

THE ROYALE

BY MARCO RAMIREZ

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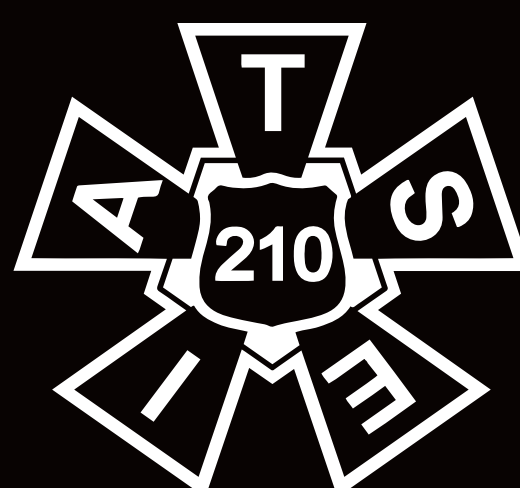
The video or audio recording of this performance
by any means is strictly prohibited.

WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE that the land on which we gather is Treaty No. 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground and home of the First Nations, including both the treaty signatories – Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, Stony and Cree-Iroquois – as well as other Indigenous peoples, such as the Blackfoot and Métis, who occupy this land. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live, create and perform on this territory.

Nikistêyhtamâkânân oma askîwihtâwin ita
kâ mâwasakôyâhk Nikotwâsik Kâ akihtêk
omâmawôpayônôwâw Nistam Îyinôwak,
nânapo ôkih tipahamawâkan tahkikwanênkêwak-
Nêhîyawak, Nahkawînôwak, Opwâsîmowak, Asinî
Pwâtak êkwah Nêhîyaw Paskosikanak-êkwah
kotakak Îyinôwak, tâpiskôc Kaskitêwayasitak êkwah
Âpihtwâyak, kâkîh kikîwîhkêcik otah. Nitâniskê
nanâskôtênân tawâw ôtah êh ayâyâhk tita wîci
pimâtisîhtamâhk, tita osîhcikêyâhk êkwah tita
nôkohtihiwêyâhk otah askîwihtâwinihk.

The Citadel engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association. Production personnel for the Citadel Theatre are members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (I.A.T.S.E.)

Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.



THE ROYALE

By MARCO RAMIREZ

Center Theater Group/ Kirk Douglas Theatre, Michael Ritchie, Artistic Director produced the World Premiere of THE ROYALE in Los Angeles, CA in 2013

Originally Produced by Lincoln Center Theater, in 2016, New York City

CAST

Mohamed Ahmed	Fish
Austin Eckert	Jay
Jameela McNeil	Nina
Troy O'Donnell	Max
Alexander Thomas	Wynton

CREATIVE TEAM

André Sills	Director
Whittyn Jason	Set, Props Designer
Rachel Forbes	Costume Designer
Steve Lucas	Lighting Designer
Dave Clarke	Sound Designer
Shakeil Rollock	Movement Director
Patricia Cerra	Assistant Director
B.C. Batty	Assistant Lighting Designer
Jameela McNeil	Movement Captain
Molly Pearson	Stage Manager
Yvette Martens	Assistant Stage Manager

VENUE Maclab Theatre

AGE RECOMMENDATION 14+

RUN TIME Approximately 90 minutes

INTERMISSION No Intermission

SYNOPSIS Jay "The Sport" Jackson dreams of being the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. But it is 1905, and in the racially segregated world of boxing, his chances are as good as knocked out. Inspired by the life of Jack Johnson, the first Black heavyweight world champion, *The Royale* brings to explosive life the ultimate fight for a place in history.

THANK YOU TO the University of Alberta Department of Drama's Wardrobe Department, Jen Kirk and the team at Bluewave Law.

The Royale is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

The Royale was originally programmed to be directed by Philip Akin. We thank Philip for his invaluable work on this show.



HEARING LOOP

The Shocter Theatre is now equipped with a cutting-edge Hearing Loop system! This is a momentous milestone in our ongoing work towards universal accessibility.

This project was made possible with a significant contribution from the Shocter Family, community donations, and the support of Hearing Loops Canada. Thank you to our generous partners who help make the Citadel a place where everyone can belong!

WELCOME TO *THE ROYALE!*

We were originally going to produce *The Royale* last year as part of our 2021-22 season, but COVID-19 had other plans for us. So, we have been waiting an entire additional year to bring you this incredible production - and we're so happy to finally get to share it with you! This play is everything we love about theatre – it is a beautiful story presented in a fantastically theatrical way.

Our thanks to Philip Akin, who was originally slated to direct this production, but had to step away from the project due to health issues. We thank Philip for his partnership and wish him all the best for a speedy recovery. And a big thanks to the amazing André Sills for stepping in as director late in the process and creating such an incredible show.

We recently announced our 2023/24 Season which includes many exciting productions including: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Sound of Music* and the return of *SIX!* We hope you'll join us for the whole season!

Enjoy the show!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Pocklington'.

Sarah Pocklington
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daryl Cloran'.

Daryl Cloran
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

BY ANDRÉ SILLS

1905!

Black and White!

Negro Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the World!

What does that mean? Is that enough? For an athlete/fighter you want the biggest challenge possible.

Heavyweight Champion of the World!

No race attached to it.

What is it gonna cost to get it?

How do we proceed in a world with no clear roadmap forward?

- André Sills



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MOHAMED AHMED FISH

Mohamed Ahmed or Moe is a Sudanese artist raised on the southside of Edmonton, known to some as MILLWOODS. SHOUTOUT 57th STREET! A recent graduate from the National Theatre School of Canada he did many shows there as a student, as well as the U of A in Edmonton. He is also a musician under the name “Just Moe” and you can find his music on all platforms. *The Royale* is his professional debut and what a beauty filled story to tell. Blessings to mine and yours <3

I thank my Mom, Ahlam Hassan, and Brother Amro Ahmed.



AUSTIN ECKERT

JAY

Austin is originally from Regina, SK - Treaty 4 Territory. Selected Theatre: *Hamlet* (Stratford Festival); *Being Here: The Refugee Project*, *Taking Shakespeare*, *Spring Awakening* (Belfry Theatre); *As You Like It* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater) *Beauty and the Beast* (Arts Club Theatre); *MISS UNDERSTOOD* (PuSh Festival); *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Winter's Tale*, (Bard on the Beach); *Mamma Mia!* (WCT); *HAIR* (Mayfield Theatre); *As You Like It* (Citadel Theatre/MTC). Film/TV: *Supernatural*, *Batwoman*, *The Flash* (CW), *Colony* (USA), *The Magicians* (SyFy), *Narcoleap* (CBC/Telus). Training: The Canadian College of Performing Arts. Awards: Leo Awards 2021 (Narcoleap) Upcoming: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King Lear* (Stratford Festival 2023) Online: @austineckert.



JAMEELA MCNEIL

NINA,
MOVEMENT
CAPTAIN

Jameela is a MacEwan Theatre Arts alumnus and artist from Edmonton. She is delighted to be returning to the Citadel stage! Citadel credits include: *The Wolves* (Maggie Tree/Citadel co-production); *As You Like It*, *The Color Purple* (RMTC/Citadel co-production); *All Because I'm A Woman*; and *Uptown Girls*. Other select credits include: *The Fiancée* (Persephone), *Heaven* (Lunchbox), *John Ware Reimagined* (Workshop West); *Sister Act*, *All Shook Up*, and *Soul Sistas* (Mayfield). Currently, she is a 2022/23 mentee under the RBC Horizon Emerging Artists Program (Citadel Theatre), with a focus in playwriting.

Thank you to my family, always. "I am my ancestor's wildest dreams."



TROY O'DONNELL MAX

Troy is an Edmonton-born actor, director, and Artistic Associate with the Freewill Shakespeare Festival. Previous Credits Include: *A Christmas Carol, The Tempest, Hamlet* (Citadel Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Measure for Measure, Much Ado About Nothing* (Freewill Shakespeare Festival); *The 39 Steps* (Mayfield); *It's a Wonderful Life, Ten Lost Years, A Christmas Carol* (Theatre Northwest); *The Umbrella* (Quest Theatre); *The Early Bloomer, Smokescreen* (Concrete Theatre); *Anxiety, Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat, The Righteous Woman* (Theatre Yes); *An Inspector Calls, The Diary of Anne Frank* (Rosebud Theatre). Troy would like to pay his respects to Albert Lust, Ken Agrell-Smith, Timothy F. Ryan, and Thomas Peacocke. May they rest in peace.



ALEXANDER THOMAS WYNTON

American born Alexander has lived and worked in London, Berlin and Toronto. Selected theatre credits include: *On The Waterfront* (Theatre Royal Haymarket-West End/Edinburgh Festival/ Hong Kong Arts Festival); *The Royale* (Soulpepper Theatre); *For Both Resting and Breeding* (Talk Is Free Theatre); *Opus, Brokeology, Sunset Baby, The Whipping Man* (Kitchen Theatre Company, Ithaca NY); *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?* (Actors Repertory Theatre Luxembourg); *Throw Pitchfork* (Off-Broadway: New York Theatre Workshop) Written and performed by Alexander. Awards: 2020 Dora Award; Outstanding Independent Theatre Performance: *Between Riverside and Crazy* (Coal Mine Theatre).



MARCO RAMIREZ

PLAYWRIGHT

Marco Ramirez has had plays produced at Lincoln Center Theater, The Kennedy Center, The Humana Festival, The Old Globe (San Diego), The Bush Theatre (London), American Theater Company (Chicago), Soulpepper (Toronto) and Center Theatre Group (LA). Honors include Helen Hayes and Drama Desk nominations, the Outer Critics Circle's John Gassner Playwriting Award, Juilliard's Lila Acheson Wallace Playwriting Fellowship, Lincoln Center's Le Comte du Nouy Award, and TCG's Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. Marco is also a WGA and Emmy Award-nominated TV writer and producer, where his credits include Marvel's *Daredevil* (Netflix), Marvel's *The Defenders* (Netflix), *Sons of Anarchy* (FX), *Orange is the New Black* (Netflix), and *Fear the Walking Dead* (AMC).



ANDRÉ SILLS

DIRECTOR

André is an award-winning Director, Actor, Producer and Writer. His credits include: 8 seasons with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, notably starring as the title role of *Coriolanus* directed by Robert Lepage; 4 seasons with The Shaw Festival including, *Master Harold and The Boys*, which he won a Dora Award & Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best Actor. As a director: Branden Jacobs-Jenkin's *GLORIA* with Crow's Theatre. He's collaborated with Souleppper Theatre, The St. Louis Black Rep, Canadian Stage among countless others. He is the co-creator, and writer of the webseries *Private Idiots*.



WHITTYN JASON

SET, PROPS
DESIGNER

Whittyn Jason (they/them/theirs) is a queer, non-binary, mixed-race artist of South African and Ukrainian descent. They are based in amiskwacîwâskahikan (colonially known as Edmonton), where they work as a scenographer and Festival Director for Found Festival (Common Ground Arts Society). Previous credits include *Little Women* (Theatre Calgary); *The Fiancée, Heaven, A Brimful of Asha* (Citadel Theatre); *Wolves* (Maggie Tree/Citadel Theatre); and *Smoke* (Tiny Bear Jaws). They hold a BFA in Theatre Design from the University of Alberta, and are a member of Associated Designers of Canada (ADC).



RACHEL FORBES

COSTUME
DESIGNER

Rachel is an award-winning set and costume designer creating for theatre, dance and film. Selected Credits: *Da Kink In My Hair*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Brothers Size* (Soulpepper); *Choir Boy*, *New Monuments* (Canadian Stage); *Death and the King's Horseman* (Stratford Festival); *Harlem Duet* (Bard on the Beach); *The Doctor's Dilemma*, *Trouble in Mind*, *Victory*, *1837: The Farmers' Revolt* (Shaw Festival). Rachel received a Dora Mavor Moore award for costume design for *The Brothers Size* (Soulpepper) and a Meritt Award for set design for *The Bridge* (2B/Neptune).



STEVE LUCAS

LIGHTING
DESIGNER

Steve has designed award winning sets and lighting for more than 500 productions of theatre and dance. His work has been seen all across Canada, United States and 25 other countries around the world. Steve has designed many world premieres, several of which have gone on to further acclaim. These include: *The Drawer Boy*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *2 Pianos 4 Hands*. Steve has received four Dora Awards, and nominations for several of Canada's most prestigious awards including the Siminovitch Prize and thirty-five Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations.



DAVE CLARKE

SOUND
DESIGNER

Dave has created sound and music for theatre, film, dance, and multi-media for three decades. Previous designs for the Citadel Theatre include *Deafy*, *Network*, *The Tempest*, *Cost of Living*, *A Brimful of Asha*, and *Mary's Wedding: A Métis Love Story*. Other recent designs include *Enough* (Northern Light Theatre); *Bloomsday* (Shadow Theatre); *Constellations* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *Hold These Truths* (University of Alberta & Edmonton Japanese Community Association); *Tune To A* (Bad Hats Theatre).



PATRICIA CERRA

ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR

Patricia Cerra is an award-winning artist with a multi-faceted national career, where she has worked on over fifty productions with dozens of companies. She has been recognized with the Sterling Award for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role, Comedy. Citadel performance credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (5 seasons), *The Fiancée*, *The Silver Arrow*, *Shakespeare in Love*. As a director: *Horizon Lab* (Citadel Theatre), *Here There Be Night* (Theatre Network & Workshop West co-pro) *Tune to A* (Expanse Festival, Azimuth Theatre), *The Entire Hamlet* (Alberta Theatre Projects, workshop director & dramaturg). She is the Associate Producer for Vita Brevis Arts & the National Arts Centre on the two-part production of the critically acclaimed national best-selling novel *Fall On Your Knees*, currently running at Canadian Stage (Toronto), touring to Neptune Theatre (Halifax), The NAC (Ottawa) & The Grand Theatre (London). Patricia is also the Artistic Programs Associate with The Musical Stage Company in Toronto. patriciacerra.com



SHAKEIL ROLLOCK

MOVEMENT
DIRECTOR

Shakeil Rollock is a performer, choreographer and educator. Some Choreographic credits include *Ok, You can Stop now* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *A New Black Poet* (Outside the March); *Working Title* (Theatre Sheridan); *FAME* (Randolph College). Performance: *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical*, *Tell Tale Harbour* (Confederation Centre for the Arts); *Elf: The Musical*, *Mary Poppins* (The Grand); *Shades* (Factory Theatre/Harbourfront Centre); *People of The Sun, Bloom/Storm* (Air Canada Centre Cirque Du Soliel); *Step Up 3D* (Much Studios). Thank you to all those who have graciously shared joy through this process!



**B.C.
BATTY**
ASSISTANT
LIGHTING
DESIGNER

B.C. Batty is from Cambridge, Ontario. He is excited for his debut work with The Citadel Theatre. Selected credits: *Martyr* (ARC); *In Studio* (Sheridan College); *Ralph and Lina* (Ahuri Theatre); *AMAL, IMPACT 21* (MT Space); *This Is How We Got Here, I Call Myself Princess* (Native Earth). Upcoming: Assistant Lighting Designer (Stratford Festival).

Thank you to my family for their support, wisdom, and love.



MOLLY PEARSON

STAGE
MANAGER

Citadel: *The Garneau Block, Made in Italy* (Stage Manager); *Children of God, Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *A Christmas Carol* (Assistant Stage Manager); Freewill Shakespeare Festival: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona, A Comedy of Errors*, and *The Merchant of Venice* (Stage Manager); other stage management credits include *Last Chance Leduc* (Snowflake Productions); *Shakespeare's R&J* (Kill Your Television); *Bello* (Concrete Theatre/I'UniTheatre); *Bust* (Theatre Network); *The Passion of Narcisse Mondoux* (Northern Light Theatre/I'UniTheatre); and assistant stage managing *Mamma Mia!* (Mayfield Dinner Theatre) and *Vigilante* (Catalyst Theatre).



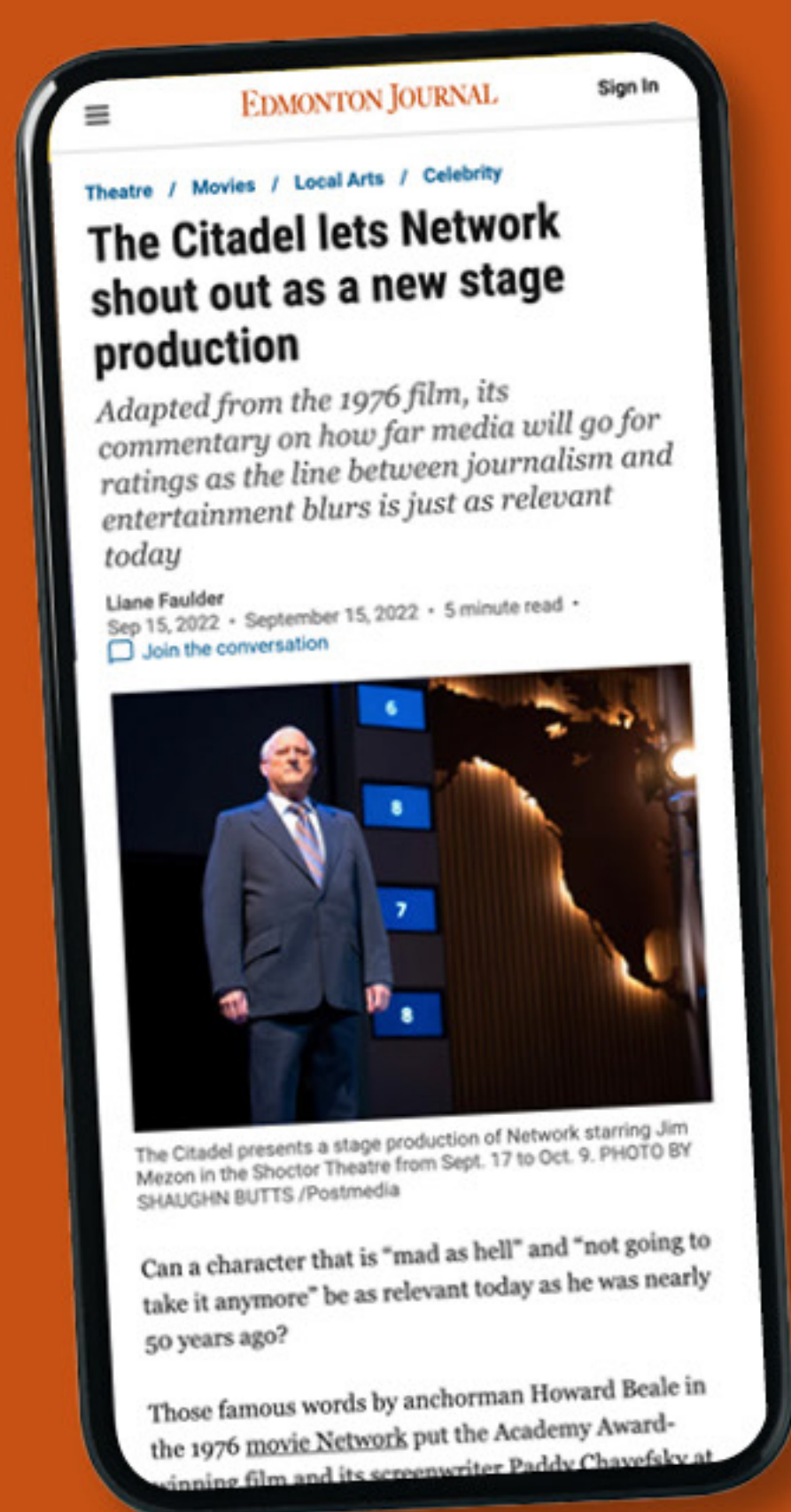
YVETTE MARTENS

ASSISTANT
STAGE MANAGER

I'm very grateful to be back at the Citadel! Previous credits include *Almost A Full Moon*, *The Herd* (Citadel Theatre); *Woman Caught Unaware* (Edmonton Fringe); 87 productions over the past 23 years at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre (too many favorites to mention), *Return of the Tenors* (Edmonton Fringe). The last two years been working with The Edmonton International Street Performers. I'm also honoured to have been nominated twice for a Sterling Award for Individual Achievement in Production. It's a great pleasure to work with such talented cast and production teams! Enjoy the performance!

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WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Citadel Theatre is in the heart of amiskwaciwâskahikan ᐱᓄᓴᑦᗵᓕᓯᖅᓴᓐᓂᓴᓐ (Edmonton, AB), and we are proud to call Treaty 6 territory home. As a regional theatre, it is integral that we ensure that the stories we tell, as well as the composition of our artists, board, staff, students, and audience are reflective of the diverse lived experiences in this dynamic city.

We commit to dismantling the systems of oppression that our organization has benefited from. We acknowledge our privilege as one of the largest arts organizations in Alberta, and one of the largest regional theatres in Canada; it is our responsibility to enshrine this commitment at the heart of our company. We pledge to be held accountable to this ongoing work with transparency and in dialogue with communities and all stakeholders.

We believe this work requires immediate and ongoing action and constant reflection. We will continue to build an anti-racism and anti-oppression intersectional framework through training, paid consultation, internal analysis, the engagement of an Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, a commitment to Edmonton's 35//50 Initiative, and significant policy changes and accountability throughout the entire organization.

We are proud to be part of our city's vibrant theatre community and commit to working together with our colleagues to exchange knowledge and ensure lasting systemic change at the Citadel and throughout the arts community. We welcome and

celebrate all voices, all bodies, and all experiences.

This is a living statement that has been crafted by Citadel Theatre's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee. If you have any questions, please contact:

EDICOMMITTEE@CITADELTHEATRE.COM

VISION STATEMENT

The Citadel Theatre believes in being Inclusive, Innovative, and International in our programming and practices

INCLUSIVE We celebrate, welcome and share stories with the many different communities that make up Edmonton. Our stages come alive with different voices and cultures. We strive to make our productions and our facilities inclusive and accessible; we believe the Citadel is a place where everyone belongs.

INNOVATIVE Our programming will celebrate new work, new performance styles and productions that experiment with dramatic form. We will develop large-scale new work by Edmontonian, Canadian and international playwrights. We will create collisions between different art forms, and present work that includes dance, music and digital storytelling.

INTERNATIONAL We will present and collaborate with exciting theatre-makers from around the world, as well as taking the fantastic work of the Citadel to audiences everywhere.

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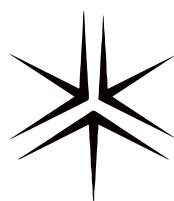


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brought professional theatre to Edmonton

JOE'S DREAM

built the Citadel Theatre

JOE'S SPIRIT

continues to inspire the theatre we create today

JOE'S LEGACY

lives on through a generous gift to the Citadel
from his estate

HENRY HOLE, 1884 – 1954

On the Citadel's 30th Anniversary, a gift was made by the Company of Harry Hole, James F. Hole, Ralph K. Hole and Robert W. Hole on behalf of the Hole family — in honour of their late father, Henry Hole.

The Citadel Theatre is proud to honour Henry Hole's integrity, compassion and leadership in the dedication of this complex to his memory.

ANNUAL SUPPORT

THANK YOU! We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our donors, whose generosity plays a crucial role in ensuring our community has the opportunity to experience the joy of performing arts. All of our donors have a profound and lasting impact on the quality, accessibility, and relevance of the Citadel's productions, facility, and educational offerings.

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