

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 17, 2026

PHOENIX THEATRE @ UVIC

PO Box 3025 STN CSC

Victoria, British Columbia V8W 3P2 Canada



Neon lights, club beats, and a generation on edge collide.

In My Day closes the Phoenix Theatre 25/26 season

Victoria, BC — *In My Day*, a moving and dynamic verbatim theatre work brings an essential chapter of Canadian history to the stage. Written by Victoria playwright Rick Waines and directed by leading Canadian artist Roy Surette, the play reflects on the power of community and the moments of joy, care and connection that exist even in times of great struggle. Featuring choreography and intimacy direction by Victoria-based Treena Stubel, it runs March 12–21 as part of the Phoenix Theatre’s 2025–26 Mainstage Season.

Inspired by a University of Victoria oral-history research project supported by the UVic School of Public Health and Social Policy, *In My Day* draws from interviews with survivors and caregivers from the first fifteen years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Nearly one hundred voices are incorporated into the play and shared by a cast of nineteen actors, creating a layered and intensely human portrait. Rooted in this kaleidoscope of lived experience, the play celebrates the beauty of community, the grit of perseverance, and the bonds that sustain us.

The production will resonate strongly with audiences who lived through the period, even if they were not directly affected by HIV/AIDS. The cinematic set, inspired by the curved wall of the Vancouver Public Library, creates a flexible space for projections that highlight many different Vancouver locations. With 80s and 90s costumes, music, and visuals, the Phoenix Theatre staging vividly captures the essence of the time.

“The vividly choreographed verbatim play whirls through the eras, from West End disco heyday through loss, activism, and drug cocktails.” —Janet Smith, *Stir Vancouver*.

Playwright Rick Waines brings personal experience to *In My Day*. A hemophiliac who was diagnosed with HIV at 21, he has used theatre to amplify his lived experience and challenge stigma. *In My Day* honours not only those who were lost, but the resilient communities who cared for one another and shaped the future. Originally produced by Zee Zee Theatre and Norman Armour, and presented by The Cultch in 2022, the Phoenix Theatre production marks a new, expanded iteration of the work, significantly deepening its storytelling and adding new central characters.

In My Day is supported with funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Gatherings Project. Acknowledgments: HIV In My Day research participants and team members, YouthCO HIV & Hep C Society, Vancouver Island Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Society, Ribbon Community, & Community-Based Research.

SHOW DETAILS:

What: *In My Day*

When: March 12-21, 2026

Where: Phoenix Theatre at UVic

Tickets: \$18-\$34 depending on day

Box Office: 250-721-8000

Event Link: phoenixtheatres.ca

PERFORMANCES:

Evening: Mar. 12-13 & 17-21 at 8:00 p.m.

Matinees: Mar. 14 & 21 at 2 p.m.

Lecture: Mar. 13 pre-show lecture

CREATIVE TEAM:

Director: Roy Surette

Choreographer: Treena Stubel

Set Designer: Claudia Fraser

Costume Designer: Helga Woolsey

Lighting Designer: Logan Swain

Projections Designer: Molly Somers

Sound Designer: Sam Riter

Stage Manager: Emma Beadman

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Bernadette McKelvey,

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SSHRC  CRSH



The Phoenix Theatre at the University of Victoria in British Columbia is one of Canada's most comprehensive and immersive theatre programs. Its productions are integral to the academic requirements of students enrolled in the Department of Theatre's Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees. Renowned for its innovative productions and commitment to theatrical and academic excellence, the Phoenix Theatre emphasizes a hands-on approach to learning, and students are deeply involved in every aspect of production.