

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHAW FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES CASTS AND CREATIVE TEAMS FOR HOLIDAY PLAYBILL

- Festival gets festive beginning November 5 -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (August 8, 2023) — Charles Dickens's <u>A Christmas Carol</u>, the Shaw Festival's perennial production (and audience favourite), kicks off the holiday theatre season on November 5 at the Royal George Theatre. The seasonal celebrations continue when **Lerner and Loewe**'s timeless musical <u>Brigadoon</u> conjures more magic and enchantment at the Festival Theatre on November 15.

"It's time to for you to enjoy some comfort and joy," suggested Artistic Director **Tim Carroll**. "Join us in Niagara-on-the-Lake and celebrate the season with the enduring favourite **A Christmas Carol** and the delightful **Lerner and Loewe** musical, **Brigadoon**."

The casts and creative teams of The Shaw's holiday offerings:

FESTIVAL THEATRE

Lerner and Loewe's
BRIGADOON
BOOK AND LYRICS BY ALAN JAY LERNER
MUSIC BY FREDERICK LOEWE
Original Dances Created by Agnes DeMille
Revised Book by Brian Hill

Directed by Glynis Leyshon
Music direction by Paul Sportelli
Original choreography by Linda Garneau
Set design by Pam Johnson
Costume design by Sue LePage
Lighting design by Kevin Lamotte
Projection design by Corwin Ferguson
Sound design by John Lott
Associate Choreographer: Matt Alfano
Fight direction by John Stead

Previews November 15 • Available for review beginning November 18 • Closes December 23

While hunting in the Highlands of Scotland, New Yorkers Tommy Albright (**Stewart Adam McKensy**) and Jeff Douglas (**Kevin McLachlan**) stumble upon Brigadoon – a village that appears out of the mist for one day every century. After falling for villager Fiona (**Alexis Gordon**), Tommy realizes the bewitched hamlet will once again vanish at sunset. As the day draws to a close, he must decide whether to return to the world he knows or stay forever in Brigadoon with the woman he loves.

This production of Lerner and Loewe's *Brigadoon* also features Kristi Frank as Meg Brockie, Madelyn Kriese as Jean MacLaren, David Andrew Reid as Charlie Dalrymple and David Adams as Archie Beaton, Head of Clan. Also appearing in this charming musical are Alexandra Gratton, Jane Johanson, Claire Jullien, Graeme Kitagawa, Jawon Mapp, Peter Millard, Drew Plummer, Jade Repeta, Travis Seetoo, Genny Sermonia, Jay Turvey, Kelly Wong and Jenny L. Wright.

Additional casting to be announced at a later date.

Age Recommendation: 8+/Grade 3+

LERNER AND LOEWE'S BRIGADOON is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com **LERNER AND LOEWE'S BRIGADOON** is sponsored by **BMO Financial Group**. Holiday Season Hotel Partner: **Vintage Hotels**.

ROYAL GEORGE THEATRE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Charles Dickens Adapted and originally directed by Tim Carroll

Directed by **Brendan McMurtry-Howlett**Set and costume design by **Christine Lohre**Lighting design by **Kevin Lamotte**Original music by **Paul Sportelli**Original movement and puppetry direction by **Alexis Milligan**

Previews November 5 • Available for review beginning November 11 • Closes December 23

This season, **Sanjay Talwar** takes over the role of everyone's favourite curmudgeon, Ebenezer Scrooge.

Visits by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley, the spirits of Christmas Past (**Élodie Gillett**), Christmas Present (**Shawn Wright**) and Christmas Yet to Come changes cold-hearted miser Scrooge into a kinder and more generous human.

The Shaw's charming adaptation of redemption, transformation and the discovery of joy also features **Jason Cadieux** as Mr. Hubble, **Marlene Ginader** as Belle, **Patty Jamieson** as Mrs. Dilber, **Andrew Lawrie** as Bob Cratchit, **Jonathan Tan** as Fred, **Jacqueline Thair** as Mrs. Cratchit and **Kiana Woo*** as Emily.

SELFIE ALERT: following the performance, audience members will have the opportunity to take a safely distanced photo with the cast.

Age Recommendation: 6+/Grade 1+

A CHRISTMAS CAROL is sponsored by the **Shaw Guild**, with additional support from **Hodgson Russ LLP**. Holiday Season Hotel Partner: **Vintage Hotels**.

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

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</u>

Shadow of a Doubt, The Playboy of the Western World, The Apple Cart, The Clearing, A Christmas Carol and Lerner and Loewe's Brigadoon. This season's Outdoors @ The Shaw includes Mother, Daughter, The Game of Love and Chance, Rodgers and Hammerstein's A Grand Night for Singing – One Act – in Concert, Coffee Concerts, Speakeasies, A Short History of Niagara, What's in Your Songbook? and Gospel Choir.

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. Return trip: \$29 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.

For more information or to purchase tickets or a seat on the Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express, please contact the Shaw Festival Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW or visit shawfest.com.

<u>Mask use at The Shaw</u>: While the wearing of masks remains at the discretion of the individual, their continued use is encouraged and may be required in conjunction with regional health protocols and internal safety considerations. The Shaw continues to maintain its <u>Duty of Care</u> measures. 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 shawfest.com.

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