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2015/16 SEASON

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Evangeline's Powerhouse Cast Announced



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(EDMONTON) Co-producers, the Citadel Theatre and Charlottetown Festival, today released the entire cast list for *Evangeline*, the epic Canadian musical by **Ted Dykstra**. Directed by the Citadel's **Bob Baker**, this re-imagined production will feature a powerhouse 26-member cast of the finest musical theatre performers from across Canada, including several Edmonton artists.

"We are overjoyed to have such depth of talent and experience joining forces to bring this important new Canadian musical to life." says Baker, Citadel Theatre Artistic Director.

The companies previously announced **Josée Boudreau** and **Jay Davis** as the star-crossed lovers, Evangeline and Gabriel, and Tony Award-winning actor **Brent Carver** in the role of Father Felician.

Two members of the original 2013 Charlottetown production, **Réjean Cournoyer** and **Laurie Murdoch**, are back as members of the British military; Cournoyer that of the conniving Captain Hampson and Murdoch the duty-bound Colonel Winslow.

Other members of *Evangeline* include:

Julien Arnold	Basil
Hunter Cardinal	Olivier
Mark Cassius	Clairborn
Valerie Hawkins	Orchard
Stephen Guy-McGrath	Rene
Sera-Lys McArthur	Cornflower
J.D. Nichol森	Benedict
Matt O'Connor	Baptiste
Kyden Seetoo	Acorn



CITADEL THEATRE
ROBBINS ACADEMY

With ensemble members:

Kevin Aichele, Kevin Dennis, Quinn Dooley, Sheldon Elter, Susan Henley, Alex Kelly, Louise Lambert, David Light, Cameron MacDuffee, Trevor Patt, Shelley Simester, and Alicia Toner

Evangeline is a sweeping new Canadian musical, based on an epic poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It follows the quests of star-crossed lovers Gabriel and Evangeline, torn apart on their wedding day during the 1755 expulsion of the Acadians from eastern Canada. The music, lyrics and book were written by St. Albert native **Ted Dykstra** (co-creator of *2 Pianos, 4 Hands*). First mounted at the Charlottetown Festival, this new production of *Evangeline* will be re-imagined by director **Bob Baker** and will feature a 26-member cast, 10 local children, and 14-piece orchestra.

Evangeline will be part of the Citadel Theatre's 50th Anniversary 2015/16 Season and plays October 31 through November 22nd, following a four-week run in Charlottetown.

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Kevin Aichele (ensemble) is a Winnipeg-based actor, singer and musician. He has previously performed at the Citadel Theatre in *Spamalot* and *Sweeney Todd*.

Julien Arnold (Basil) is a much-in-demand Edmonton actor whose recent Citadel credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *Make Mine Love*, and *1 Man 2 Guvnors*.

Josée Boudreau (Evangeline) is an Acadian in Shediac, New Brunswick. Her Citadel credits include *Sound of Music*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Rocky Horror Show* and *Little Women*. Josée is a graduate of the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts in Toronto, and an alumna of the Citadel/Banff Centre Professional Theatre Program. She has over 10 years' experience performing in musical theatre across Canada and internationally.

Hunter Cardinal (Olivier) is a former member of the Citadel's Young Musical Company. Raised in Edmonton, he is a recent graduate of the University of Alberta's BFA Acting program.

Brent Carver (Father Felician) is one of Canada's most acclaimed actors on stage, television and screen. The Tony Award winner has performed in a number of Citadel productions, among them *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Richard III*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Brent hails from Cranbrook, British Columbia, but has made his home for years in the Toronto area.

Mark Cassius (Clairborn) is an accomplished actor, music producer/director, composer, writer and teacher. He has appeared on Broadway in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, in several productions at the Stratford Festival, and on stages across the country. Mark is familiar to many Canadians as a member of the renowned a capella group The Nylons (1997-2005).

Réjean Cournoyer (Captain Hampson) is an accomplished actor and singer who was born in Nova Scotia, partially raised in Quebec, and who has lived and worked across Canada. An alumnus of the Citadel/Banff Centre Professional Theatre Program, Réjean has appeared frequently at the Citadel Theatre, including in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sound of Music*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sweeny Todd* and *Next to Normal*.

Jay Davis (Gabriel) hails from Elmira, Ontario, and has appeared in dozens of musicals across the country. He was also featured in *Miss Saigon* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* in London's West End. *Evangeline* will mark Jay's debut at the Citadel Theatre.

Kevin Dennis (Ensemble) is an alumnus of the Citadel/Banff Centre Professional Theatre Program, appearing in *As You Like It*. A native of Oakville, Ontario, Kevin has also appeared in such television productions as *Orphan Black*, *Warehouse 13*, *Flashpoint* and *Murdoch Mysteries*.

Quinn Dooley (Ensemble) graduated this year from Sheridan College's Bachelor of Musical Theatre program. The Edmonton actress was a member of the very first Citadel Young Musical Company and has appeared in the Citadel's *A Christmas Carol*.

Sheldon Elter (Ensemble) is an Edmonton-based actor, singer and musician and a member of the popular "tiny instrument" band The Be Arthurs. He appeared last season in the Citadel's *1 Man, 2 Guvnors* and will be in the all-Edmonton cast of *Alice Through the Looking-Glass* later in the 2015/16 Season.

Stephen Guy-McGrath (Rene) is a Toronto actor and musician who played Billy in the Mirvish production of *Once* earlier this year. This will be Stephen's debut performance at the Citadel theatre.

Valerie Hawkins (Orchard) has extensive professional theatre experience, performing three years on Broadway in the musical *Ragtime*, as well as touring in the Mirvish production of *Les Misérables*. Originally from Newfoundland, Val has also enjoyed many a wonderful summer performing for the Charlottetown Festival.

Susan Henley (ensemble) is an acting veteran who hails from Sedley, Saskatchewan and makes her base in Toronto. Citadel audiences will remember her as Mother Abbess in *Sound of Music*. She has performed extensively at the Stratford Festival and was part of the first U.S. national tour of *Hairspray*.

Alex Kelly (ensemble) is a graduate of the Sheridan College Bachelor of Musical Theatre program and a former member of the Confederation Centre's Young Company. He hails from Cornwall, Prince Edward Island.*

Louise Lambert (Ensemble) is from Toronto but now makes her home in Edmonton. An alumna of the Citadel/Banff Centre Professional Theatre Program, she gave Citadel audiences a memorable performance this past season as Dolly in *1 Man, 2 Guvnors*.

David Light (Ensemble) performed previously at the Citadel in *Beauty and the Beast*. He also performed in the North American tour of *Billy Elliot - The Musical* and in the Ross Petty productions of *The Little Mermaid* and *Robin Hood*. David hails from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and is based in Toronto.*

Cameron MacDuffee (Ensemble) has worked in theatres all across Canada, including the Shaw and Charlottetown Festivals. Originally from Palgrave, Ontario, Cameron graduated from the University of Windsor with a BFA in Musical Theatre. He has performed as Johnny Cash in Charlottetown Festival's *Ring of Fire* and as Johnny in *Dear Johnny Deere*. He recently moved with his family to Prince Edward Island.

Sera-Lys McArthur (Cornflower/Ensemble) has been acting since the age of 12, appearing in the television mini-series *Revenge of the Land*. She had a recurring role on the CBC television series *Arctic Air*. She performed across from Lorne Cardinal in the award-winning play *Where the Blood Mixes* and has appeared off-Broadway in *Smoke*. Sera-Lys is from Regina.

Laurie Murdoch (Colonel Winslow) is a veteran performer, recognizable from his many appearances on hit TV shows including *Flashpoint*, *Supernatural*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Warehouse 13* and *Rookie Blue*. Murdoch's musical theatre credits include the original Canadian companies of *Les Miserables*, *Miss Saigon* and *Crazy for You*. He also played 'Uncle Ernie' in the National tour of The Who's *Tommy* and performed 996 times as Harry Bright in *Mamma Mia!* between Toronto's Royal Alexandra Theatre and Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

J.D. Nichol森 (Benedict) has spent the last 25 years as a professional actor in Canada. He is also an accomplished musician. He has performed in a number of critically acclaimed musical roles including Stompin' Tom Connors in *The Ballad of Stompin' Tom* at the Charlottetown Festival and Johnny in *Dear Johnny Deere* at the Blyth Festival. He has made numerous appearances in film and television.

Matt O'Connor (Baptiste) is a graduate of the Ryerson Theatre School. He has performed with Corpus Dance Projects, Theatre by the Bay, and the Performing Arts Collective, in addition to several TV and film appearances.*

Trevor Patt (Ensemble) has performed at the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario, Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton and at the Rainbow Stage in Winnipeg. He is a graduate of Sheridan College's Music Theatre program.*

Kyden Seetoo (Acorn) was a member of the children's chorus in last winter's Citadel production of *A Christmas Carol*.

Shelley Simester (Ensemble) is a musical theatre performer from Ottawa who has appeared at the Citadel Theatre in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *Grease* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Her television appearances include *Reign* and *Saving Hope*.

Alicia Toner (Ensemble) was in the cast of this year's Mirvish production of *Once*. Alicia, raised in Fredericton, now splits her time between Charlottetown and Toronto. She has appeared in numerous productions at the Charlottetown Festival/Confederation Centre, including the Christmas panto *Cinderella*.

*Alex Kelly, David Light, Trevor Patt and Matt O'Connor will all participate in the 2016 Citadel/Banff Centre Professional Theatre Program and appear in the Citadel's final production of the 50th Anniversary Season, *West Side Story*.

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