

MEDIA RELEASE

Citadel renovates Shoctor in advance of heartfelt stunner *Cost of Living*

January 2, 2019

(EDMONTON) Citadel Theatre is getting no slow start to the New Year. Our first production of 2020, *Cost of Living*, is a breathtaking Pulitzer-winner from Martyna Majok presenting the beauty and cost of caring for a fellow person. From the difficulties of in-home care to the financial challenges associated with disability, *Cost of Living* is rich in heart, honesty, and humour.

In *Cost of Living*, we meet Eddie and Ani, an estranged couple trying to keep each other afloat. Eddie is a recovering alcoholic, and Ani uses a wheelchair after a car accident. Meanwhile, John, a brilliant Princeton PhD student with cerebral palsy has hired Jess, a Princeton grad struggling to make ends meet, as an in-home caretaker. The two relationships show the truth of people striving to care for another human, abled or disabled, before coming together in a surprising conclusion that will keep you talking long after the curtain falls.

Cost of Living features international stars of the stage and screen, and renowned disability advocates, Teal Sherer (*My Gimp Life*) and Christopher Imbrosciano (*Cost of Living* off-Broadway premiere, *The Good Wife*), and welcomes back Ashley Wright (*Sweat, A Christmas Carol*) and Bahareh Yaraghi (*The Kite Runner, Shakespeare in Love*). This brilliant cast was raved about at the production's debut this fall at Vancouver's Arts Club Theatre Company, and you won't want to miss them here.

We've been hard at work preparing for such a fantastic production. This December, we were thrilled to partner with Chandos Construction in renovating our Shoctor Theatre backstage in a \$130,000 project to make the Shoctor Theatre accessible for artists who use mobility aids. We are incredibly grateful to Chandos, their subcontractors, and the Canadian Heritage's Canada Cultural Spaces Fund for their support in making this project possible, so artists long into the future are able to work on one of Edmonton's biggest stages.

In addition, *Cost of Living* will feature a new seating set-up in the audience of the Shoctor Theatre, which temporarily removes a number of regular seats to allow for an extended accessible seating row. This expansion adds several new seats for patrons with wheelchairs or other mobility aids. The set-up is a pilot for a future permanent accessible seating expansion in a future season. As part of Citadel's **Inclusive, Innovative, International** mandate, we are committed to continually removing barriers for our community to take part in our city's vibrant cultural scene.

COST OF LIVING

By Martyna Majok
In association with Arts Club Theatre Company

Directed by **Ashlie Corcoran**
Set design by **Drew Facey**
Lighting design by **Rebecca Picherak**
Costume design by **Amy McDougall**
Composition and sound design by **Dave Clarke**

Cultural Creative Consultant	James Sanders
Assistant Director	Tanya Mathivanan
Assistant Director	Paul Weston
Assistant Set Designer	Jessica Hood
Dialect Coach	Adam Henderson
Original Fight Direction	Jonathon Purvis
Stage Manager	Pamela Jakobs
Assistant Stage Manager	Rachel Dawn Woods

Featuring

Ani	Teal Sherer
John	Christopher Imbrosciano
Eddie	Ashley Wright
Jess	Bahareh Yaraghi

Tickets for ***Cost of Living*** are available at the Citadel Box Office, starting as low as \$30 plus fees and GST. Phone the Box Office at 780.425.1820 or order tickets online at citadeltheatre.com.

Show Dates: January 11 – February 3
Venue: Shoctor Theatre
Recommended ages: 14+
Run Time: 100 minutes with no intermission

For more information or to arrange interviews with **Executive Director Chantell Ghosh** regarding accessibility renovations or with **cast and creative team** regarding *Cost of Living*, contact:

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NOTE: B-roll of the Shoctor backstage renovation is available upon request.

SPONSORS:

Cost of Living Presenting Sponsor: Bayshore Home Health

Season Sponsor: Capital Power

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

Citadel would like to thank **Chandos Construction, PDQ Mechanical, XMG Commercial Floor Coverings, Western Electrical Management,** and **Kerr Interior** for their invaluable contributions to the Shoctor backstage renewal project. With their help, so many artists will be able to use our backstage space and perform on one of the city's biggest stages.

The Citadel Theatre is a registered charity that relies on the generous support of donors, sponsors, and foundation and government funders.