

EMBARGOED MEDIA RELEASE

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ARTS CLUB'S 2017–2018 SEASON MARKS BILL MILLERD'S LAST AS ARTISTIC MANAGING DIRECTOR

Following a staff gathering to unveil his 2017–2018 season of programming, **Bill Millerd** announced that the organization's 54th season will be his final as Artistic Managing Director.

"I feel blessed to have served the Arts Club for 45 years," says Millerd. "An incredible amount of growth has happened in our organization over these years, and I'm proud of each of our successes since our humble beginnings at the Seymour Street location. All three of our stages have been built or revived during my tenure, and our focus on premiering Canadian work and engaging new audiences remains a top priority. It's the right time to welcome new artistic leadership to this thriving organization alongside Executive Director **Peter Cathie White**, who will provide continuity for our committed staff, board of directors, and artists."

The search for an artistic director begins immediately. It will be led by Alexander Whitehead Executive Search in consultation with Cathie White and the Arts Club's Board Chair **Bruce Flexman**.

Cathie White says, "Bill Millerd has been the heart of the Arts Club for 45 years, and I have enjoyed immensely the time that I have had the privilege of working with him. He stewarded this theatre company from being a 150-seat venue to what it is today—Canada's largest not-for-profit urban theatre company. With year-round programming on three stages, an annual 3-show tour, and a wealth of community, education, training, and new-play development programs, the Arts Club is a vibrant company that contributes much to the culture of this community, and this country. Although I will miss working with Bill, I look forward to our continuing the work of this amazing company with a new artistic director."

"Bill has contributed so much to Canadian culture during his tenure at the Arts Club," adds Flexman, "Especially with over 20% of every production the Arts Club has staged in his 45 years with us being premieres of new Canadian plays or musicals. He leaves a company that is artistically innovative, financially sustainable, with a growing endowment. Looking to the future, Peter and I are keen to receive input from the community on the values and qualities they believe are important in an artistic director. To do so, we are soliciting feedback on our website that can inform the process of finding the candidate best suited to the needs of our organization and the communities we serve."

Millerd's final season reinforces the Arts Club's commitment to new Canadian work, with three new Canadian plays: *Thanks for Giving*, by Governor General's Award-winning playwright **Kevin Loring**; *Forget About Tomorrow*, by **Jill Daum** (*Mom's the Word*); and *Me and You* by **Melody Anderson**. Two recent hit premieres will see encore productions: *Mom's the Word 3: Nest ½ Empty* and *Onegin*, by **Amiel Gladstone** and **Veda Hille**. The Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage continues to stage Canadian premieres of recent Broadway hits (*The Humans*), popular musicals (*Mamma Mia!*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*), West End sensations (*King Charles III*), and North American epics like the hilarious *Jitters*, by **David French**, and the gripping conclusion to **Tony Kushner's** *Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika*.

Arts Club Theatre Company's 2017–2018 Season

STANLEY INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE STAGE

Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika By **Tony Kushner** September 7–October 8, 2017

King Charles III By **Mike Bartlett** October 19–November 19, 2017

Disney's Beauty and the Beast Music by **Alan Menken**, Lyrics by **Howard Ashman** and **Tim Rice**, Book by **Linda Woolverton** December 7, 2017–January 7, 2018

Jitters By **David French** January 25–February 25, 2018

The Humans By **Stephen Karam** March 22–April 22, 2018

Mamma Mia! Book by **Catherine Johnson**, Music and Lyrics by **Björn Ulvaeus** and **Benny Andersson** May 10–July 8, 2018

GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

*Thanks for Giving** By **Kevin Loring** October 5–November 4, 2017

*Onegina*** Book, Music, and Lyrics by **Amiel Gladstone** and **Veda Hille** November 23–December 31, 2017

Fun Home Book and Lyrics by **Lisa Kron** February 8–March 10, 2018

Misery By **William Goldman**, based on the novel by **Stephen King** April 5–May 5, 2018

Once Book by **Enda Walsh** Music and Lyrics by **Glen Hansard** and **Markéta Irglová**. June 14–July 29, 2018

GOLDCORP STAGE AT THE BMO THEATRE CENTRE

*The Day Before Christmas**** By **Stacey Kaser** and **Alison Kelly** November 16–December 24, 2017

Topdog/Underdog By **Susan-Lori Parks** January 18–February 11, 2018

*Forget About Tomorrow** By **Jill Daum** March 1–25, 2018

*Me and You** By **Melody Anderson** April 12–May 6, 2018

ON TOUR: BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Mom's the Word 3: Nest ½ Empty**** By the **Mom's the Word Collective** October 5–November 16, 2017

Misery By **William Goldman**, based on the novel by **Stephen King** January 4–February 8, 2018

Show #3 TBA

ON TOUR: WESTERN CANADA

*Onegina*** Book, Music, and Lyrics by **Amiel Gladstone** and **Veda Hille** Dates to be announced

Titles and performance dates subject to change.

*World premiere

**Second production of an Arts Club premiere

Bill Millerd will be available for interview February 14–19.

CONTACT

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BILL MILLERD BIO

Since 1972, Bill Millerd has been the Artistic Managing Director of Vancouver's Arts Club Theatre Company. During his time with the company, Millerd has expanded its operations to include year-round programming and regional and national tours. Millerd oversaw the construction of two theatres on Granville Island—the Granville Island Stage, in the fall of 1979, and the Revue Stage, in 1983—the reopening of the historic Stanley Theatre, now the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, in 1998, and the construction of the Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre in 2015. During his tenure, 500 plays have been produced, over 100 of which Millerd has directed. Under Millerd's leadership, the theatre has staged over 120 Canadian works, including more than 80 premieres of Canadian plays. Millerd is a Governor of the National Theatre School of Canada, and has received both a Jessie Richardson Theatre Award for Career Achievement and the Mayor's Arts Award. In 1993, he was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada for his contributions to enriching the cultural community of Canada. He has been awarded an Alumni Award of Distinction and an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the University of British Columbia, and was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from Tourism Vancouver.

ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club Theatre Company, founded in 1964, is Canada's largest not-for-profit urban theatre company. Led by Artistic Managing Director Bill Millerd and Executive Director Peter Cathie White, it offers professional theatre at three venues—the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, Granville Island Stage, and Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre—as well as on tour throughout the province.

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