

MEDIA RELEASE

World Premiere of *Vinyl Cafe: The Musical* takes to the stage at The Citadel Theatre

October 15, 2025

Edmonton, Alberta – A brand-new Christmas musical makes its world premiere at The Citadel based on the classic and beloved *Vinyl Cafe* stories of Canadian icon, **Stuart McLean**.

The musical weaves together some of McLean's most popular stories, such as: "Dave Cooks the Turkey" and "Rashida, Amir and the Great Gift-Giving" into a hilarious celebration of the highs and lows of the holiday season and the importance of community and family. Those stories intertwine to make the main narrative of the musical and there are also lots of other fun moments and characters pulled from other Dave & Morley stories that *Vinyl Cafe* fans will appreciate.

This is the first time that these characters will be brought to life on stage, having existed up to this point, only in McLean's stories. The new music by **Colleen Dauncey** with lyrics by **Akiva Romer-Segal** will delight audiences and add to the magical holiday festivities of the show. Dauncey and Romer-Segal also wrote the musical *Grow*, which is playing at the Segal Centre in Montreal next year, and the musical *The Louder We Get*, which played at Theatre Calgary in 2020.

The book for the musical is written by **Georgina Escobar** with **Jess Milton**. Jess Milton, who originally produced McLean's CBC Radio show, now hosts the podcast *Backstage At the Vinyl Cafe*, in which she takes listeners behind-the-scenes with stories of the show.

Directing this production is Citadel's Artistic Director, **Daryl Cloran** who has this to say about what he wants audiences to take away from the story. "The hope, humour and humanity of Stuart's stories and his vision for a community of kindness is still carried in so many of our hearts. The Citadel is thrilled to bring Stuart's memorable characters to life on our stage. Whether you are a long time *Vinyl Cafe* fan, or someone coming to the stories for the first time, we are sure you are going to love this musical adaptation," says Cloran.

The production is already highly anticipated by audiences and tickets are selling fast. The show was originally planned to run until the end of November and has been held over for an additional week due to popular demand.

Vinyl Cafe: The Musical is playing in the Shoctor Theatre from November 8 to December 7, 2025. Tickets are on sale at citadeltheatre.com 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, November 9 at 7:30pm, Saturday, November 15 at 1:30pm, and Saturday, November 29 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, Audio Described, and Captioned of *Vinyl Cafe: The Musical* will be taking place on Saturday, November 29, 2025, at 1:30pm. More information on Accessible Performances is available at citadeltheatre.com/accessibility/accessible-performances/

CAST

Nick Boegel	Adam Turlington, Hotel Host, Cashier, Postal Worker
Nadien Chu	Mary Turlington
Kristel Harder	Ensemble
Benjamin Hill	Sam
Kristin Johnston	Gerta Lowbeer, Aunt Sue
Rain Matkin	Stephanie
Jameela McNeil	Polly Anderson, Hotel Staff
Andrés F. Moreno	Ensemble
Muhaddisah	Rashida, Hotel Staff
Mike Nadajewski	Dave
Damon Pitcher	Amir, Hotel Staff
Cooper Nash Rajotte	Sam
Shaemus Swets	Tommy
Leon Willey	Bert Turlington, Butch
Patricia Zentilli	Morley
Koko	Tissue

UNDERSTUDIES

Kristel Harder	Morley, Polly Anderson , Gerta Lowbeer, Aunt Sue
Kristin Johnston	Mary Turlington
Jameela McNeil	Rashida
Andrés F. Moreno	Adam Turlington
Amir	Tommy
Muhaddisah	Stephanie
Damon Pitcher	Bert Turlington, Butch
Leon Willey	Dave

CREATIVE TEAM

Colleen Dauncey	Composer
Akiva Romer-Segal	Lyricist
Georgina Escobar	Bookwriter
Jess Milton	Bookwriter
Daryl Cloran	Director
Ryan DeSouza	Music Director
Cory Sincennes	Set & Costume Designer
Jareth Li	Lighting Designer
Emily Porter	Sound Designer
Gianna Vacirca	Choreographer
Luc Tellier	Assistant Director
Ruth Alexander	Associate Music Director
Even Gilchrist	Associate Lighting Designer
Madison Henry	Stage Manager

CITADEL

Andraya Diogo
Grace Li
Alyssa Short

Assistant Stage Manager
Apprentice Stage Manager
Children's Supervisor

For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

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Sponsors

Season Sponsor: Capital Power

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