



For Immediate Release
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MEDIA RELEASE

THEATRE CALGARY PRESENTS NICOLAS BILLON'S TALE OF GREED, MONEY, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS IN *ICELAND*

OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 2, 2019

(CALGARY, AB) - Theatre Calgary is set to present a powerful one-act, Canadian story that follows three expertly written, imperfect characters through their relationships in the dark comedy *Iceland*, by **Nicolas Billon**.

Set in Toronto, against the 2008 financial debacle signalled by Iceland's meltdown, the play is told through three interconnected monologues that explore humanity and the state of capitalism. We see the ruthless capitalistic philosophy of Halim, a Pakistani-Canadian real estate agent who flips properties and is juxtaposed with the naïve outrage of a tenant named Anna that he has evicted, and with the family loyalty of an Estonian history student named Kassandra, a sex worker whom he has hired. Billon's play exposes socially entrenched greed and racism through stunning reversals, as the characters are set on a collision course that will change their lives.

Originally produced in 2012 at Toronto's Summerworks Theatre Festival, *Iceland* will be directed by Theatre Calgary's Artistic Associate Jenna Turk, who previously worked as an assistant director to Ravi Jain on the 2013 Factory Theatre production. "*Iceland looks at the emptiness and loneliness that we all feel, even when we are surrounded by large buildings and lots of people,*" says Turk. "*We all have many secrets that we keep, and in this script we get to hear a few of them from three truly original characters.*"

Designing the set and costumes for *Iceland* is Hanne Loosen. In a twist as unique as the show, the set will feature 14 seats for audience members to observe the play from onstage. The seats will be placed to look out of the windows of the surrounding building, thus adding to the voyeuristic elements of the show. These seats are available to the general public for \$35, and can be purchased online.

The company of *Iceland* features a cast of Calgarians including **Praneet Akilla** (Halim), **Arielle Rombough** (Kassandra), and **Lara Schmitz** (Anna). Akilla (who can now be seen on Netflix's new series *October Faction*) was previously seen at Theatre Calgary in 2017's *A Christmas Carol* and *As You Like It*, Rombough was previously seen in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and Schmitz was a part of our Shakespeare in the Park's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Along with director Turk, the creative team includes set and costume design by **Hanne Loosen**, lighting design by **Cimmeron Meyer**, sound design by **Andrew Blizzard**, and voice and dialect coaching by **Jane MacFarlane**. The Stage Manager is **Justin Born**, and the Assistant Stage Manager is **Meredith Johnson**.

Iceland previews October 15-17. Opening night is October 18. Performances 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 \$35.00 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.

***Iceland* is suitable for 18+ audiences, and contains strong language and mature themes.**

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For more information or interview requests please contact:
Christopher Loach, Director of Media Relations, Theatre Calgary
ph: 403-294-7440, ext.1309 cloach@theatrecalgary.com

TELEVISION/VIDEO MEDIA CALL - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1:00pm
Max Bell Theatre, Arts Commons PRINT - photos available upon request