



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 DARYL CLORAN
Executive Director PENNY RITCO

www.citadeltheatre.com

MEDIA RELEASE

***MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET* STARTS ROCKIN' THE HOUSE AT THE CITADEL THIS WEEKEND**

October 18, 2016

(EDMONTON) *Million Dollar Quartet* has been a monster hit throughout North America and, starting this Saturday night at the Citadel Theatre, Edmontonians will find out why.

Million Dollar Quartet is a powerhouse jukebox musical that captures a seminal moment in Rock 'n' Roll history. On December 4, 1956, rising stars Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins paid a visit to producer, Sam Phillips, at Sun Record Studios in Memphis where they all got their first break. They started jamming and an alert sound engineer began to roll tape. The session resulted in a series of recordings released under the name Million Dollar Quartet. The four men – each destined to become a music superstar – never played all together again.

The musical was written by American stage and film director **Floyd Mutrux** and acclaimed music historian and author **Colin Escott**. The play debuted in Daytona Beach, FL, in 2006, was performed over 2,000 times at Chicago's Apollo Theatre, made it to Broadway in 2010 (nominated for three Tony Awards that year), and has been performed in recent years in London, Las Vegas and numerous other U.S. cities.

The Citadel Theatre proudly presents its own production of *Million Dollar Quartet*, starring **Christopher Fordinal** (Citadel debut) as Elvis, **Greg Gale** (Citadel debut) as Johnny Cash, **Christo Graham** (Citadel debut) as Jerry Lee Lewis and **Kale Penny** (Citadel debut) as Carl Perkins. Also starring in the show are **Vanessa Sears** (Citadel debut) as Dyanne, **Ryan Parker** (last Citadel appearance: *One Man, Two Guvnors*) as Sam Phillips, **Paul Cornoyer** (Citadel debut) as Brother Jay Perkins, the bassist, and **Nelson Collins-Lee** (Citadel debut) as Fluke, the drummer.

Million Dollar Quartet is directed by **Ted Dykstra**, who created *Evangeline* and co-created *Two Pianos Four Hands*, both productions featured at the Citadel in recent years. Edmontonians still remember his stellar performance in the role of Cale Blackwell, a character based on Jerry Lee Lewis, in the award-winning production *Fire*, presented at the Citadel Theatre in 2008.

Dykstra's side-kick in steering the cast and crew of *Million Dollar Quartet* is Music Director **Bob Foster**, who also worked on recent Citadel productions of *Bittergirl – the musical* and *Evangeline*. Bob, who is Head of Music at the Charlottetown Festival, has music directed *Anne of Green Gables*, *Alice Through The Looking-Glass*, *Evangeline*, *Mamma Mia* and *Bittergirl* for the Festival, as well as *Wizard of Oz*, *Billy Elliott*, *Rock Of Ages*, *Hairspray*, *Dirty Dancing* and *The Boys In The Photograph* for Mirvish in Toronto. Bob worked for many years with Canadian music star Jann Arden.

Million Dollar Quartet begins performances on Saturday, October 22nd, with Opening Night on Thursday, October 27th. The play runs until November 13th.

Cast

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| CHRISTOPHER FORDINAL | Elvis Presley |
| GREG GALE | Johnny Cash |
| CHRISTO GRAHAM | Jerry Lee Lewis |
| RYAN PARKER | Sam Phillips |
| KALE PENNY | Carl Perkins |
| VANESSA SEARS | Dyanne |
| | |
| NELSON COLLINS-LEE | Fluke, Drummer |
| PAUL COURNOYER | Brother Jay Perkins, Bassist |

Creative Team

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Director | TED DYKSTRA |
| Music Director | BOB FOSTER |
| Set & Costume Designer | CORY SINCENNES |
| Lighting Designer | MICHAEL WALTON |
| Sound Designer | OWEN HU TCHINSON |
| Dialect Coach | Doug Mertz |
| Vocal Coach | David Ley |
| Stage Manager | ANDREA SCHURMAN |
| Assistant Stage Manager | SANG-SANG LEE |

NOTICE OF MEDIA CALL:

A media call is currently scheduled for 1:30 PM, Tuesday, October 25, 2016, in the Shoctor Theatre. A short selected scene will be performed three times so that videographers can obtain footage of the show.

Members of the Cast and Creative Team will be available for interviews.

To RSVP your attendance at Media Call or for more information contact:

Ken Davis
Director, Marketing and Communications, Citadel Theatre
780-428-2108
kdavis@citadeltheatre.com

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103.9 FM, Edmonton Journal, VUE Weekly.

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

Tickets are available at www.citadeltheatre.com or through the box office at 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.