

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# GNIT SEARCHES FOR MEANING IN GLEEFUL ABSURDITY AT THE SHAW

- Modern adaptation of Ibsen's classic starts previews tomorrow -

**Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (June 18, 2025)** – [Gnit](#), playwright Will Eno's bizarrely funny and moving contemporary take on Henrik Ibsen's **Peer Gynt**, debuts at the Shaw Festival. Written by the playwright of **Middletown** and directed by Artistic Director **Tim Carroll**, a young man's journey to discover his True Self starts previews June 19 at the **Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre**.

Peter Gnit (**Qasim Khan**), his very name the result of a typo, leaves home to find his purpose in life, abandoning his sick Mother (**Nehassaiu deGannes**) in the process. A 'people person with good problem-causing skills,' Peter falls in love with Solvay (**Julia Course**) before likewise deserting her to continue his quest for his elusive Self. Though his travels take him around the world to fame, fortune, infamy and poverty, Peter never misses an opportunity to miss the opportunity to learn what he really needs to know.

**Gnit** also features **Patrick Galligan**, **Mike Nadajewski** and **Gabriella Sundar Singh\***.

The Shaw's production of **Gnit** features set and costume design by **Hanne Loosen**, lighting design by **Kevin Lamotte** and music direction, original music and sound design by **Claudio Vena**. The production team includes stage manager **Michael Duggan** and assistant stage manager **Sang-Sang Lee**.

On stage at the [Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre](#) (10 Queen's Parade) from June 19 to October 4 (available for review beginning July 4), **Gnit** is recommended for audience members 14+. Running time is approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes, including one intermission.

**Gnit** is sponsored by **Diane King**.

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

### Cast:

Julia Course	Solvay/Bartender/Lady of Interest/Gravedigger/Auctioneer/Gabrielle
Nehassaiu deGannes	Mother/Uncle Joe/Beggar/Local Person
Patrick Galligan	Strangers 1 and 3/Moynihan/Voice/Hunter/Robber/Sphinx/Shackleton/ Pale Man/Reporter
Qasim Khan	Peter
Mike Nadajewski	Town/Green Family/International Man/Begriffin
Gabriella Sundar Singh*	Stranger 2/Bridesmaid/Bride/Outdoorswoman/ Woman in Green/Helen/Case Worker/Anitra/Pastor/Bremer/Anna

### Creative & Production

Tim Carroll	Director
Hanne Loosen	Set and Costume Designer
Kevin Lamotte	Lighting Designer
Claudio Vena	Music Director, Original Music and Sound Designer

Michael Duggan	Stage Manager
Sang-Sang Lee	Assistant Stage Manager
Sahdia Cayemithe	Set and Costume Design Assistant
Hina Nishioka	Lighting Design Assistant
Alexis Milligan	Movement Director
Jeffrey Simlett	Voice and Dialect Coach

\*Christopher Newton Intern, Gabriella Sundar Singh, is generously supported by Marilyn & Charles Baillie.

**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\*](#) 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. \$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, 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).

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

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### **Media Contacts**

Jenniffer Anand  
Senior Manager, Communications  
1-800-657-1106 x 2222

Ashley Belmer  
Publicist, B-Rebel PR  
Mobile: 416-617-8934

Mobile: 905-941-0018  
[janand@shawfest.com](mailto:janand@shawfest.com)

[ash@b-rebelpr.com](mailto:ash@b-rebelpr.com)

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