

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

For Immediate Release:

Alberta Theatre Projects boldly embraces the future, with the appointment of a new Artistic and Executive Director, and the announcement of 2021-22 Season Lineup

CALGARY, October 6, 2021 – Alberta Theatre Projects officially launches their 2021-22 theatre season with the announcement of a new visionary leader, and an inspired selection of shows, which includes three world premieres commissioned and workshopped by the company, and a beloved Canadian blockbuster which was adapted into a 5-season award-winning television show.

Alberta Theatre Projects is thrilled to announce the appointment of Rohit Chokhani as Artistic and Executive Director. Mr. Chokhani is an award-winning arts leader passionate about creating a more equitable and inclusive arts and culture community. One of the most sought-after multicultural voices in Canada and internationally, he is an established Executive, Producer and Director, with involvement in over 30 different productions, many of which featured IBPOC theatre-makers. Chokhani has also worked extensively in Digital Entertainment, with many well-known clients such as FOX, Pixar, Disney, Nickelodeon and Majesco.

“We are thrilled to have someone of Rohit Chokhani’s calibre and experience join Alberta Theatre Projects,” said Vishal Saini, President of Alberta Theatre Projects’ Board of Directors. “We are at an exciting moment in our history where the organization is well-positioned for a successful future. Rohit is creatively driven while having financial and business acumen, resilient and adaptive under pressure. He is a leader who will empower his team to elevate Alberta Theatre Projects’ reputation through this post-pandemic world, where listening and collaborating will be more important, now more than ever.”

Before arriving in Calgary, Chokhani held leadership roles with numerous organizations, including the Vancouver Fringe Festival, Touchstone Theatre, Urban Ink Productions, Diwali Fest, and South Asian Arts Society. He has served five seasons at Bard on the Beach, Western Canada’s largest not-for-profit, professional Shakespeare Festival, in numerous different capacities, and is the co-creator / co-director of their critically acclaimed and box office hit production. All’s Well That Ends Well (2019). Chokhani received acclaim for his uniquely directed reimagination of Anosh Irani’s Bombay Black (2017-2018). He is also the recipient of the Jessie Richardson Theatre Award (Vancouver) for Significant Artistic Achievement (2017) and the prestigious Vancouver NOW Representation and Inclusion Award (2018).

“I am interested in creating ground-breaking theatre that reaches and connects with people nationally and internationally, brings communities together, that will create opportunities for artists in Alberta,” said Rohit Chokhani. “After more than a decade of exciting work in Vancouver, B.C, I am delighted to make Calgary my new home, and Alberta Theatre Projects my new creative hub. Over the past few years, I have been lucky enough to visit Calgary multiple times, attend industry events, watch shows, and get to know the local companies and artists. I have always left yearning to connect more, and be a part of this vibrant and thriving theatre community. Alberta Theatre Projects has captivated the minds and hearts of audiences and stakeholders in recent years, and I look forward to continuing this legacy with our creative team, board of directors, staff, cast and crew, and the Calgary theatre community at large.”

Rohit Chokhani begins his role as Artistic and Executive Director on November 1, 2021, and will be available for scheduled interviews after that date.

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2021- Season Lineup – Welcoming audiences back to The Martha Cohen Theatre

Alberta Theatre Projects is excited to bring live performances back to in-person audiences at The Martha Cohen Theatre, with a season of world-class contemporary works created in Canada. The abridged season of four plays honours the programming of late Executive & Artistic Director Darcy Evans, and explores the vision of Interim Artistic Director Haysam Kadri, who will be directing the first show.

“Nothing can replace the shared pulse and energy of a theatre audience, and we are looking forward to welcoming our patrons back to the theatre,” said Haysam Kadri, Interim Artistic Director. “It’s been a challenging period of time, but we hold such hope for the future. Our season of shows was built with care and consideration for our audience, while featuring significant work from a talented range of artists. The stage is set. The lights are ready to shine. We are excited to bring live theatre back to our community safely.”

The season starts with a holiday offering – *In Wonderland* – an ambitious re-imagining of Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*. This play by Anna Cumber, will feature three actors fantastically portraying the story’s iconic characters, transforming right before audience’s eyes. Follow Alice through the rabbit hole, and be swept away through theatre magic as the stage spectacularly metamorphosizes into a stunning visual realm. *In Wonderland* is a world premiere, commissioned and developed by Alberta Theatre Projects, which revisits these timeless stories in a newly imagined way. The show is scheduled to go on tour to British Columbia in 2022.

Next comes the long-awaited presentation of the one-woman show, *Undressed*, written and performed by Louis Casemore. Originally commissioned and programmed by late Executive & Artistic Director Darcy Evans, this hilarious, heartfelt solo show explores a simple but confounding question: What do you do with a used wedding dress? What follows is a real-time zero waste auction, as Casemore embodies each of the brides who have chosen to let their wedding gown go. *Undressed* is a World Premiere, commissioned and developed by Alberta Theatre Projects. It is a profoundly personal play full of humour and heart, with more than a few dynamic interactive surprises.

In March 2022, Alberta Theatre Projects will co-produce *Alberta Kitchen Party* with Forte Musical Guild. Initially conceived by Darcy Evans and Forte’s Joe Slabe, this spirited musical celebration has been created through an innovative collaboration between some of Alberta’s most exciting and dynamic up-and-coming performing artists. Audiences will be invited to an intimate, candid, personal look at the unique journey each artist has taken to a life on the stage, as they explore their experiences growing up in Calgary, finding their ways as humans and artists, and celebrating their emotional connections to the city and the province.

To close the 2021-22 season, the Martha Cohen Theatre will welcome the Canadian phenomenon *Kim’s Convenience* by Ins Choi. Featuring the beloved story of a family-run Korean-owned convenience store, the multi-award-winning script was created as a production for the stage, which debuted in 2011 at the Toronto Fringe Festival. The show has enjoyed multiple tours, and was adapted to a hit television series that ran for five years. An Arts Club Theatre Company Production presented by Alberta Theatre Projects, this journey of a fractured but loving family forgiving the past, and confronting the future, is a true Canadian classic.

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Show Billings and Dates

In Wonderland - November 23, 2021 - December 26, 2021

By Anna Cummer. Directed by Haysam Kadri

Based on Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventure in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*
World Premiere, presented on the Martha Cohen Theatre's Proscenium Stage

Undressed - January 26 - February 13, 2022

Written and performed by Louise Casemore. Directed by Jenna Rodgers

World Premiere, presented on the Martha Cohen Theatre's Cabaret Stage

Alberta Kitchen Party - March 2 - 20, 2022

Produced in association with Forte Musical Theatre Guild

Co-Created by Jeremy Carver-James, Alixandra Cowman, Anna Dagleish, Darcy Evans, Daniel Fong, Mieko Ouchi, Kodie Rollan, and Joe Slabe with contributions from Zach Running Coyote and Tenaj Williams. Directed by Mieko Ouchi

World Premiere, presented on the Martha Cohen Theatre's Cabaret Stage

Kim's Convenience - April 13 - May 1, 2022

By Ins Choi, Directed by Kaitlin Williams, Assistant Directed by Soran Nakai

An Arts Club Theatre Company Production, Based on the 2018 production by Pacific Theatre

Presented by Alberta Theatre Projects

Presented on the Martha Cohen Theatre's Proscenium Stage

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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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