

# ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

For Immediate Release:

## Canadian theatre is back with Alberta Theatre Projects' *Stealing Sam*

**CALGARY, March 26, 2021** – Alberta Theatre Projects is excited to bring theatre back to audiences at home and across the country with professional broadcasts of the acclaimed play *Stealing Sam*. Written and performed by Steven Gallagher and directed by Andrew Scanlon, based on original direction by Darcy Evans, *Stealing Sam* will be aired from the Martha Cohen Theatre April 29 – May 2, 2021.

When Jimmy's best friend of more than 25 years dies, he's forced to face "gay middle age" alone. In a moving performance by Gallagher, Jimmy steals the cremated remains from the funeral home and tries to give his friend the hilarious and heartfelt send-off he deserves, while sharing his insecurities, fears, and hopes about living and dating in an online world.

Incubated in Toronto, *Stealing Sam* premiered in 2013 at the Toronto Fringe Festival, winning six awards including Patron's Pick and Best of the Fringe. Gallagher and Evans also travelled to New York City with the show, winning the award for Best Drama at the United Solo Theatre Festival.

"*Stealing Sam* is a funny, heartfelt piece about love, friendship and loss, brought to life in a joyful, poignant performance by its playwright, Steven Gallagher," said Director Andrew Scanlon. "I was fortunate enough to be on the original team of its first production and am delighted to help bring it to life once again here at Alberta Theatre Projects, following the roadmap of Darcy's extraordinary, award-winning direction. Darcy's heart and creative spirit is woven into the fabric of *Stealing Sam*, and we are all so grateful to fulfill his wish to share Steven's wonderful play with a brand-new audience this spring."

*Stealing Sam* marks the first time since last Spring that an all-new production has been built and performed on the Martha Cohen stage. This broadcast production not only celebrates Canadian theatre, but also builds on the legacy of the late Executive and Artistic Director Darcy Evans.

"Darcy was not only a great director and collaborator, he was an even better friend who had faith in me long before anyone else," said Playwright Steven Gallagher. "Without Darcy, there would be no *Stealing Sam*. He was not only the driving force behind my writing of the play, he was with me for every production in Toronto, Quebec, and New York. I miss him terribly, but I know that his presence will be deeply felt in the theatre, and I hope we make him proud. I am honoured that Alberta Theatre Projects has invited me to perform *Stealing Sam* and that I can pay tribute to an incredible artist and cherished friend."

*Stealing Sam* runs April 29 – May 2, 2021, and tickets for each performance are available at [www.albertatheatreprojects.com](http://www.albertatheatreprojects.com) or 403-294-7402.

Alberta Theatre Projects is closely following all COVID-19 guidelines and safety protocols. The safety of our staff and audience is our top priority as we navigate these uncertain times.

**Audience Considerations:** 18+ for mature themes

**Cast:**

220 – 9 Avenue SE | Calgary AB T2G 5C4 | 403-294-7475 | [albertatheatreprojects.com](http://albertatheatreprojects.com)

# ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

Jimmy: Steven Gallagher

**Creative Team:**

Playwright: Steven Gallagher

Director: Andrew Scanlon (based on original direction by Darcy Evans)

Set/Props Design: Hanne Loosen

Lighting: Scott Reid

Production Coordinator: Laurel Oneil

- 30 -

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

Danielle Barton

Cell: 403-305-3406

[dbarton@atplive.com](mailto: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.

Twitter: [@ABTHEATREPRJCTS](https://twitter.com/ABTHEATREPRJCTS)

Instagram: [@ABTHEATREPRJCTS](https://www.instagram.com/ABTHEATREPRJCTS)

Facebook: ALBERTATHEATREPROJECTS