

– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

Arts Club Theatre Company On Tour presents

## MADE IN ITALY

By Farren Timoteo

Based on the Western Canada Theatre Production

**February 21–April 2, 2024**

**IN BRIEF** Farren Timoteo's *Made in Italy* tours **February 21–April 2** across the Lower Mainland and B.C. Details at [artsclub.com](http://artsclub.com)

**VANCOUVER, B.C. (February 12, 2024)**—Experience a coming-of-age musical in Farren Timoteo's *Made in Italy*, touring **February 21–April 2** across the Lower Mainland and B.C.

Meet Francesco Mantini (**Farren Timoteo, Daniel Curalli\***), a second-generation Italian teen struggling to find his place in Jasper, Alberta. Inspired by pop culture icons Rocky Balboa and John Travolta, he reinvents himself as Frank Martin: crooner and ladies' man. As buoyant and bubbly as a glass of prosecco, *Made in Italy* is a celebration of music, food, and family that's so delightful you won't soon fuhgeddaboutit.

A remount of the Arts Club's successful 2022 production at the Granville Island Stage, this one-person show is originally based on a production by the Western Canada Theatre, where its premiere in 2016 was met with great acclaim and sold-out houses. Successful productions at Citadel Theatre and Thousand Islands Playhouse followed. *Made in Italy's* playwright and star, Farren Timoteo, was recognized in *Avenue Magazine's* list of Edmonton's Top 40 Under 40 for his artistic contributions to the city. Since becoming Artistic Director of Alberta Opera in 2006, Timoteo's award-winning work as a writer and director has been seen by more than 70,000 students every season. Timoteo received the 2022 Jessie Award for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Comedic Role for *Made in Italy*.

Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** said, "I first met Farren when he performed in *The 25th Putnam County Spelling Bee* that I directed at Western Canada Theatre more than a decade ago. Right from our first meeting, I knew that he was a special performer and creator—an imagination machine that was constantly coming up with new ideas and jokes. He is mesmerizing to watch on stage and shares this personal story with such charm and charisma. We are thrilled to have Daniel Curalli as part of this production, an equally phenomenal performer. Daniel played Gerry Goffin in our production of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, a role for which he recently won an Ovation Award. We have already toured this production to Theatre Aquarius to great acclaim, and we are certain that our local and provincial partners will be thrilled with this production."

Director **Daryl Cloran** added, "Farren has written a story that is joyous, funny, and heartfelt. While the play is specifically about an Italian immigrant, audiences from all different backgrounds have told us how much they relate to this story. Farren's performance is incredible and athletic. It is virtuosic watching him embody so many different characters, sing, dance, and do one-handed push-ups! It's no wonder he has won awards in Edmonton and Vancouver for his performance.

"As well, Daniel Curalli is an important part of the *Made in Italy* team. He's a fantastic performer who brings his great talent and own unique spin to all the characters in the Mantini family."

"*Made in Italy* is consistently funny" —*Vancouver Sun*



“The solo actor is sometimes pulling off [portraying] a dinner-table full of guests in a warm-hearted second-generation story” –*Stir*

“It's *Rocky* meets *Saturday Night Fever*” –*Edmonton Journal*

#### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Farren Timoteo is an Edmonton-based playwright, actor, and director. Over the last fifteen years he has performed in more than 30 productions in theatres across Western Canada. He is the Artistic Director for Alberta Opera Touring Association, where his award-winning work as a writer and director is seen by more than 70,000 students across Alberta every season. In 2016, Farren created and starred in *Made in Italy*. The play opened to great acclaim and sold-out houses at Western Canada Theatre and found success again later that same season at the Citadel Theatre.

#### CAST

**Farren Timoteo, Daniel Curalli\*** (Understudy)

#### CREATIVE TEAM

**Daryl Cloran** (Director), **Laura Krewski** (Choreographer), **Cory Sincennes** (Set Designer), **Cindy Wiebe** (Costume Designer), **Celeste English** (Lighting Designer), **Conor Moore** (Original Lighting Designer), **Ted Roberts** (Tour Lighting Designer), **Mishelle Cuttler** (Sound Designer), **Celeste English** (Associate Lighting Designer), **Christine Leroux** (Stage Manager), **Mandy Huang** (Apprentice Stage Manager)

\*North Vancouver, New Westminister, Duncan, Nanaimo, Courtenay, Trail, and Burnaby shows

#### TOUR VENUES AND DATES

|                 |   |                     |
|-----------------|---|---------------------|
| NORTH VANCOUVER | <u>The BlueShore at CapU</u><br><u>604.990.7810</u>           | February 21         |
| NEW WESTMINSTER | <u>Anvil Centre</u><br><u>604.521.5050</u>                    | February 22–25      |
| SURREY          | <u>Surrey Arts Centre</u><br><u>604.501.5566</u>              | February 28–March 9 |
| COQUITLAM       | <u>Evergreen Cultural Centre</u><br><u>604.927.6555</u>       | March 12–16         |
| CHILLIWACK      | <u>Chilliwack Cultural Centre</u><br><u>604.391.7469</u>      | March 19            |
| MISSION         | <u>Clarke Theatre</u><br><u>604.687.1644</u>                  | March 20            |
| WEST VANCOUVER  | <u>Kay Meek Arts Centre</u><br><u>604.981.6335</u>            | March 21 & 22       |
| MAPLE RIDGE     | <u>The ACT Arts Centre</u><br><u>604.476.2787</u>             | March 23 & 24       |
| DUNCAN          | <u>Cowichan Performing Arts Centre</u><br><u>250.746.2722</u> | March 26            |

|           |  |          |
|-----------|--|----------|
| NANAIMO   | <u>Port Theatre</u><br><u>250.754.8550</u>                 | March 27 |
| COURTENAY | <u>Sid Williams Theatre</u><br><u>250.338.2430</u>         | March 28 |
| TRAIL     | <u>Charles Bailey Theatre</u><br><u>250.368.9669</u>       | March 30 |
| BURNABY   | <u>Shadbolt Centre for the Arts</u><br><u>604.205.3000</u> | April 2  |

#### **ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB**

The Arts Club Theatre Company is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, in particular the xʷməθ kʷəʔəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selílwitlh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. As we are all here together, we invite you to reflect on your relationship to these lands.

The Arts Club, now celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, is one of the largest not-for-profit theatre organizations in the country and 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.

A not-for-profit registered charity · No. 11921 3551 RR0001

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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