

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS ANNOUNCES FULL CAST AND CREATIVE TEAMS FOR THE 2017-18 SEASON

Alberta Theatre Projects announces casts and creative teams for the 2017-18 season, featuring Lorne Cardinal (Corner Gas, Gods Acre, Chasing Lear, Fargo), former CBC broadcaster Tetsuro Shigematsu, aerial silks circus artist Léda Davies, and musicians Ethan Cole, Bryce Kulak and Tenaj Williams.

CALGARY, ALBERTA – Today <u>Alberta Theatre Projects</u> announced the full casts and creative teams for the company's 46th season. "We're so excited to share our 2017-18 season with Calgarians," says Executive Director Vicki Stroich. "It's going to be a season full of larger-than-life characters, amazing talent and a whole lot of fun."

Kate Hennig's *The Last Wife*, a sexy, suspenseful political thriller about Katherine Parr's dangerous marriage to Henry VIII, kicks the season off in September. Lorne Cardinal, prolific Canadian television, film and theatre actor, will be playing the notorious King Henry VIII. Cardinal is perhaps best known for his role as beloved police officer Davis Quinton on the hit TV series, *Corner* Gas. Calgary theatre artist Myla Southward will make her ATP debut as the famous Katherine Parr. Victoria-based Glynis Leyshon returns to ATP to direct. *The Last Wife* runs September 12-30, 2017.

Next up, ATP's former Artistic Director Vanessa Porteous returns to direct the English language premiere of Montreal-based Evelyne de la Chenelière's, **To The Light**. Inspired by Virginia Woolf's 1927 novel *To The Lighthouse*, the two-hander features two Calgary powerhouses, Elinor Holt and Julie Orton as well as a live soundtrack performed live onstage by pianist and composer, Bryce Kulak. To the Light runs October 17 to November 4, 2017.

For their Family Holiday Show, the company is bringing back the stage adaptation of E.B. White's children's classic, *Charlotte's Web*. ATP first produced *Charlotte's Web* in 2014, but this production promises to be an entirely new experience. The show will feature the directorial debut of ATP's own Director of Artistic Programming Laurel Green, and employ the talents of aerial silks artist and actor <u>Léda Davies</u> in the role of Charlotte. Davies and Calgary actor/singer Tenaj Williams (playing Wilbur) will lead an all-new ensemble in the telling of this beloved tale. The action onstage will be underscored by the live musical composition of Calgary indie music artist, <u>Ethan Cole</u>. Suggested for ages 5 and over, *Charlotte's Web* runs from November 21 to December 31st.

ATP's entry into the 32nd Annual High Performance Rodeo is a co-presentation with One Yellow Rabbit of a stunning play by actor, writer and former CBC broadcaster Tetsuro
Shigematsu. Empire of the Son is a funny and poignant autobiographical one-man show about Shigematsu's rocky relationship with his emotionally reserved father. Shigematsu creates "a powerful display of emotion...a riveting, emotional theatrical experience" (The Vancouver Sun). The show, which has seen sold out runs in other cities, plays from January 16 to 28, 2018.

From February 27 to March 17, 2018, ATP is bringing British playwright Nick Payne's *Constellations* to Calgary. An unlikely romance played out across parallel universes, The New York Times calls *Constellations* "the most sophisticated date play Broadway has seen." Calgary theatre artists Jamie Konchak (last seen at ATP in last season's *1979*) and Mike Tan (ATP debut) will bring characters Marianne and Roland to the Martha Cohen Theatre stage, putting their own spin on roles played by Ruth Wilson and Jake Gyllenhaal on Broadway. This

spellbinding romance will be directed by the award-winning Calgary-based artist Valerie Planche.

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. *GLORY* is inspired by the true story of the Preston Rivulettes and Canada's first national women's hockey league. Kate Dion-Richard, Arielle Rombough, Gili Roskies and Morgan Yamada will play the four core members of the Rivulettes team, with Calgary theatre artist Kevin Corey playing their German-born coach. *GLORY* runs from April 3 to 21, 2018.

For full cast and creative teams, see below.

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.

2017-18 CREATIVE TEAMS:

THE LAST WIFE

By Kate Hennig September 12 – September 30

CAST (Alphabetical)

Henry – Lorne Cardinal Eddie – Lucian-River Chauhan Bess – Emma Houghton Thom – Haysam Kadri Mary – Helen Knight Kate – Myla Southward

COMPANY

Director – Glynis Leyshon
Fight Director – Laryssa Yanchak
Vocal Coach – Jane MacFarlane
Set Design – Scott Reid
Lighting Design – David Fraser
Costume Design – Heather Moore
Composition/Sound Design – Chad Blain
Stage Manager – Kerry Johnson
Assistant Stage Manager – Catherine Rouleau

TO THE LIGHT

By Evelyne de la Chenelière English Translation by John Murrell

CAST

Mrs. Ramsay –Elinor Holt Lily Briscoe – Julie Orton Musician – Bryce Kulak

COMPANY

Director – Vanessa Porteous
Set/Lighting Design – Narda McCarroll
Costume Design – Hanne Loosen
Sound Designer – Peter Moller
Composer/Music Consultant – Bryce Kulak
Projection Design – Amelia Scott
Stage Manager – Justin Born
Apprentice Stage Manager – Elizabeth Wellwood

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By E.B. White Adapted by Joseph Robinette

CAST (Alphabetical)

Avery Arable/Lamb/As Cast – Aubrey Baux
Fern Arable – Annabel Beames
Lurvy / Templeton/As Cast – Geoffrey Simon Brown
Edith Zuckerman/Goose/As Cast – Nadien Chu
Musician/Announcer – Ethan Cole
Charlotte – Léda Davies
John Arable/As Cast – Phil Fulton
Homer Zuckerman/Uncle Pig/As Cast – Stafford Perry
Martha Arable/Sheep/As Cast – Sarah Wheeldon
Wilbur – Tenaj Williams

COMPANY

Director – Laurel Green
Aerial Movement Creator – Léda Davies
Fight Director – Stafford Perry
Vocal Coach – Jane MacFarlane
Set/Lighting Design - Anton de Groot
Costume Design – Jennifer Lee Arsenault
Composer – Ethan Cole
Sound design – Thomas Geddes
Stage Manager – Kerry Johnson
Assistant Stage Manager – Nicole Bergen

EMPIRE OF THE SON

By Tetsuro Shigematsu A Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre Production

Presented by Alberta Theatre Projects & One Yellow Rabbit as part of the 32nd Annual High Performance Rodeo

STARRING

Tetsuro Shigematsu

COMPANY

Director/Original Concept Dramaturgy – Richard Wolfe
Artistic Producer – Donna Yamamoto
(The following artist listings for Empire of the Son are based upon the original production by Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre, presented by The Cultch)
Dramaturg – Heidi Taylor

Set Design – Pam Johnson Lighting Design – Gerald King Costume Design – Barbara Clayden Sound Design – Steve Charles Audio Dramaturg – Yvonne Gall Stage Manager – Susan Miyagishima

Technical Director/Production Manager – Jayson McLean

Props Master – Carole Macdonald

Video Design Consultant – Remy Siu

Apprentice Stage Manager – Maria Zarillo

Documentary Audio – Akira Shigematsu, Yoshiko Shigematsu, Rie Shigematsu Collett,

Hana Shigematsu, Setsu Shigematsu

Documentary Video – Mika Shigematsu, Taizo Shigematsu

CONSTELLATIONS

By Nick Payne

CAST (Alphabetical)

Marianne – Jamie Konchak Roland – Mike Tan

COMPANY

Director – Valerie Planche Set/Lighting Design – David Fraser Costume Design – Hanne Loosen Composition/Sound Design – Dave Clarke Stage Manager – Johanne Deleeuw Apprentice Stage Manager – Emma Slunt

GLORY

By Tracey Power
In association with Western Canada Theatre

CAST (Alphabetical)

Herbert Fach – Kevin Corey Helen Schmuck – Kate Dion-Richard Hilda Ranscombe – Arielle Rombough Marm (Margaret) Schmuck – Gili Roskies Nellie Ranscombe – Morgan Yamada

COMPANY

Director – James MacDonald
Assistant Director/Movement – Tracey Power
Set/Lighting Design – Narda McCarroll
Costume Design – Cindy Wiebe
Sound Design – Steve Charles
Stage Manager – Lisa Russell
Assistant Stage Manager – Kelley Cheetham

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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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