theatre: CALGARY

<u>**MEDIA RELEASE**</u>

Shakespeare is on the Go
and taking laughs around Calgary with
THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR
July 8 - August 7, 2022

Calgary, AB… Theatre Calgary, in partnership with **The Shakespeare Company** and **Hit + Myth Productions**, will once again be going on the road…with **Shakespeare On The Go**! From **July 8 - August 7**, we will be taking a cast of six emerging artists to a variety of Calgary locations to present *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Hilarity ensues in this romantic farce about the misadventures of Falstaff as he seeks to deceive the wives of two wealthy merchants. Learning of his deception, the wives seek revenge with the help of their husbands. Will they get the upper hand on Falstaff or will his plan to trick them out of their riches succeed? One of Shakespeare's wittiest comedies, The Merry Wives of Windsor has a contemporary perspective of small-town life in early England.

"This show that is not your typical Shakespeare," says **Jane MacFarlane,** who has adapted the script and directed this production. *"This is a very accessible comedy because the script is written in prose, and it comes fast, furious, and very funny. Our six actors embrace the dialogue and just go, go, go with it. They are full of play, and are really amazing to watch."*

We are pleased to announce that our outdoor performance partnerships will include **Heritage Park**, **Brookfield Residential** properties in Calgary and area, public spaces in partnership with the **City of Calgary Unplug n' Play** program, and performances at numerous **Community Associations** in all four quadrants of the city. There will also be more locations announced in the coming days.

Once again this year, our Shakespeare program focuses its importance on the professional development and opportunity provided to a group of young Alberta emerging artists. We are pleased to share that our 2022 cast features **Kathleen Faith Ballangan** (Mistress Ford, Pistol), **Christian Daly** (Master Page, Bardolf, Robin)**, Sam Free** (Master Ford)**, Javelin Laurence** (Falstaff)**, Abby McDougall** (Mistress Page, Nym)**,** and **Keysha Swanson** (Mistress Quickly, Host). Along with director MacFarlane, the creative team includes **Beth Kates** (Set Design), **Cathleen Sbrizzi** (Costume Design), **Kathryn Smith** (Sound Design), **Cali Sproule** (Assistant Director) and **Courtney Bettanin** (Stage Manager).

"This year, our six emerging Alberta actors will have a blast chewing up the scenery with this clever romp, and creating a most enjoyable outdoor theatre experience," says **Theatre Calgary Artistic Director Stafford Arima**. *"Not only does our director, Jane, have a great understanding of the world of this show, her expertise in voice and dialect will bring even more out of our young performers. This will be a wonderful opportunity for them to grow as artists."*

In keeping with tradition, there is no cost to watch this performance. However opportunities to donate and support this program and our emerging artists are available on-site, following the performance.

For all our performance showtimes and up-to-date information, please visit theatrecalgary.com/shakesbow.

Theatre Calgary wishes to thank **Brookfield Residential, RBC Foundation, Government of Alberta, Calgary Arts Development, the Calgary Foundation,** and our **Friends of the Bard – Norman and Kathy Schachar**, for their generous support of this year's Shakespeare program.

As 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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