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ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

JUST ANNOUNCED: 2018-19 SEASON CAPTURES A DEFINING MOMENT IN ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS' 47-YEAR HISTORY

New season includes an eagerly-awaited sequel, a Tony Award-winning classic, two world premieres and a new partnership.

CALGARY, ALBERTA – Today [Alberta Theatre Projects](#) announced their 47th season line-up that will run from September 2018 to March 2019. The five-play season was curated by the company's leadership under the theme [Defining Moments](#) while it undergoes a search for a new creative leader, and sets out to honour a time defined by change and opportunity, for both ATP and its home city of Calgary.

“Every so often a moment comes along that forces us to look deep within ourselves and decide who we are and what we stand for. In the midst of riding a wave of profound change, Calgary finds itself in one of these moments. So too does Alberta Theatre Projects,” says Marketing and Communications Director Ashley Meller of the season. “Our new season is full of fascinating stories about change and upheaval. Some feature iconic characters you know and love, and others are about lesser-known figures you have yet to meet but are unlikely to forget. Each of these shows finds its characters at a crossroads, faced with decisions that could drastically alter the course of their lives, which resonates deeply with us as a company and we hope with our audiences as well.”

The five plays ATP will be presenting in its 2018-19 season are:

- **The Virgin Trial** Sept. 11 - 29, 2018
By Kate Hennig
- **Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead** Oct. 9 - 21, 2018
By Tom Stoppard
Presented by Alberta Theatre Projects
Produced by [The Shakespeare Company](#) and Hit & Myth Productions
- **ZORRO: Family Code*** Nov. 27 - Dec. 30, 2018
By Rebecca Northan, Bruce Horak, and Christian Goutsis

- **Café Daughter** Jan. 15 - 27, 2019
 By Kenneth T. Williams
 Presented by Alberta Theatre Projects and [One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre](#)
 As part of the 33rd Annual High Performance Rodeo
 Produced by Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre in association with Alberta Aboriginal Arts
- **WROL (Without Rule of Law)*** Mar. 5 - 17, 2019
 By Michaela Jeffery

*denotes a World Premiere

The season kicks off with the second play in Governor General's Award-winning playwright Kate Hennig's Queenmaker Trilogy. The sequel to ATP's 2017-18 wildly successful production of *The Last Wife*, [The Virgin Trial](#) picks up the story of 15-year-old Elizabeth I following the death of Katherine Parr, her step-mother and last wife to King Henry VIII. In this racy, high-stakes thriller, audiences are kept on the edge of their seats as Elizabeth is forced to defend herself against accusations of plotting to kill her brother, King Edward, and rumours of having an illicit love affair with her stepfather, Thomas Seymour. Of its run at The Stratford Festival in 2017, The Stratford Beacon Herald called it a, "powerful, taut, moving and often-witty visualization of the young Princess Elizabeth." As with *The Last Wife*, while the story is set in the time of the Tudors, the play's language, costumes and settings are modern, contributing to the fast-paced and suspenseful tone of the piece. ATP is proud to be welcoming back members of the cast and the creative team from *The Last Wife*, including acclaimed theatre and opera director Glynis Leyshon, as well as Emma Houghton as Princess Elizabeth and Helen Knight as her acerbic sister, Princess Mary. *The Virgin Trial* will run from September 11th to 29th.

Next up, ATP is thrilled to be partnering with The Shakespeare Company and Hit and Myth Productions for the second show of their season, Tom Stoppard's Tony Award-winning existentialist masterpiece [Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead](#). Also directed by Glynis Leyshon, the play is a dark comedy set in the Elizabethan era that follows the hilarious and heartfelt antics of two minor characters from Shakespeare's play, *Hamlet*. Just in time for the 50th anniversary of winning the Tony Award, the play that made Tom Stoppard a household name lands on the ATP stage from October 9th to 21st in a spooky and imaginative new production that daringly casts two women, played by Calgary favourites Myla Southward and Julie Orton, in the title roles.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with ATP on this new production of a ground-breaking contemporary play by a master of language like Tom Stoppard," says The Shakespeare Company's Artistic Producer Haysam Kadri. "His brilliant story is timeless, unleashing a

deadly combination of razor-sharp humour and exhilarating poignancy, and in the hands of the incredible team we've assembled is sure to be nothing short of stunning.”

For their annual holiday foray into feel-good, family theatre, the company is presenting the world premiere of [ZORRO: Family Code](#), running from November 27 to December 30th. Renowned improviser and Loose Moose alumna Rebecca Northan (*Blind Date*, *Undercover*) returns to ATP as playwright (along with Bruce Horak and Christian Goutsis) and director of a swashbuckling comedy filled with swordplay and adventure for the whole family. Set in 19th century Spanish California, the masked outlaw el Zorro is getting on in age and looking to hang up his cape. But with the small town of Los Angeles still under siege from his nemesis, the evil Sergeant Pablo Gonzales, can Zorro find a new hero worthy of wearing the mask to carry on the legacy?

ATP's entry into the 33rd Annual High Performance Rodeo and the fourth show in their season is [Café Daughter](#) by Kenneth T. Williams, a Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre production, in association with Alberta Aboriginal Arts, and co-presented with One Yellow Rabbit. Starring Juno-Award winning Inuit artist Tiffany Ayalik, this uniquely Canadian coming of age story based on the life of Chinese-Canadian and Cree Senator Lillian Eva Quan Dyke will resonate with anyone who has struggled to define their cultural identity. Running from January 15th to 27th, this remarkable one-woman show is an uplifting true story of overcoming the odds.

Closing ATP's 2018-19 season is the world premiere of [WROL \(Without Rule Of Law\)](#) by Calgary-based playwright Michaela Jeffery. Directed by Laurel Green (*Charlotte's Web*) this darkly funny mystery follows a group of renegade Girl Guides who have turned to the online survivalist movement in order to cope with the perils of growing up in complicated times. Throwing back to the style of classic kids' adventures of the 80's and 90's, Jeffery uses the framework of an adventure-comedy to explore the threats facing young women today. The show runs from March 5th to 17th.

New for the 2018-19 season, all fall shows will be performed in the thrust stage configuration of the Martha Cohen Theatre, bringing audiences even closer to the on-stage action by wrapping seating around three sides of the stage.

In addition to the traditional **Opening Night** celebrations (first Friday performances), where the show is followed by a catered reception, other fan-favourite value-added programs including **Pizza Night** (first Thursday previews) and **Afternoon Tea** (second Sunday matinees) will be returning in 2018-19, giving guests a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the processes that bring a play to life onstage, from writing to direction to design during a catered pre-show conversation with artists and special guest speakers. Two new programs have been added to the schedule to continue to help make theatre

in Calgary accessible for all Calgarians, including a **Pay-What-You-Can Preview** (first Tuesday) for all shows, and **\$15 Wednesday** previews for all core season shows.

“We’re excited to share our 2018-19 season with Calgarians. These truly incredible stories of strength and determination hold something for each and every person, and there’s never been a better, easier or more affordable time to see theatre in Calgary,” says ATP Board of Directors President Anne Brown. “We thank our amazing audiences, donors, sponsors, media and community partners and government funders for making the work we do possible, and for their unwavering support of ATP during this time of transition. We look forward to sharing news of the appointment of a new leader for the company in the coming months.”

All plays in the 2018-19 season will be presented at the [Martha Cohen Theatre at Arts Commons](#) (215 8 Ave. SE).

Season subscriptions start at just \$105. For more information about the plays in the 2018-19 season or becoming an Alberta Theatre Projects subscriber, please visit www.atplive.com.

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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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