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ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

NEW PLAY *TO THE LIGHT* ILLUMINATES THE INNER STRUGGLES OF WOMEN IN THE EARLY 20th CENTURY

Female friendship and women's roles take centre stage in this groundbreaking new play at Alberta Theatre Projects

CALGARY, ALBERTA – On Friday, October 20, [Alberta Theatre Projects](#) will follow up its wildly successful 2017-18 season opener *The Last Wife* with a play from French-Canadian actress, playwright and Oscar-nominated screenwriter Evelyne de la Chenelière called [To the Light](#). Based on Virginia Woolf's 1927 novel *To the Lighthouse*, *To the Light* is a profoundly moving story that explores the friendship between two women in the early 20th century.

Starring Calgary-based actors Elinor Holt playing Mrs. Ramsay and Julie Orton as Lily Briscoe, the show also incorporates live piano performances by Toronto-based musician Bryce Kulak to tell a poetic and dream-like tale about two women's struggle to balance the joys of nurturing the lives and ambitions of a husband and family with the sense of accomplishment and pride of achieving their own.

Originally written in French, *To the Light* was translated into English by Calgary-based playwright John Murrell from de la Chenelière's original play *Lumières, Lumières, Lumières*, which had its premiere in 2014 at Montreal's creation-focused contemporary theatre company Espace Go. ATP's production marks the play's English-language world première.

Having showcased de la Chenelière's comedy *Strawberries in January*, as part of ATP's playRites festival in 2003, director and former Alberta Theatre Projects artistic director Vanessa Porteous became familiar with de la Chenelière's work long before the chance came around to program one of her plays as part of the 2017-18 season.

"The play moved me so much, the first time I read it. It continues to do so as we put it on its feet. Everyone we love must eventually be 'swept away in the waves of measureless matter', but if we treasure our relationships, if we care for each other and

forgive, then something remains,” says Porteous. “The story is timeless; it is also urgent as an exploration of the female perspective, and a debate on women’s ambitions and choices. Our production is intended to be poetic, lush, beautiful, and an invitation to the audience to imagine along with us.”

“*To the Light* is an exceptional feat of writing and directing and it also features some of the finest performances I’ve ever seen on our stage,” says ATP Director of Marketing & Communications Ashley Meller. “Like Virginia Woolf’s stream-of-consciousness style of writing, the play doesn’t spell everything out for the viewer – it leaves space for interpretation. But daring theatre-goers will be rewarded with a multi-sensory experience that is deeply affecting and impossible to ignore.”

To the Light runs from **October 17 to November 4** at the **Martha Cohen Theatre** at Arts Commons (215 8 Ave. SE). Tickets are available at www.atplive.com or 403-294-7402. The play is suggested for audiences ages 14+.

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

Cast

Elinor Holt (Mrs. Ramsay)

Julie Orton (Lily Briscoe)

Bryce Kulak (Musician, Composer/Music Consultant)

Creative Team

Evelyne de al Chenelière (Playwright)

John Murrell (Playwright)

Vanessa Porteous (Director)

Narda McCarroll (Set/Lighting Design)

Hanne Loosen (Costume Design)

Peter Moller (Sound Design)

Amelia Scott (Projection Design)

Justin Born (Stage Manager)

Elizabeth Wellwood (Apprentice Stage Manager)

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High-resolution images and video available for download at 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.

www.ATPLive.com

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