

February 23, 2017 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

## FAITH AND FAMILY TAKE CENTRE STAGE IN *GRACIE*

***ATP's latest show by Joan MacLeod presents the humanity behind the headlines of an isolated polygamous community through the eyes of a young girl.***

CALGARY, ALBERTA – Governor General's Award-winning playwright Joan MacLeod returns to [Alberta Theatre Projects](#) from **February 28 – March 18, 2017** with her latest creation, [Gracie](#). Produced in association with the Victoria-based [Belfry Theatre](#), ATP's third premiere of a new play in their all-Canadian season tells the story of a young girl growing up in a polygamous Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) community. Caught between her growing interest in the outside world and the mounting pressure to conform to her community's traditions, young Gracie is forced to confront the uncomfortable realities of a faith that sacrifices the needs and desires of so many of its members for the benefit of few.

Inspired by real-life events in the polygamous community of Bountiful, British Columbia that have recently made headlines with the conviction of two members of the community for transporting a young girl across the American border, *Gracie* continues MacLeod's signature style of taking front-page news stories and bringing them to the stage with a trademark tenderness and a lack of judgement. This is also MacLeod's fourth premiere of a new play in affiliation with ATP following *The Valley* (2013), *Another Home Invasion* (2009), and *The Shape of a Girl* (2001).

"I found my way into telling this story through Gracie's voice, and it's her voice that this play centres around more than anything else. Though her story is set in circumstances that are difficult, it's not a heavy play. There's so much levity that comes from the fact that she's a child who's not so different from other children despite her unusual upbringing," says MacLeod.

Directed by Calgarian Vanessa Porteous, *Gracie* marks her third collaboration with MacLeod, as well as being her last directorial effort as ATP's Artistic Director.

"I'm such a huge fan of Joan MacLeod's work, and am beyond thrilled to direct this world premiere," says Porteous. "I can't imagine going out on a better note than with this beautiful, moving, deeply human story. It encompasses everything I love about the theatre."

*Gracie* also features the talents of solo performer Lili Beaudoin, whose portrayal of a girl between the ages of eight and 15 has been praised since the show's debut at the Belfry Theatre earlier in the month.

*Gracie* runs from **February 28 to March 18** at the **Martha Cohen Theatre** at Arts Commons (215 8 Ave. SE). Tickets are available at [www.atplive.com](http://www.atplive.com) or 403-294-7402.

The play is suggested for ages 14+ due to the mature nature of some of the subject matter.

### **Creative Team**

Joan MacLeod (Playwright)  
Vanessa Porteous (Director)

Catherine Hahn (Set & Costume Designer)  
Narda McCarroll (Lighting Designer)  
Tobin Stokes (Composer & Sound Designer)  
Adrienne Smook (Dialect Coach)  
Jennifer Swan (Stage Manager)  
Meredith Johnson (Apprentice Stage Manager)

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**For media enquiries, please contact:**

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Media kit and high-resolution images, video and sound recordings available at [www.atplive.com/media](http://www.atplive.com/media)

**PHOTO & VIDEO CALL** for photography, videography and cast interviews on **Tuesday, February 28** at **12:30 PM** at the Martha Cohen Theatre.

**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 idea-driven new works, 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)

Twitter: [@ATPlive](https://twitter.com/ATPlive)

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Facebook: [AlbertaTheatreProjects](https://www.facebook.com/AlbertaTheatreProjects)

**ABOUT BELFRY THEATRE**

In the past 30 years the Belfry has produced 230 plays, including 158 Canadian plays, and more than 33 premieres. Many of those premiere productions have gone on to acclaim across Canada, in the U.S., Australia, Europe and London's West End. Belfry productions regularly tour to other cities and have won awards in Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary.

The Belfry produces up to 12 plays per year: one or two summer productions, a four play Mainstage series, and SPARK, our mid-winter festival of innovative and alternative work from across Canada.

The Belfry's mission is to produce theatre that generates ideas and dialogue, and that makes the audience see the world a little differently.

[www.belfry.bc.ca](http://www.belfry.bc.ca)

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