

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

For Immediate Release:

Alberta Theatre Projects, in association with Forte Musical Theatre Guild, brings you the world premiere of 'Alberta Kitchen Party,' a new work that offers an inside look at the challenges and triumphs of being a performing artist in Alberta

CALGARY, February 23, 2022 – A couple of short years back, kitchen parties could be found in homes across the country. As friends gather, inevitably, they end up in the kitchen – casual and joyous gatherings, surrounded by food, drink, and music. Alberta Theatre Projects' new show, *Alberta Kitchen Party*, calls upon these familiar and longed-for days and celebrates those feelings of community, belonging, and searching for a place to call home. A spirited musical celebration, *Alberta Kitchen Party*, is woven together with a candid, personal look at the unique journey each artist has taken to a life on the stage. A group of friends share stories of their experiences growing up in Calgary, finding their ways as humans and artists, and celebrating their emotional connections to the city and the province. It's an intimate evening with these multi-talented performers as they raise their voices, sharing their hopes, fears, struggles, and victories.

"This is a collection of very personal stories and curated original and cover songs, with the narrative collaboratively written by the creative team," says Director Mieko Ouchi. "The cast is playing themselves, and have been incredibly generous in sharing their experiences becoming theatre and musical artists, and their deep roots and connections to this city and province. It's been a beautiful and organic process to work together to create this true ensemble piece. The result is a joyful night that we hope will bring audiences back into the world of theatre, that uses art as the foundation to share, reconnect and heal with genuine warmth and joy."

A story interwoven with music, *Alberta Kitchen Party* contains a blend of original songs written just for the show, and some fan-favourite tunes that will be familiar to everyone in the audience. Led on stage by Musical Director Joe Slabe, the performers play their own instruments, including a selection of guitars, trumpet, drums and the harmonica. Each performer had the opportunity to choose a song dear to them or write a piece they felt encapsulated their journey.

"It's an exploration about home, told through the artist's lens - what it means to have roots, and when to take flight," says Rohit Chokhani, Artistic and Executive Director of Alberta Theatre Projects. "This theme has become even more relevant during the current times. Alberta is home to so many talented local artists. There is such a strong desire in our community to hear stories of local artists and get to know them. We are thrilled to have this opportunity to give some of these talented artists the opportunity to tell their stories about rediscovering their love for their art form, and discovering the strength and support of community, as individuals and as friends. Together, they celebrate where they've come from, honor and acknowledge the people who have left us, and the shifts and changes they've encountered in this ever-changing world."

The show is presented in a casual environment with cabaret table seating on the main floor to invite audiences into this created world. A portion of the stage area is built to create an intimate world without barriers between audience and performers. *Alberta Kitchen Party* promises to be a close look into the lives of artists - where they've been, and where they're going, and an exploration of the meaning of home.

***Alberta Kitchen Party* runs from March 2 – 19, 2022, in the Martha Cohen Theatre at Arts Commons (215 8 Ave SE). Tickets are available at www.albertatheatreprojects.com or 403-294-7402.**

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Audience Considerations: Recommended for ages 14+

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

Cast

Jeremy Carver-James
Alixandra Cowman
Anna Dalglish
Daniel Fong
Kodie Rollan

Produced in association with Forte Musical Theatre Guild

Creative Team:

Director: Mieko Ouchi
Musical Director: Joe Slabe
Set & Lighting Design: Scott Reid
Stage Manager: Ashley Rees
Assistant Stage Manager: Emma Slunt

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For media inquiries, please contact:

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Alberta Theatre Projects is very excited to bring this show to the stage, and provide an excellent experience for Calgary audiences. We would be happy to arrange an interview with one of our artists - they are looking forward to speaking with the media about the show's process, development, and the upcoming run.

Our focus is on safely moving forward with the production, taking a surplus of care to ensure the health of our patrons and everyone involved in our performances. As such, **Rohit Chokani, Artistic and Executive Director**, kindly requests that any questions regarding Alberta Theatre Project's COVID protocols, health and safety measures, or any organizational decisions be directed only to him, as he is best equipped to answer such queries.

Save the date: Media Call, Wednesday, March 2, 12:30 – 1:30 pm. Actors will preview a short presentation on stage 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.

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