

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 Shoctor Theatre from September 13 to October 5, 2025. Tickets are available at 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.

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/

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

CAST

Davinder Malhi	Pi Patel
Deena Aziz	Nurse, Amma, Ensemble
Omar Alex Khan	Father, Ghost Father, Ensemble
Andrea Cheung	Mrs. Okamoto, Ship's Captain, Ensemble
Bailey Chin	Lulu Chen, Jai, Ensemble
Braydon Dowler-Coltman	Richard Parker Puppeteer 2, Ensemble
Troy Feldman	Richard Parker Puppeteer 1, Ensemble
N. Grgis	Mrs. Biology Kumar, Zaida Khan, Ensemble
Kevin Klassen	Father Martin, Cook, voice of Richard Parker, Ensemble
Azeem Nathoo	Mamaji, Pandit-Ji, Ensemble
Kristen Padayas	Ensemble
Garett Ross	Russian Sailor, Admiral Jackson, Ensemble
Anaka Maharaj-Sandhu	Rani, Ghost Rani, Ensemble
Suchiththa Wickremesooriya	Ensemble

SWINGS & UNDERSTUDIES

Bailey Chin	Mrs. Okamoto
N. Grgis	Nurse, Amma
Kristen Padayas	Rani, Mrs. Biology, Lela Chen
Garett Ross	Richard Parker Puppeteer 1 and 2, Father Martin
Anaka Maharaj-Sandhu	Pi Patel
Suchiththa Wickremesooriya	Father, Mamaji, Pandit-Ji, Russian Sailor, Admiral Jackson

CREATIVE TEAM

Yann Martel	Novelist
Lolita Chakrabarti	Playwright
Haysam Kadri	Director
Dayna Tietzen	Puppetry Director
Puppet Stuff Canada	Puppet Design and Fabrication
Beyata Hackborn	Set Designer
Joseph Abetria	Costume Designer
April Viczko	Lighting Designer
Corwin Ferguson	Video Designer
Joelysa Pankanea	Sound Designer and Composer
Steven Conde	Assistant Director
Molly Pearson	Stage Manager
Anna Davidson	Assistant Stage Manager
Ryan MacAuley	Apprentice Stage Manager
Amy Dass	Assistant Set Designer

For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:
Susie Chmait

CITADEL

Media and Communications Manager

schmait@citadeltheatre.com

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