

CITADEL THEATRE'S 2020/21 LINEUP: THE REBEL SEASON

January 29, 2020

(EDMONTON) On Monday, January 27, Citadel Artistic Director Daryl Cloran and Executive Director Chantell Ghosh unveiled a lineup of eleven incredible titles landing in the heart of downtown Edmonton in the Citadel Theatre's 2020/21 Season. The season is another step forward in Cloran's and Ghosh's **Innovative, Inclusive, International** mandate for the Citadel, featuring show-stopping titles from all over the world and right here at home. Welcome to the Citadel's season of rebellion, featuring stories of characters who are fed up and ready to fight for what's right.

After a landmark debut in 2019 of the Citadel's Summer Musical, which packed downtown with thousands of new-to-Citadel or new-to-theatre patrons, we can't wait for another fantastic musical coming this Summer. Edmontonians will strap on their Blue Suede Shoes for the World Premiere of *ELVIS: The Musical*. This official bio-musical of The King features over 40 of his greatest hits. Through the eyes of the people of who knew him best, *ELVIS: The Musical* tells the story of his meteoric rise to stardom from an impoverished childhood in Mississippi, and all the prices he had to pay along the way. Artistic Director of the Arts Club Theatre Company (Vancouver), **Ashlie Corcoran**, directs this debut in association with the Arts Club, playing in the Shoctor Theatre July 18 to August 9, 2020.

"I'm mad as hell, and I'm not gonna take it anymore!" Our Mainstage Season opens with an unforgettable start, the first post-Broadway production of the Tony Award-winning *Network* by Lee Hall, based on the 1976 film by Paddy Chayefsky. When Howard Beale unravels live on air with millions watching, what unfolds is an electrifying look at how media shapes the public – for better or for worse. *Network* uses integrated live camera broadcast to immerse you in this technical marvel's riveting story. Celebrated Canadian artist **Jim Mezon**, best known for his three decades spent performing and directing at the Shaw Festival, will take on the towering role of Howard Beale. **Daryl Cloran** will direct the production in the Shoctor Theatre September 12 to October 4, 2020, in association with the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (Winnipeg) and the Arts Club Theatre Company.

In November 2019, Citadel audiences were treated to the Broadway-bound *Six*. November 2020, we're presenting the Canadian Pre-Broadway Premiere of another amazing new production: a rock musical adaptation of the '90s cult classic, *Pump Up the Volume* produced in association with RWS Entertainment Group and John Breglio.

We meet Mark, a shy outsider who rocks a small town by launching a Pirate Radio station in his parent's basement, broadcasting nightly as his raucous, no-holds-barred shock jock alter ego "Hard Harry." When the powers-that-be come down on him, will Mark sign off for good or pump up the volume? **Dave Solomon** (associate director, Broadway's *Tootsie*) directs this debut from writing duo **Jeremy Desmon** (book and lyrics), **Jeff Thomson** (music). Adapted from the original screenplay from Allan Moyle, *Pump Up the Volume* rocks the Shoctor Theatre November 7 to 29, 2020.

This holiday season, we can't wait to see the return of **David van Belle's** stunning new adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*. Packed with gorgeous Christmas music and some magical surprises, this adaptation delighted sold out audiences in its debut year. Edmonton's holiday tradition continues, directed by **Daryl Cloran**, November 28 to December 23, 2020.

Our first Mainstage production of 2021 is a sweeping drama from Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner*: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, adapted for the stage by Ursula Rani Sarma. Set against the backdrop of modern-day Kabul, this show is a powerful and visually inventive story of faith, womanhood, and undying hope that spans generations. When Mariam's husband brings bright young Laila into their home, the two women must find strength in each other to leave their troubled pasts behind. **Haysam Kadri** directs this revival of the acclaimed American Conservatory Theatre (San Francisco) production in association with Canadian Stage (Toronto), playing in the Shoctor Theatre January 9 to 31, 2021.

Next, the hills will come to life with *The Sound of Music*. This legendary Rodgers and Hammerstein classic is a family blockbuster that we can't wait to share with a new generation of families. When her abbess sends Maria to serve as governess for Captain von Trapp and his seven children, her life will never be the same – and her music will change the von Trapps forever. **Kelly Thornton** will direct, playing in the Shoctor Theatre February 13 to March 14, 2021.

We are proud to continue our commitment to being a home for adventurous new Canadian works with the World Premiere of *Jane Eyre*, as adapted by brilliant Canadian playwright **Erin Shields**. This beautiful adaptation takes a contemporary feminist lens on one of history's great literary heroines, with all the breathtaking period set and dress of Charlotte Brontë's masterpiece. **Daryl Cloran** will direct the debut of this adaptation in the Maclab Theatre March 6 to 28, 2021 as a key pillar of the 2021 Collider Festival.

Finally, our Mainstage Series will close with an iconic story of three women taking their sweet revenge: **Dolly Parton's 9 to 5: The Musical**. Judy, Doralee, and Violet will give their lying, sexist, egotistical, bigot of a boss his dues with an incredibly fun score from Dolly Parton herself. **Rachel Peake** will direct our season closer with a powerhouse all-female design team and band in the Shoctor Theatre April 10 to May 9, 2021.

Our Highwire Series is in the middle of a great first run, and we are thrilled to announce its return in the 2020/21 Season with three ambitious and innovative productions coming to the Rice Theatre. First up is **The Maggie Tree's** production of *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe. We can't wait to present this fast-paced drama about an elite U17 girls' soccer team from a really exciting local company. *The Wolves* will run October 24 to November 15, 2020, directed by The Maggie Tree's **Vanessa Sabourin**.

The next production continues the Citadel's support of Indigenous voices, as well as our relationship with a phenomenal local playwright: *Bears* by **Matthew MacKenzie** in association with Punctuate! Theatre and Dreamspeakers Festival Society. This provocative, kinetic, and political hit makes its return to Edmonton January 30 to February 21, 2021, after ground-breaking productions across the country. **Sheldon Elter** is set to return to the role of Floyd, and MacKenzie will direct.

Finally, we have the honour of presenting a new production of the wonderful *A Brimful of Asha* by **Ravi Jain** and his mother **Asha Jain**. This touching and utterly honest true story of Asha's attempts to arrange a marriage for Ravi explores the awkward and hilarious ripples of a cultural clash between generations. The production will feature a new cast portraying Asha and Ravi in their heartfelt and heated debate. Edmonton's own **Mieko Ouchi** will direct *A Brimful of Asha* to close the Highwire Series, March 20 to April 11, 2021.

Our 2020/21 Season promises a year of rebellion, incredible music, and of course world-class entertainment. We can't wait for Edmonton audiences to join the fun starting Summer 2020!

[CLICK HERE for show art and selected photography from the 2020/21 season.](#)

For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

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CITADEL

THE 2020/21 SEASON AT A GLANCE

SEASONAL	<i>ELVIS: The Musical</i>	July 18-August 9, 2020
MAINSTAGE	<i>Network</i>	September 12-October 4, 2020
HIGHWIRE	<i>The Wolves</i>	October 24-November 15, 2020
MAINSTAGE	<i>Pump Up the Volume</i>	November 7-29, 2020
SEASONAL	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	November 28-December 23, 2020
MAINSTAGE	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>	January 9-31, 2021
HIGHWIRE	<i>Bears</i>	January 30-February 21, 2021
MAINSTAGE	<i>The Sound of Music</i>	February 13-March 14, 2021
MAINSTAGE	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	March 6-28, 2021
HIGHWIRE	<i>A Brimful of Asha</i>	March 20-April 11, 2021
MAINSTAGE	<i>9 to 5: The Musical</i>	April 10-May 9, 2021