

## MEDIA RELEASE

### First Métis Man of Odesa, a love story like no other plays at The Citadel Theatre

March 28, 2023

**Edmonton, Alberta** - The Citadel Theatre's third and final Highwire production of the 2022/23 Season, *First Métis Man of Odesa* is a love story of epic proportions, that begins this April.

A presentation of the Punctuate! Theatre production, this play is a celebration of the Ukrainian-Canadian connection in the face of a pandemic and an invasion. Written and performed by real-life married couple **Matthew MacKenzie** and **Mariya Khomutova** who share the stage and tell this remarkable Odesa to Alberta love story.

After meeting on a theatre research trip in Kyiv, Métis playwright Matt and Ukrainian artist Mariya begin their romance that takes them from the beaches of the Black Sea to the riverbanks of the North Saskatchewan River, through a global pandemic and brutal war to the joyous moments of their marriage and birth of their son. Directed by **Lianna Makuch**, Artistic Producer of Edmonton's Pyretic Productions, who has previously worked as Assistant Director on The Citadel's productions of *Jane Eyre* and *A Christmas Carol*.

The Citadel is proud to be working once again with Punctuate! Theatre, after presenting their critically acclaimed production of *Bears*, also written by Matthew MacKenzie, in our 2021/22 season. Punctuate! Theatre is a Dora and Sterling Award winning theatre company based in Edmonton. Punctuate! endeavours to create accessible, relevant and subversive theatre that entertains and provokes thought amongst diverse audiences.

**First Métis Man of Odesa** plays in the Rice Theatre from April 22 to May 13, 2023. Tickets are available through the Box Office at 780.425.1820 or online at [citadeltheatre.com](http://citadeltheatre.com).

Watch the Global Toronto feature: <https://globalnews.ca/video/9600647/catching-up-with-the-first-metis-man-of-odesa/>

There will be a Masked-Audience performance on May 10, 2023 and an ASL performance on May 9, 2023.  
Production photos available upon request.

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#### CAST

Mariya Khomutova Masha

Matthew MacKenzie Matt

#### CREATIVE TEAM

Lianna Makuch Director

Daniela Masellis Production Designer

Amelia Scott Projection Designer

Daraba Composer

Aaron Macri Sound Designer

Krista Lin Choreographer

Lore Green Stage Manager

Kiidra Duhault Stage Manager (Rehearsals)

Matt McGeachy Dramaturgy

Dawn Marie Marchand Design Consultation & Scenic Artwork

Krista Leddy Beadwork

Maria Nelson Beadwork

Ashley Hiibner Painter

Amy Powell Painter

Theatre Garage Drape Stitching

art lab Fabrication

#### PUNCTUATE! THEATRE TEAM

Trent Crosby Production Manager & Technical Director

Sheiny Satanove Producer

Alyson Dicey Associate Producer

desirée leverenz Associate Producer

Emily Randall Head Scenic Painter

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For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

Alyson Dicey

Associate Producer

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## SPONSORS

Season Sponsor: Capital Power

Government and Grant Funders: City of Edmonton; Edmonton Community Foundation; Edmonton Arts Council; Government of Alberta; Alberta Foundation for the Arts; Alberta Lottery Fund; Canada Council for the Arts; Government of Canada