

MEDIA RELEASE

MUST-SEE MUSICAL, *CHILDREN OF GOD*, OPENS AT THE CITADEL

February 15, 2018

(EDMONTON) A work of immense beauty in music and story, *Children of God* is a powerful musical that has drawn national attention for its message of resilience and redemption. *Children of God* has its share of heartache as it tells the story of an Oji-Cree family torn apart when the children are taken away to a residential school in Northern Ontario. In it, we meet Rita, a mother who was never let past the school's gate, and her kids, Tom and Julia, who never knew she came. In its fierce beauty and honesty, *Children of God* blends ancient traditions and contemporary realities, above all celebrating the resilience and power of the Indigenous cultural spirit. The Globe and Mail called *Children of God* "must-see theatre for Canadians." *Children of God* is an important story of reconciliation, connecting us all as we strive to honour the past while moving forward together.

The musical *Children of God*, written and directed by Oji-Cree artist **Corey Payette**, was developed in collaboration with English Theatre at the National Arts Centre. The show had its World Premiere at the York Theatre (The Cultch) in Vancouver in May 2017 and at the National Arts Centre. After its run at the Citadel Theatre, the production will move to Western Canada Theatre in Kamloops, B.C.

Payette is the Artistic Director of Urban Ink Productions and founder of Raven Theatre in Vancouver. He has worked as a playwright, actor, composer, and director across Canada, with credits that include *Moonlodge* (Urban Ink); *A Christmas Carol* (National Arts Centre); and *La Cage Aux Folles* (Vancouver Playhouse). This is his first time directing at the Citadel Theatre. Inspired by First Nations music, Payette's profoundly moving score also includes echoes of provocative Broadway masterpieces such as *Fun Home* and *Next to Normal*.

The production features a cast predominantly made up of Indigenous performers, including **Dillan Chiblow** as Tom/Tommy, **Sandy Scofield** as Rita, and **Cheyenne Scott** as Julia. The show features set and costume design by **Marshall McMahan**, original sound design by **Kris Boyd**, sound design by **Kyra Soko**, lighting design by **Jeff Harrison**, and musical direction by **Allen Cole**.

Children of God runs at the Citadel in the Shoctor Theatre March 3-24, 2018. Following each performance, a facilitated talk-back will take place in the theatre.

CAST

MICHELLE BARDACH	Joanna
RAES CALVERT	Wilson
SARAH CARLE	Sister Bernadette
DILLAN CHIBLOW	Tom/Tommy
DAVID KEELEY	Father Christopher
SANDY SCOFIELD	Rita
CHEYENNE SCOTT	Julia
AARON M. WELLS	Vincent
KAITLYN YOTT	Elizabeth

CREATIVE

Writer and Director	COREY PAYETTE
Original Sound Designer	KRIS BOYD
Sound Designer	KYRA SOKO
Set and Costume Designer	MARSHALL McMAHEN
Lighting Designer	JEFF HARRISON
Musical Director	ALLEN COLE
Associate Musical Director	STEVEN GREENFIELD
Fight Director	RYAN McNEIL BOLTON
Associate Director	JULIE McISAAC
Stage Manager	SAMIRA ROSE
Assistant Stage Manager	MOLLY PEARSON

MUSICIANS

STEVEN GREENFIELD	Keys
AMY NICHOLSON	Cello
BRIAN RAINE	Guitar
MARTINA SMAZAL	Viola

NOTE:

Please note that there will **not** be a media call for this production. To arrange interviews with the cast or creative team, or to obtain B-roll footage or photographs, please contact:

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Children of God is produced in association with Western Canada Theatre
An Urban Ink (Vancouver) production
In collaboration with Canada's National Arts Centre
In Association with Raven Theatre and The Cultch (Vancouver)

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Government Funders: Government of Alberta; Alberta Foundation for the Arts; Alberta Lottery Fund, The City of Edmonton; The Edmonton Arts Council; Canada Council for the Arts; Canadian Heritage.

Tickets are available at www.citadeltheatre.com and 780.425.1820. Tickets start at just \$30 plus fees and GST.

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

Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty No. 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground and home of the First Nations, including both the treaty signatories – Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, Stony and Cree-Iroquois – as well as other Indigenous peoples, such as the Blackfoot and Métis, who occupied this land. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live, create and perform on this territory.

Nikistêyhtamâkânân oma askîwihtâwin ita kâ mâwasakôyâhk Nikotwâsik Kâ akihtêk omâmawôpayônôwâw Nistam Îyinôwak, nânapo ôkih tipahamawâkan tahkikwanênkêwak-Nêhîyawak, Nahkawînôwak, Opwâsîmowak, Asinî Pwâtak êkwah Nêhîyaw Paskosikanak-êkwah kotakak Îyinôwak, tâpiskôc Kaskitêwayasitak êkwah Âpihtwâyak, kâkîh kikîwîhkêcik otah. Nitâniskê nanâskôtênân tawâw ôtah êh ayâyâhk tita wîci pimâtisîhtamâhk, tita osîhcikêyâhk êkwah tita nôkohtihwêyâhk otah askîwihtâwinihk.