

MEDIA RELEASE**CANADIAN PREMIERE OF TONY AWARD-WINNING PLAY
THE HUMANS OPENS AT THE CITADEL****December 12, 2017**

(EDMONTON) Witness the drama and emotion of an entertaining family dinner fraught with secrets and tension when *The Humans* begins January 6, 2018, at the Citadel Theatre. Winner of four Tony Awards, including Best Play, *The Humans* takes place in a New York apartment at Thanksgiving. When the Blake family gathers to celebrate the holiday, underlying anxiety and family skeletons threaten to come out. *The Humans* shows the strength people can find in humour and how the darkest moments can turn hilarious with enough wit and self-deprecation.

Sisters Brigid and Aimee Blake, along with their parents, Erik and Deirdre, grandmother Momo, and Brigid's older boyfriend, Richard, gather at Brigid and Richard's new apartment in Chinatown to celebrate Thanksgiving. We quickly learn about the struggles this ordinary American family faces on a daily basis - and the ways they choose to get by. Fraught with humour, irony, fear, and determination, the realities depicted in the play are all too relatable.

Written by playwright **Stephen Karam**, *The Humans* was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in 2016, in addition to winning numerous distinguished prizes. Called "the best play of the year," by multiple publications, including the New York Times, Newsday, and The Washington Post, the Broadway production was a critical darling. The Hollywood Reporter praised the show for "finding gorgeous balance between humour and sadness, love and disappointment, hope and dread, solace and hollow desolation," while the Daily News called it "a play of uncommon strengths; funny, fresh, piercing, and perceptive."

The Citadel's production of *The Humans* is directed by **Jackie Maxwell**, the former Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival. Maxwell, who was the AD at the Shaw Festival for 14 years, has been recognized for her contributions to Canadian theatre with several honours, including the National Theatre School's Gascon-Thomas Award, an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from the University of Windsor, and the Herbert Wittaker/Drama Bench Award.

The cast features Edmontonian **Maralyn Ryan**, who originated the role of Mrs. Dilber in Citadel's *A Christmas Carol* in 2000, and performed it every year until 2015, when her daughter, **Kate Ryan**, took over the role (followed by **Darla Biccum** the year after). Ryan's other noteworthy Citadel performances include *Romeo and Juliet* (1991-92 and 2000-2001), *Tete a Tete* (1991-92), *Lend Me a Tenor* (1991-92), and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (2004-05). The rest of

the cast is comprised of Citadel favourites **Sara Farb** (*Next To Normal*), **Alana Hawley** (*Venus In Fur*), **Laurie Paton** (*The Glass Menagerie*, *Country Holiday*, *The Real Thing*, *Peter Pan*, *Mephisto*, and *The Promise*) and **Ric Reid** (*August: Osage County*, *God of Carnage*). Making his Citadel debut is Dora award-winning actor **Richard Lee**. With Set and Costume Design by **Judith Bowden**, Lighting Design by **Michael Walton**, and Sound Design by **Matthew Skopyk**, this hilarious, heartwarming but eerie family drama may make audiences grateful that the holiday season is behind them.

***The Humans* runs at the Citadel in Shoctor Theatre January 6 to 27, 2018.**

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CAST

SARA FARB	Brigid Blake
ALANA HAWLEY	Aimee Blake
RICHARD LEE	Richard Saad
LAURIE PATON	Deirdre Blake
RIC REID	Erik Blake
MARALYN RYAN	Momo Blake

Creative Team

Director	JACKIE MAXWELL
Set & Costume Designer	JUDITH BOWDEN
Lighting Designer	MICHAEL WALTON
Sound Designer	MATTHEW SKOPYK
Assistant Director	BRENLEY CHARKOW
Stage Manager	ANDREA SCHURMAN
Assistant Stage Manager	AL GADOWSKY

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no media call for *The Humans*. If you would like to set up interviews with the cast or creative team or arrange for B-roll or photographs to be sent to you, 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.