

MEDIA RELEASE

The Royale celebrates Black History Month in a story inspired by history

January 16, 2023

Edmonton, Alberta – Inspired by the real-life story of a Black boxer who became the Heavyweight Champion of the world, *The Royale* opens this February at The Citadel Theatre.

Inspired by the true story of Jack Johnson who won the title, *The Royale* follows Jay “The Sport” Jackson in the fight of his life. It is 1905, where U.S segregation laws drive a divide amongst the people. Jay Jackson wants the Heavyweight champion title but there is more at stake. Family conflict and the repercussions if he wins are all on the line as Jackson struggles to come to terms with the true impact of his fight and the violence it might incite. *The Royale* is a thrilling and thought-provoking reflection on the history of racism in the United States and one man’s struggle for recognition.

Written by **Marco Ramirez**, an accomplished and acclaimed writer and producer for television who has been nominated for the Writers Guild of America and Emmy Awards for work including *Sons of Anarchy*, *Orange Is the New Black*, *Fear the Walking Dead*, *The Defenders*, and *Daredevil*.

The Royale is directed by **André Sills**, an award-winning director, actor, producer and writer. He has worked with numerous Canadian theatre companies and won a Dora Award & Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best Actor for *Master Harold*... and *The Boys* (The Shaw Festival).

The Royale plays in the Maclab Theatre from February 4 – 19, 2023. Tickets are available through the Box Office at 780.425.1820 or www.citadeltheatre.com.

Production photos will be available by February 6, 2023.

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
Patricia Cerra	Assistant Director
Shakeil Rollock	Movement Director
Molly Pearson	Stage Manager
Yvette Martens	Assistant Stage Manager

For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

Brianna Gallagher
Marketing and Sales Director
bgallagher@citadeltheatre.com

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