

# ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY REVEALS 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON LINEUP

## TOURS AND ARTISTIC INITIATIVES ALSO ANNOUNCED

**IN BRIEF** The Arts Club Theatre Company's 2023–2024 season kicks off in September with programming at all three venues: the [Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage](#), the [Granville Island Stage](#), and the [Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre](#). Subscription packages are available now at [artsclub.com](https://artsclub.com) or by calling 604.687.1644. The 5-show Stanley Series, the most popular subscription, starts at just \$132. Single tickets will go on sale to the general public in June.

**VANCOUVER, B.C. (February 28, 2023)**—Today, the Arts Club Theatre Company's Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** and Executive Director **Peter Cathie White** announced the 2023–2024 season programming for Western Canada's leading non-profit theatre organization, celebrating the company's 60<sup>th</sup> season with an exciting lineup of shows.

In honour of this diamond anniversary, Corcoran said, "The Arts Club has a history—and a future—of never being content with the status quo and of always striving forward from its founding to today. As we approach our 60 years of existence, our goal is for each show to deepen our commitment to artists in our province, highlight conscious eclecticism, aim for the highest levels of artistic excellence, and reflect our community's diversity."

Cathie White added, "Over the next 60 years, we will continue to support the development of local theatrical voices while also strengthening the Arts Club's reputation as a nationally renowned theatre company that deeply and richly engages with its community. With artistic visioning, organizational readiness, and financial stability working hand in hand, the Arts Club's position as the principal gathering place for participation in the arts in Vancouver—for audiences, artists, and the community at large—will continue to flourish."

The 2023–2024 season will kick off in September at the Arts Club's flagship venue, the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, with the devouring horror musical ***Little Shop of Horrors***, a co-production with the Citadel Theatre. Four other shows are also programmed for the Stanley: ***Elf: The Musical***, a gleeful holiday present based on the beloved film; ***Choir Boy***, a co-production with Canadian Stage of the Tony Award–nominated coming-of-age story; ***Red Velvet***, the true story of **Ira Aldridge**, the first Black actor to play Othello in London; and the romantic musical comedy ***Guys & Dolls***, a cool summer treat to beat the heat.

The Arts Club's longtime waterfront home, the Granville Island Stage, will see the return of the hugely popular ***Mom's the Word: Talkin' Turkey*** over the holidays. Three other shows will follow: the hilarious ***Father Tartuffe: An Indigenous Misadventure***, co-produced with Touchstone Theatre; ***Sexy Laundry***, a touching romantic comedy about rediscovering love, by Vancouver playwright **Michele Riml**; and ***Ring of Fire, Johnny Cash's*** remarkable life story told through his music.

In addition, Corcoran announced the three shows programmed for the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre. The world premiere of ***Someone Like You***, a millennial take on *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Vancouver-based playwright **Christine Quintana**, will open the season at the company's Olympic Village venue. Two other shows that were delayed due to the pandemic will follow: ***Every Brilliant Thing***, an immersive exploration into the small joys of being human; and the Canadian premiere of ***Cambodian Rock Band***, the captivating play about the power of music and the resiliency of family.

To honour the six decades since Arts Club's inception, the company also announced it will commission six [Silver Commissions](#), an unprecedented groundswell of new play activity. Titles will be announced at a later date.



The Arts Club will also be reviving its Lower Mainland and provincial tours. The 2023–2024 tour will be the first since the COVID-19 pandemic. Tour details will be announced at a later date.

**2023–2024 ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY SEASON**

Titles, dates, and creative teams subject to change

**STANLEY INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE STAGE**

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**

Book and Lyrics by **Howard Ashman**

Music by **Alan Menken**

Based on the film by **Roger Corman**, Screenplay by **Charles Griffith**

Originally produced by the **WPA Theatre** (**Kyle Renick**, Producing Director)

Originally produced at the Orpheum Theatre, New York City by the **WPA Theatre**, **David Geffen**, **Cameron Mackintosh** and the **Shubert Organization**

Director **Ashlie Corcoran**

Musical Director **Caitlin Hayes**

A co-production with the **Citadel Theatre**

September 7–October 8, 2023 (Media opening: September 13)

*“Starting our season in an unexpected way with this cult classic musical!” —Ashlie Corcoran*

**ELF: THE MUSICAL**

Book by **Thomas Meehan** and **Bob Martin**

Music by **Matthew Sklar**

Lyrics by **Chad Beguelin**

Based upon the New Line Cinema film written by **David Berenbaum**

Director **Stephen Drover**

Musical Director **Ken Cormier**

Starring **Andrew McNee**

November 2–December 31, 2023 (Media opening: November 8)

*“I’ve always loved the humour, charm, and sheer silliness of the film Elf, and I find the musical to be equally delightful, surprising, and joyful.” —AC*

**CHOIR BOY**

By **Tarell Alvin McCraney**

Director **Mike Payette**

Composer/Arranger & Co-Musical Director **Floyd Ricketts**

Co-Musical Director **Dawn Pemberton**

A co-production with **Canadian Stage**

January 25–February 25, 2024 (Media opening: January 31)

*“This rapturous gospel coming-of-age piece explores contrasting representations of Black masculinity—something that is often not represented in popular media.” —AC*

## **RED VELVET**

By **Lolita Chakrabarti**

Director **Omari Newton**

March 21–April 21, 2024 (Media opening: March 27)

*“The piece, based on the true story of the first Black American actor to play Othello, tackles many themes which are relevant today: tradition versus the avant-garde, gender and racial equality, artistic expression, and individuality.” —AC*

## **GUYS & DOLLS**

**A Musical Fable of Broadway**

Based on a Story and Characters of **Damon Runyon**

Music and Lyrics by **Frank Loesser**

Book by **Jo Swerling** and **Abe Burrows**

Director **Ashlie Corcoran**

Musical Director **Ken Cormier**

Choreographer **Shelley Stewart Hunt**

May 16–July 14, 2024 (Media opening: May 22)

*“As a director, I can’t wait to dive into the electricity of this classic musical, with its romantic mishaps, strong women, money-making schemes, and comic misadventures...not to mention those tunes!” —AC*

## **GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE**

### **MOM’S THE WORD: TALKIN’ TURKEY**

Created by and starring the **Mom’s the Word Collective** (**Jill Daum, Alison Kelly, Robin Nichol, Barbara Pollard, & Deborah Williams**)

December 5–31, 2023 (Media opening: December 13)

*“We are so pleased to remount this funny, crowd-pleasing production and welcome the Moms back for the holidays after a very successful run last December!” —AC*

### **FATHER TARTUFFE: AN INDIGENOUS MISADVENTURE**

By **Herbie Barnes**

Directors **Roy Surette** and **Quelemia Sparrow**

A co-production with **Touchstone Theatre**

February 22–March 24, 2024 (Media opening: February 28)

*“I was struck right away by Herbie’s wry sense of humour and by the way he took Molière’s classic—a play I’ve always found deeply funny—and made it his own.” —AC*

### **SEXY LAUNDRY**

By **Michele Riml**

Director **Diana Donnelly**

April 11–May 12, 2024 (Media opening: April 17)

*“Bringing back this romantic comedy, an Arts Club classic, after 20 years seems like a fitting way to celebrate our 60th anniversary.” —AC*

### **RING OF FIRE**

**The Music of Johnny Cash**

Created by **Richard Maltby, Jr.**

Conceived by **William Meade**

Orchestrations by **Steven Bishop** and **Jeff Lisenby**

*Ring of Fire* was originally produced on Broadway by **William Meade, CTM Productions, Bob Cuillo, GFour Productions, and James B. Freyberg**  
Director **Rachel Peake**  
June 20–August 11, 2024 (Media opening: June 26)

*“This red-hot jukebox musical is exactly the kind of programming that will sparkle throughout a Granville Island summer.”—AC*

#### NEWMONT STAGE AT THE BMO THEATRE CENTRE

##### **SOMEONE LIKE YOU<sup>1</sup>**

By **Christine Quintana**

Director **Jivesh Parasram**

October 5–29, 2023 (Media opening: October 11)

*“This feel-good exploration of love and friendship inspired by Cyrano de Bergerac is funny, fierce, political, and theatrical.” —AC*

##### **EVERY BRILLIANT THING**

By **Duncan Macmillan**

With **Jonny Donahoe**

Director **Ashlie Corcoran**

February 8–March 3, 2024 (Media opening: February 14)

*“Every Brilliant Thing is one of the best examples I have experienced of gentle audience participation—and its sweet but complex representation of the human experience is perfect for our most intimate theatre.” —AC*

##### **CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND<sup>2</sup>**

By **Lauren Yee**

Featuring songs by **Dengue Fever**

Director **Bobby Garcia**

April 25–May 19, 2024 (Media opening: May 1)

*“This raucously dark journey through music and history is disturbing, funny, thrilling, joyful, and tragic—these sharp clashes of tone help share the reality of the nightmarish brutality of the Khmer Rouge.” —AC*

#### TOURING PRODUCTIONS

##### **THE BIRDS AND THE BEES**

By **Mark Crawford**

Director **Lauren Taylor**

October 4–November 27, 2023

*“Our 2019–2020 production of this unconventional bedroom comedy was a huge hit, and we are so pleased that this big-hearted, silly modern—and progressive!—sex farce can finally tour to our presenting partners.” —AC*

##### **BENEATH SPRINGHILL: THE MAURICE RUDDICK STORY**

By **Beau Dixon**

Music and Lyrics by **Robin Fortin** and **Susan Newman**

Director **Bobby Garcia**

January 5–February 4, 2024

---

<sup>1</sup> The world premiere of a 2020 Arts Club Silver Commission

<sup>2</sup> Canadian premiere

*“What makes this inspiring Canadian story work so well is its determined optimism and celebration of the power of community—all told through song.” —AC*

## **MADE IN ITALY**

By **Farren Timoteo**

Director **Daryl Cloran**

February 21–April 7, 2024

*“After the show’s huge success in our 2021–2022 season, I am thrilled audiences around the province will get to experience Timoteo’s mesmerizing and hilarious one-person Italian feast.” —AC*

## **ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB**

The Arts Club, one of the largest not-for-profit theatre companies in the country, is the principal gathering place for the theatrical arts in British Columbia. Comprising three unique venues across Vancouver, the Arts Club welcomes more than a quarter million guests annually, tours provincially and nationally, and engages students and artists alike through educational and professional programs.

Above all, the Arts Club is dedicated to the advancement of local artists telling stories from around the globe and, in particular, those of our region. From this, we believe that culture expands, an understanding of differences is nurtured, and art bursts forth. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.

The Arts Club Theatre Company is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, in particular the [xʷməθkʷəy̓əm](#) (Musqueam), [Skwxwú7mesh](#) (Squamish), and [Selilwitulh](#) (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We are honoured to live, work, and create on this land together.

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Jasmine Proctor, [publicity@artsclub.com](mailto:publicity@artsclub.com)

