

MEDIA RELEASE

ESCAPE THE WINTER BLUES WITH THE SMASH GLOBAL HIT *MAMMA MIA!*

February 1, 2018

(EDMONTON) Music, marriage, mystery, and more! The care-free, smash hit musical *Mamma Mia!* dances onto the Maclab Stage (and into everyone's hearts), starting February 17. Featuring the beloved music of pop culture icons, ABBA, the story of a daughter trying to figure out who her father is before she weds will warm your heart and have you dancing in the aisles. With groovy classics such as *Dancing Queen*, *Super Trouper*, *S.O.S.* and *Honey, Honey*, audiences are sure to get swept up in the music and the magic.

Mamma Mia! transports audiences to the sunny beaches of beautiful Greece. Witness the story of bride-to-be Sophie, who has invited three strangers to her upcoming wedding because she suspects one of them is her father. Her mother, Donna, has no idea that three of her ex-boyfriends are on their way to the taverna she runs on the Greek island of Kalokairi. Once the men arrive, Donna is surprised to find sparks still flying between her and one of the men, while Sophie struggles to figure out who should walk her down the aisle.

The musical was the brainchild of producer **Judy Craymer**, who convinced former ABBA members **Björn Ulvaeus** and **Benny Andersson** to work on the project. British playwright **Catherine Johnson** wrote the book, as well as the screenplay for the film. The original production opened on Broadway at the Winter Garden Theatre on October 18, 2001. It was the eighth longest-running Broadway show and the longest-running jukebox musical in Broadway history. It has played in more than 40 countries in all six continents, and has been translated into 23 languages. More than 60 million people have seen the show worldwide and it has set the record for premiering in more cities faster than any other musical in history.

The Citadel's new production of *Mamma Mia!* is directed by **Ashlie Corcoran**, Artistic Director of the Arts Club Theatre Company in Vancouver and Artistic Producer and co-founder of Theatre Smash. Corcoran previously directed *The Gay Heritage Project* at the Citadel in February 2016.

The cast includes **Tess Benger** as Sophie in her Citadel debut and Citadel favourites **Michael Cox** (*Next to Normal*), **Tara Jackson** (*Hadestown*, *Bittergirl: The Musical*), **John Ulyatt** (*Crazy For You*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*), **Ashley Wright** (*Shakespeare in Love*, *A Christmas Carol*), and **Patricia Zentilli** (*Alice Through The Looking-Glass*). The show features set and costume design by **Cory Sincennes**, lighting design by **Kimberly Purtell**, sound design by **Peter McBoyle**, music direction by **Don Horsburgh**, and choreography by **Laura Krewski**.

***Mamma Mia!* runs at the Citadel in the Maclab Theatre February 17 to March 18, 2018.**

CAST

CHRISTY ADAMSON	Tonya
THOMAS ALDERSON	Ensemble
TESS BENGER	Sophie Sheridan
JENNI BURKE	Rosie
KARINA COX	Ensemble
MICHAEL COX	Sky
JULIO FUENTES	Ensemble
TRUDY LEE GAYLE	Ensemble
JJ GERBER	Eddie
TARA JACKSON	Lisa
ALEX KELLY	Ensemble
CORBEN KUSHNERYK	Ensemble
MELANIE PIATOCHA	Ensemble
ALISON ROBERTS	Ali
ROBBIE TOWNS	Pepper
JOHN ULLYATT	Sam Carmichael
LEON WILLEY	Harry Bright
ASHLEY WRIGHT	Bill Austin
SYNTHIA YUSUF	Ensemble
PATRICIA ZENTILLI	Donna Sheridan

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	ASHLIE CORCORAN
Set & Costume Designer	CORY SINCENNES
Lighting Designer	KIMBERLY PURTELL
Sound Designer	PETER McBOYLE
Music Director	DON HORSBURGH
Choreographer	LAURA KREWSKI
Assistant Director	BRENLEY CHARKOW
Stage Manager	MICHELLE CHAN
Assistant Stage Manager	SANG-SANG LEE
Apprentice Stage Manager	KERRY JOHNSON

NOTE:

Please note that there will **not** be a media call for this production. To arrange interviews with the cast or creative team, or to obtain B-roll footage or photographs, 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.