

# ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

For Immediate Release:

## Alberta Theatre Projects Announces Livestream Presentation of *The Wizard of Oz*

**CALGARY, Nov. 17, 2020** – Alberta Theatre Projects is thrilled to invite audiences to a special livestream reading of *The Wizard of Oz*, a new commission by playwright Andrew Scanlon and directed by Haysam Kadri. This is a rare behind-the-scenes look at how a new play is developed, as the actors will be reading the script live from the Martha Cohen Theatre stage in its draft format.

This marks the first event in Alberta Theatre Projects' reimagined 2020-2021 season. In this draft form, the script is a new adaptation from the book that inspired the classic film, and follows Alberta Theatre Projects' commitment to new play development and commissioning new works.

"*The Wizard of Oz* is a classic family adventure. By going back to its source material, the original novel by L. Frank Baum, my hope with this adaptation is to bring these well-loved characters vividly to life again, for theatre-goers of all ages," says Playwright Andrew Scanlon. "2020 has been a challenging year and I believe we're all desperately in need of a little escapism. That theme – the search for escape – exists at the very heart of this story."

As *The Wizard of Oz* script is developed, audiences tuning in will have a unique opportunity to see what goes on behind the curtain, before a new play commission is ready for the stage.

"I'm thrilled to be working on this faithful and playful adaptation by Andrew Scanlon, featuring some of Calgary's finest actors," said Director Haysam Kadri. "We look forward to transplanting Baum's celebrated work to the Martha Cohen stage in a dynamic and exciting play reading. Audiences will be invited to escape reality and journey together to the magical Emerald City of Oz."

Alberta Theatre Projects and Deane House have partnered to offer an exclusive Dine & View Party for all virtual presentations. This dinner experience, including a three-course meal and sommelier selected wine, can be added to the livestream ticket to complete a night 'at the theatre' from home.

*The Wizard of Oz* livestream reading runs Dec. 3-6, 2020, and tickets for this presentation and the additional dinner package are available at [www.albertatheatreprojects.com](http://www.albertatheatreprojects.com) or by calling the box office at 403-294-7402.

Alberta Theatre Projects is closely following all COVID-19 guidelines and safety protocols, including new targeted restrictions announced on Nov. 12, 2020. The safety of artists, staff, and the audience is the company's top priority in navigating these uncertain times. Audiences will enjoy this livestream exclusively from the comfort and safety of their homes.

**Audience Considerations:** All ages

**Cast:**

Dorothy: Kiana Wu

Uncle Henry/The Wizard/ Guardian/Winkie General: Kevin Rothery

Wicked Witch/Gulch: Elinor Holt

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Auntie Em/Glinda The Good/Chancellor: Tara Jackson  
The Tin Man/Hickory: Daniel Fong  
Scarecrow/Hoke: Tenaj Williams  
The Cowardly Lion/Zeke: Kevin Corey

## **Creative Team:**

Playwright: *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum, Dramatized by Andrew Scanlon  
Director: Haysam Kadri  
Stage Manager: Ruby Dawn Eustaquio

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## **For media inquiries, please contact:**

Danielle Barton  
Cell: 403-305-3406  
dbarton@atplive.com

## **About Alberta Theatre Projects:**

We create world-class contemporary theatre in Calgary from our home in the Martha Cohen Theatre. We are a national leader in new play development. Programming is selected from the finest Canadian and international plays driven by the collision of diverging ideas, points of view, class, gender or cultural perspectives. Our productions radically explore our space, blurring the line between the audience and the artist through multiple seating configurations each season.

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