

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Collider Festival 2025 returns to The Citadel Theatre this month featuring brand new plays and workshops!

June 11, 2025

**Edmonton, Alberta** – The Citadel's new play development festival, Collider returns June 20 – 22, 2025, featuring opportunities for artists and patrons alike.

These three days will feature readings of five new plays in development that are free and open to attend, along with artist mixers and two paid artist-led workshops that guests can register for in advance.

Led by Citadel's Associate Artistic Director, **Mieko Ouchi**, this festival celebrates and helps bring to life new large-scale stories and scripts by local artists and artists from across the country and beyond. Collider is an opportunity for theatre lovers and theatre artists alike to see what is new and upcoming in the Edmonton theatre community. Readings are free to attend, while donations are being accepted at the door that will go to support new play development and artist mentorship programs at The Citadel. This year's plays include readings of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, by **Edmond Rostand**, adapted by **Jessy Ardern**, *Persuasion* by **Katherine Koller**, an adaptation of the novel by **Jane Austen**, *The Riverside Seniors Village Theatrical Society Presents: William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet* by **Collin Doyle**, *Runaways* by **Mac Brock**, and *Nowhere With You: An East Coast Musical* by **James Odin Wade**, based on the music of **Joel Plaskett**.

Each play will be read by professional actors except for *Runaways*, which will be shared by participants in the Citadel Young Company. **Mieko Ouchi** is directing *Nowhere With You* and *Riverside Shakespeare*, **Heather Inglis** will be directing *Persuasion*, **Amanda Goldberg** is directing *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and Young Company Instructor **Mel Bahniuk** is leading the sharing of *Runaways*.

The two artist-led workshops are open for registration for a fee of \$45 plus GST and will focus on playwright development in the fields of Musical Theatre and Collaborative Creation. These workshops are sponsored by Theatre Alberta as part of *Workshops by Request: Hometown Series*.

The full event schedule and workshop registrations are available on our website at <https://citadeltheatre.com/artists/>

This year's festival is graciously sponsored by **TD Ready Commitment**.

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#### 2025 Schedule

##### **Friday, June 20, 2025**

READING - CYRANO DE BERGERAC

By Edmond Rostand Adapted by Jessy Ardern

June 20, 2025, 7:00pm

Zeidler Hall

Free to attend. Donations accepted at the door.

A freewheeling verse adaptation of Edmond Rostand's classic play, set in the Paris of 1640 commissioned by the Citadel by local playwright Jessy Ardern. Intellectually brilliant and physically ugly, *Cyrano de Bergerac* stands alone in a city of self-indulgence, corruption, and romance. He yearns for Roxane but lacks the courage to confess his true feelings – so instead, he helps the handsome but naive Christian woo her with heartfelt letters and speeches.

### **Saturday, June 21, 2025**

#### **MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP – ADAPT ANYTHING**

Instructor: Amiel Gladstone

June 21, 2025, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Citadel Boardroom

Ticketed Event: \$45 & GST

Musicals are most often created from adaptation, and this fun interactive workshop embraces that idea fully! Join instructor Amiel Gladstone and find out more about building musicals from standard source materials like novels and more unorthodox places like Craig's List! This three-hour workshop will include a lecture, discussion, time to share work and ideas, and Q and A. Video material will be shown from several of Gladstone's award-winning projects. Playwrights, composers, musical theatre creators, and writing teams are all welcome. Bring a laptop, sharpen your pencils, and come ready to be inspired and explore!

This workshop is sponsored by Theatre Alberta as part of *Workshops by Request: Hometown Series*.

#### **READING - PERSUASION**

by Katherine Koller, an adaptation of the novel by Jane Austen

June 21, 2025, 2:00pm

Zeidler Hall

Free to attend. Donations accepted at the door.

Anne Elliot, 27, cannot forget her first attachment and ruptured engagement to Frederick Wentworth almost eight years before. Now a Captain in the English Navy, her beloved returns triumphant over the defeat of Napoleon, looking for marriage with anyone but her. The estranged former lovers find themselves in constant close company, excluded, injured, and pressured by others, or separated and disturbed until both hearts are finally opened, understood, and rejoined for all time. In *Persuasion*, adapted from the last novel by Jane Austen, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of her birth, anything is possible—then and now—from season to season: love, like friendship, can be lost and found again.

#### **PLAYWRIGHTS MIXER**

June 21, 2025, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Zeidler Hall Lobby

Free to attend.

Join us to meet and mingle with fellow playwrights, 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 local writers and many of the playwrights involved in Collider.

READING - THE RIVERSIDE SENIORS VILLAGE THEATRICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO AND JULIET

by Collin Doyle

June 21, 2025, 7:00pm

Zeidler Hall

Free to attend. Donations accepted at the door.

Julie Glover, a 'somewhat former' actor in her forties who currently works at the library, has had a tough couple of years and is in desperate need of a win. When Julie's Aunt Becky asks her to direct the Seniors Village Theatrical Society's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, Julie hesitantly agrees, despite some reservations. *The Riverside Seniors Village Theatrical Society Presents: William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet* follows Julie as she auditions, rehearses, and stages the classic play with a group of residents. This senior production of *Romeo and Juliet* encompasses all the familiar scenes while also delving into the behind-the-scenes drama, ego clashes, love, care, understanding, and comedy that arise when a group of seniors, with aging bodies and faulty memories, come together to tell a story of young love.

**Sunday, June 22, 2025**

PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP – EQUITABLE DEVISING WITH CHOREOGRAPHY AND PLAYWRITING

Instructors Beth Graham & Ainsley Hillyard

June 22, 2025, 10:00am - 1:00pm

David D. Bentley Salon

Ticketed Event: \$45 & GST

In the theatre world, text traditionally takes precedence. What if this wasn't the case? Ainsley and Beth challenge traditional ways of writing and choreographing where the script does not need to dictate the outcome, and all content is influential to the story. In this workshop, we will explore different devising techniques that centre both writing and choreography as entry points into the creation of new work. Ainsley and Beth will be drawing from their experience collaborating on *Mermaid Legs*, a dance theatre fantasia that premiered in 2024 at SkirtsAfire Festival. Wear comfortable clothes you can move in, indoor runners, and bring whatever tools you write with (computer, pen and paper, iPad).

This workshop is sponsored by Theatre Alberta as part of *Workshops by Request: Hometown Series*.

READING - RUNAWAYS

by Mac Brock

Read by participants in the Citadel Young Company

June 22, 2025, 2:00pm

Zeidler Hall

Free to attend. Donations accepted at the door.

Rosie is sending her last transmission. On a summer night in small-town Alberta, she'll unpack generations of her family's mysteries to understand once and for all why — ever since her mother's bizarre disappearance — the people around her just can't seem to stop leaving. *Runaways* is a larger-than-life ensemble play about coming of age on the prairies. *Runaways* is a Citadel commission written specifically for the Young Company from local playwright *Mac Brock* and was supported by the Edmonton Arts Council Connections & Exchanges Initiatives Program.

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#### READING - NOWHERE WITH YOU: AN EAST COAST MUSICAL

by James Odin Wade, based on the music of Joel Plaskett

June 22, 2025, 7:00pm

Zeidler Hall

Free to attend. Donations accepted at the door.

*Nowhere With You* is a funny and heartfelt story about the reasons we leave home—and the reasons we can't—woven through the many-layered songbook of Joel Plaskett, one of Canada's most celebrated singer/songwriters. When musician Jay is forced to come up with new music or lose his record deal, he returns to his hometown of Halifax during the holidays to find inspiration in his parents' garage, where he first fell in love with music. As he sorts through the remnants of the band he left behind years ago, hoping to hear the music again, relatives, friends and an ex-lover find their way into the former jam space. As the modest garage space comes alive in the retelling of the band's rise and fall, Jay must confront his greatest regrets and decide what, and who, his music is for.

This reading co-presented with Script Salon

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For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

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#### SPONSORS:

Season Sponsor: Capital Power

**CITADEL**

Sponsor of Play Development: This year's festival is graciously sponsored by TD Ready Commitment.

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