

## **PEARLE HARBOUR MAKES HER BUDDIES MAINSTAGE DEBUT IN *DISTANT EARLY WARNING*, MAY 19 – 29**

A Pearle Harbour + Buddies in Bad Times Theatre production

# **DISTANT EARLY WARNING**

by Justin Miller

Tickets and info: <https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/distant-early-warning/>

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre closes its 2021-22 season with an urgent, intimate, and gripping production by multi-award-winning drag clown, Toronto's **Pearle Harbour**. At a time when the end of the world feels nearer than ever, with newly rediscovered threats of nuclear war and devastation looming, *Distant Early Warning* imagines what might come after the end: romance. Stranded in the scorched Arctic, our lovesick heroine awaits the return of humanity's last hope, The Grand Prize Winner. As she waits, she sings. A heartfelt send-off to our era, this darkly comic musical fantasia invites audiences to consider which warnings we hear, and which we ignore.

"As Pearle, I make it my business to hug calamity. In the last four years as a resident artist at Buddies, I have never wanted for material. We're living through a time of huge historical change: political, environmental, epidemiological... I feel changed. I'm sure you do too," says creator and performer **Justin Miller**. "*Distant Early Warning* morphed alongside these crises until its final form emerged: a show that tries to embrace, and release, our feelings of profound isolation and hopelessness, through both pratfalls and poetry."

While Pearle's projects *Chautauqua* and *Agit-Pop!* have toured nationally over the last few years to critical and audience acclaim, Justin Miller has been developing *Distant Early Warning* here at Buddies through the Residency Program since 2018. Through multiple workshops and rebirths, the piece has evolved from a drag concert extravaganza (originally titled *Battle Cry*) into a darker, more potent piece that showcases Pearle in a way that audiences have never seen her before.

This world premiere production marks a new collaboration for Justin Miller's Pearle Harbour, with legendary Dora- and Canadian Comedy Award-winning clown **John Turner** (*Mump & Smoot*) directing his Buddies mainstage premiere. Longtime Pearle collaborator **Steven Conway** returns to music direct and bringing to life this post-collapse world is a design team that includes lighting designer **Jareth Li** (*Black Boys, Iphigenia and the Furies on Taurian Land*), set designer **Jackie Chau** (*Pomona, HUFF*), sound designer **Chris Ross-Ewart** (*Four Sisters, Yaga*), and projection designer **Julia Howman** (*The Chemical Valley Project*).

### **MEDIA INFO**

**INTERVIEWS** – Listed artists are available for interviews in English. Contact [aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com](mailto:aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com) to arrange.

**REVIEWS** – Opening night is **Thursday, May 19 at 8:00pm**. Contact Aidan Morishita-Miki at 416-975-9130 x40 or [aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com](mailto: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](http://www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/media)

## COVID SAFETY

All audience members will be asked to show proof of vaccination, wear a mask while in the building, and fill out a brief COVID screening form upon arrival. More information on the theatre's COVID policies and practices can be found here: <https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/covid-safety/>.

For *Distant Early Warning*, we have a reduced house capacity of 72 people (out of a 100 venue capacity). For select performances, we are offering a further reduced capacity of 50 people. Please see the show page for a schedule.

## ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

### Relaxed performance

The performance of *Distant Early Warning* on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> (2:30pm) will be a relaxed performance. Relaxed Performances are designed to welcome audience members who will benefit from a more relaxed performance environment. Patrons can book \$10 tickets in advance using the code "RP10" at checkout.

**Ticket pricing:** Tickets for the show can be purchased at \$10, \$20, or \$40, with a limited number of tickets available at each price point.

Information on an ASL-interpreted performance of *Distant Early Warning* will be added to the website once confirmed. For more information on venue accessibility, please visit our [accessibility page](#).

## PLEASE ADD TO YOUR LISTINGS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Pearle Harbour + Buddies in Bad Times Theatre production

### **DISTANT EARLY WARNING**

Not long from now, in the scorched Arctic Circle, a lone and lovesick survivor counts down the days til The Grand Prize Winner – humanity's last hope – returns. As she waits, she sings. *Distant Early Warning* is a post-annihilation love story about which warnings we hear, which we ignore, and our enduring hope for a better tomorrow.

Justin Miller // writer + performer  
John (J.W.) Turner // director  
Sandra Balcovkse // dramaturge  
Giuseppe Condello // stage manager  
Steven Conway // music direction  
Chris Ross-Ewart // sound design  
Jareth Li // lighting design  
Jackie Chau // set design  
Julia Howman // projection design  
Nick Potter // MoonMist Announcement video design  
Justin Miller // costume design  
Rebecca Ballarin // producer

### **In-person shows**

Previews: May 17 + 18

Opening Night: May 19

Closing Performance: May 29

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 26, 2022

Media Contact: Aidan Morishita-Miki

aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com

**buddies**  
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

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

Tickets: Sliding scale (\$10 / \$20 / \$40)

Box Office [buddiesinbadtimes.com](https://buddiesinbadtimes.com)

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

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/show/distant-early-warning/>

----

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](https://buddiesinbadtimes.com)