

FAMILY AND POLITICS A VOLATILE, FUNNY MIX AT CITADEL THEATRE'S "OTHER DESERT CITIES"

April 5, 2016

(EDMONTON) Jon Robin Baitz's provocative tale of family secrets and America's political divide comes to the Citadel Theatre this Saturday, April ninth, playing on the Shoctor stage until May first. This relatively new comedy-drama is in good hands with director **Brenda Bazinet**, who also directed *Penelopiad* at the Citadel in 2013. Bazinet steers a seasoned cast of Canadian actors with **Deborah Kipp** (Citadel: *Invitation From The Asylum*) in the role of Polly Wyeth, **Nicola Lipman** (Citadel: *Another Season's Promise, The Road to Mecca, The December Man, Another Home Invasion*) as Silda Grauman, Polly's sister, **Robin Ward** (Citadel: *Irma al Douce, Oedipus Rex, Scapin!, Romeo and Juliet, Equus*) as Polly's husband Lyman Wyeth, **Derek Moran** (Citadel debut) as Polly's son Trip, and **Liisa Repo-Martell** (Citadel: *The Syringa Tree and i, claudia*) as Polly's daughter Brooke.

Polly and Lyman are wealthy and politically prominent Republicans, living in California and on first-name terms with the Reagans. The Wymans are hosting their family for Christmas at their Palm Springs home. Estranged daughter Brooke rejoins the family after a six year absence to announce she's about to publish a memoir that will reveal a dark family secret.

The play takes place in 2004, shortly after the start of the American-led invasion of Iraq. Its relevance remains acute in this U.S. Presidential election year. American politics and politicians continue to deal with the fallout of the Iraq invasion and the ensuing Syrian crisis. Would-be presidential candidates hurl insults at each other's wives. *Other Desert Cities*, for all its rapid-fire wit and poignant family drama, is also a commentary on a war taking place thousands of miles away in "other desert cities." It also looks at the rights of a family to privacy, and where the line is drawn between an individual's responsibility to herself and those to whom she is related.

This sizzling comedy of family secrets received 5 Tony Award nominations and was short-listed for the Pulitzer Prize for Best Play.

"A fun ride..." – HUFFINGTON POST

"...a witty, blistering play." – THE INDEPENDENT, UK

"... the balance between comedy and intense family drama has been fine-tuned in richly satisfying ways." -HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"...juicy and surprising..."- NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Creative Team

Brenda Bazinet, Director
Leslie Frankish, Set and Costume Designer
Stancil Campbell, Lighting Designer
Tracey Byrne, Stage Manager
Kerry Johnson, Assistant Stage Manager

April 9 – May 1, 2016

Tickets start at just \$30 and are available at www.citadeltheatre.com or by phone at 780.425.1820.

Audience Advisory Recommended for ages 15+

- 30 -

MEDIA CALL:

The media call for *Other Desert Cities* is **1:30 PM, Tuesday April 12, 2016**, in the Shoctor Theatre. We will present one scene two or three times, followed by interviews with cast and creative team.

To RSVP to the media call or for more information, please contact:

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