

**THEATRE CALGARY ANNOUNCES
AN ABRIDGED SEASON LINEUP
TO REIGNITE OUR STAGE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(CALGARY, AB) - Theatre Calgary's **Artistic Director Stafford Arima** has announced our 2021-22 season of plays. The Max Bell Theatre stage will welcome our audiences home for the first time since March 2020, and our new mini-season of four plays includes a world premiere, the return of a holiday classic, a heartwarming story about community and women, and a rock 'n' roll show that will make you want to dance in the aisles.

"Returning to our stage is a huge undertaking," says Arima. "The focus of this season is about re-igniting the stage, and I can't think of a more exciting group of productions that will energize and entertain our audiences. Not only is this abridged season lineup filled with recognizable stories that celebrate the theme of 'home,' but we will begin the important process of ensuring that health and safety policies are enacted to keep Theatre Calgary safe for every person in our community, which will increase the confidence in our audiences and our artists to return to our home."

*"This season that Stafford has chosen is a celebration of family, friendship, and coming back together in this wonderfully resilient and creative city we live in," says **Theatre Calgary Executive Director Maya Choldin**. "To ensure this season is both enjoyable and successful, all of us at Theatre Calgary are committed to making our patrons, artists, and crew feel safe, and at home, as they join us back in the Max Bell Theatre." Returning to the Max Bell will see a number of comfort and safety measures in place. There will be a reduced audience capacity limit and spaced seating to our first productions, along with masking, and a newly-installed air filtration system throughout the theatre. Theatre Calgary is also working with other arts groups in the development of a vaccination policy for the theatre. More details on these protocols will be released in the coming weeks.*

Theatre Calgary's 2021-22 season starts off on October 19th with the **world premiere of Rick Miller's BOOM YZ**. In this all-new show, Miller plays more than a hundred characters from Generations Y and Z, including his own daughter, to reflect on the aspirations and anxieties of young people today, and brings his multi-generational *BOOM* trilogy to a compelling close. Theatre Calgary audiences will remember our 2019 world premiere of *BOOM X*, and now with *BOOM YZ*, we return to our stage with the spectacle of music, personal stories and multimedia that Miller is famous for.

Next, Theatre Calgary celebrates 35 years of spirited tradition in our city with *A Christmas Carol*. In 2020, we reimaged **Geoffrey Simon Brown's** adaptation our beloved holiday classic with a three-person cast for a filmed production, so that this annual Calgary tradition could not be missed. For 2021, Theatre Calgary will present this three-person cast production live on our stage. Patrons will also have the opportunity to choose to watch **Stafford Arima's** extended directors cut of the online filmed version of *A Christmas Carol*, which they can watch from the comfort of their home.

In March of 2022, our stage will be filled with women sharing their stories, laughs and tears, as we present Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias*. This is the much-loved hit play featuring six amazing women who draw upon their strength and love to meet the challenges of life. Part comedy of manners, part heartfelt tearjerker, and featuring non-stop banter and wisecracks, this play about friendship, community, and the power of the human spirit is what we all need right now. The show will feature a local cast and will be directed by **Valerie Planche**.

To close our 2021-22 season, April will see the much-anticipated *Million Dollar Quartet* rock our stage with music from Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley. Originally scheduled to be the closing show of our 2019-20 season, we are thrilled to be able to finally share **Colin Escott** and **Floyd Mutrux's** electrifying production of four rock n' roll legends who are brought together in Memphis, Tennessee at Sun Record Studios for an impromptu jam session. Making his Theatre Calgary **directorial debut will be Thom Allison**, whose performances in *Cabaret*, *Evita*, and *The Louder We Get* have made him a Theatre Calgary audience-favourite.

In addition to our four mainstage shows, 2021-22 will see several other exciting projects, including our *Page to Stage Festival*, return. More details on these will be announced over the course of the season.

2021-22 SEASON OF PLAYS

BOOM YZ - October 19 to November 7, 2021 (Opening Night - 22, 2021)

Presented by Kidoons and WYRD Productions in Association with Theatre Calgary and The 20K Collective
Written, Directed, and Performed by **Rick Miller**

A CHRISTMAS CAROL - LIVE: November 30 to December 24, 2021 ONLINE: December 2 to 31, 2021
(Opening Night for Live show - December 3, 2021)

By **Charles Dickens** Abridged Adaptation by **Geoffrey Simon Brown** Directed by **Stafford Arima**

Casting TBA

This production is made possible by the generous support of The Cal Wenzel Family Foundation

STEEL MAGNOLIAS - March 8 to April 3, 2022 (Opening Night - March 11, 2022)

By **Robert Harling** Directed by **Valerie Planche**

Casting TBA

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET - April 26 to May 22, 2022 (Opening Night - April 29, 2022)

By **Colin Escott** and **Floyd Mutrux**

Original concept and direction by Floyd Mutrux

Inspired by Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins

Directed by **Thom Allison**

Casting TBA

This production is made possible by the generous support of The Al Osten & Buddy Victor Legacy Fund

Calgary's first professional theatrical company, Theatre Calgary's mission is to stimulate, provoke, and delight through ambitious programming created to ignite local, national, and international engagement. For more information, visit us at theatrecalgary.com and follow us on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

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