

MEDIA RELEASE

***Burning Mom* blazes a trail to the Citadel this February**

January 20, 2026

Edmonton, Alberta – Based on a true story, *Burning Mom* is a hilarious and moving play written and directed by Citadel Associate Artistic Director **Mieko Ouchi**, following one woman's unexpected journey from grief to radical self-discovery.

In this inspiring comedy, Dorothy, a 63-year-old widow, realizes life is too short to delay her dreams. Determined to honour her late husband's retirement plans, she takes their RV on an extraordinary road trip to Burning Man—a weeklong culture festival in the desert with no plumbing. Along the way, Dorothy faces hilariously challenging parking lessons, quirky encounters, and moments of quiet reflection. Through it all, she rekindles her adventurous spirit and discovers courage she didn't know she had.

"*Burning Mom* is the 99.9% true story of my mom, Dorothy and the unexpected journey she went on after the tragic passing of my beloved father after over 40 years of marriage. But while my mom's story began in grief, what I discovered writing it, is that it's actually about hope. It's about finding the courage to dive back into the deep end of life, even when you feel like everything is ending. I can't wait to share this joyous, hilarious, and surprising journey with Edmonton theatre-goers." - Mieko Ouchi.

The second production in the Citadel's Highwire Series, *Burning Mom* is an Arts Club Theatre Company production that previously played to enthusiastic audiences in Vancouver in March 2025. The play received four Jessie Award nominations, with wins for Outstanding Set Design and Outstanding Performance in a Comedic Lead Role, for Susinn McFarlen. Tickets for this Rice Theatre show have been selling quickly, and audiences are encouraged to purchase early to avoid disappointment.

Burning Mom plays February 14 to March 8, 2026. Tickets are available by calling the Box Office at 780.425.1820 or online at citadeltheatre.com.

An Accessible Performance that is ASL Interpreted and Sensory Informed will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 1:30pm. More information on this and other Accessible Performances can be found at citadeltheatre.com/accessibility/. Funding provided by the Stollery Charitable Foundation.

Photos will be available by Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

CAST

Susinn McFarlen Dorothy

CREATIVE TEAM

Mieko Ouchi Director / Playwright
Patrick Rizzotti Set Designer

Kirsten McGhie	Costume Designer
John Webber	Lighting Designer
Ashley Au	Sound Designer
Kim Clegg	Projection Designer
Ana Camacho	Assistant Set Designer
Rebecca Mulvihill	Stage Manager
Isabelle Martinez	Apprentice Stage Manager

For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

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Sponsors

Season Sponsor: Capital Power

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