

# ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

For Immediate Release:

## ***In Wonderland* to be a true holiday spectacle, featuring three artists portraying all the familiar characters, supported by theatre magic**

**CALGARY, November 16, 2021** - This holiday season, Alberta Theatre Projects invites families back to their playhouse with the reimagining of a nostalgic classic. *In Wonderland*, a World Premiere, is based on Lewis Carroll's beloved novels, *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*.

The commissioned script was written by Calgary-based actor Anna Cumber, and collaboratively developed and workshopped in-house. Cumber was first approached by the show's Director, Haysam Kadri, in June 2021. Kadri invited her to adapt a new holiday show based on a familiar classic of her choice. The catch - could it be done with only three actors?

During the first lockdown of the pandemic, Cumber read *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* with her children. Carroll's fantastical, whimsical world was a welcomed escape for them. It felt like a perfect fit for ATP's holiday show. The small cast size made it a golden opportunity to reframe the familiar classic. Cumber was further inspired by Vaudevillian theatre, and presented her vision of the story as a family-centric variety show with everything from clown acts to musical numbers, complete with slap-stick and poetry. Each scene would become a fast-paced vignette tied together by the aesthetics and performance style of Vaudeville, sure to entertain and delight both children and adults.

"We follow a young girl navigating the topsy-turvy world of social interactions and skirting the edges of adulthood," said Cumber. With Kadri's encouragement, Cumber departed slightly from the source material to write an Alice with more agency which helped focus the coming-of-age story. It made the tale more timeless and relevant.

"Carroll's novels have not faded in the slightest by time," said director Haysam Kadri. "Alice's adventures will continue to intrigue us for countless years to come, and the story fittingly taps into the disorienting feelings of pandemic living: the bizarre dreams, the confusion around time, appetite for escape, and perpetual anxiety. There's no better parallel in time to tell this story."

Theatre magic will be fully realized onstage in the Martha Cohen Theatre through projections, extraordinary scenic elements, lighting illusions and shadows, costumes and puppetry, which all play a vital role in the storytelling. Hanne Loosen, well-known to ATP audiences for her spectacular designs in 2019's holiday presentation, *Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe*, has created a dazzling world of imagination, absurdity and abstraction, which will transfix audiences throughout this wild, and sometimes outrageous, world of Wonderland.

Alberta Theatre Projects is proud to share that *In Wonderland* will be going on tour to Richmond, BC, in April 2022, presented by Gateway Theatre. The original cast and production team is planned to be involved with this production.

# ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

*In Wonderland* runs from November 23 – December 26, 2021, in the Martha Cohen Theatre at Arts Commons (215 8 Ave. SE). Tickets are available at [www.albertatheatreprojects.com](http://www.albertatheatreprojects.com) or 403-294-7402.

**Audience Considerations:** Recommended for ages 6+

**Cast:**

Actor #1: Sarah Roa

Actor #2: Natascha Girgis

Actor #3: Graham Percy

Swing/Understudy: Charlie Gould

**Creative Team:**

Playwright: Anna Cumber

Director: Haysam Kadri

Assistant Director: Meg Farhall

Set and Costume Design: Hanne Loosen

Lighting Design: Alexandra Prichard

Sound Design: Peter Moller

Projection Design: Jamie Nesbitt

Assistant Projection Design: Cameron Wilson Fraser

State Manager: Ashley Rees

Assistant Stage Manager: Emma Slunt

- 30 -

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

Jennifer Merio

Cell: 403-700-9839

[jmerio@atplive.com](mailto:jmerio@atplive.com)

**Save the date: Media Call, Tuesday, November 23, 12:30 – 1:30 pm.** Actors will preview a few short scenes onstage for photography and video opportunity. Select creative team members will be available for interviews after the presentation. An email invitation will follow closer to the date.

**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

Instagram: @ABTHEATREPRJCTS

Facebook: ALBERTATHEATREPROJECT