

MEDIA RELEASE

WITHOUT FURTHER ADO: THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *THE GARNEAU BLOCK*

September 8, 2020

On March 13, 2020, days before *The Garneau Block* was set to open, we turned off the lights on our stages due to COVID-19. *The Garneau Block* set stood still on the Maclab stage for over 18 months waiting for its debut. With great joy and excitement, we welcome the World Premiere of *The Garneau Block* back to the Citadel, starting September 18, 2021 on the Maclab Theatre stage.

Madison, an aspiring young journalist, hides a big secret. Her parents look for a fresh start. Her best friend, Jonas, is stuck in the rut of late-night improv shows. Down the street, Shirley grapples with allegations about her husband, the mysterious Rajinder remains an enigma to the neighbourhood, and the Perlitz house rests haunted by the events of its former inhabitants. When flyers appear around the Garneau Block inviting the community to come together and save the neighbourhood, out folds a satirical and moving story of everyday Edmontonians trying to do what Edmontonians do best: rebuild.

Todd Babiak's bestselling and Giller Prize-winning novel won its city's heart with a sharply satirical wit and undeniably local inspiration. Originally serialized weekly in the Edmonton Journal, the collection soon became an audience favourite before being published as a novel in 2006. Its story of a run-down house and a community's efforts to save it come to life in **Belinda Cornish's** stage adaptation of *The Garneau Block*, running September 18 - October 10, 2021.

The piece (commissioned by the Citadel in 2018 as part of the Playwrights' Lab) stays true to Babiak's biting edge, updated for the #MeToo era. Cornish's voice as a writer, best known for award-winning thriller *Category E*, brings a hilarious and feminist perspective to the story of Madison Weiss, the Perlitz family, disgraced professor Raymond Terletsky, and many others from Babiak's beloved novel.

Rachel Peake, who has developed *The Garneau Block* alongside Cornish since its commission, directs this whip-smart satire. Renowned Edmonton designer, **Narda McCarroll**, brings the fictional Edmonton block to life as Set and Lighting Designer, and **Joanna Yu** (best known for her work on some of Canada's hottest new plays) joins the team as Costume Designer. **Matthew Skopyk** (recently at the Citadel for Catalyst Theatre's *The Invisible*) joins as Sound Designer.

Rachel Bowron (*The Candidate/The Party*) is aspiring journalist Madison Weiss. She's joined by **Andrew Kushnir** (*The Gay Heritage Project*) as actor Jonas Pond, and **Stephanie Wolfe** (*The Silver Arrow*) and **George Szilagyi** (*Peter Pan*) as Madison's parents, Abby and David Weiss. Their neighbours, 124 Street shop-owner Shirley Wong and professor-under-fire Raymond Terletsky are played by **Nadien Chu** (*The*

Tempest) and **Julien Arnold** (*A Christmas Carol*). **Shelly Anthony** (Stratford Festival) plays the unknown Rajinder, **Ryan Cunningham** (*Oh, What a Beautiful War!*) is the lively Barry, and **Alana Hawley Purvis** (*The Humans*) rounds out the cast as a variety of colourful characters around the Block.

***The Garneau Block* plays in the Maclab Theatre September 18 - October 10, 2021. Tickets available now at 780.425.1820 through our Box Office, or online at citadeltheatre.com.**

Production photos will be available upon request.

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CAST

Rajinder	Shelly Anthony
Raymond	Julien Arnold
Madison	Rachel Bowron
Shirley	Nadien Chu
Barry	Ryan Cunningham
Helen/Tammy/Claudia	Alana Hawley Purvis
Jonas	Andrew Kushnir
David	George Szilagyi
Abby	Stephanie Wolfe

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Rachel Peake
Playwright	Belinda Cornish
Set and Lighting Designer	Narda McCarroll
Costume Designer	Joanna Yu
Sound Designer	Matthew Skopyk
Stage Manager	Molly Pearson
Assistant Stage Manager	Al Gadowsky
Apprentice Stage Manager	Andrea Handel Rivera
Assistant Director	Kim Mattice-Wanat
Assistant Set and Lighting Designer	Brianna Kolybaba

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SPONSORS:

Season Sponsor: Capital Power

Government Funders: Government of Alberta; Alberta Foundation for the Arts; Alberta Lottery Fund, The City of Edmonton; Edmonton Community Foundation; The Edmonton Arts Council; Canada Council for the Arts; Canadian Heritage.

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