

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Words are weapons in Howard Barker's *Victory*

- Powerful and provocative work begins previews at The Shaw -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (July 12, 2019) — An extreme exploration of the power of words, **Howard Barker's** [Victory](#) is not for the squeamish. A tale of survival set against the violent aftermath of the English civil war, **Victory** uses language as a weapon, challenging a modern audience's expectations of what theatre should be. Directed by Artistic Director **Tim Carroll**, **Victory** features an all-star ensemble cast led by **Martha Burns, Sara Topham, Patrick Galligan, Gray Powell, Tom Rooney** and **Tom McCamus**. The Shaw Festival's production begins previews on Sunday, July 14 at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre.

In the 17th century, amidst the orgy of retribution and revenge that followed King Charles II's restoration to the throne of England, Bradshaw (**Martha Burns**), a Puritan widow, fights to give her dishonoured husband's body a proper burial. But to achieve her goal, she must be willing to risk losing her dignity – and more.

Designer **Rachel Forbes** has fully grounded this production in 17th century England – highlighting the stark contrast between the frivolity of life at court and the harsh reality outside. Forbes's set and costume designs are supported by original music and a soundscape by **Claudio Vena**, lighting by **Kevin Lamotte** and movement direction by **Esie Mensah**.

Victory is on stage at the [Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre](#) (10 Queen's Parade, Niagara-on-the-Lake) from July 14 to October 12 (eligible for review beginning August 8). The Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre is sponsored by **Paradigm Capital Inc.**

Warning: *Victory* is deliberately offensive. The playwright brilliantly explores the use of language as a weapon. It is not for the squeamish and contains very strong language.

Recommended for ages 17+. Approximate running time: 2 hours and 45 minutes, including one intermission.

Cast: (in alphabetical order)

Martha Burns	Bradshaw, a widow
Patrick Galligan	Scrope, a secretary
Deborah Hay	Nell Gwynn, a prostitute
Emily Lukasik	Nodd, a friend of the king
Michael Man	McConochie, a surgeon
Tom McCamus	Charles Stuart, a monarch
Gray Powell	Hambro, a banker
Tom Rooney	Ball, a cavalier
Kiera Sangster	Cropper, Bradshaw's daughter
Sanjay Talwar	Clegg, the poet laureate
Shauna Thompson	Cleveland, female landowner
Sara Topham	Devonshire, a mistress

Creative & Production:

Tim Carroll	Director
Rachel Forbes	Designer
Kevin Lamotte	Lighting Designer
Claudio Vena	Music Director/Composer/Sound Designer
Esie Mensah	Movement Director
Andrea Schurman	Stage Manager
Ashley Ireland	Assistant Stage Manager

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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