

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SHAW 20  
FESTIVAL 24**

## ***THE HOUSE THAT WILL NOT STAND SIZZLES WITH LOUISIANA HEAT AT THE SHAW***

*- Previews of the emotionally charged drama begin June 12 -*

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (June 11, 2024) – Marcus Gardley’s acclaimed drama ***The House That Will Not Stand*** begins previews tomorrow at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre. Set in 1813 against the backdrop of Louisiana’s assimilation by the United States, this fiery slice of under-represented American history is directed by **Philip Akin** in a production that’s equal parts tragedy, passion and voodoo magic.

Beartrice Albans (**Monica Parks**), a wealthy, free Black woman in New Orleans is at risk of losing everything following the death of her affluent white lover. Overwhelmed with grief, she imposes a six-month mourning period on her household, driving her daughters, Agnès, Maude-Lynn and Odette (**Deborah Castrilli\***, **Rais Clarke-Mendes\*** and **Ryann Myers\***), to conspire against her. As Beartrice’s world falls apart, she struggles to maintain her hold on the family and their tenuous position in the face of an unforgiving new social order.

***The House That Will Not Stand*** also features **Nehassaiu deGannes**, **Cheryl Mullings** and **Sophia Walker**.

The Shaw’s production of ***The House That Will Not Stand*** recreates 19<sup>th</sup> century New Orleans with period-influenced set and costume design by **Sean Mulcahy**; moody, atmospheric lighting by **Kevin Lamotte**; haunting original music and sound design by **Jacob Lin**; and ethereal, engaging movement direction by **Alexis Milligan**. The production team includes stage manager **Dora Tomassi** and assistant stage manager **Becca Jorgensen**.

On stage at the [Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre](#) (10 Queen’s Parade) from June 12 to October 12 (available for review beginning June 21), ***The House That Will Not Stand*** is recommended for audience members 14+/Grade 9+. Running time is approximately 2 hours and 25 minutes, with one intermission.

The Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre’s regular season is sponsored by **Paradigm Capital Inc**, and ***The House That Will Not Stand*** is sponsored by **Sylvia Soyka**.

**Cast:**

Deborah Castrilli\*

Rais Clarke-Mendes\*

Nehassaiu deGannes

Cheryl Mullings

Ryann Myers\*

Monica Parks

Sophia Walker

Agnès Albans

Maude Lynn Albans

La Veuve

Marie Josephine

Odette Albans

Beartrice Albans

Makeda/Lazare

### **Creative & Production**

Philip Akin	Director
Sean Mulcahy	Set and Costume Designer
Sarah Yuen	Assistant Set Designer
Arianna Moodie	Assistant Costume Designer
Kevin Lamotte	Lighting Designer
Nathan Bruce	Assistant Lighting Designer
Jacob Lin	Original Music and Sound Designer
Alexis Milligan	Movement Director
Deborah Castrilli	Movement Captain
Jeffrey Simlett	Voice and Dialect Coach
Ausar Stewart	Voice and Dialect Coach
Dora Tomassi	Stage Manager
Becca Jorgensen	Assistant Stage Manager

\* The Baillie Cohort is generously supported by the Baillie Family Fund for Education.

The Shaw Festival's 2024 season runs through to December 22, with a playbill featuring [Lerner and Loewe's My Fair Lady](#), [One Man, Two Guvvners](#), [Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart](#), [Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution](#), [The Secret Garden](#), [The Orphan of Chao](#), [Candida](#), [The House That Will Not Stand](#), [Snow in Midsummer](#) and [A Christmas Carol](#). The Spiegeltent's season features [The Shaw Variety Show](#), [The Roll of Shaw](#), [Kabarett](#), [Cotton Club](#), [Coffee Concerts](#), [Footlights](#), [Speakeasies](#), [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 [Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express](#). Luxury buses are standard size wheelchair accessible, offer free Wi-Fi and have an on-board host. \$34 return per person. Ticket to a 2024 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](http://shawfest.com).

**Mask use at The Shaw:** Masks are not currently required in our theatres. Though wearing a mask is optional, it is recommended; however, the choice remains at the discretion and comfort of the individual. The Shaw continues to maintain its [Duty of Care](#) 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](http://shawfest.com).

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**Media Contacts**

Jenniffer Anand  
Senior Manager, Communications  
Shaw Festival  
1-800-657-1106 x 2222  
Mobile: 905-941-0018  
[janand@shawfest.com](mailto:janand@shawfest.com)

Ashley Belmer  
Publicist, B-Rebel Communications  
Mobile: 416-617-8934  
[ashley@b-rebelcommunications.com](mailto:ashley@b-rebelcommunications.com)

Matthew Bickerton  
Communications Coordinator  
Shaw Festival  
1-800-657-1106 x 2224  
Mobile: 905-941-0377  
[mattbickerton@shawfest.com](mailto:mattbickerton@shawfest.com)