



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

## MEDIA KIT

# FORTUNE FALLS

A CATALYST THEATRE CREATION  
PRODUCED BY ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS  
BOOK BY JONATHAN CHRISTENSON AND BETH GRAHAM  
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY JONATHAN CHRISTENSON  
DIRECTED BY JONATHAN CHRISTENSON

A NEW MUSICAL FROM THE CREATORS OF  
'NEVERMORE' AND 'FRANKENSTEIN'

## THE IMPORTANT STUFF

**Rating:** Show contains mature themes and profanity. Recommended for children over 12.

**Show Run:** October 18 – November 5, 2016 (no shows on Mondays)

**Show Times:** Evening Shows: 7:30 PM | Matinees: 2:00 PM

**Preview Dates:** October 18, 19 & 20

**Opening Night & Reception:** October 21, 2016 (reception free with ticket). Post-show reception generously provided by [Jacek Chocolate Couture](#). Enjoy a glass of complimentary sparkling wine courtesy of [Barefoot Wine & Bubbly](#).

**Venue:** [The Martha Cohen Theatre](#) at Arts Commons | 215 – 8 Avenue SE, Calgary, AB

**Ticket** \$25-72 available at [www.atplive.com](http://www.atplive.com) or 403-294-7402

**Parking:** On-street parking nearby (free after 6pm and on Sundays)  
Paid underground parking available off Macloed Trail northbound (far left lane)

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## ABOUT FORTUNE FALLS

### IN A SENTENCE:

*Fortune Falls* is a darkly whimsical, electro-pop musical odyssey that follows a young security guard as he explores an abandoned chocolate factory haunted by its former tenants.

### IN A PARAGRAPH:

In the company town of Fortune Falls, the sweet smell of chocolate fills the hearts of all who work at the Mercey Chocolate Factory. But when the factory suddenly closes, the company's last employee, a young security guard, is left to uncover the secrets that it shut down. A new Canadian musical from award-winning Catalyst Theatre, creators of the hit productions *Frankenstein* and *Nevermore – The Imaginary Life & Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe*, *Fortune Falls* is a darkly whimsical story about the twists and turns life can take in pursuit of your dreams and the lengths one young man will go to rebuild the broken identity of a town he loves.

# IMAGES, SOUND & VIDEO

To download promotional images, video and sound recordings, please visit [www.atplive.com/media](http://www.atplive.com/media)

**MUSIC CLIPS** | Credit: Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Christenson



["Just Like Charlie Bucket"](#)

## IMAGES (HI RES)

### Promotional Image



Photo credit: Kenneth Locke

### Design Images



Image Credit: Megan Koshka



Image Credit: Megan Koshka

### Rehearsal Photos



Ensemble in rehearsal  
Photo: Alberta Theatre Projects



Braydon Dowler-Coltman  
Photo: Alberta Theatre Projects

Images and video of the production will be available Tuesday, October 18 at [atplive.com/media](http://atplive.com/media)



## ABOUT CATALYST THEATRE

Based in Edmonton, Catalyst Theatre creates bold, distinctive and highly theatrical productions, and presents their work across Canada and around the world. The company strives for the unexpected, seeking out innovative ways to tell powerful stories through the inventive and playful use of evocative music, haunting sound, poetic text, dynamic choreography and stunning & surreal design.

Catalyst productions have been presented by London's Barbican Theatre and the London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT), The New Victory Theater and New World Stages in New York, and Canadian Stage and the Luminato Festival in Toronto, among others.

## PRAISE FOR CATALYST THEATRE

**The Telegraph** about *The Blue Orphan*:

"EXACTLY WHAT THEATRE SHOULD BE DOING IN THE 21ST CENTURY." – JACKIE FLETCHER

**The New York Times** about *Nevermore*:

"EXQUISITELY STYLISH.... A GOTHIC FANTASIA!" – NEW YORK TIMES

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRITERS: JONATHAN CHRISTENSON AND BETH GRAHAM

**Jonathan Christenson** is a writer, composer and director whose musical plays have been presented at theatres and festivals throughout the U.K., Australia, the U.S.A. and Canada. His work has been recognized with more than 40 British, Canadian and American awards and nominations. He is published by Playwrights Canada Press, Newest Press and Bayeaux Arts and his productions have been featured in American Theatre, Maclean's, CTR, PRISM International, Canada World View and All Stages. He was named one of "Alberta's Fifty Most Influential People" by Venture Magazine and Alberta Playwrights Network chose him as one of Alberta's one hundred most significant theatre artists of the past one hundred years. Jonathan is also the Artistic Director of Edmonton-based Catalyst Theatre.

**Beth Graham** is a playwright and an actor. Born in Antigonish, Nova Scotia and raised in Cochrane, Alberta, she relocated to Edmonton to attend the University of Alberta's BFA acting program and has lived there ever since. Her play *The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble*, was nominated for the 2015 Governor General's Award.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

Music Producer and Sound Designer **Matthew Skopyk**, a member of disbanded Edmonton electro-pop group Mass Choir, wears his love for electronic music on his sleeve in the score and sound design for the new Canadian musical, *Fortune Falls*. Taking cues from musical artists such as Purity Ring (who are also from Edmonton) and James Blake, the music of *Fortune Falls* can be big and bombastic as well as quietly reflective, relying heavily on synthesizers and drums to underscore the whole show. Like in the films of Darren Aronofsky, the musical soundscapes of *Fortune Falls* are ever-present and the music contributes heavily to creating the atmosphere of each scene, building or releasing tension as the story requires.

## ABOUT THE COSTUMES

Inspired by the industrial setting of the abandoned Mercey Chocolate Factory, Edmonton-based costume designer **Megan Koshka** opted to build most of the costumes in the play from non-traditional materials.

Says Koshka, “We shopped for materials everywhere from traditional fabric stores, to the hardware store and everywhere in between. I've been very inspired using hot glue as a treatment overtop of different materials, the look is quite interesting. We've also got some crazy materials too. There's bird fencing hidden in there, as well as floral netting, lighting gels, packing tape, aquatic tubing, and a few different grades of vinyl.”

The costumes are designed to be layered over a base costume to facilitate quick transformations and are often comically oversized, to help emphasize each of the nearly 30 characters that are played by a cast of only five. Most costumes also feature elements of transparency, giving a magical quality to their appearance. Audiences will also notice that most everything conforms to the Mercey Chocolate Co. brand colours of blue and gold.

## ABOUT THE SET

Designed by **Kerem Çetinel**, a designer who splits his time between Canada and Turkey, the set for *Fortune Falls* was inspired by imagery of derelict factories, abandoned industrial parks and the modern steampunk aesthetic of the French films *Delicatessen* and *Cité des Enfants Perdus* by Jean-Pierre Jeunet. The resulting multi-level set uses pipes, rivets and cogs to create the feeling of an industrial playground. Çetinel has previously collaborated with Catalyst Theatre on their productions of *Nevermore* and *Frankenstein*.



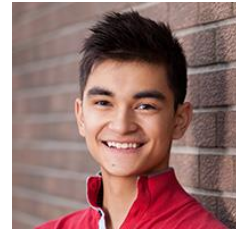
## THE CAST



Shannon Blanchet



Braydon Dowler-Coltman



Daniel Fong  
as Everett Liddelman



Graham Mothersill



Jamie Tognazzini



The Exchange events give audiences and artists the chance to connect and celebrate the art of live theatre. Most are free with the purchase of a ticket.

### **Thursday, October 20 – 6:30pm - PIZZA NIGHT AT ATP | FREE WITH TICKET**

Enjoy Papa John's Pizza and a conversation with Catalyst Theatre's Artistic Director Jonathan Christenson. Hosted by production dramaturg Laurel Green.

### **Tuesday, October 25 – 7:30pm - THAT \$10 TICKET THING Presented by TD**

Calling all students! Buy a ticket to the show for only \$10 and be entered to win a door prize. Stay afterwards to meet the cast. Student ID is required.

### **Tuesday, October 25 – After the Show - MEET THE CAST | FREE WITH TICKET**

Join us after the show for a conversation with the cast of Fortune Falls.

### **Saturday, October 29 – 7:30pm - HALLOWEEN PARTY | FREE WITH TICKET**

Trick or treat in your finest Halloween attire, and be entered to win a prize for best costume judged by the cast of Fortune Falls.

### **Sunday, October 30 – 1:00pm = AFTERNOON TEA | FREE WITH TICKET**

Artistic Associate Laurel Green takes you inside the work of award-winning Catalyst Theatre with special guest Managing Producer Eva Cairns. Enjoy a cup of gourmet Tea Trader tea and a delicious pastry from Patisserie du Soleil.

### **Sunday, October 30 – After the Show - MEET THE CAST | FREE WITH TICKET**

Join us after the show for a conversation with the cast of Fortune Falls.

## ABOUT ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

Alberta Theatre Projects is a Calgary-based, not-for-profit, professional theatre company that celebrates the art of live theatre. From its home in The Martha Cohen Theatre at Arts Commons, the company produces world-calibre shows with a focus on new works of theatre, plays by Canadian playwrights, and contemporary theatre from around the world. It is also a national leader in new play development and dramaturgy.

[www.ATPlive.com](http://www.ATPlive.com)

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