

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, CHITRA & EVERYBODY

NEXT TRIO OF SHOWS SLATED TO BEGIN PREVIEWS

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST: MAY 18 – OCTOBER 9, 2022, FESTIVAL THEATRE

CHITRA: JUNE 11 – OCTOBER 8, 2022, ROYAL GEORGE THEATRE

EVERYBODY: JUNE 8 – OCTOBER 8, 2022, JACKIE MAXWELL STUDIO THEATRE

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (May 17, 2022) — Three more shows from the Shaw Festival's 2022 playbill are poised to begin previews. *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Oscar Wilde's masterpiece of wit, comedy and satirical social commentary, begins previews May 18. **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins's** 2018 Pulitzer Prize finalist *Everybody*, his riotously playful contemporary take on the 15th-century morality play *Everyman*, and **Rabindranath Tagore's** enchanting *Chitra* follow with preview dates on June 8 and 11, respectively.

Directed by **Tim Carroll**, *The Importance of Being Earnest* features **Martin Happer** as Jack Worthing and **Peter Fernandes** as Algernon Moncrieff. Joining them in this farcical Wilde romp of romantic entanglements, mistaken identities and Victorian societal critiques are **Julia Course** as Gwendolen Fairfax, **Gabriella Sundar Singh** as Cecily Cardew and, as the formidable Lady Bracknell, **Kate Hennig**. Rounding out the cast is **Neil Barclay**, **Patty Jamieson**, **André Morin**, **Ric Reid**, **Graeme Somerville** and **Jacqueline Thair**.

The Shaw's production has sets designed by **Gillian Gallow**, costumes designed by **Christina Poddubiuk**, lighting designed by **Kevin Lamotte** and original music and sound designed by **James Smith**. The production team includes **Meredith Macdonald**, stage manager, and **Amy Jewell**, assistant stage manager.

Subtitled *A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*, Oscar Wilde's tour-de-force and final work begins previews May 18 at the Festival Theatre and is eligible for review beginning June 16. Recommended for audiences 12+, it has a running time of approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes, with two intermissions. *The Importance of Being Earnest* is sponsored by **James and Diane King**.

In addition to her role as Lola in this season's musical *Damn Yankees*, Associate Artistic Director **Kimberley Rampersad** serves as director and choreographer for *Chitra*, **Rabindranath Tagore's** enthralling play about false appearances and true love that's based on a tale from the Sanskrit epic *Mahabharata*. **Gabriella Sundar Singh** is the warrior princess Chitra and **Andrew Lawrie** is Arjuna, the object of her affections; with **Sanjay Talwar** as Madana and **Taurian Teelucksingh*** is Vasanta. Appearing alongside them are **Caitlyn MacInnis***, **David Andrew Reid****, **Jade Repeta*** and **Adam Sergison**.

The creative and production team for this season's Lunchtime One-Act includes set and costume designer **Anahita Dehbonehie**, lighting designer **Chris Malkowski**, composers and sound designers **Darryn deSouza** and **Ryan deSouza**; stage manager **Beatrice Campbell** and assistant stage manager **Annie McWhinnie**.

Chitra begins previews June 11 at the Royal George Theatre and is available for review beginning June 19. It has a running time of 60-minutes and is recommended for audiences 11+. **Chitra** is sponsored by **Bruce and Wendy Gitelman** and **Burgundy Asset Management Ltd.** The Royal George Theatre's regular season is sponsored by **124 on Queen Hotel & Spa**.

László Bérczes returns to The Shaw to direct **Everybody**, **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins's** clever modern riff on the medieval morality play **Everyman** – where Death comes to Every ... body, but is Everybody ready? Previews begin on June 8 at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre and features the ensemble cast of **Andrew Broderick, Sharry Flett, Patrick Galligan, Deborah Hay, Julie Lumsden, Michael Man, Alana Randall, Kiera Sangster, Travis Seetoo** and **Donna Soares** (陸明慧).

Everybody features movement direction by **Alexis Milligan**, sets designed by **Balázs Cziegler**, costumes designed by **Sim Suzer**, lighting designed by **Kevin Lamotte** and original music and sound designed by **Claudio Vena**. The production team includes stage manager **Dora Tomassi** and assistant stage manager **Leigh McClymont**.

Recommended for audience members 12+, **Everybody** has a running time of 1 hour and 40 minutes, with no intermission. This Shaw Festival presentation is sponsored by **James F. Brown**. The Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre is sponsored by **Paradigm Capital Inc.**

The Shaw Festival's 2022 season runs through to December 23, with a playbill featuring [Damn Yankees](#), [The Importance of Being Earnest](#), [The Doctor's Dilemma](#), [Cyrano de Bergerac](#), [Gaslight](#), [Chitra](#), [Just to Get Married](#), [This is How We Got Here](#), [Too True to Be Good](#), [Everybody](#), August Wilson's [Gem of the Ocean](#), [Fairground](#), [Shawground](#), [A Short History of Niagara](#), a series of outdoor concerts and events, [A Christmas Carol](#) and Irving Berlin's [White Christmas](#). Tickets are available through the Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW and online at shawfest.com.

Despite the easing of COVID-19 measures in Ontario, The Shaw continues to require the use of masks in all indoor theatres and spaces until June 10. Masking is not required outdoors on Shaw Festival grounds or at outdoor performances. This decision is done out of an abundance of caution for both patrons and company members. The Shaw's [Duty of Care](#) remains in place. While these measures include a commitment to ensuring the health and safety of audiences, company members and communities, there remains an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 in any public place where people congregate. The Festival continues to work closely with public health experts to ensure all necessary and reasonable precautions are being met to reduce the chances of exposure; however, patrons are encouraged to take what precautions they deem necessary to protect themselves and others. Patrons are also requested to refrain from attending any performance or event if they are presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

*RBC Emerging Artists are sponsored by the RBC Foundation and RBC Emerging Artists.

**Christopher Newton Interns are generously supported by Marilyn and Charles Baillie.

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The Shaw Festival wishes to acknowledge and honour the land upon which its patrons and company members gather as the historic and traditional territory of First Nations peoples. Recognition and thanks are extended to the Neutral Nation, the Mississauga and the Haudenosaunee for their stewardship of these lands over millennia.

About the Shaw Festival

Inspired by the spirit of [Bernard Shaw](#), the Shaw Festival creates unforgettable theatrical encounters. The Shaw 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, visit [shawfest.com](#).

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Media Contacts:

Ashley Belmer
Senior Manager of Communications
Mobile: 905-941-0018
abelmer@shawfest.com

Jenniffer Anand
Communications Co-ordinator
Mobile: 416-418-7415
janand@shawfest.com