

## MEDIA RELEASE

Visually stunning and emotionally inspiring, *Life of Pi*, opens at The Citadel Theatre

August 19, 2025

**Edmonton, Alberta** – The Citadel is proud to be the first regional theatre to take on this remarkable adventure that crosses cultures, species and a vast ocean.

*Life of Pi* is the story of a young boy, named Pi, stranded on a lifeboat with several escaped zoo animals including a Royal Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. As they travel across a vast ocean, Pi must navigate his courage and his own fears to survive. This tale is an unforgettable journey that reflects on the beauty and depth of the human spirit and the balance of nature.

“What I am most excited about this piece is its rich theatricality. It dares to ask impossible questions and uses bold, visual poetry to answer them. How do you stage the vastness of the Pacific Ocean? A Bengal tiger? A soul in crisis? That is exactly what theatre is made for,” says Director **Haysam Kadri**, who recently directed *Heist* at The Citadel. This fresh and original interpretation by **Lolita Chakrabarti**, is adapted from the best-selling and award-winning novel by **Yann Martel**. *Life of Pi* is co-produced with Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (Winnipeg) and will be playing on their stage this October.

We are especially excited for audiences to see the beautiful set design by Edmonton-based **Beyata Hackborn**, costume design by **Joseph Abetria** and the incredible puppet design and fabrication by **Puppet Stuff Canada**. Puppet Stuff Canada is based in Calgary, Alberta and also fabricated the puppets used in last season’s production of *Disney’s Frozen: The Musical*.

*Life of Pi* is presented in arrangement with Theatre Global and will play in the Shector Theatre from September 13 to October 5, 2025. Tickets are available at [citadeltheatre.com/shows/life-of-pi/](http://citadeltheatre.com/shows/life-of-pi/) or by calling Box Office at 780.425.1820.

Pay What You Choose performances, presented by Alberta Blue Cross will be taking place on Sunday, September 14 at 7:30pm, Saturday, September 20 at 1:30pm, and Saturday, October 4 at 1:30pm. Information on these performances and how to buy tickets is available at [citadeltheatre.com](http://citadeltheatre.com).

Accessible Performances, funded by Stollery Charitable Foundation are available for every production in the 2025/26 Season. A Sensory Informed and Captioned performance of *Life of Pi* will be taking place on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 1:30pm. More information on Accessible Performances is available at [citadeltheatre.com/accessibility/accessible-performances/](http://citadeltheatre.com/accessibility/accessible-performances/)

Production photos will be available by Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

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## CAST

Davinder Malhi  
Deena Aziz  
Omar Alex Khan  
Andrea Cheung  
Bailey Chin  
Braydon Dowler-Coltman  
Troy Feldman  
N. Girgis  
Kevin Klassen  
Azeem Nathoo  
Kristen Padayas  
Garrett Ross  
Anaka Maharaj-Sandhu  
Suchiththa Wickremesooriya

Pi Patel  
Nurse, Amma, Ensemble  
Father, Ghost Father, Ensemble  
Mrs. Okamoto, Ship's Captain, Ensemble  
Lulu Chen, Jai, Ensemble  
Richard Parker Puppeteer 2, Ensemble  
Richard Parker Puppeteer 1, Ensemble  
Mrs. Biology Kumar, Zaida Khan, Ensemble  
Father Martin, Cook, voice of Richard Parker, Ensemble  
Mamaji, Pandit-Ji, Ensemble  
Ensemble  
Russian Sailor, Admiral Jackson, Ensemble  
Rani, Ghost Rani, Ensemble  
Ensemble

## SWINGS & UNDERSTUDIES

Bailey Chin  
N. Girgis  
Kristen Padayas  
Garrett Ross  
Anaka Maharaj-Sandhu  
Suchiththa Wickremesooriya

Mrs. Okamoto  
Nurse, Amma  
Rani, Mrs. Biology, Lela Chen  
Richard Parker Puppeteer 1 and 2, Father Martin  
Pi Patel  
Father, Mamaji, Pandit-Ji, Russian Sailor, Admiral Jackson

## CREATIVE TEAM

Yann Martel  
Lolita Chakrabarti  
Haysam Kadri  
Dayna Tietzen  
Puppet Stuff Canada  
Beyata Hackborn  
Joseph Abetria  
April Viczko  
Corwin Ferguson  
Joelysa Pankanea  
Steven Conde  
Molly Pearson  
Anna Davidson  
Ryan MacAuley  
Amy Dass

Novelist  
Playwright  
Director  
Puppetry Director  
Puppet Design and Fabrication  
Set Designer  
Costume Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Video Designer  
Sound Designer and Composer  
Assistant Director  
Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Apprentice Stage Manager  
Assistant Set Designer

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**For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:**

Susie Chmait

**CITADEL**

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**Sponsors**

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