

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SHAW FESTIVAL CANCELS *GYPSY: A MUSICAL FABLE***

*- Production will be the centerpiece of the 2023 season -*

**Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (February 23, 2021)** — New COVID-19 restrictions, along with the recent decision to continue the Niagara Region’s placement in the Grey-Lockdown Zone, has made it clear the [Shaw Festival](#) is unable to produce ***Gypsy: A Musical Fable*** in 2021. The restrictive measures placed on the rehearsal and performance of brass/wind instruments and singing severely impacts director and choreographer **Kimberley Rampersad** and her creative team’s original and artistic vision for this classic and beloved musical. Since planning for the 2022 season is well underway, ***Gypsy: A Musical Fable*** is now intended for production in 2023.

“To collaborate on ***Gypsy: A Musical Fable*** – one of the greatest musicals of all time – with this particular group of artists has been an immense joy,” shared **Paul Sportelli**, Music Director. “I feel a deep sadness that we can’t bring our fully-realized production into the world in 2021, but the restrictions on our musicians and singing actors simply make it impossible to achieve what we intended this show to be. I look forward to the day we can offer up our ***Gypsy: A Musical Fable*** and I’m excited about how the show will eventually “sing out” with this extraordinary group of actors, musicians and theatre artists.”

“However much we have grown used to being nimble and adaptable in the ever-shifting landscape of this pandemic, this is still a pretty heart-rending decision to have to make,” said **Tim Carroll**, Artistic Director. “But as one door closes, another opens: we were already planning a fabulous range of outdoor events, musical, theatrical, you name it; having this group of amazing performers available for that work increases our scope hugely. We will announce details of our mystery projects in the coming weeks.”

The remainder of [The Shaw’s 2021 playbill](#) is not currently affected by the changes to the performance protocols impacting the musical and will continue as originally scheduled. Performances of ***The Devil’s Disciple***, ***Sherlock Holmes and The Raven’s Curse***, ***Charley’s Aunt***, ***Flush***, ***Desire Under the Elms***, ***Trouble in Mind***, ***A Christmas Carol*** and ***Holiday Inn*** will continue in reduced-capacity theatres as mandated by public health requirements.

“We remain confident The Shaw will be able to present the remaining shows of the 2021 season,” stated **Tim Jennings**, Executive Director/CEO. “Our theatres are at the heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake and we are deeply aware of The Shaw’s economic impact on our surrounding communities. With this in mind, supplementing the playbill with additional performance offerings will allow us to support the artists and crew of ***Gypsy: A Musical Fable*** – and by extension, our community – while offering our audiences safe, entertaining and inspired outdoor alternatives. We will make announcements about our new add-ons for this season throughout the coming weeks and as opportunities present themselves. Stay tuned!”

In addition to following and exceeding the directives of local, provincial and federal governments and their respective public health agencies, the Shaw Festival has implemented a robust [Duty of Care](#) initiative and is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its audiences, company members and communities.

Box office representatives will be reaching out to all affected ticket holders to discuss options, including refunds. Patrons with questions or concerns regarding their tickets can call the Shaw Festival Box Office at 1-800-511-7429, Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by email at [boxoffice@shawfest.com](mailto:boxoffice@shawfest.com).

**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 [shawfest.com](http://shawfest.com).

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