



CAPITOL THEATRE 2023 Summer Season Launches with SHIRLEY VALENTINE

Running May 12-28, 2023

Port Hope, ON | The Capitol Theatre's summer stage series kicks off with the one-woman classic *Shirley Valentine* by Willy Russell, featuring acclaimed actor Deborah Drakeford directed by Karen Ancheta. Tickets for *Shirley Valentine* are available at capitoltheatre.com, in person at the box office in Port Hope, or by calling 905.885.1071.

"I never thought I would ever be asked to direct something this iconic, but life throws you unexpected invitations and sometimes we need to see where they lead us. It takes courage to choose to leap to the life we wish for. Shirley is a woman who has done all the roles expected of her: mother, the wife, a giver of care and sometimes that journey requires being everything to everyone for a good amount of a lifetime. This beautifully written play challenges us to take a chance, open our eyes, dares us to reinvest in oneself, set our boundaries, to step out of our comfort zone to gain a different perspective. This deconstructed kitchen whispers to our potential...maybe the thing we crave has always been right there." - **Director Karen Ancheta**

"A joyful, captivating piece of theatre."
– The New York Daily News

Shirley Valentine

By Willy Russell

May 12 - 28

Starring Deborah Drakeford as Shirley

Karen Ancheta Director

Jackie Chau Set & Costume Designer

Daniele Guevara Lighting Designer

Lyon Smith Sound Designer

Charlene Saroyan Stage Manager

Delaney Small Apprentice Stage Manager

A timeless and touching story about finding yourself.

Feeling like she's in a rut, middle-aged Shirley has taken to talking to the wall while preparing dinner for her emotionally distant husband. When her best friend wins a competition for two to Greece, she packs her bags, leaves a note on the cupboard door in the kitchen, and heads for a holiday that will alter the course of her life.

This classic story (known to many from the hit 1989 film), will touch your heart, tickle your funny bone, and make you think about living in the here and now.



The Production Sponsor for *Shirley Valentine* is Atelier on John, showcasing antiques, vintage and contemporary statement pieces of home décor and more: www.atelieronjohn.ca.

Coming Soon to the Capitol

Melissa Payne

May 19

Ennismore, Ontario's Melissa Payne has truly left her mark on the musical landscape, and she's just getting started. Her background in old time fiddle and traditional celtic music has evolved into a blossoming solo career, including three full length albums. Her live performances have garnered her critical acclaim, and notable guest collaborators like Blue Rodeo's Greg Keelor, James McKenty, Matt Mays, Natalie MacMaster, cellist Nathaniel Smith and Jimmy Bowskill, have her working with some of the biggest names in Canada, and beyond. Her honest and vulnerable approach to the songs that comprise her latest effort are sure to win over her dedicated fans and first time listeners alike.

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The Ballad of Stompin' Tom

By David Scott

Songs & Lyrics by Stompin' Tom Connors

Directed by Rob Kempson

June 9 – July 2

The songs and stories that celebrate a Canadian icon.

Canadian Legend Stompin' Tom grew up in an orphanage, travelled throughout Northern Ontario playing the bar circuit, faced naysayers of all sorts, but he eventually found his success in telling the stories of our country. His captivating story is told through this unique tribute to "The Man of the Land" and a true icon in Canadian music.

Featuring his greatest hits, such as Bud the Spud, Tillsonburg, Sudbury Saturday Night, and of course, The Hockey Song.

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Prairie Nurse

By Marie Beath Badian

Directed by Megan Watson

July 14 - 30



A laugh-a-minute comedy of confusion based on a real-life story!

In the late 1960s, two Filipino nurses come to work at a small-town Saskatchewan hospital. Cultural clashes, personality differences, homesickness, and the amorous but dim-witted goalie from the local hockey team complicate the women's lives and create chaos at the hospital. Add a doctor who is more concerned with fishing than his patients, and an overly romantic candy striper, and you've got the makings of a story that will have you rolling in the aisles.

Based on the true story of her mother's immigration to Canada, Badian's play is part romantic comedy, part farce, and all fun!

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Mickey and Judy

By Michael Hughes

July 27 – August 6

For some of us, life is a musical.

The overture for Michael Hughes' life story began when he was a child and watched the Judy Garland classic "The Wizard of Oz" with his family. How that musical and Garland herself ended up guiding his life is the subject of this utterly engaging, and beautifully heartfelt, solo show.

Playing to sold out audiences around the world, Mickey and Judy promises a night of music in our intimate Sculthorpe Theatre that celebrates the impact of one of the greatest stars of all time.

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Little Shop of Horrors

Book & Lyrics by Howard Ashman

Music by Alan Menken

Directed by Rob Kempson

August 11 – September 3

A hilarious sci-fi smash about a man-eating plant.

Seymour, a hapless florist, is looking for love on Skid Row and he finds it in the beautiful Audrey—but she fails to notice him. At the same time, he has managed to grow a strange new plant, lovingly named Audrey II, which eventually helps capture her attention and that of his whole community. But Audrey II has some pretty particular eating habits, setting Seymour on a course that will change his life and the whole of Skid Row.



Based on the 1960 cult classic film, this Motown-infused musical is sure to make you laugh—and fear the words “Feed Me!”

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#Capitol2023

The Capitol Theatre is dedicated to producing and presenting a balanced schedule of high-quality professional theatre, live music, film, and other special events in historic Port Hope, while also providing a home for the local arts community. We are committed to building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive future, where all individuals, groups, and organizations are welcome to create, collaborate, and connect. We strive to provide memorable experiences for our guests through artistic excellence, a wide variety of programming, and the historic venue itself. For more information, check out capitoltheatre.com.

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For images, interviews or more information please contact:

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[Media Gallery - Shirley Valentine](#)