

MEDIA RELEASE

WORLD PREMIERES OF INTERCONNECTED COMEDIES TO OPEN AT THE CITADEL THEATRE

March 14, 2019

(EDMONTON) Citadel Theatre audiences will witness not one but two World Premieres this month, with the start of Canadian playwright **Kat Sandler's** interconnected plays March 30. *The Candidate* and *The Party* are political comedies running in tandem, taking place in the Maclab Theatre and The Club, respectively. *The Candidate* focuses on a political candidate facing a massive scandal the night before an election, while *The Party* is a political fundraiser where audience members mingle with cast members as they reveal secrets and put political shenanigans in motion.

Running two shows at the same time with one cast in different theatres has never been done in Canada before, says Sandler. The idea was first conceived by English playwright Alan Ayckbourn, who wrote the diptych *House and Garden*. Those two plays that take place in the same timeline, with the same cast, but with one play occurring inside a drawing room and the other in that house's backyard. Sandler's plays take things one step further by having each story take place months apart. Every moment must be timed exactly, keeping the talented cast on their toes as they race back and forth between theatres, while changing costumes – and, sometimes characters.

Citadel Theatre's Artistic Director, **Daryl Cloran**, approached Sandler last year about writing two inter-connected shows to take advantage of the Citadel's various theatre venues. Sandler decided to examine cause and effect, with politics as her main focus. The resulting plays are sharp political comedies that satirize not only political campaigns but also Hollywood and our culture's obsession with fame. While both *The Candidate* and *The Party* are a complete story on their own, audiences are encouraged to see both shows, in whichever order they choose, to have the full experience.

Cloran and Sandler co-direct the shows, which star Dora Award-winning actor **Martha Burns** (TV's *Slings and Arrows*; Citadel's *Hamlet, As You Like It*) and Dora Award-nominated actor **Thom Allison** (TV's *Killjoys*; Citadel's *The Drowsy Chaperone*), and Edmontonians **Rachel Bowron** (Citadel's *Avenue Q, Crazy For You*), **Cynthia Jimenez-Hicks**, **Amber Lewis**, **Jesse Lipscombe**, **Glenn Nelson** (Citadel's *A Christmas Carol*), and **Luc Tellier** (Citadel's *Shakespeare in Love*), plus **Kevin Bundy** (Citadel's *August: Osage County*) and **Colleen Wheeler** (Vancouver's Bard on the Beach's *Timon of Athens*).

The Candidate and *The Party* run March 30 to April 21, 2019, in the Maclab Theatre and The Club, respectively. Tickets are available at www.citadeltheatre.com and 780.425.1820. Tickets start at just \$30 plus fees and GST.

CAST

THOM ALLISON	Marky Wright
RACHEL BOWRON	Iffy Abernathy
KEVIN BUNDY	Cole Straughan/Carter McMahon
MARTHA BURNS	Heather Straughan
CYNTHIA JIMENEZ-HICKS	Soo Biszy
AMBER LEWIS	Vidashka
JESSE LIPSCOMBE	Bill Biszy
GLENN NELSON	Jebediah “Butch” Buchanan/Woodruff Buchanan
LUC TELLIER	Dill Pickerel
COLLEEN WHEELER	Pauline Abel

CREATIVE TEAM (For Both Shows, Unless Otherwise Indicated)

Playwright/ Director	KAT SANDLER
Director	DARYL CLORAN
Set and Costume Designer	MEGAN KOSKA
Lighting Designer	KIMBERLEY PURTELL
Sound Designer	MISHELLE CUTTLER
Assistant Director	LOUISE CASEMORE
Stage Manager (<i>The Candidate</i>)	KRISTA BLACKWOOD
Stage Manager (<i>The Party</i>)	KERRY JOHNSON
Assistant Stage Manager (<i>The Candidate</i>)	RACHEL DAWN WOODS
Apprentice Stage Manager (<i>The Party</i>)	ISABEL BERGQUIST
Apprentice Stage Manager (<i>The Candidate</i>)	ERIN HAYES

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The City of Edmonton; The Edmonton Arts Council; Canada Council for the Arts; Canadian Heritage.

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