

— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS THE RADAR: NEW WORKS IN PROGRESS

MORE INFORMATION ON SILVER COMMISSIONS ALSO ANNOUNCED

August 14–17, 2022

IN BRIEF The Arts Club presents **The Radar: New Works in Progress, August 14–17, 2022**, at the [Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre](#), 162 West 1st Avenue, Vancouver. Admission is free; RSVP required. More info at artsclub.com

VANCOUVER, B.C. (July 21, 2022)—After a two-year hiatus, the Arts Club Theatre Company’s free showcase of new scripts is back with a fresh name: **The Radar: New Works in Progress**. This year’s lineup of bold projects reflects the excitement, diversity, and passion of the Canadian theatre community.

The Radar will feature four plays by Canadian playwrights, read aloud by a company of actors. After each reading, audience members are invited to take part in a discussion with the playwright and **Stephen Drover** (New Works and Professional Engagement) about the script and its creation process. The Radar readings demonstrate the Arts Club’s commitment to fostering original works, making the creative process more accessible, and providing a public forum for feedback as some of Canada’s most talented actors, directors, and playwrights bring their work to life.

Drover, who assists the playwrights to develop their scripts, said, “The Radar is an exciting opportunity to get a sneak peek at projects we’ve been working on, plus other scripts we think are really wonderful. This year we’ll hear two works that were originally commissioned for our audio play series, Listen to This, that we’d like now to see adapted for a live stage, an exciting and funny “true crime whodunnit” musical, and a script that was created in our [Emerging Playwrights’ Unit](#) that will be developed as a part of our [Silver Commissions](#) program. We are thrilled to bring this reading series back to the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre.”

Additionally, details about the Arts Club’s two new Silver Commissions have been announced, including *Bella Luz* by **Alexandra Lainfiesta**, which will also be featured at this year’s Radar. Each year, the Silver Commissions program provides funding for a playwright as they create a brand-new work, with the goal of producing it on one of our stages. The program has issued 30 full and three partial Silver Commissions since its inception, and 16 scripts have been given premieres at the Arts Club.

These public readings are free of charge. RSVP at artsclub.com.



THE RADAR: NEW WORKS IN PROGRESS SCHEDULE

All readings are free and will be held at the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre.

Sunday, August 14, 7 PM

Armchair Confidential by **Aaron Jensen**

Lucy, a neurotic 40-something accountant, uncovers a pattern in the recent murders that have plagued the quaint neighbouring town of Barnabus Bay. She enlists the reluctant help of her childhood bestie, Aldo, and his tagalong four-month-old. The friends learn through arguments and escapades that tackling their emotional baggage may be even harder than catching a killer. *Armchair Confidential* is a buddy comedy that explores our society's obsession with true crime through the lens of golden-age musical theatre.

Monday, August 15, 7 PM

Night Bodies by **Scott Button**

Ottawa, 1958. A young, queer man moves from a rural town to the big city, eager to find his independence and reinvent himself as "straight"—only to be drawn into a seductive web of secrets, paranoia, and horror with the couple living next door. A stylish exploration of repression and social alienation, *Night Bodies* shines a light on a largely untold chapter of Canadian LGBTQ+ history.

Tuesday, August 16, 7 PM

Someone Like You by **Christine Quintana**

Isabelle is a life-long romantic—but modern love isn't like a pop song or an old novel. Her best friend, Kristen, is embarking on a rebound romance, and things get complicated when Isabelle's wing-man duties cross the line. This new comedy launches *Cyrano de Bergerac* into the 21st century: mistaken identities, millennial manifestos, and the quest for self-love. What's your love story?

Wednesday, August 17, 7 PM

Bella Luz by **Alexandra Lainfiesta***

In this trilingual ode to the multilayered journeys of living in diaspora, Sumailla negotiates the overwhelming Canadian immigration system, the pressure to find a job, and a hopeful new love. When she has to choose among those three—and when pressure from her family back home forces her hand—Sumailla reconsiders what it meant to leave home and, in fact, where home is. Travelling a Latinx odyssey through magic realism, music, movement, dance, and humour, Sumailla finds her inner and outer worlds constantly colliding as she pursues her quest to belong.

*2022–2023 Silver Commission

2022–2023 SILVER COMMISSIONS

Beaut by **Dave Deveau & Meghan Gardiner**

When the rough-and-tumble child of two drag queens insists on playing hockey, his parents reluctantly take him to a painfully early Sunday morning practice, eyelashes still on from the night before. The queens are surprised to find that the hockey coach's kid, rather than being the star player for the team, is with his sporty mom at the rink next door, putting the final touches on his figure skating routine. When the rink is threatened by demolition, the four parents fight to keep it alive, and what better way than through an extravagant drag fundraiser. With sequins, sticks, and feathers flying, *Beaut* fills the arena with music, love, and hockey, reminding us that our kids tell us who they really are, and open our eyes to who we can be.

Bella Luz by **Alexandra Lainfiesta**

Please see above

PLAYWRIGHT BIOS

Scott Button (he/him) is a creator working in theatre, film, and television. He was an inaugural participant of the Arts Club's Emerging Playwrights' Unit and was selected to attend the Pacific Screenwriting Program. Productions

include *Night Passing* (Arts Club), *For Now* (Green Thumb), and *Desiree AMA* (Upintheair e-Volver Festival). www.scottbutton.ca

Dave Deveau (he/him) is an award-winning writer who investigates queer themes that speak to a broad audience. His work has been produced across North America and in Europe. He is the Co-Artistic & Managing Director of Carousel Theatre for Young People and the Associate Artistic Director for Zee Zee Theatre. He is devoted to developing intelligent, theatrical plays for young people that foster conversation. His plays for young audiences include *Celestial Being* (Green Thumb) and *Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls* (Roseneath). In total, his plays have been nominated for 28 Jessie Awards, 4 Ovation Awards, and 4 Dora Awards. He is published in Scirocco's *Fierce* anthology and his first collection, *CISSY: Three Gender Plays*, is published by Talonbooks. In drag, he's known as East Van's Cheapest Date, Peach Cobblah.

Meghan Gardiner (she/her) is an actor and writer on the unceded, ancestral territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔt (Tseilil-Waututh) nations. Her first play, *Dissolve*, has been touring consistently across North America since 2003. Her six additional plays have been produced or presented by the Gateway Theatre, Carousel Theatre, Green Thumb Theatre, and Shameless Hussy Productions. Meghan received the Sydney Risk Award for emerging playwright at the 2012 Jessie Awards and is a YWCA Women of Distinction nominee. This coming season at the Arts Club, Meghan can be seen on stage in *The Sound of Music* and *The Cull*.

Aaron Jensen (he/him) is an award-winning Canadian composer, writer, and producer with a passion for collaboration, experimentation, and community building. His creative works have been recorded by Grammy, Juno, and Emmy award-winning artists; featured in film, television, and VR platforms; and premiered by choirs and orchestras around the world. He acted as musical director, band leader, and composer for *Schitt's Creek*. Theatrical writing credits include *The Trial of Bastiano di Bologna* (Indieworks-NYC), *Henry Box Brown* (Broadway-optional), *O.E.D.* (DMD Entertainment), *Midnight Laundromat* (Driftwood Theatre Co.), and *14 Characters* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe). aaronjensen.ca

Alexandra Lainfiesta (she/her) was born and raised in Guatemala, and is a multiple award-winning actor and writer. She is a graduate of *The Canadian College of Performing Arts* and *Studio 58* training programs. Alexandra is currently in her fourth season at *The Stratford Festival*. Most recently, she has worked with Theatre Gargantua (Toronto), Newworld Theatre, Bard on the Beach, Electric Company Theatre, rice&beans, and The Frank Theatre (Vancouver). As a writer, Alexandra has been developing her first full length play *Bella Luz* under Arts Club's Silver Commission Project. She has been recently awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Arts and Music Award for her legacy as a Latina artist in BC. She is a co-founder and member of the Canadian Latinx Theatre Artist Coalition. www.alexandralainfiesta.com

Christine Quintana (she/her) is a theatre artist living and working on the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseilil-Waututh people. Creation highlights include *Clean/Espejos* (Newworld Theatre and South Coast Repertory), *Never the Last* (co-created with Molly MacKinnon), *Selfie* (commissioned by Théâtre la Seizième in French, and Young People's Theatre in English); *Good Things to Do* (rEvolver Festival and FoldA), and an upcoming commission with the Belfry Theatre. She's the winner of a Dora Award, Jessie Award, Tom Hendry Award, Siminovitch Protégé Prize, and is a Governor General's Award nominee. Christine is a proud co-founding member of the Canadian Latinx Theatre Artist Coalition. She holds a BFA in Acting from the University of British Columbia.

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.

The Arts Club is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

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