

# ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## Renowned Canadian actor Paul Gross returns to Calgary as Alberta Theatre Projects unveils its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season

*Paul Gross stars in Conor McPherson's hit play The Seafarer, opening in October 2024*

**CALGARY, April 11, 2024** – Alberta Theatre Projects (ATP) proudly unveils its highly anticipated 50th Anniversary Season. As we celebrate five decades of artistic excellence and community engagement, we invite audiences to join us for a captivating journey through the intricacies of human relationships, showcased through a diverse lineup of entertaining and thought-provoking plays.

The season kicks off with **Conor McPherson's** critically acclaimed play, *The Seafarer*, starring Canadian superstar **Paul Gross**. Born in Calgary, Gross returns to his home city to grace the stage of the Martha Cohen Theatre in this compelling production. *The Seafarer* is a gripping dark comedy that celebrates the bonds of camaraderie, the possibility of redemption, and the enduring hope found in second chances. Under the direction of acclaimed theatre director **Peter Pasyk**, whose portfolio includes prestigious companies like the Stratford Festival and Soulpepper Theatre Company, this production promises to be exceptional.

"As Alberta Theatre Projects commemorates its 50th year, it's an honour to have Paul Gross in the spotlight, marking this milestone with his talent and presence," says ATP's Artistic Director, Haysam Kadri. "His return adds an extra layer of significance to our celebration, emphasizing the deep roots and enduring impact of theatre in our community."

As we reflect on the remarkable history of Alberta Theatre Projects, it is only fitting that our 50th Anniversary Season celebrates one of our most beloved productions. Our holiday show will feature the heartwarming classic, **E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*** adapted by **Joseph Robinette**, a timeless tale that has enchanted audiences of all ages for generations. Through the endearing characters of Wilbur the pig and Charlotte the spider, this cherished story beautifully illustrates the enduring power of loyalty and the profound impact of friendship. Directed by the phenomenally talented **Rebecca Northan**, a beloved figure in Calgary's vibrant arts scene and renowned for her innovative approach to storytelling and captivating direction, this production promises to capture the hearts of audiences once again. With its rich history and enduring appeal, *Charlotte's Web* holds a special place in the hearts of our community, making it the perfect centerpiece for our milestone anniversary celebration.

In the New Year, **Rajiv Joseph's *King James*** takes center court, offering a dynamic exploration of friendship amidst the thrilling world of basketball. Against the backdrop of **LeBron James's** legacy, audiences will witness the evolution of two friends' relationship over twelve pivotal years, navigating the highs and lows of rivalry, friendship, and the pursuit of greatness. *King James* promises to captivate audiences with its compelling narrative and stellar performances. With ATP's Artistic Director **Haysam Kadri** in the director's chair, audiences can expect a theatrical experience that resonates long after the final buzzer.

Closing out the season is the uproarious comedy ***Liars at a Funeral*** by **Sophia Fabiilli**, a hilarious romp through the absurdities of family dynamics and the lengths we go to for love and connection. When a grandmother fakes her own death in a last-ditch hope to get her dysfunctional family in one room, the play builds to a hysterically funny pitch. As secrets unravel and deceptions unfold, audiences will be treated to an entertaining exploration of the bonds that tie us together, no matter how unconventional.

"We are thrilled to present our 50th Anniversary Season, as we celebrate a half-century of theatrical excellence," says Kadri. "With a rich display of human relationships woven throughout our history, these four exceptional plays serve as poignant reflections on the joys and challenges of connection. They invite audiences to laugh, cry, and

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ponder the universal truths that bind us all, honouring the legacy of our past while embracing the promise of the future."

Join us as we embark on this milestone season, where each production promises to entertain, ignite the imagination, and deepen our understanding of the human experience. Subscriptions are available now, and we look forward to welcoming you to Alberta Theatre Projects for an unforgettable celebration!

## Show Billings and Dates

**THE SEAFARER** – October 15 – November 10, 2024

Written by Conor McPherson

Starring Paul Gross

Directed by Peter Pasyk

E.B. White's

**CHARLOTTE'S WEB** – November 26 – December 29, 2024

Adapted by Joseph Robinette

Directed by Rebecca Northan

**KING JAMES** – February 25 – March 16, 2025

Written by Rajiv Joseph

Directed by Haysam Kadri

In association with Theatre Aquarius

**LIARS AT A FUNERAL** – April 22 – May 11, 2025

Written by Sophia Fabiilli

Director TBD

**Subscriptions are now available for purchase.** All remaining single tickets will go on sale this summer.

For more details about Alberta Theatre Projects' upcoming season, please visit [albertatheatreprojects.com](http://albertatheatreprojects.com)

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## About Alberta Theatre Projects:

Alberta Theatre Projects has been a cornerstone of Calgary's arts community for five decades, showcasing the best in live theatre and fostering a vibrant cultural hub for audiences of all ages. With a commitment to artistic excellence and community engagement, ATP continues to inspire, entertain, and enrich the lives of theatregoers across the region.

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