

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA RELEASE: Powerhouse Canadian play *Casey and Diana* opens at Alberta Theatre Projects this month

CALGARY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 – It’s October 1991, at the height of the AIDS crisis, and the residents of Casey House, Canada’s first free-standing AIDS hospice, receive word that Diana, Princess of Wales, will be making a historic visit.

Alberta Theatre Projects (ATP) (Calgary), in association with **The Citadel Theatre** (Edmonton), is proud to bring powerhouse Canadian play *Casey and Diana* to the Martha Cohen Theatre stage from **February 24 – March 15**.

“Powerful, gripping, funny and hopeful,” (Hamilton Magazine), **Nick Green’s** *Casey and Diana* vividly captures a moment in time when a rebel Princess, devoted caregivers and steadfast advocates reshaped the course of a crisis—and how those stricken by the virus found hard-won dignity, community and love in the face of astonishing hardship. Inspired by true events, *Casey and Diana* is a powerful tribute to love, resilience, community and compassion, and is brimming with moments of deep tenderness, resilience, sharp wit, and humour.

“At its core, this play is about a meeting that no one quite expects and what unfolds when two very different worlds pause long enough to truly see one another,” says ATP Artistic Director **Haysam Kadri**. “It’s a story filled with humour, tenderness, and surprising moments of connection, the kind that stay with you long after the curtain comes down.”

This critically acclaimed drama has been taking Canadian theatres by storm since its premiere production at the Stratford Festival (Ontario) in 2023. After enjoying a near-sold-out run in Stratford, the play has been sweeping the nation with productions from Soulpepper Theatre Company (Toronto), Theatre Aquarius (Hamilton), Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (Winnipeg), Arts Club Theatre (Vancouver), Yes Theatre (Sudbury), and Neptune Theatre (Halifax); with more productions still to come from The Belfry Theatre (Victoria), Western Canada Theatre (Kamloops), and The Citadel Theatre (Edmonton, produced in association with ATP).

“This play is special.” says *Casey and Diana* director, **Lana Michelle Hughes**. “Its beating heart is magic, humanity, and resistance. At a time when the world feels fractured, Nick Green offers us a story rooted in radical compassion. Not as an abstract ideal, but as a lived, embodied practice.”

“Princess Diana’s visit to Casey House became a symbol of what it looks like to refuse dehumanization. Her willingness to touch, to sit, to listen, without fear, challenged a narrative that treated people with AIDS as untouchable,” says Hughes, adding, “but this play is careful not to

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make Diana the sole hero. Instead, it places her within a constellation of everyday bravery: the healthcare workers who showed up day after day, the volunteers who held hands through the night, the residents who met death with wit, anger, grace, and humour.”

Hughes leads a team of Alberta-based artists in bringing *Casey and Diana* to life onstage. The play will be presented in a thrust stage configuration, which extends the stage out into the orchestra and allows for audience to sit on three sides of the playing space. This configuration immerses the audience even further into the story – perfect for the beautifully moving and deeply powerful *Casey and Diana*.

Casey and Diana runs at Alberta Theatre Projects in Calgary from February 24 – March 15, 2026 at the Martha Cohen Theatre at Werklund Centre (formerly Arts Commons) (215 8 Ave SE). Tickets are available now at albertatheatreprojects.com or 403-294-7402.

The show then plays at The Citadel Theatre in Edmonton from April 4 – 26, 2026 at the Maclab Theatre (9828 101A Avenue NW). Tickets are available at citadeltheatre.com or 780-425-1820.

Casey and Diana

By Nick Green

Directed by Lana Michelle Hughes

In association with The Citadel Theatre

Cast (alphabetical):

April Banigan – Marjorie

Nathan Cuckow – Thomas

Emily Howard – Diana

Helen Knight – Pauline

Norma Lewis – Vera

Josh Travnik - Andre

Creative Team:

Nick Green – Playwright

Lana Michelle Hughes – Director

Alissa Watson – Assistant Director

Morgan Yamada – Fight/Intimacy Director

Hanne Loosen – Set Design

Rebecca Toon – Costume Design

Whittyn Jason – Lighting Design

Allison Lynch – Composition & Sound Design

Darren Young – Sound Design Associate

Sara Turner – Stage Manager

Ken James Stewart – Assistant Stage Manager

Tawni Marie Evans – Costume Design Mentee

Audience Advisory: Suggested for ages 14+, mature content, language

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Media Call:

There will be a scheduled media call for *Casey and Diana* on **Wednesday, February 25** from **12:30pm until 1:30pm** at the **Martha Cohen Theatre** at Werklund Centre (215 8 Ave SE). 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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587-441-9489

About Alberta Theatre Projects:

We produce world-class theatre that reflects our diverse community, collaborates across the arts sector, and strengthens Calgary's cultural heartbeat. We champion Canadian and international voices, foster innovation in staging and design, and make theatre accessible to everyone.

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