

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE****SHAW FESTIVAL MAKES ONE LAST TRIP TO NARNIA  
WITH *THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE***

*- New stage adaptation of the beloved fantasy classic begins previews April 9 -*

**Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (April 8, 2025)** – *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the final entry in the Shaw Festival’s Narnia cycle, begins previews Wednesday, April 9 at the Festival Theatre. **Selma Dimitrijevic** directs a re-imagined adaptation of **C.S. Lewis’s** timeless tale. Co-adapted with Artistic Director **Tim Carroll**, this production is a world premiere presentation.

Fleeing London during the Blitz, the Pevensie siblings (**Kristi Frank, Alexandra Gratton, Jeff Irving** and **Dieter Lische-Parkes**) are sent to the countryside to stay with the eccentric Professor Kirke (**David Adams**). There they discover an antique wardrobe hiding a doorway to the magical land of Narnia, on the verge of a war between Aslan’s (**Kelly Wong**) forces of good and the White Witch’s (**Élodie Gillett**) evil army. When the children find their loyalties divided, they must overcome their personal conflicts to save both Narnia, and each other.

**Alana Bridgewater, Leslie Garcia Bowman, Daniel Greenberg, Jaden Kim, Graeme Kitagawa, Madelyn Miyashita, Jade Repeta, Kiera Sangster, Mikayla Stradiotto, Michael Therriault** and **Shawn Wright** complete the cast.

The wondrous world of Narnia is brought to life through the imaginative costume design of **Judith Bowden**, lighting design of **Kevin Lamotte** and a set brought to fruition by scenic consultant **James Lavoie**, building on the preproduction concepts of **Beyata Hackborn**. Completing the enchanting on-stage manifestation of this mythical land is music direction and original songs by **Ryan deSouza**, puppetry by **Brendan McMurtry-Howlett**, illusions created in consultation with **Kelly Wong** and choreography by **Genny Sermonia**. The production team includes stage manager **Leigh McClymont** and assistant stage managers **Becca Jorgensen** and **Annie McWhinnie**.

The Shaw Festival’s popular 40-minute pre-show workshop for children and the young-at-heart returns this season for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. This thrilling quest begins one hour prior to all performances of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* in the Market Room at the Court House (26 Queen Street) and concludes with a triumphant parade down Queen Street to the Festival Theatre. Admission: \$10 with a ticket to the day’s performance.

On stage at the [Festival Theatre](#) (10 Queen’s Parade) from April 9 to October 4 (available for review beginning May 1), *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is recommended for audience members ages 8+/Grade 2+. Running time is approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes, including one intermission.

The Shaw’s production of [The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe](#) is sponsored by **Ron and Barbara Besse**.

Children and Family Programming supported by **Christopher and Jeanne Jennings**.

### **Cast:**

David Adams	Professor Kirke/Ensemble
Alana Bridgewater	Spirit of Narnia/Ensemble
Kristi Frank	Susan
Leslie Garcia Bowman	Ensemble
Élodie Gillett	White Witch/Ensemble
Alexandra Gratton	Lucy
Daniel Greenberg	Ensemble
Jeff Irving	Peter
Jaden Kim*	Ensemble
Graeme Kitagawa	Fenris Ulf/Ensemble
Dieter Lische-Parkes*	Edmund
Madelyn Miyashita*	Ensemble
Jade Repeta	Mrs. Beaver/Ensemble
Kiera Sangster	Mrs. Macready/Ensemble
Mikayla Stradiotto*	Ensemble
Michael Therriault	Mr. Tumnus/Ensemble
Kelly Wong	Aslan/Ensemble
Shawn Wright	Mr. Beaver/Ensemble

### **Creative & Production**

Selma Dimitrijevic	Director/Co-Adapter
Tim Carroll	Co-Adapter
Judith Bowden	Costume Designer
Kevin Lamotte	Lighting Designer
James Lavoie	Scenic Consultant
Beyata Hackborn	Pre-production Design Consultant
Ryan deSouza	Music Director, Original Music and Sound Designer
Brendan McMurtry-Howlett	Puppetry Designer
Kelly Wong	Illusions Consultant
Genny Sermonia	Choreographer
Allison McCaughey	Assistant Director
Rose Tavormina	Associate Designer
Jeff Pybus	Assistant Lighting Designer
Graeme Kitagawa	Assistant Choreographer
John Stead	Fight Director
Jeffrey Simlett	Voice and Dialect
Leigh McClymont	Stage Manager
Becca Jorgensen	Assistant Stage Manager
Annie McWhinnie	Assistant Stage Manager

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

**New for the 2025 season:** all performances now begin one hour earlier. Matinee performances start at 1 p.m. and evening shows start at 7 p.m.

The Shaw Festival's 2025 season runs through to December 21, with a playbill featuring [\*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe\*](#), [\*Anything Goes\*](#), [\*Wait Until Dark\*](#), [\*Tons of Money\*](#), [\*Major Barbara\*](#), [\*Murder-on-the-Lake\*](#), [\*Gnit\*](#), [\*Blues for an Alabama Sky\*](#), [\*Irving Berlin's White Christmas\*](#) and [\*A Christmas Carol\*](#). This season's Spiegeltent lineup includes [\*Dear Liar\*](#), [\*La Vie En Rose\*](#), [\*Ella and Louis\*](#), [\*May I Have The Pleasure?\*](#), [\*The Roll of Shaw – Through the\*](#)

[Wardrobe](#), [The Frogs](#), [Coffee Concerts](#), [Speakeasies](#), [What's In Your Songbook](#), [Gospel Choir](#) and [Pop-Up Patios](#).

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. \$39 return per person. Ticket to a 2025 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 performance 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](#).

The Festival's current Duty of Care health-related protocols and policies can be found on [shawfest.com/duty-of-care](#).

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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 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, visit [shawfest.com](#).

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

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### **Media Contacts**

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

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

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