

MEDIA RELEASE

THE STARS COME OUT IN THE CITADEL'S 2017/18 SEASON

September 7, 2017

(EDMONTON) The new Citadel Theatre season, starting in less than two weeks, is literally stellar for the many accomplished artists, local, national, and international, who will appear on Citadel stages in the coming months.

The pre-Broadway Canadian premiere of Anais Mitchell's musical *Hadestown* (Nov 11 – Dec 3) has been generating buzz in both New York and Edmonton. Five New York theatre stars will make the trip to Alberta in October to begin rehearsals. **Patrick Page** is a Broadway veteran who created the dual role of Norman Osborn and his alter ego the Green Goblin in the Broadway rock musical *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*, and has starred in such major productions as *The Lion King*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Man For All Seasons*, and *Cyrano De Bergerac*. He will play Hades, the role he originated in the Off-Broadway production last year. Another *Hadestown* alumna, **Amber Gray**, who will play Persephone, comes to the Citadel after appearing as Hélène Kuragina in the much-acclaimed Broadway musical *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*, a performance that garnered a 2017 Theatre World Award. Broadway great **Kingsley Leggs** will play Hermes. He is best known for originating the roles of Mister in *The Color Purple* and Curtis Jackson in *Sister Act*. Actor and musician **Reeve Carney** will play Orpheus. His band "Carney" has opened for the likes of U2 and Arcade Fire. He is currently touring the U.S., playing guitar for blues recording artist Jonny Lang. On Broadway, he had the central role of Peter Parker/Spiderman in *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*. He also played Dorian Gray in the Showtime series *Penny Dreadful*. **T.V. Carpio**, who will play Eurydice in *Hadestown*, was featured as Arachne in *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*, and appeared in the television series *Limitless* and the Academy Award-nominated film *Across the Universe*. New York sensation **Rachel Chavkin**, who made many sit up and take notice when she helmed the much acclaimed *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* on Broadway this past season and who directed the Off-Broadway *Hadestown*, will direct the Citadel production.

The Canadian cast of *Hadestown* also is packed with top talent. Edmontonian **Vance Avery** and former Edmontonian **Kira Guloien** both have Broadway credits. Torontonians **Jewelle Blackman**, **Evangelia Kambites**, and **Andrew Broderick** have extensive theatre and film credentials across Canada. Calgarian **Tara Jackson** (Citadel: *Bittergirls the Musical*) and former Leduc native **Hal Wesley Rogers** round out the company as Fates and Workers.

Opening the 2017/18 Season is a boisterous romantic comedy with a big cast. *Shakespeare in Love* (Sep 16 – Oct 8) stars **Bahareh Yaraghi** (Citadel: *The Kite Runner*) as Viola de Lesseps and **Andrew Chown** as Will Shakespeare. Bahareh is a resident artist of ARC in Toronto, and was named one of Toronto's Top 10 Theatre Artists of 2016. Andrew's theatre credits include *Vimy* at Soulpepper Theatre, Toronto, and *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Bard on The Beach festival, Vancouver. Citadel favourites include **John Ulyatt** (Citadel: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Make Mine Love*, *Spamalot*), **Farren Timoteo** (Citadel: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Made In Italy*, *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*, *Spamalot*), **Andrew MacDonald-Smith** (Citadel: *Crazy For You*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Avenue Q*, *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*, *Mary Poppins*) and **Ashley Wright** (Citadel: *A Christmas Carol*, *August: Osage County*, *The Three Musketeers*). Toronto actor **Gabe Grey**, who appeared last season in *Disgraced*, returns in the role of Elizabethan playwright

Kit Marlowe. Gabe is best known for his roles in the Deepa Mehta film *Beeba Boys* and the television series *Bomb Girls*.

Two major acting talents from South Africa come to Edmonton this fall for leading roles in *Ubuntu (The Cape Town Project)* (Oct 11 – 22). **Mbulelo Grootboom** is an award-winning South African actor in live theatre, film and television. He appeared in *Hamlet* for the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-on-Avon and in *Antigone* for South Africa's Baxter Theatre. His film credits include Alex Hailey's epic series *Roots*, and he appears in season three of *Outlander*. Joining Mbulelo is **Andile Nebulane**, best known for his starring role as Duma in the South African television series *Hustle*.

Citadel artistic director **Daryl Cloran** will direct both *Shakespeare in Love* and *Ubuntu* to kick off the season. He also is working closely with local playwright **Mieko Ouchi** in preparing the World Premiere of the new Robin Hood adventure story *The Silver Arrow* to close the 2017/18 Season.

Another star of our season is popular Citadel veteran **Julien Arnold**, who this year steps into the lead role of Ebenezer Scrooge in the 18th season of *A Christmas Carol* (Dec 1 – 23). Arnold played Bob Cratchitt for many years, a role now taken over by **Jamie Williams**. The venerable **Glenn Nelson** will also return as Scrooge for select performances. Also appearing in this year's *A Christmas Carol* is **Shannon Taylor** (Citadel: *The Three Musketeers*, *Little Women: The Musical*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), a graduate of the Citadel/Banff Centre Professional Theatre program and a star of the Stratford Festival, appearing this year in *Twelfth Night* and *The School for Scandal* and last year in *Shakespeare in Love*.

Serious theatre lovers will delight in the exquisite writing and accomplished cast of the multiple Tony Award winning play *The Humans* (Jan 6 – 28). Directing this Canadian Premiere at the Citadel is **Jackie Maxwell**, former Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival. *The Humans* stars acclaimed Edmonton actor **Maralyn Ryan**, Canadian stage and screen veteran **Ric Reid** (Citadel: *August: Osage County*, *God of Carnage*) as well as **Laurie Paton**, a frequent performer at the Shaw Festival, whose film work includes *Beyond Control: The Amy Fisher Story*. Completing the cast is Stratford Festival star **Sara Farb** (Citadel: *Next to Normal*; Stratford Festival: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Anne Frank*, *King Lear*), Edmonton-based theatre and film actress **Alana Hawley** (Citadel: *Venus in Fur*, *The Three Musketeers*) and Dora Award-winning actor and sound designer **Richard Lee**.

Other stars in this abundant season include **Tetsuro Shigematsu** in his acclaimed one-man show *Empire of the Son*. Tetsuro is a Canadian radio broadcaster, comedian and filmmaker. He was the final host of CBC Radio One's former afternoon series *The Roundup*. He also starred with George Takei of Star Trek fame in the television movie *Rinko The Best Bad Thing*.

The ever-popular *Mamma Mia!* (Feb 17 – Mar 18) features an all-star mix of Citadel veterans and talent from across the country. **Patricia Zentilli** (Citadel: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*) stars as Donna. **John Ulyatt** (as Sam), **Ashley Wright** (as Bill), and Calgary's **Tara Jackson** (as Lisa) all put in second appearances in the season, joined by **Tess Benger** as Sophie, and **Alison Roberts** (Citadel: *Crazy For You*, *West Side Story*) as Ali. *Mamma Mia!* is directed by **Ashlie Corcoran**, recently named as the new Artistic Director of the Arts Club Theatre in Vancouver.

Corey Payette's beautiful and achingly powerful musical *Children of God* (Mar 3 – 24) evokes the resilience and strength of Canada's Indigenous people. Dora Award-winning actor **Cheyenne Scott** and Ojibway singer and actor **Dillan Chiblow** lead as Julia and Tommy, siblings who are torn from their home and sent away to residential school. **Cathy Elliott**, creator and director of the Charlottetown Festival's first all-Indigenous production *The Talking Stick*, plays the children's mother Rita. **Raes Calvert**, creator of the play *Redpatch*, plays a fellow residential school student. Prominent Canadian actor **David Keeley** (Citadel: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*) has the role of Father

Christopher while **Sarah Carlé** is Sister Bernadette. The cast also features Indigenous artists **Aaron M. Wells**, **Kaitlin Yott** and **Michelle Bardach**.

Rebecca Northan (Citadel: *Make Mine Love, Blind Date*), star and creator of the hit show *Blind Date*, brings back her unique form of audience-involved spontaneous theatre, this time in the form of a murder mystery called *Undercover* (Apr 4 – 29). This Dora Award-winning actress has performed in theatres across Canada and is a Gemini-nominated television actor. Joining Rebecca in the cast of *Undercover* is co-creator, actor and painter **Bruce Horak** (Citadel: *Blind Date*) as well as **Christy Bruce**, who performed on Broadway with Kim Cattrall and Paul Gross in *Private Lives* and who has appeared in television series *Orphan Black* and *The Handmaid's Tale*. Also confirmed for the show is improv veteran **Jamie Northan**, who has been a long-time company member with Calgary's Loose Moose Theatre.

Local actor and co-founder of The Maggie Tree theatre company, **Kristi Hansen** (Citadel: *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*), stars in the World Premiere production of *The Silver Arrow* (Apr 21 – May 13) to close the 2017/18 Season. Kristi flies high above the stage in an exhilarating display of aerial acrobatics in this rollicking nod to the Robin Hood legend. Aerial arts specialist and a recent star of the Stratford Festival's *Treasure Island*, **Katelyn McCulloch**, has the role of Maid Marian, performing alongside Edmonton's own aerialists **Stephanie Wolfe** (Citadel: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Peter and the Starcatcher, Einstein's Gift*) and **Kevin Oullett**. Music for *The Silver Arrow* is composed by Canadian rocker and recording artist **Hawksley Workman**. *The Silver Arrow* cast features the participants of the 2018 Citadel/Banff Centre Professional Theatre Program, including Edmonton actors **Jesse Gervais** (Citadel: *Crazy For You, Alice Through the Looking-Glass, One Man, Two Guvnors*), **April Banigan** (Citadel: *A Christmas Carol, Death of a Salesman, The Constant Wife*) and **Patricia Cerra** (Citadel: *Shakespeare in Love*).

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