



For Immediate Release
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MEDIA RELEASE

THEATRE CALGARY OPENS A SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

HONOUR BEAT BY TARA BEAGAN

SEPTEMBER 4 – 29, 2018

(CALGARY, AB) - Theatre Calgary is thrilled to open Artistic Director Stafford Arima's first season, our 51st, with the world premiere of *Honour Beat*, by Calgary-based playwright **Tara Beagan**. Originally born in Niitsitapi country, Beagan is a 'proud Ntlaka'pamux and Irish "Canadian" halfbreed', and is a busy Calgary-based director, playwright, and performer.

Honour Beat is a contemporary look at the significance of faith and family, as two grown sisters face off over their mother's death-bed. Together they confront one another, their own identities, and what will remain when their mom leaves this world. This play will leave audiences laughing through their tears as these women grapple with one of life's most difficult inevitabilities.

"Family is universal, and the complex stories of family have been told by generations throughout the decades," says Arima. "Honour Beat is a touching and humorous play that reminds us that relationships within families are fragile, forgiving, and most importantly, resilient."

Prior to being developed at Theatre Calgary's FUSE program in 2017, playwright Beagan explains her initial inspiration behind the characters in *Honour Beat*. "Plays often arrive as a moment, an image, or a relationship between two people. In this case, it was observing two wonderful veteran artists, Monique Mojica and Margo Kane, tell stories of their careers as artists. This work took root when I spent time with those women in the summer of 2015," says Beagan. "This work is a celebration of women. Women have raised me throughout my life, and continue to do so."

Directing *Honour Beat* is **Michelle Thrush**, who is best known for her television roles on *North of 60*, *Arctic Air*, and *Blackstone* (for which she won a Gemini Award). Her theatre work includes acting in and co-directing the world premiere of *Making Treaty 7*, and creating and performing her one-woman show, *Inner Elder*. Thrush, who is Cree, was born and raised in Calgary.

The all-indigenous cast of *Honour Beat* features **Paula-Jean Prudat** (Mom), **Monique Mojica** (Anna-Rae), **Tracey Nepinak** (Rae-Anna), and **Bernard Starlight** (Spanish). The creative team includes **Andy Moro** (set & projection design), **Jeff Chief** (costume design), **Patrick Beagan** (lighting design), **Pura Fé** (original music and vocals), **Deanna H. Choi** (sound design), **Jenna Turk** (dramaturg), **Jane MacFarlane** (vocal coach), **Marion Lerat** (Elder-in-Residence), **Ruby Dawn Eustaquio** (Stage Manager), and **Sang-Sang Lee** (Assistant Stage Manager). Our Theatre Calgary Mentors program participant (set & projections) is **Imajyn Cardinal**.

Performances at Theatre Calgary run Tuesday thru Sunday with evening curtain at 7:30pm (Tues-Thurs & Sunday) and 8:00pm (Fri & Sat), weekend matinees at 2:00pm. Tickets for all performances start as low as \$45.00 and can be purchased through Theatre Calgary at 403-294-7447 or online at theatrecalgary.com. All performances take place in Arts Commons Max Bell Theatre.

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For more information or interview requests please contact:
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TELEVISION/VIDEO MEDIA CALL - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1:00pm

Max Bell Theatre, Arts Commons

PRINT - photos available upon request