



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

SYRIAN REFUGEES INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A HOLIDAY TRADITION AT ATP

Local theatre providing free tickets to see *Slipper: A Distinctly Calgarian Cinderella Story*

CALGARY, ALBERTA – On **December 1st** and **8th** [Alberta Theatre Projects](#) is inviting refugees from Syria to attend a very special night of live theatre, free of charge thanks to the generous support of the [Canada Council of the Arts](#) and [Sun Life Financial](#). Over the two performances, ATP is distributing more than 200 tickets to Calgary's Syrian community with the help of local agencies, including the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association and the Syrian Refugee Support Group Calgary.

The two Thursday evening performances will be performed in English, but will include a special welcome message from ATP in both English and Arabic, and a scene-by-scene synopsis of the story in Arabic will also be added to the program to assist any non-English speakers to follow along with the story.

The program, conceived by Artistic Director Vanessa Porteous in early 2016, came about in response to news stories she had been reading about the steady stream of refugees arriving in Calgary from the war-torn country.

"We wanted to find a way to make these newcomers to our city feel welcome," says Porteous, "and the best way we knew how to do that was to invite them to take part in the Canadian holiday tradition of spending an evening at the theatre enjoying some light-hearted fun along with their families, friends and neighbours."

[*Slipper: A Distinctly Calgarian Cinderella Story*](#) is an updated, comedic version of the classic fairy tale set in Calgary that was written and directed by Canadian theatre sensation **Rebecca Northan**, in collaboration with **Christian Goutsis** and **Bruce Horak**. Following in the British tradition of pantomime, it features physical comedy, pop culture references, audience participation, cross-dressing actors, pop song spoofs and plenty of jokes about life in Calgary.

"*Slipper* is a celebration of all the things I love about Calgary," says Northan "and our gift for welcoming newcomers to Calgary is definitely among those. The show also explores themes around accepting people who are different from us, so this program seems like a natural fit."

As a family show, *Slipper* is appropriate for kindergarten-age children, but includes plenty of laughs just for tweens, teens and adults, too.

For more information about the special performances for Syrians and how to get tickets, the full details can be found in English [HERE](#) or in Arabic [HERE](#) or by contacting **Talore Peterson** at tpeterson@atplive.com.

Slipper includes memorable performances from Anna Cummer, Chantelle Han, Ellie Heath, Sara-Jeanne Hosie, Kevin Kruchkywich and Joel Schaefer and there will be an opportunity to take pictures with the cast in the lobby after the performance.

Slipper: A Distinctly Calgarian Cinderella Story runs until December 31 at the Martha Cohen Theatre at Arts Commons (215 8 Ave. SE). Tickets are available at www.atplive.com or 403-294-7402.

For media enquiries, please contact:

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Media kit, high-resolution images and video recordings available at www.atplive.com/media

Follow the hashtag **#YYCSlipper** on Twitter and Instagram for the latest news about this production.

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

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