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ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REVIVAL OF CLASSIC CANADIAN PLAY *WAITING FOR THE PARADE* REFLECTS ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CANADIAN**

***Hit play about the lives of 5 Calgary women during WWII brought Calgary and Canada to the world for 40 years***

CALGARY, ALBERTA – Just ahead of Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, Alberta Theatre Projects is celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the most produced Canadian play of all time, *Waiting for the Parade*, with a homecoming production that reframes the story to examine our modern understanding of what it means to be Canadian.

Written by Calgary-based playwright John Murrell and set in Calgary, the play tells the story of five women in their 20s, 30s and 40s who are left to fend for themselves on the home front during World War II while their husbands and sons are away at war. The show weaves together music, comedy and drama to create a moving portrait of women’s experience of war and female friendship in trying times. In this special production, directed by local theatre veteran Kate Newby, a unique, culturally diverse cast brings contemporary relevance to a play that for generations has prompted the audiences to ponder, ‘In a nation of outsiders, how do we define who is Canadian?’ “There are few plays that honour the lives and contributions of our grandmothers and mothers as beautifully and as honestly as John Murrell’s *Waiting for the Parade*,” comments Newby.

Originally commissioned by and premiered at Alberta Theatre Projects in 1977, the play struck a chord with Canadian audiences and went on to be performed around the world in such venerable institutions as the Lyric Hammersmith in London’s West End and Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre, as well as in theatres as far away as Japan and South Africa. “Bringing the play home for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we wanted to re-examine the concept of the Canadian identity and how it’s changed over the course of the play’s life,” says ATP Artistic Director, Vanessa Porteous.

Over the years casts for the play have included such notable talents as Joan Allen, Susan Coyne, Martha Henry, Kelli Fox, Laurie Metcalfe and Fiona Reid. ATP’s 2016 staging of the play stars Calgarians Janelle Cooper as Janet, Allison Lynch as Marta, Elizabeth Stepkowski Tarhan as Margaret, Selina Wong as Eve, and Toronto’s Sabryn Rock as Catherine.

The play runs from September 13– October 1, 2016 at the Martha Cohen Theatre at Arts Commons. For more information and tickets visit [www.atplive.com](http://www.atplive.com).

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Media kit and images available at: [www.atplive.com/media](http://www.atplive.com/media)

### **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.

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