

MEDIA RELEASE

A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE: CITADEL'S PATH TO RE-OPENING IN 2021

June 9, 2020
(EDMONTON)

In the midst of the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, our goal as Edmonton's premier theatre organization has been to proceed with decisiveness and clarity for our patrons, artists, and partners. The large-scale productions we create for our mainstage are the culmination of years of planning and investment, best served live in front of a full audience. **What we have come to accept is that the public ban on large indoor gatherings will likely continue for many months to come, and that it will not be possible to schedule any of our regular programming prior to 2021.**

The planned 2020/21 Season (Mainstage, Seasonal, and Highwire) will be moved, nearly in its entirety, to the following season starting with our World Premiere of *ELVIS: The Musical* in the Summer of 2021.

Our whole team is heartbroken that this decision means that for the first time in two decades, the Citadel will not be able to welcome families into our theatre during the holidays to experience our production of *A Christmas Carol*. But rest assured, we are exploring ways to bring a version of this timeless story to Edmonton audiences digitally.

However, we are committed to bringing full-scale storytelling to our audience through a **Spring 2021 mini-season** that will deliver a few highly-anticipated productions: *The Garneau Block* in March 2021, *Bears* in April, *Jane Eyre* in May, and *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* in June 2021.

At this time, due to the multiple partners and artists involved with our programming, and the uncertainty of exact reopening under Stage 3 of Alberta's relaunch plans, we are not able to announce dates. This decision allows us to plan wisely, not cause further frustration if they later need to be moved, and to consider launching earlier should health guidelines allow. If larger gatherings are still not permitted by the start of 2021, we will reconsider and do everything we can to best take care of our patrons.

We look forward to sharing an innovative series of alternative and intimate programming both in our theatre spaces and online. These experiences – including productions to be viewed online, inventive digital creations, and “micro-performances” live at the Citadel (when gatherings of 50 are permitted) – will keep our audiences and artists engaged, entertained, and close to the theatre community we all value so highly. More details on this series will be available soon.

The Citadel’s education and outreach team has been working tirelessly to continue offering world-class arts learning for artists of all ages and experience levels in this time. Our online series of programming has gone off to great success, while our Masterclasses have reached hundreds of artists from coast-to-coast. We are fiercely proud of our work to welcome students back for in-person Foote Theatre School summer camps and summer classes under all Alberta health guidelines.

We stand with our arts partners and recognize that it is only together, with our patrons and fellow producers, that we can continue to share stories – in ways we’ve come to love, and in bold ways we’ve never seen. We stand with frontline healthcare and service workers who have continually put their lives at risk to give us the privilege to work safely from home. And we stand with the Edmonton community, whose diverse skill set and vibrant cultural scene will see us safely through to the other side.

With our patrons and partners’ support, the show will go on.

[Click here for Frequently Asked Questions about season packages and ticketing options for our upcoming productions.](#)

[Click here for The Hub @ Citadel, our home for all things digital in performance and education.](#)

For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

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