

# ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## MEDIA RELEASE: ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS SET TO UNLEASH KAT SANDLER'S FEROCIOUS COMEDY, *WILDWOMAN*

**CALGARY, APRIL 14, 2026** – This spring, **Alberta Theatre Projects** (ATP) invites audiences to take a walk on the wild side with a very different kind of comedy.

Racy, smart, and ferociously funny – [WILDWOMAN](#) explodes onto the **Martha Cohen Theatre** stage from **April 21 – May 10**. Written by Canadian playwright **Kat Sandler** and produced in association with **Gateway Theatre** (Richmond, BC), *WILDWOMAN* dives into the lives of three powerful women as they fight for survival, influence, and legacy within the treacherous walls of a royal court.

Newly arrived in France, Queen-to-be Catherine de Medici must contend with her unruly husband, a scheming lady-in-waiting, and the King's power-hungry mistress, as she struggles to give the kingdom what it needs most: an heir. But it's Pete, the King's pet wildman, a caged oddity kept for amusement, who has the most surprising impact on their lives. His friendly and feral presence gradually awakens Catherine's own wild side, and once she unleashes it, no one is safe from her vengeful wrath.

The play is based on the shocking true story said to have inspired Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve's famous tale, *Beauty and the Beast*, but *WILDWOMAN* is anything but your typical period costume drama. Despite taking place in 1533, the play has a distinctly modern edge, with both dialogue and tone feeling far more at home in the 2020s than in 16th century France. Full of twists, turns and gasp-out-loud moments, *WILDWOMAN* is a viciously bold and sexy comedy about what happens when we let the monster out.

"At the centre of this play is something a little untamed and very human," says ATP Artistic Director **Haysam Kadri**. "*WILDWOMAN* does not sit still. It resists being boxed in. It swings between humour and heartbreak in a way that feels honest, sometimes uncomfortable, and very alive."

Kat Sandler, the mind behind the wild, is a Toronto-based Canadian playwright and director who has written acclaimed works such as *Yaga*, *The Party / The Candidate*, *BANG BANG*, and the critically acclaimed and Dora Mavor Moore Award-winning *Mustard*. It was recently announced that Sandler's *Yaga* (a darkly comedic retelling of the myth of Baba Yaga), will be adapted into a Crave TV series featuring Carrie-Anne Moss (*The Matrix*), Noah Reid (*Schitt's Creek*), and Hudson Williams (*Heated Rivalry*).

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“Kat Sandler is one of the country’s most distinctive and daring playwrights,” says Kadri.

“*WILDWOMAN* is a strong example of contemporary Canadian theatre at its most fearless, mixing sharp humour with real emotional weight in a way that catches you off guard, unsettles, and lingers.”

“I’ve always been a big fan of Kat’s writing,” says *WILDWOMAN* director **Jamie King**. “But this play in particular gripped me. It was uniquely itself but in the brightest possible way. It was funny, sexy, hilarious, vicious, aching, extravagant and epic.”

A quick note to all the parents out there: This isn’t Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast* - *WILDWOMAN* is for mature eyes *only*. The show is recommended for ages 16+ and features mature content, strong language and sexual situations. Date night? Yes. Family night? Absolutely not. Best leave the kids home for this one.

*WILDWOMAN* runs April 21 – May 10, 2026 at the Martha Cohen Theatre at Werklund Centre (215 8 Ave SE). Tickets are available at [albertatheatreprojects.com](http://albertatheatreprojects.com) or by calling 403-294-7402.

## WILDWOMAN

By Kat Sandler

Directed by Jamie King

In association with Gateway Theatre

### Cast (alphabetical):

Elizabeth Barrett – Kitty

N Girgis – Didi

Nathan Kay – Henry

Connor Suart – Pete

Synthia Yusuf – Cathy

### Creative Team:

Kat Sandler – Playwright

Jamie King – Director

Narda McCarroll – Set Design

Alaia Hamer – Costume Design

Gerald King – Lighting Design

Nancy Tam – Sound Design

Victoria Snashall – Stage Manager

Donna Sharpe – Assistant Stage Manager

Lisa Goebel – Intimacy Director

Olivier Lunardi – Fight Director

Nathan Kay – Fight Captain

Victoria Snashall – Intimacy Captain

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## **Media Call:**

There will be a scheduled media call for **WILDWOMAN** on **Wednesday, April 22** 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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