

MEDIA RELEASE

WORKSHOP WEST LAUNCHES 44th SEASON: PERSISTENCE OF VISION

FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 15th AT 5:00PM

Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre (WWPT) is thrilled to announce its 44th Season: *Persistence of Vision*, featuring stories by Canadians, for Canadians at its new home in **The Gateway Theatre (8529 Gateway Blvd. NW)**. *Persistence of Vision* explores how vision, technology, aspiration, and creativity entwine to create, recreate, and transform our lives. It's all about imagining a future and having the courage and tenacity to persevere through thick and thin; about how we make images and tell stories, fashioning our lives into the works of art that they are.

Workshop West's season opens with a presentation of ***Dora Maar: the wicked one* by Beth Graham and Daniela Vlaskalic**. Audiences will be transported to a Paris Café in 1935 in a haunting tale of love, obsession, and surrealism where Dora Maar meets the incorrigible Pablo Picasso. **Produced by GAL Productions with Hit & Myth**, *Dora Maar* runs **October 27th – November 6th with Blake Brooker directing**. The first of two **WORLD PREMIERES** this season, ***Unsung: Tales From the Front Line* runs January 25th – February 12th**. This immersive performance installation created by **Heather Inglis** and co-curated by **Darrin Hagen** invites audiences to step inside a series of living portraits, which document the lives and contributions of Alberta healthcare workers. ***The Shoe Project*** continues as a special event in partnership with the **SkirtsAfire Festival**. This year, a new selection of stories written and performed by immigrant and refugee women will hit the Gateway stage on **March 11th and 12th**. The **Springboards New Play Festival** returns from **March 20th – 26th** featuring a week of new play readings, cabarets, talk-backs, and discussions which welcome audiences into 'the eye' of the creation process. Closing the season, self-portrait becomes a commodity in the **WORLD PREMIER** of a searing multimedia drama by **Liam Salmon**. ***Subscribe or Like*** invites audiences into the world of a millennial couple is pushed to their limits in pursuit of internet fame from **May 24th – June 11th**.

Fall 2022

***Dora Maar: the wicked one* (October 27th – November 6th)** by internationally acclaimed playwriting duo, **Beth Graham** and **Daniela Vlaskalic** presented by **GAL Productions with Hit & Myth**. Featuring Vlaskalic in the titular role and **directed by Blake Brooker**. In 1935, the brilliant photographer Dora Maar meets the famous Pablo Picasso at a café in Paris. The world glimmers. The air warms. Their hearts sharpen. A play about love, obsession, surrealism and how private becomes public when reflected through an artists' lens.

Spring 2023

***Unsung: Tales from the Front Line* (January 25th – February 12th)** a **WORLD PREMIERE** created by **WWPT** Artistic producer **Heather Inglis**, and co-curated with **Darrin Hagen** produced in partnership with **Ground Zero Productions**. Drawn from interviews with real Edmontonian Healthcare workers, *Unsung* invites audiences to experience the inspiring stories of the local heroes who lead through the pandemic. Step into this series of immersive, living portraits that document the contributions of the workers who risk their own safety to look after the public's.

The Shoe Project (*March 11th and 12th*) Edmonton's second live iteration of this compelling project that amplifies the voices of Canadian immigrant and refugee women through storytelling. Produced in partnership with the **SkirtsAFire Festival**, a group of 12 immigrant and refugee women will work with veteran Canadian playwright, **Conni Massing**, to write stories of their arrival and adaptation to Canada centred around a pair of shoes they have worn. After receiving voice and performance coaching, the women will share their stories in front of live audiences.

Springboards New Play Festival (*March 21st – March 26th*) The return of Workshop West's signature festival that celebrates Edmonton plays and playwrights in process. Springboards features staged readings of plays in development in a welcoming cabaret setting with just enough sound, light and staging to ignite an audience's imagination. This not-to-be-missed series of readings, talk-backs, and discussions offer a peek-behind-the-curtain into the creative process where artists collaborate to vision electrifying works of tomorrow.

Subscribe or Like (*May 24th – June 11th*) a WORLD PREMIERE by **Liam Salmon** (they/them) and directed by **Heather Inglis**. Rachel and Miles are struggling working long hours at low-paying jobs and can't seem to find their place in the world. With few options available to them, they turn to the frontier of the internet and launch their own video channel. This gripping new play 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.

WWPT is also pleased to offer continuing playwrights' programming through 2022 – 2023. Check out website (workshopwest.org) for more details regarding dramaturgical support works in progress, open script submissions, the Creative Incubator (for BIPOC artists), the Edmonton Playwrights' Circle, and the **#WritesOfPassage** school program.

Contact Liam Salmon for all media inquiries and interview requests.

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Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre is a registered charity that relies on the generous support of donors, sponsors, and foundation and government funders. For more information on Workshop West's Mandate, Mission Statement and Vision, visit: **workshopwest.org**

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