

For Immediate Distribution – March 14, 2018



The cast of *Children of God*. Designs: Marshall McMahan (Production); Jeff Harrison (Lighting); Kris Boyd & Kyra Soko (Sound) | Photo by David Cooper

### CHILDREN OF GOD: A Gorgeous, Powerful Musical that is “Must-See Theatre”

Western Canada Theatre is proud to bring the gorgeous, powerful musical *Children of God* back to Kamloops, March 29 to April 3 at the Sagebrush Theatre. Audiences across Canada have embraced this play, calling it “absolutely incredible,” “haunting, “thought provoking,” and “an unbelievable work of art” that “transcends theatre”.

*Children of God* is a haunting tale of two siblings, Tommy and Julia, taken away to a residential school. Ultimately, it is a story of redemption: for a mother, Rita, who was never let past the school's gate, and her children, who never knew she came. With a thrilling blend of ancient traditions and contemporary realities, *Children of God* honours the resilience and power of the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

Playwright, composer and director **Corey Payette**, while not shying away from the sadness and hurt the residential schools imposed both inside and outside their walls, ultimately lifts the spirits with an affirming finale that has been called “magic in the theatre”.

*Children of God* has had quite a journey since it was first at WCT in workshop form during the 2016 High Wire Festival. The emotional and affirming response of that audience has been repeated at venues across the country, as it developed into a nationally produced, large-scale musical. Everywhere it has played, it has been a critical hit: called “a triumph,” with a story that is “a major step on the path toward reconciliation” by the Ottawa Citizen; “essential Canadian theatre” that leaves “an indelible mark on your heart” by artsfile.ca; and “must-see theatre” by the Globe and Mail. Presently at the Citadel Theatre, our co-producer in Edmonton, it is playing to full and enthusiastic houses.

Several artists familiar to WCT audiences return with *Children of God*, including some who were in the workshop: **Michelle Bardach**, **Raes Calvert**, **Aaron M. Wells**, **Marshall McMahan**, **Elliot Vaughan**, and **Julie Mclsaac**. Also returning are **Michelle Bardach** (*Mamma Mia!*), **Raes Calvert** (*Where the Wild Things Are*), **David Keeley** (Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*), **Kaitlyn Yott** (*TH'OWXIYA*), **Steven Greenfield** (most recently in *Waiting for the Parade*), **Jeff Harrison** (*The Foursome*), and **Samira Rose** (*The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*).

We are also pleased to welcome several new artists to our stage: **Sarah Carlé**, **Dillan Chiblow**, **Sandy Scofield**, **Cheyenne Scott**, **Amy Nicholson**, **Brian Raine**, **Martina Smazal**, **Allen Cole**, **Helen Oro**, **Kris Boyd & Kyra Soko**, **Mike Kovac & Ryan McNeill Bolton**, and **Molly Pearson**.

See what audiences and critics across Canada are raving about. Get your tickets now at the Kamloops Live! Box Office at 250-374-5483, 1025 Lorne Street, or [kamloopslive.ca](http://kamloopslive.ca).

**CHILDREN OF GOD.** A musical written and directed by **COREY PAYETTE**. Produced in association with the Citadel Theatre (Edmonton). An Urban Ink (Vancouver) production. In collaboration with Canada's National Arts Centre. In Association with Raven Theatre and The Cultch (Vancouver). March 29 to April 7. Sagebrush Theatre. More information at [wctlive.ca](http://wctlive.ca). Tickets at the Kamloops Live! Box Office at 250-374-5483, 1025 Lorne Street, or [kamloopslive.ca](http://kamloopslive.ca).

**Featuring** (in alphabetical order): **Michelle Bardach** (Joanna/Secretary), **Raes Calvert** (Wilson/Movement Director), **Sarah Carlé** (Sister Bernadette), **Dillan Chiblow** (Tom/Tommy), **David Keeley** (Father Christopher), **Sandy Scofield** (Rita), **Cheyenne Scott** (Julia), **Aaron M. Wells** (Vincent/Fight Captain), **Kaitlyn Yott** (Elizabeth)

**Musicians:** **Steven Greenfield** (Musician - Keys), **Amy Nicholson** (Musician - Cello), **Brian Raine** (Musician - Guitar), **Martina Smazal** (Musician - Viola)

**Creative Team:** **Corey Payette** (Book/Music/Lyrics & Director), **Marshall McMahan** (Production Designer), **Allen Cole** (Musical Director), **Elliot Vaughan** (Orchestrator), **Julie Mclsaac** (Associate Director), **Jeff Harrison** (Lighting Designer), **Helen Oro** (Jewelry Design), **Kris Boyd & Kyra Soko** (Sound Designers), **Mike Kovac & Ryan McNeill Bolton** (Fight Directors), **Steven Greenfield** (Associate Music Director), **Samira Rose** (Stage Manager), **Molly Pearson** (Assistant Stage Manager)

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For more information, please contact Catrina Crowe at 250-372-3216 Ext. 530

