

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***SNOW IN MIDSUMMER* MAKES CANADIAN PREMIERE AT THE SHAW**

- Contemporary adaptation of classical Chinese drama begins previews August 8 -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (August 7, 2024) – Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig’s *Snow in Midsummer* begins previews tomorrow at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre. **Nina Lee Aquino** directs this haunting update of the legendary Yuan era drama, *The Injustice to Dou E that Moved Heaven and Earth*, by Golden Age of Chinese Drama playwright **Guan Hanqing**.

Businesswoman Tianyun (**Donna Soares**) purchases a factory in rural China and moves to the nearby town of New Harmony with her daughter Fei-Fei (**Eponine Lee***). Wracked by years of financial hardship thanks to an abnormal drought, the struggling townsfolk hope Tianyun’s investment will break the curse and restore the town to prosperity. When prominent citizens start turning up brutally murdered and Fei-Fei begins seeing ghosts, Tianyun must contend with both the village’s tragic history and the lingering spectres of her own troubled past.

The Canadian premiere of *Snow in Midsummer* also features **Courtney Ch’ng Lancaster**, **Cosette Derome*****, **Manami Hara**, **Richard Lee**, **Michael Man****, **John Ng**, **Travis Seetoo**, **Jonathan Tan**, **Kelly Wong** and **Lindsay Wu*****.

The Shaw’s production of *Snow in Midsummer* features innovative set design by **Camellia Koo**, dramatic lighting design by **Michelle Ramsay**, original music and sound design by **John Gzowski** and contemporary costume design by **Joanna Yu**. They are supported by stage manager **Jane Vanstone Osborn** and assistant stage manager **Sang-Sang Lee**.

On stage at the [Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre](#) (10 Queen’s Parade) from August 8 to October 5 (available for review beginning August 15), *Snow in Midsummer* has mature content and is recommended for audience members 14+/Grade 9+. Running time is approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes, with one intermission.

[Snow in Midsummer](#) is sponsored by the **Tim & Frances Price Risk Fund**, **Andy Pringle Creative Reserve** and **TD Bank Group**.

The Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre is sponsored by **Paradigm Capital Inc.**

Cast:

Courtney Ch’ng Lancaster
Cosette Derome***
Manami Hara
Eponine Lee*
Richard Lee
Michael Man**
John Ng
Travis Seetoo
Donna Soares
Jonathan Tan

Dou Yi
Officer 2/Ensemble
Mother Cai/Nurse Wong
Fei-Fei
Worker Huang/Ox-Head/Ensemble
Handsome Zhang
Master Zhang/Judge Wu/Ensemble
Worker Fang/Officer 1/Ensemble
Tianyun
Rocket Wu/Ensemble

Kelly Wong
Lindsay Wu***

Doctor Lu/Worker Chen/Horse-Face/Ensemble
Officer 3/Ensemble

Creative & Production:

Nina Lee Aquino
Camellia Koo
Joanna Yu
Michelle Ramsay
John Gzowski
Micah Jondel DeShazer
Aurora Judge
Ximena Pinilla
Nathan Bruce
Richard Lee
Kimberley Rampersad
Travis Seetoo
Peter Fernandes
Kelly Wong
Ausar Stewart
Jane Vanstone Osborn
Sang-Sang Lee
Kim Charleen Smith

Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Original Music and Sound Designer
Assistant Director
Assistant Set Designer
Associate Costume Designer
Assistant Lighting Designer
Fight Designer and Captain
Movement Designer
Movement Captain
Magic and Illusions Creator
Magic Captain
Voice and Dialect Coach
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Production Stage Manager

* Emerging Artists are sponsored by the RBC Foundation.

** 2024 Christopher Newton intern, Michael Man, is generously sponsored by Marilyn and Charles Baillie.

*** 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 Guvnors](#), [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 Spiegelent'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](#).

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.

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.

Connect with the Shaw Festival

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | #ShareYourShaw

Media Contacts

Jenniffer Anand
Senior Manager, Communications
1-800-657-1106 x 2222
Mobile: 905-941-0018
janand@shawfest.com

Ashley Belmer
Publicist, B-Rebel Communications
Mobile: 416-617-8934
ashley@b-rebelcommunications.com

Matthew Bickerton
Communications Coordinator
1-800-657-1106 x 2224
Mobile: 905-941-0377
mattbickerton@shawfest.com