



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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University
of Victoria

“MASTER STORYTELLER” SHARES GREATEST HITS

Alumnus brings unflinching honesty and big laughs to Alma Mater

Phoenix Theatre
2019/20 Season

1 **Weeksauce & Other Stories**

October 9 – 19, 2019

Opening Night: Wed. Oct. 9

Written & Performed by
Sam Mullins (BFA '08)

A greatest hits collection of hilarious and profound life stories by this “master storyteller.” (Winnipeg Free Press)

Presenting Sponsor:



2 **Othello**

November 7– 23, 2019

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Brian Richmond

With its racially-infused politics, misogyny and backstabbing friendships, Shakespeare’s classic tragedy still reads like today’s headlines.

3 **Comic Potential**

February 13– 22, 2020

By Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Conrad Alexandrowicz

A wickedly funny sci-fi satire offers a cautionary tale about society’s romance with technology.

4 **The Children’s Hour**

March 12 – 21, 2020

By Lillian Hellman

Directed by Peter McGuire

Two courageous school headmistresses risk everything to fight for the truth to be heard.

Department of Theatre & Phoenix Theatre

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UVic Theatre alumnus and two-time Canadian Comedy Award-winner Sam Mullins has made a career of sharing his own life experiences on stage . . . whether they be the angst-ridden and tender moments of a 16-year old falling in love for the first time, hilarious and life-changing requests while working as a waiter, or the bleary-eyed joys and profound revelations of becoming a new father.

The Department of Theatre is honoured to present Sam Mullins and ***Weeksauce & Other Stories*** as this year’s *Spotlight on Alumni*, running October 9 to 19, 2019 at the Phoenix Theatre. Described as a “*master storyteller*” (Winnipeg Free Press) and the “*Stuart McLean of the millennial generation*” (Toronto Star), Mullins performs the moments of his life on stages at Fringe Festivals, on radio programs, and at storytelling competitions and events across North America.

Weeksauce & Other Stories is a greatest hits collection of his award-winning stories, including the full-length version of his five-time Best-of-the-Fest-winning story *Weeksauce*; the premiere of a new story about fatherhood; and two 10-minute-long stories based on his shows *Tinfoil Dinosaur* and *The Untitled Sam Mullins Project*. *Weeksauce* is the story of the summer 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. Toronto’s *Now Magazine* called it “*Fresh, funny and heart-poundingly alive.*”

“Weeksauce is my favourite thing I’ve ever written,” says Mullins. *“It poured out of me over a weekend during a 2012 heatwave in my childhood bedroom in the Okanagan. If every first draft came as easily to me, I would have so much more spare time!”* he joked from Toronto, where he makes his home with his wife and daughter. *“I’m delighted to return back to the stage where my theatre journey began. Truly everything I know about theatre I learned inside those walls. It is a very special place to me, and I couldn’t be more pleased to be bringing my most special piece back here.”*

As a storyteller, Mullins has been a contributor to NPR’s *This American Life*, *The Moth*, CBC’s *Definitely Not the Opera* and the *RISK! Podcast*. He has also worked as a staff writer on CBC’s *Air Farce New Year’s Eve Special* and for five years on the CBC radio sketch program *The Irrelevant Show*.

The public is invited to a free **Preshow Lecture, Friday, October 11 at 7pm** with Sam Mullins in conversation with Professor Peter McGuire as they discuss Sam’s life as a touring Fringe artist and comedy writer. Please note that ***Weeksauce & Other Stories*** includes some coarse language and is suitable for ages 16 and up.

The Phoenix Theatre’s 2019-20 season continues this fall with Shakespeare’s classic tragedy ***Othello*** (November 7-23, 2019) directed by Brian Richmond. In the spring, Conrad Alexandrowicz directs Alan Ayckbourn’s sci-fi satire ***Comic Potential*** (February 13-22, 2020). The season closes with Peter McGuire directing ***The Children’s Hour*** (March 12 – 21, 2020), Lillian Hellman’s drama about the power of lies and two women who risk everything for the truth to be heard.

Performances for ***Weeksauce & Other Stories*** are as follows:

Public Preview @8pm: Tuesday, October 8

Opening Night @8pm: Wednesday, October 9

Evenings @8pm: Tuesdays through Saturdays

Matinees @2pm: Saturdays, October 12 and 19

Preshow Lecture @7pm: Friday, October 11 with Sam Mullins and Prof. Peter McGuire

Single Tickets: Fri/Sat @8pm: \$28, Matinees @2pm: \$26, Wed/Thurs @8pm: \$26, Tues @8pm: \$15, Student Rush Tickets: \$16 (30 minutes at the door before every show), Preview: \$8.00 after 5pm on day

Phoenix Box Office Opens: October 1: Monday through Saturday from 12:00 to 8:30pm.

In person or charge by phone at (250) 721-8000.

Season Subscriptions: 3 or 4-show package for only \$42 or \$56 are available now.