

THE CRITICALLY-ACCALIMED GERTRUDE AND ALICE RETURNS TO BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE, SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 7

A Buddies in Bad Times Theatre production

Gertrude and Alice

Conceived and created by the Independent Aunties (Anna Chatterton, Evalyn Parry, and Karin Randoja)

“Their still-potent chemistry is a delight; few artists are able to blend material that’s slyly comic and warmly heartfelt in such a delicate yet sure fashion.” – Now Magazine NNNN (out of 5)

“Comprehensible, comic, and on one occasion erotic... a triumph” – My Gay Toronto ★★★★★ (out of 5)

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre kicks off its 40th anniversary season this September with the return of an audience favourite, *Gertrude and Alice*, originally co-produced by Buddies and the Independent Aunties in 2016. Critically-acclaimed, nominated for three Dora Mavor Moore Awards (outstanding new play, performance – ensemble, and costume design), and recently published by Playwrights Canada Press, this beloved story of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas returns to the Buddies stage with a new production design by celebrated visual artist Sherri Hay.

Visiting the audience in the present day, contentious and influential writer Gertrude Stein and her partner, Alice B. Toklas, come to find out how history has treated them. The couple recounts stories of their 40-year marriage, of meetings with iconic artists and writers, of their taste-making collection of early modernist paintings, and of Alice’s overwhelming, consuming devotion to Gertrude’s genius. Before they leave, they want to find out how their lives and work are – or are not – remembered.

Evalyn Parry, artistic director of Buddies and co-creator of the piece, comments, *“We usher in Buddies 40th season with a play that, fittingly, explores the nature of queer artistic legacy. Gertrude and Alice brings to the stage the work of a deeply influential, experimental and transgressive lesbian artist, and also a legendary queer love story.”*

With a new production design by visionary artist Sherri Hay, the set becomes a character of its own. As our queer heroes chart their influence and legacy in their own artistic moment, the 21st century art installation in which they find themselves evolves at an almost-imperceptible yet constant pace, creating a stunning visual metaphor for the questions the play explores.

Conceived and created by the Independent Aunties, *Gertrude and Alice* is written and performed by Anna Chatterton (*Quiver, Within the Glass*) and Buddies artistic director Evalyn Parry (*Kiinalik: These Sharp Tools, SPIN*) and directed and dramaturged by Karin Randoja (*huff, This is the Point*). Sherri Hay (*Other Jesus, YouTopia*) joins the all-women creative team as production designer, alongside lighting by Michelle Ramsay (*The Magic Hour, Body Politic*), sound by Aleda Deroche (*Kiinalik: These Sharp Tools*), and costumes by Ming Wong (*Girls Like That, The Wedding Party*).

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 night is **Thursday, September 20th**. Contact Aidan Morishita-Miki at 416-975-9130 x35 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com for accreditation.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 20, 2018
Media Contact: Aidan Morishita-Miki
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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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A **Buddies in Bad Times Theatre** production

Gertrude and Alice

conceived + created by **The Independent Aunties**

directed + dramaturged by **Karin Randoja**

written + performed by **Anna Chatterton + Evalyn Parry**

with additional text by **Gertrude Stein + Alice B. Toklas**

set design **Sherri Hay**

lighting design **Michelle Ramsay**

costume design **Ming Wong**

sound design **Aleda Deroche + Karin Randoja**

stage management **Christina Cicko**

Previews: September 15th, 16th, 18th & 19th

Opening Night: September 20th

Closing Performance: October 7th

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

Tickets: PWYC - \$40

Box Office 416-975-8555 or buddiesinbadtimes.com

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

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.

buddiesinbadtimes.com