

2019-20

# ANNUAL REPORT



*theatre:*  
**CALGARY**  
STAFFORD ARIMA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# WELCOME

In our 52nd season, our artistic vision once again entertained and challenged our audiences. From the frenetically funny pace of *Noises Off*, through the provocative and darkly humorous *Iceland*, to the rekindling of the spirit of our new *A Christmas Carol*, and the fight for individual rights in *The Louder We Get*, our Theatre's strategic vision to celebrate both new works and classics came to life. Artistic Director Stafford Arima programmed choices that made us laugh hysterically, examine our morals, feel the love of our fellow citizens, and triumph over injustice. Our ability to continue to produce world-class theatre for the people of our city brings myself, and my fellow board members, such immense pride.

While we celebrated much success on our stage, we were presented with a significant challenge that no one could have predicted. Covid-19 has created devastating hurdles to not only our Theatre, but arts organizations across the globe. The pandemic forced us to cancel our remaining two productions, *Admissions* and *Million Dollar Quartet*, the latter of which was on track to be a high-revenue show for us. Couple the pandemic with a continuation of the economic hardships many Calgarians have faced over the past couple of years, and our revenue streams were deeply impacted. We also had to manage through the departure of our Executive Director and asked one of our board members, Jim Reader, to step in on interim basis while we struck a search committee to find a replacement. I also regret to report that given our difficult circumstances we had to make the difficult decision to lay off a number of our staff, and I want to personally thank them for their service to both our Theatre and our community.

As a long-serving member of the Board of Directors, I have never been prouder of the leadership and perseverance of the people that make Theatre Calgary who it is. From Stafford and Jim, to all of the people in the office, backstage, and in the theatre, along with our Board of Directors, thank-you for being able to adapt and continue to create theatre in a year that was, in one word, unpredictable.

While there is much uncertainty in the world in the coming months and into next year, our primary focus is to continue our commitment to produce theatre, in whatever form is necessary, so that Calgary's artists, theatre professionals, and the hard working team at Theatre Calgary can be ready to welcome audiences back. Our board and leadership teams are committed to making sure that Theatre Calgary remains a leader for the arts in our city, and that we can continue to tell stories that we can all share, together, for many years to come.

Craig Senyk  
CHAIR, THEATRE CALGARY SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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We are living in truly unprecedented times. Change is the only constant thing in the world today. Everything around us keeps on evolving – and so does art. Art will continue to reinvent, reimagine, and evolve, as it has been doing so for the past hundreds of years. It brings me a tremendous amount of excitement to know that Theatre Calgary will persevere, like the art it produces, and be on the forefront of reinvention, reimagination and evolution.

Stafford Arima  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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It has been a great honour to serve with the people of Theatre Calgary who share the core belief that its artists and its art are essential to the health of the people of this great city. Going forward, our performances will seek to assuage the isolation of the pandemic on Calgary and its impacts on the social and mental health of each member of our community. This is work of great purpose. You will be pleased to know then that despite our March closure, your Theatre Calgary remains safe, and has evolved to ensure sound financial and operational footings to support the many initiatives yet to come in both virtual and live performance theatre.

James Reader  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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# MISSION

TO STIMULATE, PROVOKE, AND DELIGHT  
THROUGH AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMING  
CREATED TO IGNITE LOCAL, NATIONAL,  
AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.

# VISION

TO STAND AMONGST THE BEST THEATRES  
GLOBALLY AS A LEADER IN INNOVATIVE,  
IMPACTFUL, AND DIVERSE PROGRAMMING.

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**AT THEATRE CALGARY, OUR PURPOSE IS TO CRUSH MONOTONY  
THROUGH CREATIVE AND ENGAGING EXPERIENCES.**

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# 2019-20 PRODUCTIONS



An eventful year at Theatre Calgary featured many highlights for our audiences including an all-new production of *A Christmas Carol*. Adapted by Calgary playwright Geoffrey Simon Brown, our production not only featured an all-new script, but also new sets, costumes, and a major investment in an LED video wall. This new technology will continue to be utilized in other future productions, along with *A Christmas Carol*.

January of 2020 saw the launch of *The Louder We Get*, a musical based on the true Canadian story of Marc Hall, and his fight to take his boyfriend to prom. Directed by Broadway's Lonny Price, the show garnered attention across North America, was both a critical and audience hit, and became our most attended performance of this past season.

When Covid-19 shut down our Theatre, we looked for ways that we could continue to showcase our artists and entertain Calgarians. A program called *tcTakeout: The Arts Delivered* was created as a way to feature a diverse array of young and established artists performing musical numbers, showing off unique talents, and sharing memories of Theatre Calgary in short videos that were shared both on our website and over social media. *tcTakeout* was launched on April 20, and due to the popularity of the programming, it will continue to run through 2020 and into 2021.





JUNE 27 -  
AUGUST 18,  
2019

# SHAKESPEARE BY THE BOW — A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

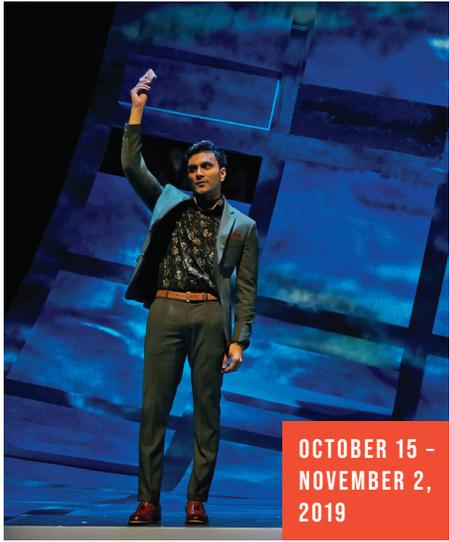
BY William Shakespeare  
ADAPTED BY Ted Dykstra and Jenna Turk



SEPTEMBER 10 -  
OCTOBER 2,  
2019

# NOISES OFF

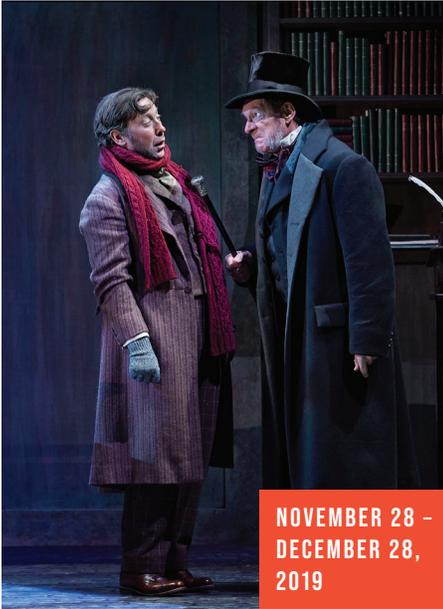
BY Michael Frayn



OCTOBER 15 -  
NOVEMBER 2,  
2019

# ICELAND

BY Nicolas Billon



NOVEMBER 28 -  
DECEMBER 28,  
2019

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY Charles Dickens  
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY Geoffrey Simon  
Brown



JANUARY 28 -  
FEBRUARY 22,  
2020

# THE LOUDER WE GET

In association with Mary Young Leckie  
BOOK BY Kent Staines  
LYRICS BY Akiva Romer-Segal  
MUSIC BY Colleen Dauncey



MARCH 10 -  
APRIL 4,  
2020

# ADMISSIONS

BY Joshua Harmon

RUN CANCELLED MARCH 12 DUE TO COVID-19

# MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

BOOK BY Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux  
ORIGINAL CONCEPT AND DIRECTION BY Floyd Mutrux  
INSPIRED BY Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash and  
Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins

RUN POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19

## GENEROUS GIFTS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Following the cancellation of our productions of *Admissions* and *Million Dollar Quartet* due to Covid-19, our staff contacted all ticket-holding patrons to ask them if they would consider donating their tickets back to the theatre. The community response was heartwarming. More than 75% of our patrons either donated their tickets back to the theatre, or exchanged them for gift certificates to future on-stage productions.

Theatre Calgary would like to acknowledge the incredible generosity of our members, patrons and subscribers who generously contributed back to us during these challenging times.

We would also like to give a special thank-you to our Government and Foundation grantors for their tremendous support and sustaining contributions. Because of you, Theatre Calgary continues to produce extraordinary and unique experiences that bring our community together.

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## EDITH AND CAL WENZEL: SUPPORTING A TRADITION

We'd like to acknowledge the many years of exceptional contributions of Edith and Cal Wenzel to the theatre and especially for their support of our long-standing holiday tradition of *A Christmas Carol*. In 2011 they, through the Cal Wenzel Family Foundation, supported the remount of the production that ran for eight years. When it was time to remount an all-new production of *A Christmas Carol* in 2019, the Wenzels were once more in our corner, pledging to support the production for the next three years with a gift of \$200,000 per year. This is a gift that has breathed new life into our annual holiday tradition which is sure to entertain audiences for years to come.

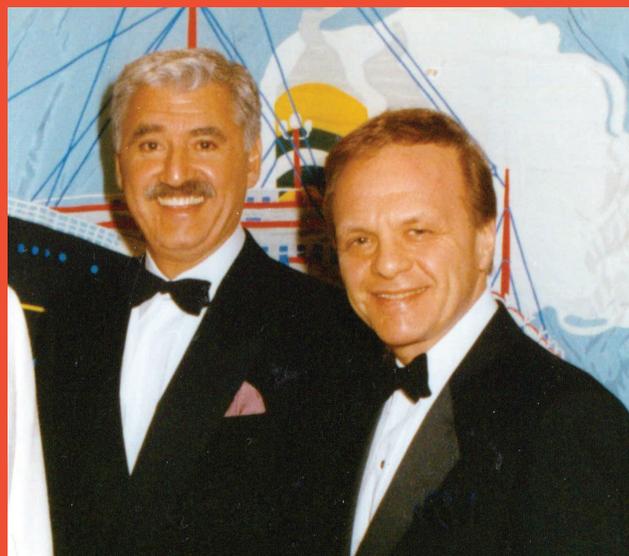


## BUDDY VICTOR AND AL OSTEN: INVESTING IN CALGARY'S ARTISTIC FUTURE

In February 2020, beloved businessmen and philanthropists, Buddy Victor and Al Osten, made a landmark donation of \$2 million, the largest single donation in Theatre Calgary history, to ensure generations to come will be able to experience the magic of live theatre. The contribution will be held with the Endowment Foundation and Theatre Calgary will be exploring matching opportunities to further amplify the impact of the gift.

Buddy Victor and Al Osten are lifelong friends and business partners. They first met in 1956 when Al joined the The Rover Boys, a Toronto-based, a cappella quartet. Buddy and Al's relationship was bonded by a shared passion for giving back to their community and an unwavering love for the arts. Over the years, Buddy and Al have made significant contributions to their community. They've enriched the lives of Albertans and Canadians through health, recreation, social services and arts initiatives.

We treasure our relationship with Al and Buddy and celebrate the enormous impact they have had on Theatre Calgary and the greater artistic community, now and into the future. Their tremendous gift will help us further our commitment to invest in the future of theatre, bringing new works and voices to the stage, providing paid mentorships to emerging artists and continuing to bring the joy of live performances to the community.

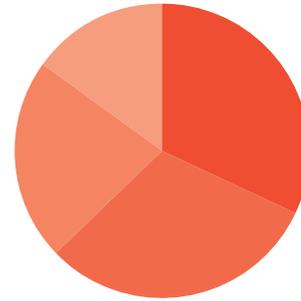


AL OSTEN AND BUDDY VICTOR

# 2019-20 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS\*

## REVENUE

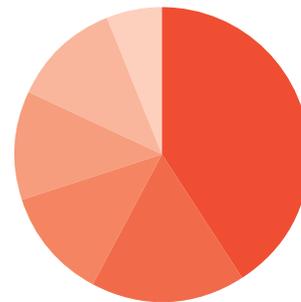
	2018-19	2019-20
EARNED REVENUE	5,844,441	<b>3,428,357</b>
FUNDRAISING	1,709,879	<b>3,539,988</b>
GRANTS	1,543,596	<b>1,688,988</b>
OTHER	50,451	<b>9,508</b>
DONATED MATERIAL	750,750	<b>1,200</b>
DISBURSEMENT FROM TCEF**	325,000	<b>2,375,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,224,117</b>	<b>\$11,043,051</b>



● 32%	FUNDRAISING
● 31%	EARNED REVENUE
● 22%	DISBURSEMENT FROM TCEF**
● 15%	GRANTS
● 0.001%	OTHER
● 0.0001%	DONATED MATERIAL

## EXPENSES

PRODUCTION	5,077,129	<b>4,657,106</b>
FACILITY & CONCESSIONS	1,627,770	<b>1,422,427</b>
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS	1,643,152	<b>1,331,311</b>
ADMINISTRATION	897,502	<b>1,356,037</b>
FUNDRAISING	784,719	<b>708,261</b>
DONATED MATERIAL	750,750	<b>1,200</b>
CONTRIBUTION TO TCEF**	0	<b>2,001,383</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,770,959</b>	<b>11,477,725</b>



● 41%	PRODUCTION
● 17%	CONTRIBUTION TO TCEF**
● 12%	FACILITY & CONCESSIONS
● 12%	MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
● 12%	ADMINISTRATION
● 6%	FUNDRAISING
● 0.0001%	DONATED MATERIAL

<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$546,842</b>	<b>-\$434,674</b>
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\* THEATRE CALGARY SOCIETY CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2020  
 ABOVE RESULTS ARE NON-CONSOLIDATED AS THEY EXCLUDE THE RESULTS OF THE THEATRE CALGARY ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION.  
 \*\* THEATRE CALGARY ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

# BOARD & FOUNDATION

## SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Craig D. Senyk,  
CHAIR

Kathryn Heath,  
VICE CHAIR, HUMAN RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Tricia Leadbeater,  
VICE CHAIR

Joy Alford,  
CORPORATE SECRETARY

Catherine Samuel,  
ARTISTIC COMMITTEE CHAIR

Kelly Bernakevitch,  
AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
CHAIR

Richard S. Hannah,  
SPONSORSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Maggie Schofield,  
FACILITY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Kirsty Sklar,  
GOVERNANCE & NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Margo Randles,  
PAST CHAIR

Kate Abbott  
Peter Edwards  
Stephen Hair  
Cherry Ma  
John MacAulay  
Riaz Mamdani  
Chadwick Newcombe  
Paul Polson  
Dr. Norman Schachar, M.D.  
Carol Shmygol  
Edith Wenzel  
Ward Zimmer

## ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Peter Edwards  
CHAIR

Ryan Hoult  
VICE CHAIR

Ward Zimmer  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

Andrew Bateman  
Ian Beddis  
Ellen Chidley  
Alan Moon  
Chadwick Newcombe



## PAUL POLSON

Theatre Calgary wishes to acknowledge and remember Mr. Paul Polson, who passed away in July, 2020. A member of our Board of Directors since 2008, Paul was a kind, caring, and compassionate individual who touched the lives of so many during his time at the theatre. His passing has had a profound impact on our organization, and we will forever be indebted to his committed leadership, along with his steady and guiding hand that helped us through these challenging times.

We pass along our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Thank-you, Paul. You will be so greatly missed.

PRODUCTION PHOTO CREDITS: (ALL PHOTOS BY TRUDIE LEE PHOTOGRAPHY)

COVER: THE CAST OF *THE LOUDER WE GET* | PAGE 4: STEPHEN HAIR, BRIAN JENSEN IN *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* | PAGE 5 (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): JEROD BLAKE IN *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*; ELIZABETH STEPKOWSKI-TARHAN, CAMILLE PAVLENKO, TYRELL CREWS IN *NOISES OFF*; PRANEET AKILLA IN *ICELAND*; RACHEL JONES, JAKE BUNYAN IN *ADMISSIONS*; EVAN KINNANE IN *THE LOUDER WE GET*; GRAHAM PERCY, STEPHEN HAIR IN *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*

# theatre: CALGARY

Theatre Calgary is a professional non-profit theatre company and a resident of Arts Commons, operating out of the Arts Commons Max Bell Theatre.

It is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and operates within the jurisdiction of the Canadian Theatre Agreement. Theatre Calgary employs technicians under a collective agreement with the I.A.T.S.E.

Theatre Calgary  
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Calgary, AB, Canada  
T2G 5C4

theatrecalgary.com  
+1-403-294-7440

We would like to acknowledge that our performances take place on Treaty 7 Land, signed at Blackfoot Crossing in 1877. We are on the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7 including the three Blackfoot Nations: consisting of the Siksika, Piikani, Kainai Nations; the Stoney Nakoda Nations: consisting of the Bears paw, Wesley and Chiniki Nations; and the Tsuut'ina Nation. The city of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to present in this territory.

## 2019-20 SPONSORS & PARTNERS

### PRODUCTION & SEASON SPONSORS



### W.O. MITCHELL ROOM SPONSOR



### INTERACTIVE LEARNING PROGRAM SPONSORS



### EMERGING ARTISTS PROGRAM & SHAKESPEARE BY THE BOW



### COOL YULE SPONSOR



### MEDIA PARTNERS



### COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SUPPLIERS



### OPENING NIGHT CATERING SPONSORS



### RESTAURANT PARTNERS



### GOVERNMENT SPONSORS AND FOUNDATIONS

