executive Search specialists Pekarsky +Co, to over 100 artistic luminaries in the country, many of whom were applicants. Throughout the process, Daryl Cloran was identified by numerous theatre leaders as a big talent ripe for the exciting next step of running a large arts complex with several venues, a multi-faceted training academy, a loyal subscriber base and a mandate to attract and delight new audiences.

"Our extensive research unearthed considerable excitement about Daryl and we are glad that he chose to join the competition. When we met him, it was clear that he has the special combination of vision, skill, experience and artistry that running a theatre centre like ours requires," explained Board of Directors' President Sheila Witwicky.

Originally from Ontario, Cloran has been at the artistic helm of WCT for six years, and in addition is a nationally recognized director of productions across the country, including the Arts Club, Theatre Calgary, National Arts Centre, Shaw Festival, Canadian Stage and Neptune Theatre. He was the Artistic Director of Theatrefront, Toronto - known for its unique international theatre collaborations in countries such as South Africa and Bosnia-Herzegovina, which played across Canada and internationally to much acclaim. He's also the co-creator and director of DRUM! a musical celebration of the founding cultures of the Maritimes which features a large cast of dancers and musicians from Celtic, Acadian, African-Canadian and First Nations origin.

Cloran is thrilled to be spending the next chapter of his career in a theatre town like Edmonton: " My passion as a theatre-maker and Artistic Director is community. It will be my job as Artistic Director of the Citadel Theatre to become a contributing part of Edmonton's artistic community and to provide opportunities to local artists and train emerging artists from the region and across the country. I believe the Citadel must maintain a high profile leadership role within Edmonton and continue to figure prominently as part of the national theatre scene," said Cloran. "As Artistic Director I will pursue partnerships and opportunities to showcase the Citadel's work on national stages. I believe a theatre with the profile of the Citadel should be known nationally for its work, and while the Edmonton

community will always be our primary audience, audiences across North America should see our fabulous productions.”

Growing audiences is a particular focus of Cloran’s. He’s keenly interested in having young people experience the magic of theatre, as well as in the importance of multi-cultural voices on Edmonton’s stages. WCT is a national leader in the creation of First Nations theatre work and the support of First Nations artists. Children of God, a musical co-developed at WCT about the residential school experience in Canada will premiere at the National Arts Centre in 2017.

Cloran also has a great interest in theatrical experimentation. At WCT he created the annual High-Wire Festival which challenged the relationship between artist and audience by exploring different theatre formats (micro-performance, immersive performance, interactive productions). Cloran intends to bring this desire for experimentation and attracting non-traditional audiences to the Citadel.

“I value theatre that asks questions important to its community; I value creative risks. The Citadel is an incredible theatre company with a history of innovation, high production values and important contributions to the Canadian theatre landscape. I want to build on this success, honour its traditions and also take appropriate risks to lead the Citadel into the next phase of its artistic growth. My wife and I and our two young sons are excited to be calling Edmonton home,” concluded Cloran.

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