

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CASTS AND CREATIVE TEAMS ANNOUNCED FOR SHAW FESTIVAL'S 2026 HOLIDAY SEASON

- *The Shaw's latest season of merriment and good cheer with Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella and A Year with Frog and Toad starts November 5 –*

**Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (October 27, 2026)** — The Shaw Festival holiday season arrives this November with two brand-new productions. **Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella**, directed and choreographed by The Shaw's Associate Artistic Director **Kimberley Rampersad** takes the stage at the Festival Theatre starting November 8. **A Year with Frog and Toad** is brought to life by director **Jonathan Tan** at the Court House Studio Theatre starting November 5.

Audiences will experience *Cinderella* like never before in this heartwarming, cheeky and spectacular stage adaptation of the classic fairytale featuring magnificent costumes and magical illusions. The story of the girl who lived in the cinders reminds us all that kindness is stronger than cruelty. Featuring some of Rodgers and Hammerstein's most beloved songs, including "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible," "Ten Minutes Ago" and "Stepsisters' Lament," this timeless musical treasure is a holiday treat for the whole family.

Attendees of Saturday matinee performances are also invited to attend a Mini Manners workshop and children's tea where participants will learn the dos and don'ts of royal etiquette and immerse themselves in a world of delightful make-believe.

**A Year with Frog and Toad** was first performed at The Shaw as an outdoor concert series in 2022, and returns with a new cast, a new look, and a new home at the historic Court House Theatre. This fully staged production features all the heartwarming characters audiences have grown to love, and includes additional songs not previously performed at The Shaw.

To help audiences get into the spirit, a pre-show family workshop will be offered prior to each performance of **A Year with Frog and Toad** featuring themed arts, crafts and games.

"With the holiday season close at hand, the Shaw Festival is thrilled to welcome audiences back to Niagara-on-the-Lake for an entirely new slate of holiday shows," said Artistic Director **Tim Carroll**. "With both an enchanting musical adventure in **Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella** and a beloved family classic in **A Year with Frog and Toad**, we're serving up a double helping of festive joy."

2026 marks the first time since 2017 that The Shaw will not be mounting its production of **A Christmas Carol** in Niagara-on-the-Lake. For the first time, The Shaw's beloved adaptation of **A Christmas Carol** will be performed at The Fleck at Harbourfront Centre Theatre in Toronto, as part of the Shaw Festival's three-year artistic residency. This fresh adaptation brings Dickens's world to life through inventive puppetry, beautiful period costumes and sets and audience participation with spirited sing-alongs. Tickets for Harbourfront Centre performances are available at [harbourfrontcentre.com/shaw](https://harbourfrontcentre.com/shaw).

The 2026 Shaw Festival Niagara-on-the-Lake holiday playbill's cast and creative teams include:

## **FESTIVAL THEATRE**

**November 8 – December 23**

Available for review beginning **November 20**

### **Rodgers & Hammerstein's CINDERELLA**

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

New Book by Douglas Carter Beane

Original Book by Oscar Hammerstein II

Orchestrations by Danny Troob

Music Adaptation and Arrangements by David Chase

Direction and Choreography by **Kimberley Rampersad**

Music direction by **Paul Sportelli**

Sets, costumes and illusions designed by **Cory Sincennes**

Lighting designed by **Jareth Li**

Sound designed by **Corey Macfadyen** and **Kaitlyn MacKinnon**

Associate Choreography by **Matt Alfano**

Ella (**Kelsey Verzotti**) dreams of more than her life of servitude at the hands of her wicked stepmother (**Élodie Gillett**) and cruel stepsisters (**Gabriella Sundar Singh** and **Mirabella Sundar Singh**). When Prince Topher (**Taurian Teelucksingh**) announces a grand ball celebrating his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Ella sees an opportunity to get away, if only for a single night. With the help of her Fairy Godmother (**Patty Jamieson**), some woodland creatures and a little bit of magic, Ella may get her wish, just so long as she remembers not to stay out past midnight.

**Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella*** also features **Jean Blandon, Nathan Carroll, Cassandra Consiglio, Michael Derworiz, Daniel Greenberg, Bryce Johnson, Jaden Kim, Graeme Kitagawa, Shona Kiyama, Beatrice Kwan, Madelyn Miyashita, André Morin, Cheryl Mullings, Savion Roach, Jeremiah Sparks, Éamon Stocks, Mikayla Stradiotto, Jay Turvey, Kelly Wong** and **Jenny L. Wright**.

**Leigh McClymont** leads the stage management team alongside assistant stage managers **Sang-Sang Lee** and **Annie McWhinnie**.

*Cinderella* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com).

The Shaw Festival production of **Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella*** is recommended for patrons 4+.

This production is sponsored by the **Goettler Family Foundation** and **Mary E. Hill** and supported by the **Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund**. Shaw Festival Music Director Paul Sportelli is supported by **David & Amy Fulton**.

## **COURT HOUSE THEATRE**

**November 5 – December 23**

Available for review beginning **November 13**

## **A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD**

Music by Robert Reale     Book and Lyrics by Willie Reale

Based on the books by Arnold Lobel

Originally presented on Broadway by Bob Boyett, Adrienne Lobel,  
Michael Garnder, Lawrence Horowitz and Roy Furman

World premiere at The Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Directed by **Jonathan Tan**

Music direction by **Ryan deSouza**

Choreographed by **Kerry Gage**

Set and costumes designed by **Judith Bowden**

Lighting designed by **Hina Nishioka**

Spend a year with the cheerful, adventurous Frog (**Drew Plummer**) and his serious, reserved pal Toad (**Michael Therriault**) as they navigate the ups and downs of friendship through a series of comic and musical misadventures. Although sledding accidents, wet sandwiches and delayed mail delivery abound, both Frog and Toad soon come to learn that, at the end of the day, there's no trouble you can't overcome when you've got your best friend by your side.

The cast of this charming holiday classic also includes **Kristi Frank, Matthew Joseph, Jeigh Madjus, Jade Repeta, Travis Seetoo** and **Jacqueline Thair**.

This production's stage management team is headed by **Meredith Macdonald** and includes assistant stage manager **Kathryn Urbanek** and apprentice stage manager **Beatrice Freedman**.

***A Year with Frog and Toad*** is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

The Shaw Festival's production of ***A Year with Frog and Toad*** is recommended for patrons 4+.

This production is sponsored by the **Shaw Guild** and supported by the **Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund**. Children and Family Programming at The Shaw is generously supported by **Christopher and Jeanne Jennings**.

-30-

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**

One of the largest charitable theatre companies in North America, the Shaw Festival's mission is to enrich and connect people's lives through theatre. Based in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Shaw Festival's Holiday Season includes ***A Year with Frog and Toad*** and ***Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella***. The Shaw Festival's 2027 season playbill features ***Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific, Arsenic and Old Lace, The Color Purple, Jumpers, Deathtrap, Arms and the Man, Grimm Tales, Goblin:Pygmalion, What Every Woman Knows, Intimate Apparel, The Rats and The Patient*** and ***A Christmas Carol***

Through its [All.Together.Now.](#) Campaign, The Shaw is creating new spaces and programs where people can build real human connections and rediscover their creativity. For more information, visit [shawfest.com](http://shawfest.com).

*We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.* ~ George Bernard Shaw

**Connect with the Shaw Festival**

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

**Media Contacts**

Cathy Cowan  
Interim Director, Marketing Communications  
Mobile: 416-275-6197  
[ccowan@shawfest.com](mailto:ccowan@shawfest.com)

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