

— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

ARTS CLUB ANNOUNCES LINEUP OF AUDIO PROJECTS

VANCOUVER, B.C. (January 25, 2021)— Today, Arts Club Theatre Company Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** announced the company’s upcoming theatrical projects, in the form of four world premiere audio plays from Western Canadian playwrights.

“We are thrilled and grateful to be producing artistic content during this time, and are excited about exploring a new artistic format in the form of audio plays and podcasting,” said Corcoran. “We know that this is a trying time for many, and we’re eager to help our patrons weather this storm by providing consistent, high-quality theatre in a digital format.”

The Arts Club will release four audio plays, forming a series titled **Listen to This**, written by artists affiliated with the company’s [Emerging Playwrights’ Unit](#) and [Silver Commissions Project](#). The plays will be directed by Ashlie Corcoran. Each full play can be purchased individually or as part of a series at artsclub.com. Shortened episodes of each play will be released weekly on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

Unexpected, by **Bronwyn Carradine**, to be released February 10, is a comedic exploration of marriage, friendship, and modern motherhood. Carradine (she/her) is an award-winning writer and theatre creator currently based in Vancouver. As a young writer, her poems, short stories and personal essays were published in magazines and anthologies. Over the past decade, her theatre work has been produced, performed, and developed by Zee Zee Theatre, Intrepid Theatre, Rumble Theatre, the Livery Theatre, and GDCI Players. She currently has plays in development with Green Thumb Theatre and Babelle Theatre, where she is currently a Writer-in-Residence. She is a proud graduate of Studio 58, and was a member of the Arts Club’s inaugural Emerging Playwrights’ Unit residency program, in 2019, where *Unexpected* was developed.

Night Passing, by **Scott Button**, inspired by the true stories of LGBTQ+ Canadians who endured brutal harassment at the hands of their own government—and the resistance that followed—will be released March 17. Button (he/him) is a creator working in film, television, and theatre. His other plays include *Desiree Ama* (e-Volver Fest, presented by Upintheair Theatre), *Viva* (Aenigma Theatre), *The Hunger Room* (Staircase Theatre), and *Desire(e)* (Pull Festival). He is a Theatre BC Playwriting Award winner, a Jessie Richardson Theatre Award nominee, and was a participant in the inaugural Arts Club’s Emerging Playwrights’ Unit. *Night Passing* was developed in the 2019 Emerging Playwrights’ Unit.

Someone Like You, by **Christine Quintana**, to be released May 19, will launch *Cyrano de Bergerac* into the 21st century with mistaken identities, millennial manifestos, and the quest for self-love. Quintana (she/her) has acted in Arts Club productions *She Stoops to Conquer* (debut, 2012) and *Saint Joan* (2014), and was a LEAP Program Assistant from 2015 to 2018. Other playwriting credits include *Selfie* (Young People’s Theatre), *Never the Last* (Delinquent Theatre), and *Clean* (upcoming, Newworld Theatre). She is a recipient of the Siminovitch Protégé Prize for Playwriting, the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New TYA Play (*Selfie*), the Sidney Risk Award for Outstanding Play by an Emerging Playwright (*Selfie*), and the Tom Hendry Award. She was a participant of Tarragon Theatre’s Urjo Kareda Residency, and is a proud founding member of the Canadian Latinx Theatre Artist Coalition. *Someone Like You* is a 2020–2021 Arts Club Silver Commission.

Finally, ***My Father Is the Greatest Man in the World***, by **Tai Amy Grauman**, to be released July 14, follows a Métis woman questioning her father's past. Grauman (she/her) made her Arts Club stage debut with *Thanks for Giving* in 2017. Other theatre credits include *Mary's Wedding: A Métis Love Story* (Citadel Theatre) and *Honour Beat* (Grand Theatre). She is an Associate Artist at the Citadel Theatre, and Artistic Associate at Savage Society. Grauman is currently working on commissions for Nightswimming and Axis Theatre. She was recently named the Métis Nation of Alberta's Outstanding Youth of 2020. *My Father Is the Greatest Man in the World* is a 2020–2021 Arts Club Silver Commission.

Unexpected and *Night Passing*, developed in the Arts Club's 2019–2020 Emerging Playwrights' Unit, were originally written for the stage and later adapted to an audio format. *Someone Like You* and *My Father Is the Greatest Man in the World*, developed as Silver Commission projects, were originally commissioned as stage plays, but were modified to an audio format prior to being written.

Listen to This director Ashlie Corcoran (she/her) has been the Artistic Director of the Arts Club since 2018, during which time she has directed *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *The Matchmaker*, *Bed & Breakfast*, *Cost of Living*, and *The Sound of Music* for the company. Originally from White Rock, BC, Corcoran directs both theatre and opera, working across Canada and internationally. She was the Artistic Director of the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, Ontario, from 2012 to 2017, where she directed 15 productions. She is also the co-founder and Artistic Producer for Theatre Smash in Toronto, a British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Chevening Scholar, and a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab. Other credits include *The Barber of Seville* (Vancouver Opera); *Me and My Girl* (Shaw Festival); *Mamma Mia!* (Citadel Theatre); *Das Ding (The Thing)* (Theatre Smash/Canadian Stage/TIP); *Kiss* (Theatre Smash/Canadian Stage/ARC); *The Ugly One*, *Durango*, *The Boy Called Newfoundland*, *Tijuana Cure* (Theatre Smash); *The Gay Heritage Project* (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre/National Tour); *Bed & Breakfast* (Centaur Theatre/Belfry Theatre); *The Ugly One*, *Mustard* (Tarragon Theatre); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Waiting for the Parade*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *The Birds & the Bees* (Western Canada Theatre); and 10 projects at the Canadian Opera Company, most recently *The Magic Flute* and *The Magic Victrola*.

The Arts Club extends its gratitude to the donors who have made this initiative possible, including ITC Construction Group, TD, Roberta Beiser, The Alan and Gwendoline Pyatt Foundation, The River Foundation, and the Canada Council for the Arts, British Columbia Arts Council, City of Vancouver. Special thanks are also extended to Stan and Kathy Hamilton, supporters of the Silver Commissions Project, and Bonnie Mah, supporter of the Emerging Playwrights' Unit.

These productions have been planned, rehearsed, and recorded in adherence to safety guidelines established by the B.C. government. The Arts Club continues to take [many precautions](#) to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and welfare of patrons, artists, staff, and volunteers.

LISTEN TO THIS: AUDIO PLAY SERIES

Unexpected

By **Bronwyn Carradine**, member of the Arts Club's 2019 Emerging Playwrights' Unit

Release date: **February 10**

Married couple Annie and Josephine have been trying to start a family for the past five years. As their patience and pennies start to dry up, they begin to second-guess their choices, until another chance at a baby literally bursts through the front door. *Unexpected* is a comedic exploration of marriage, friendship, and modern motherhood.

Night Passing

By **Scott Button**, member of the Arts Club's 2019 Emerging Playwrights' Unit

Release date: **March 17**

Ottawa, 1958. A young man moves from a rural town to the big city, hoping to reckon with his emerging sexuality—and comes face to face with the horrific, oppressive acts against the queer population there. *Night Passing* is inspired by the true stories of LGBTQ+ Canadians who endured brutal harassment at the hands of their own government, and the vital resistance that followed.

Someone Like You

By **Christine Quintana**, a 2020–2021 Silver Commissions Playwright

Release date: **May 19**

A boyfriend from hell. A nightmare apartment. A botched Tinder date. Isabelle and Kristen have been through a lot together. But the arrival of Kristen's new romantic interest leaves Isabelle wondering how long she can stay in a supporting role. This new comedy launches *Cyrano de Bergerac* into the 21st century: mistaken identities, millennial manifestos, and the quest for self-love. Who might be waiting in the wings?

My Father Is the Greatest Man in the World

By **Tai Amy Grauman**, a 2020–2021 Silver Commissions Playwright

Release date: **July 14**

Rose grew up on a farm in small-town Alberta with her Métis family. Now a country singer in Nashville and pregnant with her first baby, Rose returns home with questions for her father, John. Once a trapper on the land, John has worked in the oil field since Rose was born. What from his past can help unlock her child's future?

CREDITS

Director: **Ashlie Corcoran**

Original Music and Sound Design: **Murray Price**

Technical Director: **Ace Martens**

Recording Engineer: **Kevin Gault**

Dramaturgy: **Stephen Drover and Rachel Peake**

ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club, one of the largest not-for-profit theatre companies in the country, is the principal gathering place for the theatrical arts in British Columbia. Comprising three unique venues across Vancouver, the Arts Club welcomes more than a quarter million guests annually, tours provincially and nationally, and engages students and artists alike through educational and professional programs.

Above all, the Arts Club is dedicated to the advancement of local artists telling stories from around the globe and, in particular, those of our region. From this, we believe that culture expands, an understanding of differences is nurtured, and art bursts forth. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.