

MEDIA RELEASE

CITADEL THEATRE EMBRACES ROMANTIC MUSICAL *ONCE* TO OPEN SEASON

September 7, 2018

(EDMONTON) The hit song from *Once* may be called *Falling Slowly* but audiences are sure to fall quickly in love with this romantic musical! Kicking off the Citadel's 2018/19 Season, *Once* is a fun, energetic story about an Irish musician who is on the brink of giving up until a young Czech woman takes an interest in his love songs.

Based on the award-winning film of the same name by **John Carney**, *Once* is an unforgettable story about going for your dreams and the power of music to connect us all. Winner of eight Tony awards, including Best Book and Best Musical, the musical premiered at New York Theatre Workshop in 2011 and moved to Broadway in 2012. Earning rave reviews, the show also earned a 2012 Drama Desk Award for Best Musical and a 2013 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theatre Album. With a book written by **Enda Walsh** and music and lyrics by **Glen Hansard** and **Markéta Irglová**, the cast of *Once* also acts as the orchestra, bringing their musical talents to life on stage.

The cast features **Lawrence Libor** as Guy, and **Emily Dallas** as Girl, as well as Citadel favourites **Julien Arnold** as Da, **Oscar Derkx** as Andrej, and **John Ulyatt** as Eamon. The production is directed by **Ann Hodges**, with music direction by **Steven Greenfield**, choreography by **Julie Tomaino**, set and costume design by **Cory Sincennes**, lighting design by **Louise Guinand**, and sound design by **Matthew Skopyk**.

Patrons will experience an authentic Irish pub atmosphere, as the lobby of the Shoctor Theatre will be transformed into a Dublin streetscape, complete with a bar and street signs. There will also be up-and-coming buskers performing live music before each performance. And, audience members will be allowed to take their drinks on stage and mingle with the cast before the performance begins – this marks the first time that beverages will be allowed inside the Shoctor Theatre. It's truly an experience not to be missed!

***Once* runs September 22 to October 14, 2018, at Citadel Theatre.**

-30-

CAST

RUTH ALEXANDER

JULIEN ARNOLD

BENJAMIN CAMENZULL

Barushka

Da

Svec

CHRISTINA CUGLIETTA
EMILY DALLAS
OSCAR DERKX
STEPHEN GUY-MCGRATH
RICHARD LAM
LAWRENCE LIBOR
KAREN LIZOTTE
LARISSA POHORESKI
JOHN ULLYATT
ALEXA ZHANG

Ex-Girlfriend
Girl
Andrej
Billy
Emcee
Guy
Bank Manager
Reza
Eamon
Ivonka

CREATIVE TEAM

Director
Music Director
Choreographer
Set & Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Dialect Coach
Assistant Director
Music Captain
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager

ANN HODGES
STEVEN GREENFIELD
JULIE TOMAINO
CORY SINCENNES
LOUISE GUINAND
MATTHEW SKOPYK
DAVID LEY
DORIAN LANG
BENJAMIN CAMENZULL
MICHELLE CHAN
KATHRYN BALL

NOTE: Please note that B-roll will be supplied after September 24th to media wanting video of the show. To obtain photographs of this production or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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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.