

AUDIENCE FAVOURITE AND AWARD WINNER *BLIND DATE* GETS A QUEER MAKEOVER AT BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE, SEPTEMBER 20 – OCTOBER 9

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

BLIND DATE

by Rebecca Northan, in collaboration with Evalyn Parry, performed by Julie Orton or David Benjamin Tomlinson.

There's nothing like the thrill of a first date... anything can happen! In this reimagined version of Rebecca Northan's smash hit play, the saucy Mimi and the handsome Mathieu take turns finding love with a different person every night – plucked right from the audience.

Following sold out runs across North America, and a 2016 Dora Mavor Moore Award for creator/performer Rebecca Northan, this fast and funny fusion of improv, theatre, and clown takes its first-ever foray into queer romance at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre this Fall. Northan's hit play sees a French clown looking for love on a blind date – a date chosen spontaneously from the audience. What results is a "flight of theatrical fancy that is absolutely magical" (*The Toronto Star*).

Performed for the very first time with queer couples, Northan has worked with Buddies' Evalyn Parry to adapt the work, and comments on this new incarnation of the show, "Bringing *Blind Date* to Buddies feels like the next most obvious and exciting step for the show to take! It's a wonderful opportunity to share the love that is at the heart of this show." Our sexy French clowns celebrate and explore the peculiarities of queer romance in a way that is sure to make you fall in love with them and their audience-member-turned-romantic-hero.

Starring in the show are Julie Orton, an award-winning performer who has toured North America in the role of Mimi, and David Benjamin Tomlinson, who audiences will remember from Buddies' *Dancing Queen* and from the 2016 Fringe hit *Toller*. Orton and Tomlinson take turns in the starring role throughout the run. Take your pick, or experience both:

Julie Orton: September 20 - 25, October 5, 7 & 9

David Benjamin Tomlinson: September 27 - October 2, October 4, 6 & 8

PRAISE FOR BLIND DATE

"Rebecca Northan's single clown act is the perfect marriage of theatre and comedy... Whether you're single, coupled or somewhere in between, you need to book a Blind Date with Rebecca Northan."
(NOW Magazine, Toronto)

"I'm willing to wager that no matter who this gifted woman selects by chance from the audience, the end result is likely to contain the same mixture of uproarious laughter, honest sexuality and genuine emotion."
(The Toronto Star, Toronto)

"It's one thing to bring audience members onstage for three minutes of mockery, then sit them back down again. It's quite another to play opposite a stranger who's not a professional actor for more than an hour. That's what Ms. Northan fearlessly does, and it's very funny,"
(The New York Times, New York)

Lead Corporate Sponsor **BMO Financial Group**

MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS – Listed artists are available for interviews in English. Contact 416-975-9130 x35 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com to arrange.

OPENING NIGHT – Opening nights are **Thursday, September 22, 2016** (Julie Orton) and **Thursday, September 29** (David Benjamin Tomlinson). Contact Aidan Morishita-Miki at 416-975-9130 x35 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com for accreditation.

ON-LINE RESOURCE – The Buddies website includes a Media Centre that houses press releases, images and other pertinent information for easy download. www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/media

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Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

Blind Date

starring **Julie Orton** or **David Benjamin Tomlinson**

a Spontaneous Theatre Creation by **Rebecca Northan**

in collaboration with **Evalyn Parry** and Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

Previews: September 20 & 21, 27 & 28

Opening Night: September 22 (Julie Orton) & September 29 (David Benjamin Tomlinson)

Closing Performance: October 9

Runs: Tues-Sat 8pm, Sun 2:30pm

Tickets: PWYC - \$39

Box Office 416-975-8555 or buddiesinbadtimes.com

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander Street, Toronto ON

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Established in 1979, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre is Toronto's leading destination for artistically rigorous, alternative theatre and a world leader in developing queer voices and stories for the stage. Over the course of its history, it has evolved into the largest facility-based queer theatre company in the world and has made an unparalleled contribution to the recognition and acceptance of queer lives in Canada.