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INCOMING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ASHLIE CORCORAN UNVEILS THE ARTS CLUB'S 2018–2019 SEASON

VANCOUVER, B.C.—At a media event this morning, Incoming Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** announced the Arts Club's 55th season. This season marks her first at the company's helm, alongside Executive Director **Peter Cathie White**.

Corcoran seeks to build on the legacy of **Bill Millerd**, who will become the Artistic Director Emeritus at the end of this month. She will continue this through eclectic programming that celebrates local talent, offers opportunities for emerging artists, and strengthens diversity. With these goals in mind, Corcoran says, "I've curated eleven plays by Canadians, eleven by women, seven by BC artists, and four by artists of colour or Indigenous artists."

The 2018–2019 season will open at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage with ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***, a West End hit by **Simon Stephens** that is adapted from the novel by **Mark Haddon**. Corcoran, who will direct the show, says, "The original production I saw in London was one of the most compelling pieces of theatre I had ever seen. The script calls for a unique blend of theatricality—from intricate feats of technical design to low-tech corporeal storytelling by the actors. This combination creates theatrical magic, and is a form of theatre that I believe our audiences will delight in."

Five other shows are programmed for the Stanley: the Canadian premiere of the Pulitzer Prize–winning play ***Sweat***, by **Lynn Nottage**; a remount of Bill Millerd's delightful production of ***Disney's Beauty and the Beast***; **Thornton Wilder's** classic comedy ***The Matchmaker***; ***The Orchard (After Chekhov)***, a new Canadian work set in the Okanagan, by **Sarena Parmar**; and an imaginative show for the whole family, ***Matilda the Musical***.

About the Arts Club's two smaller venues, Corcoran says, "The Granville Island Stage series is chock-full of comedy and joy. With the Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre, our focus this year is on experimenting with form, style, and the performer's relationship with the audience."

The season will include partnerships with the **Belfry Theatre** in Victoria, the **Citadel Theatre** in Edmonton, and the **Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre** in Winnipeg. "Collaborating with other arts institutions is vital to the health of any modern theatre company," Corcoran says. "This means that our work has a larger reach, our Vancouver artists have more opportunities across Canada, our staff is introduced to new collaborative styles, and our audience is exposed to different approaches and artists."

In addition, Corcoran has introduced a new program for the company's 55th season. **Hardline Productions** will be the Arts Club's first Resident Company. Corcoran says, "I am excited about giving the opportunity for emerging companies and artists here in Vancouver to grow—in artistic, organizational, and financial capacities."

Arts Club Theatre Company's 2018–2019 Season

STANLEY INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE STAGE

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME, by **Simon Stephens**, adapted from the novel by **Mark Haddon**

The innovative and acclaimed play that's full of theatre magic

September 6–October 7, 2018 (Media opening: September 12)

SWEAT, by **Lynn Nottage**¹

A working-class drama and 2017 Pulitzer Prize winner

October 18–November 18, 2018 (Media opening: October 24)

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, music by **Alan Menken**, lyrics by **Howard Ashman** and **Tim Rice**, book by **Linda Woolverton**²

The beloved fairy-tale musical

December 1, 2018–January 6, 2019 (Media opening: December 5)

THE MATCHMAKER, by **Thornton Wilder**

Mix-ups and match-ups in a classic farce

January 24–February 24, 2019 (Media opening: January 30)

THE ORCHARD (AFTER CHEKHOV), by **Sarena Parmar**

Set in the Okanagan Valley, a Canadian take on a timeless family drama

March 21–April 21, 2019 (Media opening: March 27)

MATILDA THE MUSICAL, book by **Dennis Kelly**, music and lyrics by **Tim Minchin**, from the novel by **Roald Dahl**³

The imaginative hit musical based on the Roald Dahl story

May 16–July 14, 2019 (Media opening: May 22)

GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

MUSTARD, by **Kat Sandler**⁴

An unconventional comedy about growing up

September 20–October 20, 2018 (Media opening: September 26)

MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY, by **Lauren Gunderson** and **Margot Melcon**

The festive Pride and Prejudice follow-up

November 15–December 30, 2018 (Media opening: November 21)

THE SHOPLIFTERS, by **Morris Panych**

A hilariously biting story about society's haves and have-nots

February 7–March 9, 2019 (Media opening: February 13)

¹ Canadian premiere; in partnership with Citadel Theatre

² Remount of 2017 Arts Club production

³ In partnership with Citadel Theatre and Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre

⁴ In partnership with Belfry Theatre

BED AND BREAKFAST, by **Mark Crawford**

A charming comedy about coming home and coming out

April 4–May 4, 2019 (Media opening: April 10)

MOM'S THE WORD: NEST ½ EMPTY, by the **Mom's the Word Collective**⁵

A new generation of laughs

June 6–July 20, 2019 (Media opening: June 12)

GOLDCORP STAGE AT THE BMO THEATRE CENTRE

BLIND DATE, a Spontaneous Theatre creation by **Rebecca Northan**

One actor. One audience member. One blind date.

November 22–December 30, 2018 (Media opening: November 28)

TRUE CRIME, by **Torquil Campbell** and **Chris Abraham**

A genre-mixing examination of a con man

January 31–February 24, 2019 (Media opening: February 6)

REDPATCH, by **Raes Calvert** and **Sean Harris Oliver**⁶

A historical drama about a young Métis soldier

March 7–31, 2019 (Media opening: March 13)

THE GREAT LEAP, by **Lauren Yee**⁷

A theatrically athletic feat

April 25–May 19, 2019 (Media opening: May 1)

ON TOUR

THE PIANO TEACHER, by **Dorothy Dittrich**⁸

Lessons on life and love

October 4–November 16, 2018

BLIND DATE, a Spontaneous Theatre creation by **Rebecca Northan**

One actor. One audience member. One blind date.

January 4–February 8, 2019

CIRCLE GAME, created by **Andrew Cohen** and **Anna Kuman**⁹

Reimagining the work of Joni Mitchell

February 15–March 30, 2019

Titles and performance dates subject to change.

⁵ Third show in the Mom's the Word series; remount of 2017 Arts Club premiere

⁶ In partnership with Citadel Theatre and Hardline Productions, our 2018–2019 Resident Company

⁷ Canadian premiere

⁸ Remount of 2017 Arts Club premiere

⁹ In partnership with Firehall Arts Centre

CONTACT

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ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club Theatre Company, founded in 1964, is Canada's largest not-for-profit urban theatre company. Led by Artistic Managing Director Bill Millerd, Incoming Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran (who will become Artistic Director at the end of February), and Executive Director Peter Cathie White, it offers professional theatre at three venues—the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, Granville Island Stage, and Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre—as well as on tour throughout the province.

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