

## MEDIA RELEASE

A classic novel reimagined for the stage, *Jane Eyre*, opens at The Citadel Theatre

March 3, 2022

**Edmonton, Alberta** – The world premiere of a new adaptation of Charlotte Brontë’s classic romance opens later this month.

The 19th century classic novel, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë has been adapted for the stage by award-winning playwright, **Erin Shields**. The adaptation of this play was first read at The Citadel Theatre’s **Collider Festival** which took place in May 2021. Now, the script has been produced for the stage, with performances starting on March 19, 2022.

Shields is no stranger to play adaptations and has worked with many classics transforming them with creative reimagined takes. *The Lady from the Sea*, adapted from Henrik Ibsen’s play, was produced at the Shaw Festival in 2015. Her adaptation of *Paradise Lost*, commissioned by The Stratford Festival is perhaps her most successful adaptation which won the QWF (Quebec Writer’s Federation) Award in 2018. Originally delayed due to COVID-19, The Citadel Theatre is very proud to be producing this next endeavour with *Jane Eyre*.

*Jane Eyre* follows the story of a young, orphan girl who grows up with a cruel aunt and is then sent away to an all-girl school under the tutelage of an equally cruel headmaster. Finding work as a governess in a large house for a mysterious and brooding master, Mr. Rochester, Jane learns the lessons of love, betrayal and loss, and discovers her own free will and independence. This World Premiere takes a sharp, witty, and modern feminist dive into Brontë’s masterpiece in its romantic original setting.

This epic romance is directed by Citadel Theatre’s own Artistic Director, **Daryl Cloran**. “So many people have such a strong relationship with this classic story,” says Cloran, “Whether they read Brontë’s novel as an adolescent or an adult, Jane’s strength and journey of self-discovery has had such a lasting impact on each reader. We’re thrilled to bring this story to life on stage in a beautiful, romantic and very dynamic new production that I am sure will resonate with audience members who love the story, and those that are meeting Jane for the first time.”

*Jane Eyre* plays in the Maclab Theatre March 19 – April 10, 2022. Tickets are available now at 780.425.1820 through our Box Office or online at [citadeltheatre.com](http://citadeltheatre.com)

Production photos will be available after March 26, 2022 upon request.

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## CAST

Helen Belay	Bessie, Helen, Rosamund, Ensemble
Nadien Chu	Mrs. Reed, Grace Poole, Diana, Ensemble
Ivy DeGagné	Young Jane, Adele, Ensemble
Braydon Dowler-Coltman	St John, Mason, Mrs. Scatcherd, Ensemble
Hailey Gillis	Jane, Miss Abbott, Ensemble
Garett Ross	Mr. Brocklehurst, Lady Ingram, Hannah, Ensemble
Maralyn Ryan	Mrs. Fairfax, Ensemble
John Ulyatt	Rochester, Ensemble
Gianna Vacirca	Miss Temple, Miss Ingram, Mary, Ensemble

## UNDERSTUDIES

Jesse Gervais Braydon	Dowler-Coltman, Garett Ross, John Ulyatt
Christina Nguyen	Helen Belay, Ivy DeGagné, Gianna Vacirca
Gianna Vacirca	Hailey Gillis
Stephanie Wolfe	Nadien Chu, Maralyn Ryan

## CREATIVE TEAM

Daryl Cloran	Director
Erin Shields	Playwright
Anahita Dehbonehie	Set and Props Designer
Judith Bowden	Costume Designer
Bonnie Beecher	Lighting Designer
Jonathan Lewis	Composer, Sound Designer
Ainsley Hillyard	Movement Director
Janune Waddell	Fight Director, Intimacy Director
Lianna Makuch	Assistant Director
Whittyn Jason	Assistant Set and Props Designer
Madison Henry	Stage Manager
Nyssa Beirsto	Assistant Stage Manager
Adam Blocka	Child supervisor
Jenna Kerekes	Production Assistant

Caitlan Argueta                      Production Assistant

Meg Walker                              Production Assistant

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For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

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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.