

**ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD IS A HIT!
ATP's Presentation of the Classic Comedy Sets Weekend Sales Record!**

FIVE STARS "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern may be dead but a talented cast and crew are giving it new life." – Louis B. Hobson, The Calgary Herald

"... nothing short of spectacular." – Jonathan Love, The CBC

"This is world-class theatre at its most exhilarating and it would be foolish to miss it."
- Louis B. Hobson, The Calgary Herald

**ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS PRESENTS
ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD
BY TOM STOPPARD | DIRECTED BY GLYNIS LEYSHON
A SHAKESPEARE COMPANY AND HIT & MYTH PRODUCTION
OCTOBER 9 – 21, 2018
THE MARTHA COHEN THEATRE AT ARTS COMMONS**

CALGARY, October 16, 2018 – Over 50 years after winning the Tony Award for Best Play, [*Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*](#) by Tom Stoppard has proven to be very much alive and resonating with audiences more than ever. Only days after its opening, Alberta Theatre Projects' presentation of the classic comedy has set a new weekend sales record, joining the ranks of the highest grossing plays in ATP's 47-year history. A number of performances are already sold out. "We are delighted by Calgary's response to this new partnership with The Shakespeare Company and Hit & Myth Productions. It's thrilling to begin our 2018/19 season with this kind of momentum," says ATP's Executive and Artistic Director Darcy Evans. "We look forward to programming more classic contemporary works to complement premieres of some exciting new Canadian plays next season."

About the Show

Told from the perspective of two minor characters in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, the play begins when Hamlet's good friends Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are summoned to Denmark to comfort their grieving friend. But on their journey, they discover that nothing in their world is quite what it appears. What follows are nonstop moments of comedic brilliance as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern come to terms with their role in Shakespeare's famous tragedy, and their inevitable fate. Celebrated theatre and opera director Glynis Leyshon "found the essential balance between farce and comedy and pathos and melodrama," (*Calgary Herald*), bringing Rosencrantz and Guildenstern's existential tragicomedy out into the Martha Cohen Theatre auditorium with the audience surrounding three sides of the stage in thrust configuration.

The Shakespeare Company made the bold move of casting the show with two female leads, featuring performances by two of Calgary's most prominent actors Julie Orton as Guildenstern and Myla Southward as Rosencrantz. Says Calgary Herald theatre reviewer Louis B. Hobson, "Both Orton and Southward are as skilled at physical comedy as they are at mastering the verbal gymnastics of Stoppard's language." Calgary's comedic virtuoso Christopher Hunt is cast as The Player. "It's a tour de force performance from an actor who never ceases to amaze," said Hobson of Hunt's performance.

Background to the Show

First staged in 1966, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* won multiple Tony Awards in 1968, making Playwright Tom Stoppard a household name. The smash hit absurdist comedy returned to London's Old Vic Theatre in 2017 for a 50-year celebratory revival starring film actor Daniel Radcliff (Harry Potter). The revival received rave reviews including "astonishingly funny with a glorious range of jokes" (WhatsOnStage) and "brilliantly crafted" (Metro). The 1990 film adaptation starring Gary Oldman as Rosencrantz and Tim Roth as Guildenstern was directed by Stoppard himself. Stoppard is also widely known for winning the Academy Award for Best Screen Play for the 1999 film *Shakespeare in Love*.

With only seven performances remaining, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* closes Sunday, October 21. All performances are in the Martha Cohen Theatre at Arts Commons (215 8 Ave. SE). Tickets are available online at www.atplive.com or 403-294-7402.

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Follow the hashtag **#RnGAreDead** on Twitter and Instagram for the latest news about this production.

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