

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

For Immediate Release:

Alberta Theatre Projects welcomes back audiences to the Martha Cohen Theatre with *Stealing Sam*

CALGARY, Sept. 21, 2021 – Alberta Theatre Projects is thrilled to finally present the acclaimed play *Stealing Sam* live and on stage to its loyal audiences. Written and performed by Steven Gallagher and directed by Andrew Scanlon, based on original direction by Darcy Evans, *Stealing Sam* will run from Oct. 13-31, 2021 in the Martha Cohen Theatre.

Originally slated for February 2021, this is the third start for this remarkable play and a testament to the resiliency and determination of everyone involved in bringing this production to the stage. The set is still built on the Martha Cohen stage, from when production was last shut down on April 6, 2021, due to pandemic restrictions.

“*Stealing Sam* will be a significant experience, as it marks the first time since March 2020 that a live production will be performed for in-person audiences on the Martha Cohen stage,” said Kyle Russell, Interim Executive Director. “Alberta Theatre Projects has remained dedicated in our commitments to presenting *Stealing Sam*, and giving this show the spotlight it deserves. A lot of heart has gone into this production. We cannot wait to celebrate the magic of theatre with our audiences, together once again.”

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.

“I am extremely humbled that *Stealing Sam* will be the first show back in the beautiful Martha Cohen Theatre,” said performer and playwright Steven Gallagher. “This production is dedicated to the memory of my dear friend and collaborator Darcy Evans, who loved nothing more than creating theatre that moved people. The staff at Alberta Theatre Projects has been tireless in its efforts to honour the inspiring legacy that Darcy began, and I know that we will feel his joyous spirit every day in the rehearsal hall.”

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 runs Oct. 13-31, 2021, and tickets for each performance are available at www.albertatheatreprojects.com or 403-294-7402.

COVID-19 Audience Policy

Alberta Theatre Projects is dedicated to keeping patrons, artists, staff, volunteers, and community healthy and safe to ensure live-performance spaces remain open and thriving. Along with existing

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pandemic policies put in place by Alberta Theatre Projects, and following the most up-to-date recommendations by Alberta Health Services, the proof of vaccination policy is the latest protocol instated by all of Arts Commons and the Resident Companies, to prioritize the health and safety of the community, and complies with the Alberta Restriction Exception Program.

Please visit our Health and Safety page for the most up to date information:

<https://albertatheatreprojects.com/plan-your-visit/health-and-safety/>

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)

Lighting Design: Scott Reid

Set Design: Hanne Loosen

Stage Manager: Carissa Sams

Apprentice Stage Manager: Raynah Bourne

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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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