

MEDIA RELEASE

Workshops, readings and panels happening at the 2023 Collider Festival at The Citadel Theatre

April 19, 2023

Edmonton, Alberta – The Citadel Theatre’s annual festival of new play development returns once again, featuring readings of four new plays, two artist-led workshops and premiere productions of new works on the Citadel’s stages.

2023 marks the third annual Collider Festival at the Citadel Theatre, running May 11 – 14th. This festival celebrates and helps bring to life new stories and scripts for larger stages showcasing the work of local artists and artists from across the country and beyond. The emphasis of new Play Development at the Citadel is on innovative ideas, large-vision and large-scale projects. Led by Associate Artistic Director, **Mieko Ouchi** along with industry professional artists, this weekend will showcase new works, ideas and collaboration in the playwriting community.

The festival begins with a Playwrights Mixer with the Playwrights Guild of Canada on May 11 and Keynote Welcome address with Keynote Speaker, Nina Lee Aquino. Aquino is also currently directing the world premiere of *Prison Dancer*, a new play recently developed as a co-production with the Citadel Theatre and Prison Dancer Inc. with support from the National Arts Centre’s National Creation Fund.

Collider will also present Punctuate! Theatre’s new production, *First Métis Man of Odesa* by Matthew MacKenzie and Mariya Khomutova. Festival goers can attend performances of *First Métis Man of Odesa* and *Prison Dancer* nightly during the course of the weekend.

Collider will feature readings of four new works in development by local, national, and international playwrights and composers. The Festival will also include a panel discussion about the Developing New Musicals and a mixer event with the Alberta Chapter of The 3.7% Initiative, a national program that promotes women and non binary artists of colour as they look to build artistic leadership skills in the performing arts. Play readings, mixers and panel discussions are all free to attend and do not require pre-registration.

Two artist-led workshops will take place on Saturday, May 13th and Sunday, May 14th. Artists interested in attending “Playwriting” hosted by Urusula Rani Sarma and “Making a Musical” instructed by Joe Slabe are encouraged to register early to these ticketed events as space is limited.

The full event schedule and more details are available at citadeltheatre.com/artists/play-development/collider-festival/

Festival packages are available for purchase that include tickets to both *Prison Dancer* and *First Métis Man of Odesa* along with both paid workshops by calling the Box Office at 780.425.1820 or online at citadeltheatre.com.

2023 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY MAY 11

COLLIDER LAUNCH: A PGC and Playwrights Mixer

MAY 11, 2023 5:30 PM

ZEIDLER HALL LOBBY

Join us to meet and mingle with playwrights, fellow artists and theatre lovers who are passionate about new play development. This is also a chance to check out our Pop-Up Theatre Bookstore which carries plays by many of the playwrights involved in Collider.

FRIDAY MAY 12

The 3.7% Initiative YEG+ Mixer

MAY 12, 2023 5:30 PM

ZEIDLER HALL LOBBY

Join us to meet and mingle with members of Alberta Chapter of The 3.7% Initiative, a national program that promotes women and non binary artists of colour as they look to build artistic leadership skills in the performing arts.

KEYNOTE AND WELCOME

MAY 12, 2023 7:00 PM

ZEIDLER HALL

Join us for the launch of our 2023 Festival with Nina Lee Aquino, newly appointed Artistic Director of English Theatre at the National Arts Centre and director of *Prison Dancer*, who will take us through her vision of where things are moving in the development of new Canadian work. Nina Lee Aquino is an award-winning Filipino-Canadian director and dramaturg who has tirelessly advocated for new play development and the representation and flourishing of IBPoC voices in Canadian theatre. She was the Founding Artistic Director of fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company and former Artistic Director of both Cahoots Theatre and Factory Theatre in Toronto.

READING #1: EVENING TRAIN by Ursula Rani Sarma and Mick Flannery

MAY 12, 2023 8:00 PM

ZEIDLER HALL

Directed by Séimi Campbell

Dramaturg Ken Cerniglia

Christmas, 1961. Baltimore, County Cork, Ireland. The end of the train line.

With the last train leaving town on New Year's Eve, Grace's dreams of escaping the suffocation of small-town life for bright opportunities abroad rapidly dim. As she navigates her competing affections for brothers Luther

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and Frank – and contemplates a future with each – the secrets and revenge of their feuding families fuel desperate, irreversible choices.

In the new musical *Evening Train*, a cast of seven spin a yarn of ambition, loyalty, and rivalry in a small town at the end of the world.

SATURDAY MAY 13

WORKSHOP #1: PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP with Ursula Rani Sarma

MAY 13, 2023 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

LOCATION: CITADEL BOARDROOM

COST: \$40.25

In this three hour workshop Playwright Ursula Rani Sarma will lead an exploration around developing your ideas into plays and how to ensure your own voice is present throughout. Using skills and techniques learned through her experiences of writing plays over two decades, Ursula will share her own experiences and knowledge to guide you through the process from concept to production.

PANEL: DEVELOPING NEW MUSICALS

MAY 13, 2023 6:30- 7:30 PM

ZEIDLER HALL

Join us for an invigorating in person discussion of how new musicals are born. Featuring national and international guest artists from across Canada and the U.K.

READING #2: THE TAKEOFF by Collin Doyle

MAY 13, 2023 8:00 PM

ZEIDLER HALL

Directed by Dave Horak

After 42 years of marriage Joan decides to separate from her husband Frank. Frank thinks it's a joke, until Joan starts dating the bus driver of the route she's ridden for the last 20 years. Meanwhile their daughter, Emily, is pregnant. The problem is the father of the child isn't Emily's husband of fourteen years Allan, but Ajay. Their son, Paul, is madly in love with Margo and wants to marry her. But Margo isn't sure. Then there's Grace and Joe, Joan's aunt and uncle, married for over sixty years. Joe was an airline pilot until a brain tumour grounded him. Now in his late eighties, he hopes to fly again. *The Takeoff* travels through three generations of one family, following the couplings and un-couplings of new love, old love and broken love.

SUNDAY MAY 14

WORKSHOP #2 – MAKING A MUSICAL – Instructor Joe Slabe

MAY 14, 2023 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

LOCATION: CITADEL BOARDROOM

COST: \$40.25

Musical Theatre is an art form that has roots in operetta, vaudeville and the great songwriting tradition of Tin Pan Alley. In the past century, musicals have evolved their own set of conventions and audience expectations

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that every writer should know. This three-hour session will explain these conventions and expectations, and show how they affect the subject, structure and style of successful musicals. The workshop will also provide an extensive list of practical questions that will help guide prospective writers through the process of creating a new show. Filled with examples and Broadway lore, this session promises to be entertaining for anyone who loves musical theatre.

READING #3: JUST LIKE PARIS by Marcia Johnson

MAY 14, 2023 2:00 PM

ZEIDLER HALL

Directed by Patricia Darbasie

It is 1943. Gwendolyn is a Jamaican nurse who, as a loyal British subject, answers the call for help during the war. She lands in Lethbridge, Alberta where the largest German Prisoner of War camp in Canada is located. Can she find the strength to look after people who believe that she belongs to an inferior race? The point is moot because Black nurses are forbidden to work within the armed forces. But, there's a secret that prevents her from going home. She must find a way to stay. Also in Lethbridge, in another, more well-known camp, Byron and Sakura try to make the best of life while being interned. They are expecting their first child. This gives Byron endless joy while causing Sakura endless worry. The two stories connect in an unexpected way.

READING #4 BLOW YOUR HOUSE DOWN by Louise Casemore

CO-PRESENTED WITH SCRIPT SALON

MAY 14, 2023 8:00 PM

ZEIDLER HALL

Directed by Daryl Cloran

A titan. A protege. A journalist. A bystander.

A partner. An intern. A veteran. And a protector.

When their award show gets cancelled due to some trouble at the top, a group of real estate's heavy hitters gather to celebrate and also speculate inside an impossibly well-appointed home. Serving a darkly comedic cocktail of insider gossip, workplace politics, and pretending not to wonder what really happened with the boss – *Blow Your House Down* invites you to an evening among colleagues sifting through the social wreckage of an inconvenient incident. When booze, bread, and camaraderie collide...what's the worst that could happen when the whisper network meets a microphone?

For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

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SPONSORS

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