

MARTIN JULIEN AND PETER HINTON-DAVIS EXPLODE THE CABARET FORM IN *THE MAN THAT GOT AWAY*, DECEMBER 9-18 AT BUDDIES

a Buddies in Bad Times Theatre production

The Man That Got Away (A Special Appearance)

by Martin Julien

[TICKETS + INFO](#)

Buddies closes the first half of its 2022/23 season with the world premiere of *The Man That Got Away (A Special Appearance)*, an intimate new piece of theatre written and performed by veteran performer, playwright, and educator **Martin Julien**, and directed by **Peter Hinton-Davis**.

Developed in the **Buddies Residency Program**, this genre-subverting piece deconstructs the cabaret and confessional forms, delving into Julien's queer upbringing as the child of a gay man and a lesbian woman in mid-twentieth-century Toronto, as well as the loss of his father to HIV/AIDS in the late 1980's. *The Man That Got Away* draws on found text and footage, personal archives, and the musical theatre canon, evoking hauntings, ghosts, memories, secrets, and forgetting. The play is deeply personal while also grappling with broader questions of queer identity, struggle, and history, exploring the liminal spaces between the unobserved and the public, the closet and the stage, escape and encounter. **Martin Julien** (*Sir John A: Acts of a Gentrified Ojibway Rebellion, trace*) is joined onstage by **Tat Austria** (*Hamlet-911, Finding Black Joy*)—embodying a spectral Judy Garland—and accompanied by award-winning composer **Ben Page** (*Leaving Eden*).

The team is led by theatre and opera director, playwright, and officer of the Order of Canada, **Peter Hinton-Davis** (*Tightrope Time, Hadrian*)—a longtime collaborator of Julien's, whom he first met in a first year theatre class at Toronto Metropolitan University over 40 years ago. Hinton-Davis directs alongside assistant director and dramaturg **Monice Peter** (*Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*), and a design team including scenic designer **Sean Mulcahy** (*Actually, The Whipping Man*), lighting designer **Bonnie Beecher** (*Riel, Calpurnia*), and projection designer **HAUI** (*Hamlet 911, Oh What a Lovely War*), with musical arrangements and consultation by **Stephen Woodjetts**.

MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS – Listed artists are available for interviews in English. Contact aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com to arrange.

REVIEWS – Opening night is **Thursday, December 8 at 7:30pm**. Contact Aidan Morishita-Miki at 416-975-9130 x40 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com for accreditation, or to inquire about attending another performance.

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

ACCESSIBILITY + SPECIAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Relaxed performance - December 11, 2PM: Relaxed Performances are designed to welcome audience members who will benefit from a more relaxed performance environment, including house lights being left on at a low level, more freedom to come and go from the space, and an alternate space to take a break from the show.

Casey House benefit performance - December 13, 7:30PM: This showing of *The Man That Got Away* will be a benefit performance in support of Casey House, a specialty hospital in Toronto providing ground-breaking care to people living with and at risk of HIV. All tickets for this performance are \$40, with half of the proceeds going to Casey House. The performance will be followed by a talkback between creative team members and community members.

Reduced Capacity Performances - December 14, 7:30PM: This smaller-capacity performances (50% of our usual house capacity) are scheduled with immuno-compromised audience members in mind, as well as those who do not yet feel comfortable in a full theatre. Proof of vaccination will be required at these performances, as well as masking while in the theatre.

Deaf-interpreted performance - December 16, 7:30PM: This performance will feature ASL interpretation by Deaf interpreters Natasha “Courage” Bacchus and Juan Jaramillo.

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The Man That Got Away (A Special Appearance)

How do we reinhabit the stories that make us who we are? How do those who've left us continue to inhabit us? In an intimate performance weaving together music, confessionals, and personal archives, Martin Julien unmaps, through space and time, his queer upbringing as the child of a lesbian mother and gay father in mid-20th-century Toronto.

Exploding the cabaret form, *The Man That Got Away* grapples with the layers of our performed identities and the plurality of ways that we 'come out.' Family secrets, shared histories, and the musical theatre canon come together in this gesture towards a space of liberation, memory, desire, and truth.

Martin Julien // playwright + performer

For immediate release: November 20, 2022, Revised December 1, 2022

Media Contact: Aidan Morishita-Miki

aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com

Peter Hinton-Davis // director
Ben Page // performer
Tat Austriei // performer
Monice Peter // assistant director + dramaturg
Fiona Jones // stage manager
Stephen Woodjetts // musical arrangements + consultation
Sean Mulcahy // set + costume design
Bonnie Beecher // lighting design
HAUI // video design
Wayne Hawthorne // sound design

Performance information:

Preview: December 9

Opening Night: December 10

Closing Performance: December 18

Runs: Tues-Sat 7:30pm, Wed, Sat, Sun 2pm

Tickets: Sliding scale (\$10 / \$25 / \$40 / \$70)

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/the-man-that-got-away-a-special-appearance/>

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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.

buddiesinbadtimes.com