

MEDIA RELEASE
October 10, 2017

An Arts Club Theatre Company / Belfry Theatre co-production

ONEGIN

Book, music, and lyrics by Amiel Gladstone and Veda Hille
Based on the poem by Pushkin and the opera by Tchaikovsky

IN BRIEF The acclaimed Arts Club commission *Onegin* returns with a co-production at the Belfry Theatre in Victoria, running from October 17 until November 12. This passionate new musical won ten Jessie Richardson Awards, making history as the first production to win all but one of the awards in the large theatre category.

VANCOUVER, B.C.— The award-winning Arts Club production of *Onegin*—the hit musical as immersive as love itself—returns with a co-production at the Belfry Theatre in Victoria before hitting the Granville Island Stage in late November.

“*Onegin* wowed Vancouver audiences when it played at the Goldcorp Stage as part of our 2015–2016 season,” Artistic Managing Director **Bill Millerd** says. “It is great to have this production at the Belfry Theatre so Victoria audiences can also experience this special show.”

When Evgeni Onegin (**Alessandro Juliani**) visits the Larin family estate, his romantic charms stir passions long forgotten by its residents. Poet Vladimir Lensky’s (**Josh Epstein**) romantic ideals are challenged after Onegin flirts with his fiancée Olga Larin (**Lauren Jackson**), and even the sensible Tatyana Larin (**Meg Roe**) falls for the handsome rogue. The hit musical moves, shakes, and wakes audiences with its sweeping score, leaving the powerful question swirling in their minds: Look around, look around, look around, do you see someone worth dying for?

Onegin’s premiere run in the spring of 2016 was met with critical acclaim. The show collected ten wins at the 2016 Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards, making history as the first production to win all but one of the awards in the large theatre category. The wins included Outstanding Production, Outstanding Actor and Actress (**Alessandro Juliani** and **Meg Roe**), Supporting Actor (**Josh Epstein**), Lighting Design (**John Webber**), Set Design (**Drew Facey**), Costumes (**Jaqueline Firkins**), Composition (**Veda Hille** and **Amiel Gladstone**), and Direction (**Amiel Gladstone**).

The original cast and creative team return for the co-production at the Belfry, with new musicians joining the orchestra. Musical director and co-writer Veda Hille says, “It’s so exciting to see our love story hitting the road. We’ve been working on *Onegin*, making it better and wilder and more full of spirit(s). Here’s to love!”

“You’re lucky to be alive right now...because you get to see *Onegin*” —*The Georgia Straight*

Starring **Josh Epstein** (Vladimir Lensky), **Lauren Jackson** (Olga Larin and others), **Alessandro Juliani** (Evgeni Onegin), **Andrew McNee** (Many Others), **Caitriona Murphy** (Madame Larin and others), **Meg Roe** (Tatyana Larin) and **Andrew Wheeler** (Prince Gremin and others)

Orchestra **Chris Tsujiuchi** (piano), **Jennifer Moersch** (cello), **Barry Mirochnick** (percussion and guitar)

Director/Writer **Amiel Gladstone** Musical Director/Writer **Veda Hille** Choreographer **Tracey Power**

Assistant Choreographer **Amanda Testini** Set Designer **Drew Facey** Costume Designer **Jacqueline Firkins**

Associate Costume Designer **Alaia Hamer** Lighting Designer **John Webber** Assistant Lighting Designer

Sara Smith Sound Designer **Bradley Danyluk** Dramaturg **Rachel Ditor** Stage Manager **Allison Spearin**
Assistant Stage Manager **Sandra Drag**

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 and Executive Director Peter Cathie White, it offers professional theatre at three venues—the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, Granville Island Stage, and the Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre—as well as on tour throughout the province.

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