

FIRST MÉTIS MAN OF ODESA

A presentation of the Punctuate! Theatre Production



BY MATTHEW MacKENZIE
AND MARIYA KHOMUTOVA

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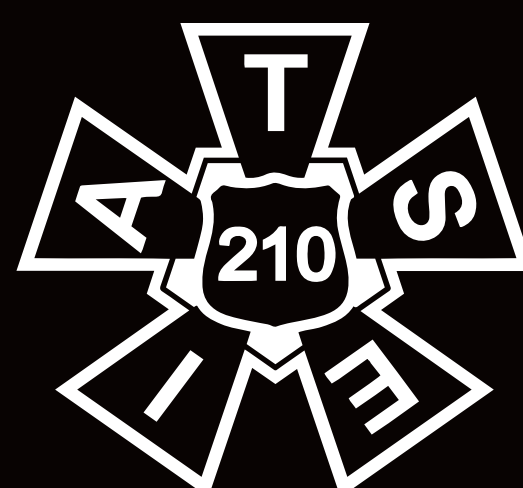
The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

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
nôkohtihwêyâhk 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.



FIRST MÉTIS MAN OF ODESA

By MATTHEW MACKENZIE

and MARIYA KHOMUTOVA

A presentation of the Punctuate! Theatre Production

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

Amorena Bartlett

Deaf Consultant

*The participation of these Artists is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT).

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

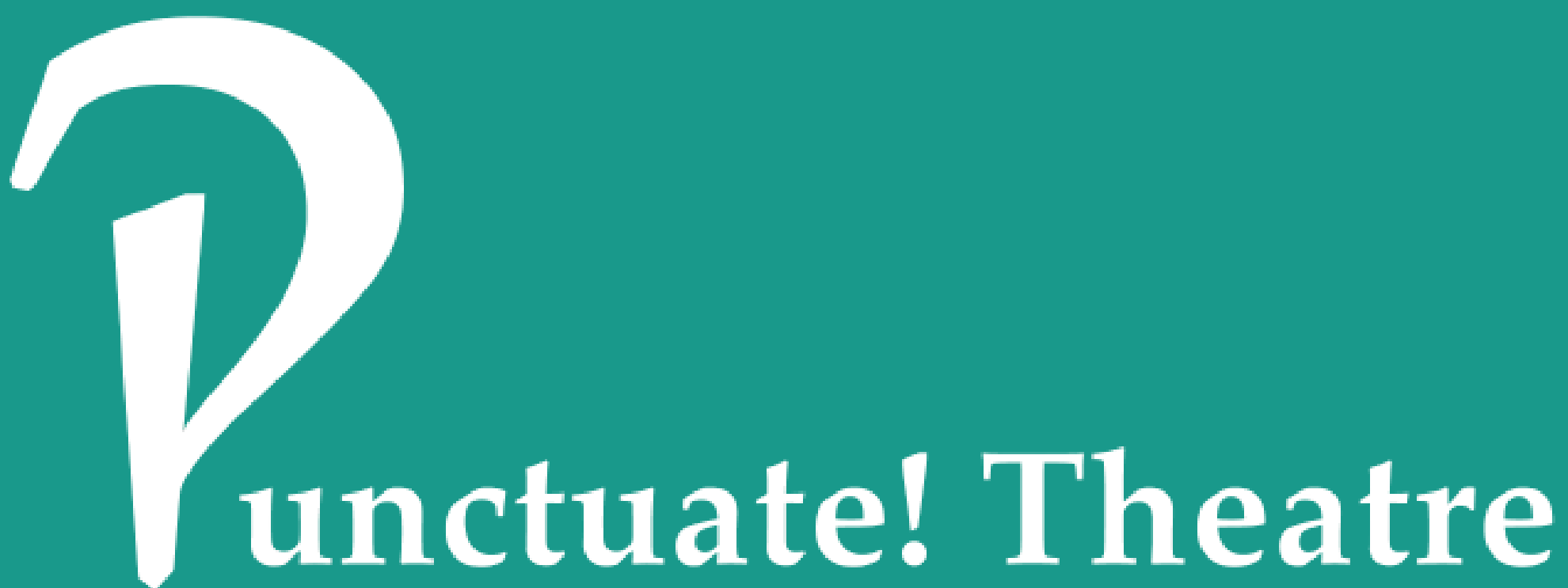
VENUE Rice Theatre

AGE RECOMMENDATION 12+

RUN TIME Approximately 90 minutes

INTERMISSION No Intermission

SYNOPSIS Based on real events, *First Métis Man of Odesa* is a celebration of the Ukrainian Canadian connection, in the face of a pandemic and an invasion. Award winning theatre artists and real-life married couple, Matt and Mariya, share the stage and tell this remarkable Odesa to Alberta love story.



○ Punctuate! Theatre is a Dora and Sterling Award winning theatre company based in Edmonton. Led by Artistic Director Matthew MacKenzie, our company endeavors to create accessible, relevant and subversive theatre that entertains and provokes thought amongst diverse audiences.

www.punctuatetheatre.com

PLAYWRIGHT THANK YOUS

Olga Chorna, Beth and Ian MacKenzie, Mila Kozlov, Simon Bracken, Guillermo Verdeccia, Nastia Ziurkalova, Keith Barker, Nicolas Billon, Rosa Labordé, Kaitlyn Riordan, Charlotte Corbeil Coleman, Michael Schamata, Jo Ann Saddleback, Jerry Saddleback, Christine Sokaymoh Frederick, Sheldon Elter, Daryl Cloran, Sarah Pocklington, Luke Reese, Weyni Mengesha, Patrick Lundeen

PUNCTUATE! THANK YOUS

Aaron Harrity, Aria Evans, Alexis McKeown, Erin Voaklander, Edmonton Fringe Theatre Adventures, Gabriel and Olenka Baron, James MacDonald, Julien Arnold, Megan Dart, Mile Zero Dance Society, Nestor Makuch, Patrick Lundeen, Pyretic Productions, Sonia Maryn, Tessa Stamp, The Tesserae Creative Construction + Design Inc, Tim Mikula, Tynan Boyd, Souleppper Theatre

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Alberta Government, Alberta Ukrainian Commemorative Society, Canada Council for the Arts, City of Edmonton, Edmonton Arts Council, Edmonton Community Foundation, Franko Family Foundation, Koziak Family Foundation, Shevchenko Foundation, Temerty Foundation, Ukrainian Canadian Veterans Fund and Cecil Semchyshyn Theatre Fund

THANK YOU TO OUR NATIONAL PRESENTING PARTNERS

Western Canada Theatre (Kamloops, BC), The Theatre Centre (Toronto, ON), Citadel Theatre (Edmonton, AB), The Cultch (Vancouver, BC), Persephone Theatre (Saskatoon, SK), Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (Winnipeg, MB)



FIRST MÉTIS MAN OF ODESA

WELCOME TO **FIRST MÉTIS MAN OF ODESA!**

Our Highwire programming is the Citadel's opportunity to showcase incredible work by local artists and theatre companies. Highwire is a place to explore groundbreaking scripts and innovative theatrical productions. *First Métis Man of Odesa* by Matthew MacKenzie and Mariya Khomutova is a smart, funny and heart-felt production based on their own real-life experience. This very timely play addresses the impacts of the war in Ukraine through a very personal lens.

We're proud to partner with Edmonton's Punctuate! Theatre again. Last season we presented Punctuate's beautiful production of *Bears* (also by Matthew MacKenzie). Punctuate! Theatre is a true Edmonton-grown success story, touring their work across Canada and picking up many awards and

accolades along the way. We're happy to share their innovative work with you.

Thanks so much for joining us for this production. 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.

Daryl Cloran

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

dcloran@citadeltheatre.com



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Sarah Pocklington

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

spocklington@citadeltheatre.com



HEARING LOOP

The Shoctor 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 Shoctor 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!

Sparking creative minds and powering a bright future

Proud to be the Season Sponsor of the Citadel Theatre for over 10 years.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

From LIANNA MAKUCH

This is a love story. And like any grand, sweeping love story, our lovers are faced with grand, sweeping obstacles that challenge their fate. They are faced with modern challenges like Facebook messaging over great distances throughout a pandemic. And like the many great love stories that came before them, Matt and Masha's story is also set against the backdrop of war.

I have been witness to Matt and Masha's love story from the beginning. It is only fitting that these two theatrical romantics would fatefully meet through the theatre. It was at a workshop of my play *Barvinok* in Kyiv that Matt and Masha first met, and a second workshop that brought Matt back to Ukraine prior to the pandemic. At the time, I had no idea that being a third wheel would grant me a unique perspective as their future director. I also had no idea exactly how quickly and significantly our worlds would change in so many ways.

When Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began on February 24, 2022, it was impossible to turn away. For so many people part of the Ukrainian diaspora, the war was and continues to be omnipresent. Mundane, routine tasks are weighted. News about it is inescapable. The cognitive dissonance of scrolling through Instagram dog memes followed by images of horrific Russian war crimes has been a reality for the last year. To be part of the Ukrainian diaspora is to contend with your head and heart breaking for your loved ones

in Ukraine, and striving to not fully dissociate from your safe, physical reality in North America.

This is also a love story about Ukraine. I want audiences to fall in love with all that Ukraine is, undefined by Russia's atrocities. Just as Matt and Masha's love blossomed on the cobblestone streets of Kyiv, or the ultra-romantic promenades outside the iconic Odesa Opera House, there is so much about Ukraine to fall in love with. Like any grand, sweeping love story, this one shows us that not even the greatest obstacles, like the most evil forces of war, can taint true love. Matt and Masha's son, Ivan, is a reminder of this unbreakable spirit. Ivan is a beautiful union of two cultures whose love has created a symbol of the kind of future we are fighting for.

Слава Україні.
Все буде Україна.





MARIYA KHOMUTOVA

MASHA,
PLAYWRIGHT

Mariya Khomutova started her theatre studies in Odesa at the age of 12. She graduated from the Kyiv National Theatre University in 2012 and worked in two repertoire theatres in Kyiv. Some of the favourite roles she has played are Agafya Tikhonovna (*The Marriage* by N.Gogol), Grushenka (*The Karamasov Brothers* by F. Dostoyevsky), Dunyasha (*Cherry Orchard* by A. Chekhov), Irodiada (*Salome* by O.Wilde). In 2020, Mariya was the recipient of a Golden Duke Award from the Odesa Film Festival for Best Actress in *Two of Us* (dir. Vladislav Vitriv).



MATTHEW MacKENZIE

MATT,
PLAYWRIGHT

Matthew MacKenzie is a citizen of the Métis Nation of Alberta and proud father of Ivan (Eevan, Vanya, Vanichka). Artistic Director of Punctuate! Theatre, Matthew is also the founder and an Artistic Associate with Pyretic Productions, a founding member of the Pemmican Collective, as well as Canadian Liaison of the Liberian Dance Troupe. Matt's plays include *Bears*, *After the Fire* and *The Particulars*.



LIANNA MAKUCH

DIRECTOR

Lianna Makuch is a Ukrainian Canadian playwright, director, performer, co-Artistic Producer of Pyretic Productions, and a producer with Punctuate! Theatre. She has travelled several times to Ukraine to research and develop her plays *Barvinok* and *Alina*, which have garnered awards and recognition including the Shevchenko Foundation's 2020 REACH Award, a 2022 Edmonton Artist Trust Fund Award, and was shortlisted for the 2022 Alberta Playwriting Award. This is Lianna's professional directing debut. She was recently Assistant Director on *Jane Eyre* and *A Christmas Carol* for the Citadel Theatre. Thank you to Patrick for his ongoing love and support.
#StandWithUkraine



DANIELA MASELLIS

**PRODUCTION
DESIGNER**

Daniela Masellis is a theatre designer and artist based in amiskwacîwâskahikan (Edmonton, Alberta), Treaty 6 territory. Daniela's training includes a B.F.A. of Theatre Design from the University of Alberta, a Diploma of Fine Arts, and a design apprenticeship in Italy at 'Teatro alla Scala Milano'. She has collaborated on over 85 professional productions across Canada. Her credits include work with The Stratford Festival, The Citadel, The Arts Club, Soulpepper, Workshop West, Mile Zero Dance, Western Canadian Theatre, The Belfry Theatre and many others. She is a full member of the Associated Designers of Canada and IATSE 659.



AMELIA SCOTT

**PROJECTION
DESIGNER**

Amelia Scott is a video designer, projection technologist, and new media artist. Her focus is in visual storytelling, using animation, film, video, and live cameras to implement nuanced integration of video and projections into live performances. Amelia is also an instructor of Video Technology and Design at the National Theatre School of Canada.

Notable collaborations include: National Arts Centre of Canada, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Munich Kammermusik, The Barbican Centre, LA Philharmonic, New Zealand Opera, Festival Trans Amériques, Porte Parole, Crow's Theatre, Espace Go, Théâtre aux Écuries, Théâtre Denise-Pelletier, Alberta Theatre Projects, The Banff Centre.



DARABA

COMPOSER

Daraba is a creative audiovisual formation (based in Kyiv, Ukraine). It was founded in 2020 by composer Andrii Merkhel and designer Yaroslav Zen. Composers and sound-designers Tetiana Khoroshun and Serhii Vilka became part of the sound studio for cultural solutions. Over the years, the team has presented a number of projects in collaboration with leading productions, institutions, and theatres in Ukraine and other European countries. Their focus is on performance, creative solutions for films, computer games, installations, and exhibitions. Each of the members that make up Daraba have many years of experience in musical, performing, and visual arts.



AARON MACRI

SOUND DESIGNER

Aaron Macri is an award winning composer and sound designer based out of Edmonton, Alberta. Over his more than twenty year career he has created music and sound design for theatre, television, dance, & film. His works have been broadcast nationally, and Off Broadway.



**KRISTA
LIN**
CHOREOGRAPHER

Krista Lin is a contemporary artist based in amiskwacîwâskahikan (colonially Edmonton). A graduate of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, Krista has studied with renowned instructors in Israel, Taiwan, and across Canada. Krista has performed in works by Heidi Strauss, Justine Chambers, Good Women Dance, Matthew MacKenzie, Gerry Morita, and Susie Burpee. Krista teaches dance in public and private institutions, and has taught outreach workshops in Ontario, Alberta, and Taiwan. With a diploma in Arts and Cultural Management from MacEwan University, Krista is a part-time arts manager and arts advocate. She is a mom to Andy, Lily, and dog-child Louie.



LORE GREEN

STAGE MANAGER

Lore is thrilled to be working with Punctuate! Theatre on this beautiful show! Selected credits include: *A Christmas Carol*, *West Side Story*, *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Sense & Sensibility*, *Hadestown*, *The Silver Arrow*, *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*, *Clue* and *Jersey Boys* (Citadel Theatre); *Timothy Findley's The Wars*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Titanic: The Musical* (Grand Theatre); *Barvinok*, *Michael Mysterious* and *Alina* (Pyretic Productions). Lore is the resident stage manager for Pyretic Productions and holds a BFA in stage management from the University of Alberta. Slava Ukraini!



KIIDRA DUHAULT

STAGE MANAGER
(REHEARSALS)

Kiidra is a stage and production manager, a sound designer, and theatre technician based out of Edmonton (Amiskwacîwâskahikan).

Selected Theatre Credits Include: *The Wonderful, & Blackhorse* (Caravan Farm Theatre); *The Wolves* (The Maggie Tree/Citadel theatre); *Barvinok, & Michael Mysterious* (Pyretic Productions); *Heaven* (Citadel Theatre's Horizon Series); *Dead Center of Town* (Catch the Keys); *Boy Trouble* (Vena Amoris Projects); *Origin of the Species* (Northern Light Theatre); *Gemini* (Defiance Theatre); *Do this in Memory of me/En Mémoire de moi* (L'Unithéâtre).



TRENT CROSBY

**PUNCTUATE!
THEATRE PRODUCTION
MANAGER,
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**

Trent is an Edmonton-based artist and arts enabler with a specialty in activating non-traditional performance spaces. A graduate of Grant MacEwan's Theatre Production program and The Banff Centre for the Arts, Trent has spent the last 13 years as a Lighting Designer, Production Manager, Technical Director, and Entertainment Programmer.



MATT McGEACHY

DRAMATURGY

Matt McGeachy is a Toronto-based dramaturg. He spent 10 seasons with Factory Theatre leading the revitalization of that company's new work development program, and has also worked with the Guthrie Theatre, the Kennedy Center, Theatre Passe Muraille, Canadian Stage Company, and Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes, among others. Matt is an alumnus of the Toronto Arts Council/Banff Centre Leaders Lab, is the president of LMDA Canada, and currently works as head of government relations at the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Upcoming: World premiere of *Vierge* by Rachel Mutombo and world premiere of *Armadillos* by Colleen Wagner.



DAWN MARIE MARCHAND

**DESIGN
CONSULTATION
& SCENIC ARTWORK**

Dawn Marie Marchand is a member of Cold Lake First Nation in Treaty Six territory. cîpêhcakwawêw-iskwêw (Blue Horse Spirit Woman) is a Cree and Metis artist, educator, advocate, author, writer, speaker, and mother. She received an Aboriginal Role Model Award for Art in 2017, during her term as the Inaugural Indigenous Artist In Residence for the City of Edmonton. Facilitation of the Indigenous Artist Market Collective engagement and launch in 2018. An installation called "The Longest Journey" as part of the Nuit Blanche Festival in 2018. Since then she has created public art in the Stanley Milner Public Library and had artwork projected in Expo Dubai in 2020. Her Treaty 6 oral history recognition artwork, 10 Sticks was projected with the Juno 2023 Land Acknowledgement in Edmonton.



**KRISTA
LEDDY**
BEADWORK

Krista Leddy is a proud Métis woman whose family comes from the historical Métis communities of St. Albert and Lac St. Anne. She currently calls amiskwaciywâskahikan (Edmonton) home. Her beadwork is influenced by the beautiful teachings, stories, and patterns of her Métis ancestors and brings the spirit of her grandmothers into all of her pieces, whether they are traditional or contemporary in nature. Krista also works to reconnect Métis people back to the community through traditional arts including beading, weaving, sewing, storytelling, and dance. @beadedchickadee



MARIA NELSON

BEADWORK

Maria Nelson is a Métis-Ukrainian woman from Redwater, Alberta. Beading is a way of building and maintaining the connection between my heritage, my past, and my identity moving forward. My favourite part of beading is exploring how colours and patterns can play off each other. I began working on reconnecting with my community and heritage around the same time I began beading. My family connections are primarily from Saskatchewan and Red River, and it was my great-grandmother's generations that we entered Alberta. I am a Lavallee, Piche, Arcand, Poitras, Anderson, and many more. It has been an educating and rewarding experience to be able to rebuild my connections to my past and heritage while also being able to build new connection in my present.



**SHEINY
SATANOVE**
PUNCTUATE!
THEATRE PRODUCER

Sheiny Satanove (she/her) is a Vancouver-born theatre and film producer who has lived in Treaty 6 amiskwaciwâskahikan for over 10 years. She is a proud founding member of Punctuate! Theatre, and currently serves as Managing Director. Sheiny has produced over twenty plays, including several world premiere productions. She is also a freelance producer and coordinator in the film industry, and has worked on several feature films and television shows across the country. Sheiny is thrilled to be touring with the Punctuate! team this year, and to be sharing such an important story. Much love to J & E.



ALYSON DICEY

**ASSOCIATE
PUNCTUATE!
THEATRE PRODUCER**

Alyson Dicey is an Edmonton-based artist and graduate of the BFA Acting class of 2012 at the University of Alberta. She is a founding member of *Girl Brain Sketch Comedy* and is proud to write and perform with a troupe that celebrates and promotes the strength of women. Alyson is an Artistic Associate with the Edmonton immersive theatre company, *Thou Art Here Theatre*, and Volunteer Coordinator/Administrative Assistant for the multidisciplinary arts festival featuring women-identifying and non-binary artists, *SkirtsAFire*. During the summers, Alyson can be found at the Edmonton International Fringe Festival in her role as KidsFringe Coordinator.



desirée leverenz

ASSOCIATE
PUNCTUATE!
THEATRE PRODUCER

desirée is a theatre director and creator, who will never wash treaty 6 soil from beneath her feet. she exists to bring questions, and reveal stories and conversations, for artists and audiences alike, so that we can all dream of a better future together. desirée loves epic stories: epic in content, aesthetic, and spirit. she's received institutional education from university of alberta (ba), and york university (mfa), and has directed in large institutions and quiet back alleys. desirée has an affinity for new work and plays with traditional text to transform ideas and institutions that are no longer serving us.



PRISON

Dancer

THE MUSICAL

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*Subject to availability, conditions and restrictions may apply

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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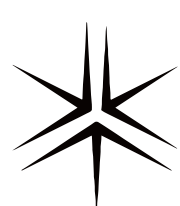
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We rely on the support of our incredible community to help us continue to offer relevant and entertaining performances on our stages and life-changing opportunities to artists of all ages and abilities through our educational programming. Please help us continue to enrich the cultural fabric of Edmonton by donating today at citadeltheatre.com!



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CITADEL
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We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$195 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country.

Nous remercions le Conseil des arts du Canada de son soutien. L'an dernier, le Conseil a investi 195 millions de dollars pour mettre de l'art dans la vie des Canadiennes et des Canadiens de tout le pays.



DR. JOSEPH H. SHOCTOR, 1922 – 2001

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND FOUNDER
OF THE CITADEL THEATRE

JOE'S VISION

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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