

### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# GO ON THE RAZZLE WITH FUN, FROTHY STOPPARD FARCE

- Shenanigans start April 16 at the Royal George Theatre -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (April 13, 2023) — On the Razzle, Tom Stoppard's vivacious breakneck joyride of mistaken identities, romantic entanglements, double entendres and narrow escapes, begins previews on April 16 at the Shaw Festival's Royal George Theatre. Adapted from the 19<sup>th</sup> century comedy *Einen Jux will er sich machen* by Johann Nestroy, the Craig Hall-directed Shaw Festival production features an ensemble cast primed and ready to tackle the non-stop Stoppardian wordplay, linguistic gymnastics and playful puns in this rarely performed play.

When wealthy, but tight-fisted, provincial boss Zangler (**Ric Reid**) jaunts off to Vienna to woo his fiancé Madame Knorr (**Claire Jullien**), he entrusts the operation of his business to shop assistants Weinberl (**Mike Nadajewski**) and Christopher (**Kristi Frank**). With Zangler safely out of the way, the two decide to also go "on the razzle" in Vienna and find themselves in more trouble in one night than most do in a lifetime.

On the Razzle's cast also includes Jason Cadieux, Patrick Galligan, Élodie Gillett, Alexandra Gratton\*, Graeme Kitagawa, Julie Lumsden, Drew Plummer, Tara Rosling, Jonathan Tan, Taurian Teelucksingh\* and Lindsay Wu.

Taking inspiration from Monty Python, Benjamin Pollock's Toyshop, the Tartan Craze, popular opera and early vaudeville, **Christina Poddubiuk**'s Viennese "on the razzle" set and costumes are complemented by **Kimberly Purtell**'s lighting design, **Alessandro Juliani**'s original music, **Mike Rinaldi**'s sound design and **Jamie Nesbitt'**s projection design. The production team for **On the Razzle** includes **Amy Jewell**, stage manager, and **Meghan Froebelius**, assistant stage manager.

On stage at the Royal George Theatre (85 Queen Street) from April 16 to October 8 (available for review beginning May 25), *On the Razzle* is recommended for audience members ages 14+/Grade 9+ and is sponsored by **Burgundy Asset Management Limited** and **Wendy and Bruce Gitelman**. Running time is approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes, including one intermission. *On the Razzle* is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

The Royal George Theatre's regular season is sponsored by **124 on Queen Hotel & Spa**.

**Cast**: (in alphabetical order)

Jason Cadieux Hupfer the Tailor/Waiter 1/German Man

Kristi Frank Christopher

Patrick Galligan Coachman/Scotsman

Élodie Gillett Frau Fischer

Alexandra Gratton\* Lisette/Philippine/Scotswoman/Ragamuffin

Claire Jullien Madame Knorr

Graeme Kitagawa Belgian/Waiter 2/Constable

Julie Lumsden Gertrud Mike Nadajewski Weinberl Drew Plummer Sonders Ric Reid Zangler

Tara Rosling Fraulein Blumenblatt/German Woman

Jonathan Tan Melchior Taurian Teelucksingh\* Waiter 3 Lindsay Wu Marie

Sanskruti Marathe\*\* Baillie Cohort Understudy Francis Masaba\*\* Baillie Cohort Understudy

## **Creative & Production:**

Craig Hall Director

Christina Poddubiuk Set and Costume Designer

Kimberly Purtell Lighting Designer
Alessandro Juliani Original Music
Mike Rinaldi Sound Designer
Jamie Nesbitt Projection Designer
John Stead Fight Director

Amy Jewell Stage Manager

Meghan Froebelius Assistant Stage Manager Meredith Macdonald Production Stage Manager

Jamie Dunsdon Assistant Director Rose Tavormina Design Assistant

Jeff Pybus Assistant Lighting Designer
Cameron Fraser Assistant Projection Designer
Alexis Milligan Movement and Intimacy Director

Jeffrey Simlett Voice and Dialect Coach

Generously sponsored by **The Slaight Family Foundation**, the Shaw Festival's 2023 season runs through to December 23, with a playbill featuring <u>Mahabharata</u>, <u>Gypsy</u>, Noël Coward's <u>Blithe Spirit</u>, <u>The Amen Corner</u>, <u>Prince Caspian</u>, <u>On the Razzle</u>, <u>Village Wooing</u>, <u>The Shadow of a Doubt</u>, <u>The Playboy of the Western World</u>, <u>The Apple Cart</u>, <u>The Clearing</u>, <u>A Christmas Carol</u> and Lerner and Loewe's <u>Brigadoon</u>. This season's Outdoors @ The Shaw includes <u>Mother</u>, <u>Daughter</u>, <u>The Game of Love and Chance</u>, Rodgers and Hammerstein's <u>A Grand Night for Singing – One Act – in Concert</u>, <u>Coffee Concerts</u>, <u>Speakeasies</u>, <u>A Short History of Niagara</u>, <u>What's in Your Songbook?</u> and <u>Gospel Choir</u>.

Direct bus service from downtown Toronto and Burlington to Niagara-on-the-Lake is available on the <u>Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express</u>. Luxury buses are standard size wheelchair accessible, offer free Wi-Fi and have an on-board host. \$29 return per person. Ticket to a 2023 performance is required. Please pre-arrange with the Box Office. Schedule is subject to change. Please confirm dates and times with the Shaw Festival Box Office.

<u>Mask use at The Shaw</u>: While the wearing of masks is now optional, their continued use is recommended indoors and remains at the discretion of the individual. While The Shaw maintains its <u>Duty of Care</u> measures, 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

<sup>\*</sup> The Christopher Newton Intern is generously supported by Marilyn and Charles Baillie.

<sup>\*\*</sup> The Baillie Cohort Understudy is generously supported by the Baillie Family Fund for Education.

necessary to protect themselves and others. Patrons are also requested to refrain from attending any performance or event if presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

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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 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 <a href="mailto:shawfest.com">shawfest.com</a>.

### **Connect with the Shaw Festival**

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#### **Media Contacts:**

Jenniffer Anand Senior Manager, Communications Mobile: 905-941-0018

janand@shawfest.com

Ashley Belmer Publicist, B-Rebel Communications Mobile: 416-617-8934

ashley@b-rebelcommunications.com