



## Buddies in Bad Times Theatre Cast & Creative Team Announcement: ROBERTO ZUCCO

### All Season Tickets On Sale Now

August 7, 2024 (Toronto, ON): **ted witzel**, Artistic Director of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, today announced the cast and creative team for the opening show of the company's 46th season, *Roberto Zucco* by **Bernard-Marie Koltès** translated by **Martin Crimp**.

witzel will direct a cast of award-winning actors in this rarely performed neo-noir masterwork from legendary postmodernist French writer Koltès.

The cast features **Jakob Ehman** in the title role, with **Samantha Brown**, **Fiona Hight**, **Kwaku Okyere**, **Oyin Oladejo**, and **Daniel MacIvor**.

The creative team includes set and costume designer **Michelle Tracey**, lighting designer **Logan Raju Cracknell**, sound designer and composer **Dasha Plett**, and dramaturge **Gislina Patterson**.

"This incredible team contains a broad spectrum of queerness in terms of generations and approaches, politics and locations, and I'm thrilled to bring them together for our season opener," says witzel. "*Roberto Zucco* is a piece so exciting and challenging that it begs to be done at Buddies. It's wild and violent, but it's also tender, funny and epic. The queerness of the piece lurks just beneath the surface, as an experience of the world's violence—it's a lens and not a storyline."

"Buddies has long been the institutional home for formally daring, carnal, contemporary performance that pushes Toronto the Good out of its comfort zone," he adds. "Blending the brutality of Tarantino with the mythic scope of Pasolini, this piece demands ferocious actors and a daring design team—I'm pinching myself at the talent that's gathered to (re)introduce Toronto to Buddies as a place for boundary-pushing queer aesthetics."

Set in France in 1989, and written as Koltès was dying of AIDS, the play traverses the realms between true crime and mythic fantasy. It delves into the criminal underworld of Europe, offering a critique of rampant capitalism and liberal family values.

Witness the living through the eyes of the dead. *Roberto Zucco* lures us into the wet streets and gloomy rooms of 1980s Europe, where a charming antihero battles his cosmic urge to kill. Koltès' sordid swan song is Greek tragedy kissed by Gregg Araki—breathlessly violent but with a pitch-black wit and occasional syrupy sweetness that leaves you disarmed. It shines a blistering sun on our darkest impulses; by the end, you'll wonder if we're just flightless birds in the face of our fates.

***Roberto Zucco*** by Bernard-Marie Koltès translated by Martin Crimp runs from September 15 to October 5. Opening night is September 19. Tickets for *Roberto Zucco* are available [here](https://buddiesinbadtimes.com). **Single tickets for the entire 2024-25 season are on sale now at [buddiesinbadtimes.com](https://buddiesinbadtimes.com)**. Prices range from \$10-\$75; additional taxes and box office fees may apply.

**About Buddies in Bad Times Theatre | [buddiesinbadtimes.com](https://buddiesinbadtimes.com) | @buddiesto**  
Buddies in Bad Times Theatre is the world's largest and longest-running queer theatre. For 46 years, Buddies has carved out a sexy, disobedient edge in Toronto's theatre scene and has been a world leader in amplifying queer voices and developing their stories for the stage. In its year-round theatre season, Buddies is a home for artistic risk—a place where emerging talent hone their radical visions, and where established artists to do the daring works other theatres might shy away from. Since 1979, Buddies has welcomed over one million audience members and premiered over 1,000 new works for the stage.

### **Tallulah's**

Like its ambisexual namesake, Buddies' in-house bar and performance space Tallulah's Cabaret does it all. It's throbbing club nights and community tap dance lessons. High-concept drag and low-stakes open mics. Go for pre-drinks but stay late for the post-show discourse—maybe even spark that next collaboration. With local brews and sober options that aren't an after-thought, Tallulah's is the come-as-you-are bar for old friends, new lovers, partiers, poets, and curious passerby. See you under the chandeliers.

*Tallulah's Cabaret is open Wednesday to Sunday from 6:00 p.m. to midnight (or later).*  
Check out [buddiesinbadtimes.com/events](https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/events) or [@tallulahscabaret](https://twitter.com/tallulahscabaret) for the upcoming calendar.

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