



CITADEL THEATRE

***OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING!***



AN EXCLUSIVE, UNFILTERED INTERVIEW WITH BRIDGET RYAN,  
CREATOR AND STAR OF *OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING!*



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Citadel Theatre: What are some of your favourite Breakfast TV memories?

Bridget Ryan: SO. MANY. Rappelling down a 32-storey building LIVE on TV. The Christmas Tree Sale every year in support of Edmonton Food Bank. Elementary School Science Fairs. Christmas Choir Concerts. Being Lord Mayor of Old Strathcona. Random Acts of Kindness. Any morning with one of the many incredibly passionate fitness people in this city (there is zero excuse for me ... I've been introduced to every style/type of fitness in existence). Finish That Phrase with Grade 2 students around the city. Camping out for five days -30 weather for the CMHA for a week. Any morning at Fire Hall #1. Dog Sledding in Jasper. Being buried four feet in the snow to illustrate the dangers of an avalanche in Banff. Pancake Eating Contests at the United Way Pancake Breakfast at Garrison year after year. CHEFS, CHEFS, and MORE INCREDIBLE CHEFS in this city. Mornings in the River Valley. Running a marathon on a treadmill (literally) for The Canadian Diabetes Foundation. Working with all the various and equally passionate nonprofit organizations in our city. Covering all the festivals year after year - Street Performers, Folk, Fringe Theatre, Jazz, Dragon Boat, Animation, ACCORDIAN (you heard right) FESTIVALS. WE HAVE THE BEST CITY FOR FESTIVALS!!! Rockin' August. Chugging a litre of egg nog in less than one minute (not recommended). Comic Book Day. Grabbing the microphone from the caller at the Square Dancing Seniors morning. Working with incredible people at the TV station behind the scenes and the awesome hilarious wonderful on air people that become your family at 4 a.m. every day. Meeting literally thousands of awesome, incredible and wonderfully passionate Edmontonians.

CT: What is your morning routine like now that you aren't on BT?

BR: Still up at 330. Like clockwork.

CT: You come from a very talented family. When did you know you wanted to be an entertainer?

BR: Theatre was all I ever knew. Funnily enough, I'm not sure there was a point where a decision was made. My dad was an incredible storyteller. And hilarious. I think that's why he loved theatre, it's the most immersive way to story tell! My mom - I saw the passion and learned ability. My sister, I got an audience. As an older sister, my poor sis was subject to more bad one-liners and versions of 'there's no business like show business' that any human should withstand! Even to this day, when I get a laugh out of her, there's a part of me that's squeals 'YES.'

CT: Why did you decide to go into the television industry?

BR: I didn't. Totally by accident. I was living in New York in my own apartment (finally after six years of dozens of sublets) and came home for the summer to do a production of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* at the Mayfield and was a guest on the Big Breakfast to sing a song from the show. I thought the two guys running that show were off the chart BRILLIANT. Mark and Steve. The whole crew actually. They were hilarious and irreverent and doing something I had not seen down ANYWHERE before. So after the show, I mentioned to one of the producers how much fun it was - and he said...you know, these guys haven't had a break in years ... maybe you could come in sometime and sub. So I 'subbed' a few times before I went back to NYC - but got the call they wanted to find a full time position for me when I was back in NYC. Decided to take the leap!



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CT: How did you decide which stories, songs, memories, et cetera that you would share during your show? What's your process like for writing a show?

BR: Easily the toughest part of this process has been writing it and for a couple of months, it was completely stifling. I couldn't write anything. Too many people, places and times, and WHY was I writing this ... who needed to see this ... millions of people leave their jobs and don't write a show about it!! I was really in a funk for a bit, but then when I realized the show really wasn't about me, it was about the incredible people that I met - and the incredible wisdom and passion of every person I met, whether it was a square dancer, a chef, a bug specialist, fitness enthusiast, choir member, comic book expert ... they have left a huge impression on me. A life lesson. A nugget of wisdom. A laugh. A cry. And they did this, not me. As soon as I realized the show was about 'them' and not me ... the flood gates flew WIDE open...

CT: What can the audience expect from your Beyond the Stage show *Oh, What A Beautiful Morning!*?

BR: Incredible stories. Music. Laughter. Love, lots of love. I loved my job and more to the point, the people I had the opportunity to meet. To be totally honest, I workshopped this show last month in Canmore for 10 nights and every night was different. That is what I absolutely ADORE about this genre of theatre - my cabarets - how LIVE they are. It's rehearsed, it's honed, it's practiced but only so that it can totally go off the rails ... safely!!! I LOVE IT!!!

CT: How will *Oh, What A Beautiful Morning!* be different from previous cabaret shows you've done at the Citadel?

BR: So many hilarious and wonderful characters you'll meet!! It's SO MUCH FUN!!

CT: If you could collaborate with any musician, living or dead, who would it be and why?

BR: Freddy Mercury. Without a doubt.

*Oh, What A Beautiful Morning!* takes place October 18 and 19, 2018, in The Club at the Citadel Theatre. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 780.425.1820 or visit [www.citadeltheatre.com](http://www.citadeltheatre.com).