

MEDIA RELEASE  
November 20, 2017

An Arts Club Theatre Company production

# DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Music by Alan Menken  
Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice  
Book by Linda Woolverton  
Originally Directed by Robert Jess Roth  
Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions

Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage  
December 7, 2017–January 13, 2018  
Tue–Thu at 7:30 PM, Fri & Sat at 8 PM, Wed at 1:30 PM, and Sat & Sun at 2 PM  
Holiday showtimes: Sat, Dec 30, at 1 & 6 PM  
Tickets from \$29 at [artsclub.com](http://artsclub.com) or the Arts Club Box Office at 604.687.1644

**IN BRIEF** The Arts Club presents *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, running from December 7 to January 13 at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage. Featuring show-stopping musical numbers, astonishing sets, and lavish costumes, this production is sure to be a holiday hit.

**VANCOUVER, B.C.**—Having been produced by the Arts Club four times since 2005, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* is a proven favourite among audiences and creative teams alike. Many of the cast, crew, and designers are returning for the company's fifth production of the musical. **Jonathan Winsby**, now starring as the Beast, performed in the previous productions as Gaston, and **Susan Anderson**, **Shawn Macdonald**, **Peter Jorgensen**, **Darren Burkett**, **Vincent Tong**, and **Bernard Cuffling** will all reprise their respective roles.

**Bill Millerd** also returns to direct the production, one of his last as the Arts Club's Artistic Managing Director. "Our original production of *Beauty and the Beast* was a wonderful creation, but I decided to go with a redesign of the set by **Alison Green**, along with new costume and lighting designers (**Barbara Clayden** and **Gerald King**), and production choreography by **Scott Augustine** based on the original choreography by **Valerie Easton**," says Millerd.

On the opportunity to re-design the set, Alison Green says, "Revisiting the design for *Beauty and the Beast* has been a gift. We have come a long way in our production capacities since the original was built, with such talent and expertise in our production staff. I took the set out of the 2005 version's Gothic and into 18th-century France for this production. I was inspired by the colourful folk art of the Alsace for Belle's world, and by the rococo fantasy of the Loire Châteaux for the Beast's castle."

Noting the 77 elaborate costumes, Barbara Clayden says, "It's a challenge to let the costumes be true to the story but allow for a wide range of movement for the actors, so I've been collaborating with our choreographer. I want to respect the audience's expectations for this classic while also trying to do something new."

"A holiday hit for the whole family" —*Vancouver Sun*

Starring

**Shannon Chan-Kent** (Belle), **Jonathan Winsby** (Beast), **Kamyar Pazandeh** (Gaston), **Susan Anderson** (Mrs. Potts), **Peter Jorgensen** (Lumiere), **Shawn Macdonald** (Cogsworth), **Vincent Tong** (LeFou), **Meghan Gardiner** (Madame de la Grande Bouche), **Anna Kuman** (Babette), **Mat Baker** (Monsieur D'Arque), **Bernard Cuffling** (Maurice), **Nolen Dubuc** (Chip)

#### Ensemble

**Sierra Brewerton, Darren Burkett, Caleb Di Pomponio, Austin Eckert, Julio Fuentes, Shannon Hanbury, Jennifer Lynch, Alison Roberts**

#### Orchestra

**Ken Cormier** (Keyboard), **Sasha Niechoda** (Keyboard/Keyboard Programmer), **Angus Kellett** (Keyboard), **Henry Christian** (Trumpet), **Andrew Poirier** (Trombone), **Martin Fisk** (Percussion)

Director **Bill Millerd** Musical Director **Ken Cormier** Original Choreographer **Valerie Easton** Production Choreographer **Scott Augustine** Set Designer **Alison Green** Costume Designer **Barbara Clayden** Lighting Designer **Gerald King** Sound Designer **Chris Daniels** Projection Designer **Joel Grinke** Stage Managers **Caryn Fehr** and **Pamela Jakobs** (from Dec 23) Assistant Stage Manager **Ronaye Haynes** Apprentice Stage Manager **Jenny Kim**

#### CONTACT

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#### 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, Incoming Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran, and Executive Director Peter Cathie White, it offers professional theatre at three venues—the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, Granville Island Stage, and the Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre—as well as on tour throughout the province.

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