

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

For Immediate Release:

Alberta Theatre Projects' *Stealing Sam* on hold until further notice

CALGARY, April 22, 2021 – Alberta Theatre Projects has made the difficult decision to put the upcoming production of *Stealing Sam* on hold until further notice, due to current pandemic restrictions. Written and performed by Steven Gallagher and directed by Andrew Scanlon, based on original direction by Darcy Evans, *Stealing Sam* was scheduled to be aired from the Martha Cohen Theatre April 29 – May 2, 2021.

Work on this production has been on-going since the start of 2021, with the original intent to produce *Stealing Sam* in late February. However, pandemic restrictions meant that Alberta Theatre Projects couldn't proceed as originally planned. When livestreaming productions became a possibility again in early March, the entire Alberta Theatre Projects team worked hard to finalize the set, props, designs, and audience materials.

On April 6, new restrictions from the Province were announced that brought everyone back to Step 1 in the Path to Recovery, meaning that rehearsals and performances were no longer permitted, effectively restricting access to rehearsal and performance spaces.

"We are heartbroken that we have to make this decision, but we are still committed to staging the show as soon as possible," said Kyle Russell, Interim Executive Director. "The work our artists and crew have put into *Stealing Sam* means that we are truly on standby and ready to go as soon as it's safe to do so. The set is built, our artists are rehearsed, and we are ready to hit the record button on our cameras and share the show with you as soon as we're able to do so."

About *Stealing Sam*

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 in honour of Darcy Evans.

Audience Considerations: 18+ for mature themes

Cast:

Jimmy: Steven Gallagher

Creative Team:

Playwright: Steven Gallagher

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

Set/Props Design: Hanne Loosen

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Lighting: Scott Reid
Production Coordinator: Laurel Oneil

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For media inquiries, please contact:

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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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