



**WORKSHOP WEST
PLAYWRIGHTS' THEATRE**

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Artistic Producer
Heather Inglis
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MEDIA RELEASE

SELF PORTRAIT BECOMES COMMODITY IN SEARING MULTIMEDIA DRAMA: SUBSCRIBE OR LIKE BY LIAM SALMON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(EDMONTON) *Subscribe or Like* is the world premiere of a millennial coming of age story by Edmonton playwright, **Liam Salmon**. The characters, Rachel and Miles, are young graduates working long hours at low-paying jobs, struggling to find their place in the world, waiting for their lives to REALLY take off. With fewer options available daily, they turn to the frontier of the internet and launch their own video channel. How far will they go for digital fame and fortune? Are the videos they create reflections of their ambition? Or are there darker forces at work? Set in 2018, but no less true for 2023, the play is an electric internet thriller, whose story takes place at the intersection between vivid fantasy and cold capitalism—the online and the real world.

Subscribe or Like began development in 2020, while Liam was Playwright-in-Residence at Workshop West. Artistic Producer Heather Inglis says, “This gripping new play owns an exhilaratingly modern theatricality. It speaks to our times and how the devastating discouragement of younger generations pushes them towards the internet, which promises the world, and delivers distorted reflections in its funhouse mirror.” *Subscribe or Like* runs **May 24 – June 11, 2023, at the Gateway Theatre, 8529 Gateway Blvd NW.**

Winner of the Dorothy White Award for their play *Fags in Space*, which swept the 2023 Edmonton Fringe, **Liam Salmon** is a graduate of the National Theatre School’s prestigious Playwriting Program. Their awards and acknowledgements (Gladys Cameron Watt Award, Frank Bueckert Prize, Theatre BSMT Dweller’s Playwriting Competition, Alberta Playwriting Competition—Honourable Mention) are a testament to their artistic ambition and fresh perspective for telling stories in a way that celebrates and provokes the imagination.

Subscribe or Like features the luminous triple threat performer **Gabby Bernard** (*Tell Us What Happened*, Workshop West). Joining her on stage is the charismatic playwright and actor **Geoffrey Simon Brown**, last seen in *Deathtrap* (TeatroLIVE) and noted for his adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre Calgary). The play is directed by **Kate Ryan**, recent and veteran director at The Mayfield Theatre (*Rock of Ages*, *First Date*). *Subscribe or Like* boasts a quartet of designers at the top of their game: **Stephanie Bahniuk** (*And Just Like That—Sex and the City*, HBO), **Darrin Hagen** (*Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*, Theatre Network and *Unsung*, Workshop West), **Ian Jackson** (*Songs of a Prairie Girl*, Theatre Network and *Tell Us What Happened*, Workshop West), and **Roy Jackson** (*Two-Headed*, *Half-Hearted*, Northern Light Theatre).

Performance Times & Details:

May 24 & 25: 7:30pm PREVIEWS
May 26: 7:30pm OPENING NIGHT
May 27 – June 11: 7:30pm shows Tuesday – Saturday, 1:30pm Sunday matinees
June 4: This matinee is a relaxed performance for patrons.

Ticket Prices:

May 24 & 25: \$15 online or Pay-What-You-Wish at the Door
May 26 – June 11: \$25 - \$40 online; \$33 at the door.
Special Rates: Tuesdays are 2-for-1 tickets at the door.
Students receive \$15 tickets at the door, with their valid student ID.
Nextfest artists receive \$15 tickets at the door, with their Nextfest program.

To purchase tickets online, visit www.workshopwest.org

Or visit our Showpass ticketing system: www.showpass.com/o/workshop-west-playwrights-theatre/

Full Cast and Creative Team:

Playwright:	Liam Salmon
Director:	Kate Ryan
Dramaturgy:	Heather Inglis & Beth Graham
Featuring:	Gabby Bernard and Geoffrey Simon-Brown
Costume & Set Design:	Stephanie Bahniuk
Lighting Design:	Roy Jackson
Multimedia Design:	Ian Jackson
Sound Design:	Darrin Hagen
Intimacy & Fight Direction:	Janine Waddell
Stage Management:	Stephanie Link
Production Management:	Emma Nokes
Technical Director	Ben Franchuk
Photo & Poster Design:	DB Photography

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact:
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