

Phoenix Theatre

2019/20 SEASON



SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI*

Weeksauce and Other Stories

OCTOBER 9 - 19, 2019

Written & Performed by
Sam Mullins (BFA '08)

Two-time Canadian Comedy Award winner Sam Mullins has been described as a "master storyteller" (WINNIPEG FREE PRESS) and the "Stuart McLean of the millennial generation" (TORONTO STAR). *Weeksauce* is the story of the summer that Sam turned 16, when he left home to work as a camp counsellor only to be blindsided by the first great romance of his life. This achingly angsty and tender coming-of-age story is a comedy of first times, second chances and third wheels. Now, half a lifetime (and an incalculable number of romances) later, Sam will also premiere a new story about the bleary-eyed joys of fatherhood. Like his other award-winning shows *Tinfoil Dinosaur*, *Grandma's Dead*, and *The Untitled Sam Mullins Project*, Sam brings unflinching honesty, vulnerability and big laughs to his latest work.

"Weeksauce is first-rate theatre. Fresh, funny and heart-poundingly alive." - NOW MAGAZINE

"Tender, witty and charming. This show has a BIG heart." - GEORGIA STRAIGHT

"Sam Mullins is that rarest of monologists."
- EDMONTON JOURNAL

Some coarse language. Suitable for ages 16+

*The Spotlight on Alumni program invites our graduates to present their current work at the Phoenix Theatre.

Othello

NOVEMBER 7 - 23, 2019

By **William Shakespeare**
Director **Brian Richmond**

Although written over 400 years ago, Shakespeare's *Othello* feels like it's been ripped from today's headlines in its disturbing portrait of a world infused with racial politics, misogynist social structures and treacherous friendships. Othello and Desdemona are lovers from very different worlds: Othello a mighty General from a foreign land; Desdemona a beautiful Senator's daughter. They marry, undeterred by the prejudices that surround them. But no sooner are their vows sealed than their love is put to the test, as bigotry, envy and jealousy begin to pull them apart. Playing on Othello's insecurities as an outsider in a predominantly white society, the charming but envious Iago — an Ensign and a trusted advisor — stokes the flames of his commanding officer's jealous nature. In doing so, Iago brings both the lovers, and the world they live in, to the point of utter collapse. In its raw emotions and ruthless politics, *Othello* remains an ageless and poignant tragedy.

Scenes of violence and domestic abuse.
Suitable for ages 15+

Comic Potential

FEBRUARY 13 - 22, 2020

By **Alan Ayckbourn**
Director **Conrad Alexandrowicz**

Considered one of the funniest and most inventive plays by Britain's grandmaster of comedy, this romantic sci-fi satire is set in the foreseeable future, when actors are replaced with convincingly lifelike robots known as "actoids." Adam, an aspiring young writer, visits a TV studio to meet his idol, Chandler, the director of a never-ending hospital soap opera who was once a great movie director. On set, Adam discovers the charming android Jacie Tripplethree (serial number JCF 31333) and realizes that the programming glitch that makes her laugh hysterically also makes her more human. Adam and Chandler start developing a new TV show for Jacie to star in, but the studio executives aren't convinced. Will Adam lose his heart to a robot? Will his show get the green light? Will love prevail? Tune in to find out! In the age of today's virtual online assistants, this wickedly funny satire from 1998 reads like a cautionary tale of the rise of artificial intelligence.

Some coarse language. Suitable for ages 14+

The Children's Hour

MARCH 12 - 21, 2020

By **Lillian Hellman**
Director **Peter McGuire**

Lifelong friends Karen and Martha are the headmistresses of a prestigious all-girls boarding school in a small New England town in the months preceding WWII. When a vengeful pupil whispers a rumour that the two women are having an affair, it triggers a devastating chain of consequences, entangling their entire school in this toxic story of deceit. At the peril of destroying their careers, their relationships, and their lives, Karen and Martha courageously risk public shame and fight for the truth to be heard. Written in 1934, Hellman's potent exploration of the power of lies — and the culture of fear which allows them to thrive — remains startlingly relevant in our era of "fake news" and online deception.

Suitable for ages 13+