



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

ATP ANNOUNCES LINE-UP FOR 2017/18 SEASON THAT WILL DEFY EXPECTATIONS

Calgary theatre company announces a six-play season that includes a romantic smash hit, a sexy, political thriller about Henry VIII, the world premiere of a swing-dancing women's hockey story, and a family holiday favourite.

CALGARY, ALBERTA – Today [Alberta Theatre Projects](#) announced the line-up for the company's 46th season that runs from September 2017 to April 2018. The six-play season has been brought together under the theme [Defy Expectations](#), a nod to both the season's strong undertones of empowerment and unity, but also subtly pointing to the company's recent announcement of an urgent fundraising campaign and its belief in its own ability to beat the odds and forge a bold, new way forward.

Of the season, ATP's current Artistic Director Vanessa Porteous says, "Albertans' unique talent for defying expectations is a big part of our identity. It's a collective character we draw strength and inspiration from in challenging times and a symbol of our unity, even in our diversity. In our 2017-18 season, we're sharing six audacious stories that will inspire, challenge, thrill, and bring us together to celebrate the incomparable power and potential of the human spirit."

The 6 plays ATP will be presenting in its 2017-18 season are:

- **The Last Wife** Sept. 12 - 30, 2017
By Kate Hennig
- **To The Light** Oct. 17 - Nov. 4, 2017*
By Evelyne de la Chenelière
Translated by John Murrell
- **Charlotte's Web** Nov. 21 - Dec. 31, 2017
By E.B White
Adapted by Joseph Robinette
- **Empire of the Son** Jan. 16 - 28, 2018
by Tetsuro Shigematsu
A Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre production
- **Constellations** Feb. 27 - Mar. 17, 2018
by Nick Payne
- **GLORY** Apr. 3 - 21, 2018*
by Tracey Power
In association with Western Canada Theatre

*denotes a World Premiere

The season kicks off in September with a sexy, suspenseful political thriller by UK-born, Alberta-raised playwright and actress Kate Hennig. ***The Last Wife***, a modern-day re-imagining of Katherine Parr's dangerous marriage to Henry VIII, is Hennig's first play of The Queenmaker Trilogy that debuted at the Stratford Festival in 2015. Directed by Glynis Leyshon and running from September 12-30, 2017, it's a racy and riveting kick-off to a season that frequently sees strong female characters in the limelight.

Next up, the company's outgoing Artistic Director Vanessa Porteous will be back to direct the première of John Murrell's English-language translation of a play originally written in French by Montreal-based actress and playwright Evelyne de la Chenelière called ***To The Light***. Poetic and haunting, the play is a powerful meditation on loss and the power of friendships in forging our sense of identity inspired by Virginia Woolf's 1927 novel *To The Lighthouse*. Playing October 17 to November 4, 2017 and featuring a live soundtrack performed by a solo pianist, this production marks ATP's second presentation of a play by de la Chenelière, after they premiered an English translation of *Strawberries in January* as part of the 2002-2003 season.

For their Family Holiday Show, running from November 21 to December 31st, the company is bringing back the smash-hit production of ***Charlotte's Web***, a stage adaptation of E.B. White's beloved children's classic about the unlikely friendship between a pig named Wilbur and a spider called Charlotte. The show will feature the directorial debut of ATP's own Director of Artistic Programming Laurel Green, and employ the talents an aerial artist in the role of Charlotte. Suggested for ages 5 and over, it's sure to be the perfect holiday outing for the whole family.

ATP's entry into the 32nd Annual High Performance Rodeo is a co-presentation with One Yellow Rabbit of a play by former CBC broadcaster Tetsuro Shigematsu that has been wowing audiences across Canada. ***Empire of the Son*** is a funny and poignant autobiographical one-man show about Shigematsu's rocky relationship with his emotionally reserved father, Akira. Through visually striking live, cinematic vignettes, Shigematsu re-enacts moments from his father's incredible personal history, from the ashes of Hiroshima to swinging 1960's London, and also uses audio recordings and photographs to paint an intimate family portrait of their evolving connection and the deep-seated love for each other that they both struggle to express. The show, which has seen sold out runs in other cities, plays from January 16 to 28, 2018.

February 27 to March 17, 2018, ATP fights off winter's cold with a steamy international romance that The New York Times calls "the most sophisticated date play Broadway has seen."

Constellations by British playwright Nick Payne is a spellbinding love story about the unlikely romance between a beekeeper and a physicist that plays out across parallel universes. Directed by the award-winning Calgary-based artist Valerie Planche, the play is sure to stun crowds with its ingenious beauty.

The final production of the season is a world premiere written by Canadian playwright Tracey Power, produced in association with Kamloops' Western Canada Theatre and directed by its Artistic Director James MacDonald. Set in the 1930's ***GLORY*** uses music and dance inspired by the jazz age to tell the story of four friends who set out to prove that hockey isn't just a sport for men. Inspired by the true story of the Preston Rivulettes and Canada's first national women's hockey league, the show is an energetic and exciting celebration of women in athletics that runs from April 3 to 21, 2018.

“We’re so excited to share our 17/18 season with Calgarians,” says Executive Director Vicki Stroich. “It’s going to be a season full of unforgettable stories, larger-than-life characters, amazing talent and a whole lot of fun.”

All plays in the 2017-18 season will be presented at the Martha Cohen Theatre in Arts Commons (215 8 Ave. SE), the resident company’s 419-seat, Georgian-style theatre.

Season subscriptions start at \$105. For more information about the plays in the 2017-18 season or becoming an Alberta Theatre Projects subscriber, please visit www.atplive.com.

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Images available at www.atplive.com/media.

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ABOUT ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

Alberta Theatre Projects is a Calgary-based, not-for-profit, professional theatre company that celebrates the art of live theatre. From its home in The Martha Cohen Theatre at Arts Commons, the company produces world-calibre shows with a focus on idea-driven new works, plays by Canadian playwrights, and contemporary theatre from around the world. It is also a national leader in new play development and dramaturgy.

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