

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Let's talk about Sex

- Mae West's infamous comedy-drama has its Canadian premiere at The Shaw -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (June 20, 2019) — Just shy of a century after her sold out Broadway run was branded an "obscene, indecent, immoral and impure drama" by a New York grand jury, **Mae West's [Sex](#)** gets a rousing production at the Shaw Festival. Directed by **Peter Hinton-Davis**, this powerful melodrama begins in Montreal's red light district of the 1920s, then shifts locations to Trinidad and New York City. Overflowing with trademark Mae West one-liners, and with its frank sexuality heightened by Hinton-Davis's gender-bent casting, **Sex** begins previews at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre on June 21st.

Margy LaMont (**Diana Donnelly**), a quick-witted, sharp-tongued unapologetic sex worker, has a weakness for seamen, but yearns for a better life. When her act to save a well-to-do woman (**Fiona Byrne**) from scandal is met with accusations instead of appreciation, she decides to follow the fleet, see the world and get rich. At one of the ports of call, she meets Jimmy Stanton (**Julia Course**), a wealthy young man who offers the promise of a better life. The trouble is, he doesn't know the truth about her profession leading to a culminating climax where Margy's past and present unavoidably collide.

Eo Sharp's set, **Bonnie Beecher's** lighting design and **Ryan deSouza's** music direction provide the perfect backdrop to the various locales of Margy's travels, while Sharp's costumes have a distinctly 1920s influence. This production also features intimacy and fight direction by **Siobhan Richardson** and movement direction by **Alexis Milligan**.

Sex is on stage at the [Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre](#) (10 Queen's Parade, Niagara-on-the-Lake) from June 21 - October 13 (eligible for review beginning July 4). The Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre is sponsored by **Paradigm Capital Inc.**

Recommended for ages 14+. Approximate running time: 2 hours and 30 minutes, including one intermission.

Cast: (in alphabetical order)

Kristopher Bowman	Rocky Waldron/Captain Carter
Fiona Byrne	Clara Stanton
Julia Course	Curley/Jimmy Stanton
Diana Donnelly	Margy LaMont
Allegra Fulton	Manly/Condez/Waiter
Katherine Gauthier	Red/Stage Manager/Musician/Marie
Cameron Grant	Sailor Gordon/Carmentina/Musician/Butler/Policeman
Monice Peter	Flossie/Bollontino/Musician/Butler/Policeman
Ric Reid	Dawson/Robert Stanton
Ben Sanders	Jones/Jenkins/Musician
André Sills	Lieutenant Gregg
Jonathan Tan	Agnes/Musician

Creative & Production:

Peter Hinton-Davis	Director
Eo Sharp	Designer
Bonnie Beecher	Lighting Designer
Ryan deSouza	Music Director
Siobhan Richardson	Intimacy and Fight Director
Alexis Milligan	Movement Director
Diane Konkin	Stage Manager
Kate Hennigar	Assistant Stage Manager (from April 15)

The Shaw Festival's 2019 season is on stage April 6 through December 22 featuring a playbill that includes [*The Horse and His Boy*](#), [*Brigadoon*](#), [*The Ladykillers*](#), [*Man and Superman with Don Juan in Hell*](#), [*Rope*](#), [*Getting Married*](#), [*The Russian Play*](#), [*Cyrano de Bergerac*](#), [*The Glass Menagerie*](#), [*Sex*](#), [*Victory*](#), [*Secret Theatre*](#), [*A Christmas Carol*](#) and [*Holiday Inn*](#). Tickets for the 2019 Festival season are available through the Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW and online at www.shawfest.com.

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About the Shaw Festival

Inspired by the spirit of Bernard Shaw, the Shaw Festival creates unforgettable theatrical encounters. The Shaw Festival is a place where people who are curious about the world gather to share the unique experience of live theatre and to create a deeper human connection with the artists, the beauty and abundance of Niagara and with each other. For more information, please visit www.shawfest.com.

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