

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Alberta Theatre Projects, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, and The Old Trout Puppet Workshop join forces to reimagine ghostly classic for the stage this fall

CALGARY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 – **Alberta Theatre Projects (ATP)** is thrilled to be bringing the world premiere production of a brand-new Canadian adaptation to Calgary theatregoers this autumn: *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Co-written by **Anna Cummer** and **Judd Palmer**, produced in association with **Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity**, and brought to life by the twisted genius of **The Old Trout Puppet Workshop**, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* is an exciting multi-organizational collaboration that breathes new life into the enduring and haunting tale of the Headless Horseman... just in time for Halloween.

Ten years after the American Revolutionary War, in a country still haunted by the violence that created it, Ichabod Crane, a country school master, finds himself dispatched to a remote village North of the Hudson River: Sleepy Hollow. Here he tries to bring the inhabitants of this deeply superstitious hamlet into the 18th century. But secrets run deep, and not all is as it appears in this place still haunted by its past.

“We are thrilled to be launching ATP’s new season with this bold Canadian adaptation,” says ATP Artistic Director **Haysam Kadri**.

Kadri highlights the contributions of playwrights Anna Cummer and Judd Palmer, together with The Old Trout Puppet Workshop, who adapted the story alongside Cummer and designed the set, puppets, and costumes. “Their unmistakable creativity reimagines the tale with a sense of wonder, menace, and dark humour that feels especially fitting for October, arriving just in time for the eerie spirit of Halloween and serving as the perfect spark to ignite our year ahead.”

With renowned designers **Sonoyo Nishikawa** (Lighting) and **Andrew Blizzard** (Sound) rounding out the design team, and a cast of seven exciting Calgary actors, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* will be a feast for the senses, a deeply affecting theatre experience, and the perfect way for audiences to immerse themselves into the spirit of the spooky season. They will also experience first-hand the exciting work that can stem from this kind of multi-organization artistic collaboration.

“Our partnership with Banff Centre is truly special,” says Kadri. “The creative focus and energy here elevate the work and remind us of the extraordinary artistic community we’re part of in Alberta.”

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“To be working with old friends and collaborators like the Old Trouts and Alberta Theatre Projects is exactly the kind of work we love doing at Banff Centre, and we’re grateful to The Slight Family Foundation for the gift that makes this collaboration possible,” says **Amiel Gladstone**, Director, Theatre Arts at Banff Centre. “This is a dream team of Alberta theatre organizations creating a modern take on an iconic story – I’m incredibly excited to play a part in this world premiere before it travels on in our province and, hopefully, across the country and beyond.”

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow runs:

At **Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity**, October 11, 14, 15 and 17 at the Jenny Belzberg Theatre (107 Tunnel Mountain Dr, Banff). Tickets are available at banffcentre.ca.

At **Alberta Theatre Projects** October 22 – November 9 at the Martha Cohen Theatre at Werklund Centre (formerly Arts Commons) (215 8 Ave SE). Tickets are available at albertatheatreprojects.com or 403-294-7402.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Based on the story by **Washington Irving**

Adaptation & Story by **Peter Balkwill, Anna Cummer, Steven (Pityu) Kenderes, and Judd Palmer**

Written by **Anna Cummer** and **Judd Palmer**

Directed by **Craig Hall**

In association with **Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity**

Featuring **The Old Trout Puppet Workshop**

Banff Centre New Play Productions are generously funded by The Slight Family Foundation

Cast (alphabetical):

Devon Brayne - Brom

Christopher Clare – Van Ripper

Emily Howard – Katrina

Jamie Konchak – Gerda

Doug McKeag – Baltus

Matthew Mooney – Ichabod

Alice Wordsworth – Anna

Creative Team:

Anna Cummer – Playwright, Adaptation

Judd Palmer – Playwright, Adaptation; Set, Puppet and Costume Design

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Pete Balkwill – Adaptation; Set, Puppet and Costume Design
Pityu Kenderes – Adaptation; Set, Puppet and Costume Design
Craig Hall – Director
Haysam Kadri – Fight Director
Sonoyo Nishikawa – Lighting Design
Andrew Blizzard – Sound Design
Laurel Oneil – Stage Manager
Raynah Bourne – Assistant Stage Manager

Audience Advisory: Suggested for ages 12+, mature themes, loud sounds, flashing lights.

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The cast and creative team of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* is currently rehearsing in Banff and will not be returning to Calgary until Monday, October 20, however it is possible for phone/video chat interviews to be arranged.

There will be a scheduled media call on **Wednesday, October 22** from **12:30pm until 1:30pm**. Actors will present an onstage showcase of a key scene for photography and video opportunities. Various creative team and cast members will be available for interviews following the presentation. If you cannot attend, photos can be provided after the event.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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About Alberta Theatre Projects:

Alberta Theatre Projects has been a cornerstone of Calgary's arts community for over 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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About Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity:

Founded in 1933, Banff Centre is a post-secondary institution built upon an extraordinary legacy of excellence in artistic and leadership development. What started as a single course in drama has grown to become a global organization leading in arts, culture, and creative decision-making across dozens of disciplines, from the fine arts to Indigenous Wise Practices. From our home in the stunning Canadian Rocky Mountains, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity aims to move everyone who attends our campus - artists, leaders, thinkers, and audiences - to unleash their creative potential and realize their unique contribution to build an innovative, inspiring future through education, performances, convenings, and public outreach. banffcentre.ca