

**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](http://shawfest.com).

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

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