

– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

Arts Club Theatre Company On Tour presents

THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

By Mark Crawford

October 4–November 12, 2023

IN BRIEF Mark Crawford's *The Birds and the Bees* tours **October 4–November 12** across the Lower Mainland and B.C. Details at artsclub.com

VANCOUVER, B.C. (September 25, 2023)—Experience rib-tickling realizations of life and love in Mark Crawford's *The Birds and the Bees*, touring **October 4–November 12** across the Lower Mainland and B.C.

The Birds and the Bees follows Sarah (**Agnes Tong**), a turkey farmer, who has split up with her husband and moved in with her mom, Gail (**Nancy Kerr**), a beekeeper. Add in Earl (**Gerry Mackay**), the flirty neighbour, and Ben (**Riley Hardwick**), an eager young graduate student, and you have the perfect breeding ground for unlikely attractions. Set in adjoining bedrooms, *The Birds and the Bees* is a Canadian comedy about love, lust, beekeeping, and the artificial insemination of turkeys.

The Arts Club's 2019 production of *The Birds and the Bees* on the Granville Island Stage was a hugely popular audience favourite. Following the BC provincial tour this October and November, [Alberta Theatre Projects](#) will present *The Birds and the Bees* **May 7–25**.

Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** says, "I love this big-hearted, silly, modern—and progressive—sex farce, where the older characters get to have as much fun—or more—than their younger counterparts. But, this piece is also much more than frolicking fun. It also plays with generational differences and the way those differences are revealed in issues of environmentalism, economics, sexuality, and 'good morals.'"

Director **Lauren Taylor** adds, "I am super excited to be working on this hilarious Canadian play about beekeeping, farming, family, and new beginnings with this incredible cast of well-loved actors. I think this will definitely appeal to the urban beekeeper in your life, anyone who's been on a farm, or anyone looking for a belly laugh this fall!"

"*The Birds and the Bees* had the Arts Club audience screaming with laughter and applauding enthusiastically on opening night" —*Vancouver Sun*

"Buzzes with delight!" —*Vancouverescape*

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Mark Crawford is an actor and playwright. His plays include *Stag and Doe*, *Bed and Breakfast*, and *The Birds and the Bees*. Since its premiere in 2014 at the Blyth Festival, *Stag and Doe* has become one of the most-produced new Canadian plays of the decade. *Bed and Breakfast* premiered in 2015 at the Thousand Islands Playhouse and has played at



High-resolution images and videos at artsclub.com/media (username: **journalist**; password: **photos4media**)

#ACTCBirdsBees

Montreal's Centaur Theatre, Victoria's Belfry Theatre, the Great Canadian Theatre Company, the Globe Theatre, and at the Arts Club Theatre. *The Birds and the Bees* premiered at the Blyth Festival in 2016 and has been produced at the Port Stanley Theatre Festival, Prairie Theatre Exchange, and the Thousand Islands Playhouse. His newest play, *Boys, Girls, and Other Mythological Creatures*, is written for young audiences and premiered with Carousel Players in spring 2017. As an actor, Mark has performed with theatre companies across Canada. He grew up on his family's farm near Glencoe, Ontario, and he now lives in Stratford.

CAST

Riley Hardwick (Ben), **Gerry Mackay** (Earl), **Nancy Kerr** (Gail), **Agnes Tong** (Sarah)

CREATIVE TEAM

Lauren Taylor (Director), **Ted Roberts** (Set Designer), **Alaia Hamer** (Costume Designer), **Michael Hewitt** (Lighting Designer), **Sammie Hatch** (Sound Designer), **Michelle Thorne-Speir** (Intimacy Director), **Katherine Matlashewski** (Assistant Director), **Ronaye Haynes** (Stage Manager), **Victoria Snashall** (Assistant Stage Manager), **Pamela Jakobs** (Assistant Stage Manager)

TOUR VENUES AND DATES

NORTH VANCOUVER	The BlueShore at CapU 604.990.7810	October 4
WEST VANCOUVER	Kay Meek Arts Centre 604.981.6335	October 5 & 6
NEW WESTMINSTER	Anvil Centre 604.521.5050	October 7 & 8
SURREY	Surrey Arts Centre 604.501.5566	October 11–21
MISSION	Clarke Theatre 604.687.1644	October 22
COQUITLAM	Evergreen Cultural Centre 604.927.6555	October 24–28
CHILLIWACK	Chilliwack Cultural Centre 604.391.7469	November 1
BURNABY	Shadbolt Centre for the Arts 604.205.3000	November 2 & 3
MAPLE RIDGE	The ACT Arts Centre 604.476.2787	November 4 & 5
DUNCAN	Cowichan Performing Arts Centre 250.746.2722	November 9
COURTENAY	Sid Williams Theatre 250.338.2430	November 10
VERNON	Vernon & District Performing Arts Centre 250.549.7469	November 12

ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club Theatre Company is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, in particular the [xʷməθkʷəy̓əm](#) (Musqueam), [Skwxwú7mesh](#) (Squamish), and [Selílwitlh](#) (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. We are honoured to live, work, and create on this land together.

The Arts Club, now celebrating its 60th anniversary season, is one of the largest not-for-profit theatre organizations in the country and 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.

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