

For Immediate Release

Young People's Theatre Premieres *SensoryBox TYA*

A Delightfully Surprising Theatre Experience Delivered to Your Door this Holiday Season!

Toronto, November 22, 2021 – [Young People's Theatre \(YPT\)](#) is excited to debut the *sens*-ational *SensoryBox TYA* just in time for the holidays! Co-developed with Calgary's **Ghost River Theatre**, this one-of-a-kind tactile theatre experience – that includes both the delivery of a wrapped box and a live-streamed adventure – explores the electric connection between our senses and the imagination. *SensoryBox TYA* streams live into classrooms beginning November 29, and into homes December 4-30, 2021.

"For almost two years, young people have been constantly cautioned not to put their hands on anything," says new **Artistic Director Herbie Barnes**. "With *SensoryBox TYA* we not only reintroduce the feeling of touch, but stimulate all the senses. Blindfolded, audiences are gently led through the show, reawakening them to the environment around them in a playful way. For me this seems like a wonderful way to bring young people back into our world."

The adventure begins with the delivery of a wrapped box to participants. On the day of their performance, they'll tune into a livestream hosted by Dora Award-winning theatre artist **Richard Lee**, pop on a blindfold, and begin their tactile trek along with an online audience. In the comfort of their own home or classroom, audience members will discover the mysterious contents of their box – and the pure fun of *play*.

Says **Eric Rose, Ghost River Theatre Artistic Director**, "It is our intention to celebrate and examine our relationship to touch at this particular moment in time. We are experimenting with how visceral touch can be in a live performance and through an online medium."

A pre-recorded Deaf-friendly performance of *SensoryBox TYA* was created in consultation with Deaf Spectrum and will be available from December 8-18.

Says Barnes, "This show will have an ASL version that is unlike any other show that employs it. Since these performances were originally designed for an audience that is blindfolded, a special workshop took place to explore how this could work using a modified box that keeps the contents hidden while the audience can still see the ASL interpretation of the performer."

SensoryBox TYA is recommended for ages 6-12 (grades 1-6) and is \$39.99 plus shipping and tax for the public (for one class - max. of 30 students - the performance is \$300 plus \$20 shipping and taxes, and includes a box for each participating student). The full performance schedule and booking information can be found [here](#).

YPT's 2021.22 season is proudly supported by BMO as Season Presenting Sponsor.

SensoryBox TYA

Co-written by **Eric Rose** and **Christopher Duthie**

Directed by **Eric Rose**

Featuring **Richard Lee** and **Gaitrie Persaud** (ASL-English interpreter)

Designer: **Emily Promise Allison**

Stage Manager: **Michaela Steven**

Dramaturg: **Stephen Colella**

Developed in association with **Ghost River Theatre**

Eric Rose, Director and Co-Playwright

Eric Rose is an award-winning director, deviser, playwright, educator and the Artistic Director of Calgary's acclaimed Ghost River Theatre (GRT). His work is characterized by a striking audio-visual aesthetic that embraces the impossible; constantly reframing and rediscovering what theatre is and is capable of. Mr. Rose's passion for the creative process has inspired the diversity of his theatrical experience spanning: large scale contemporary and classical theatre, site-specific and immersive performance, experiential design, installation, performance creation, devising theatre, new play development, physical theatre and dance. Mr. Rose has been honoured to be the Playwright in Residence at Alberta Theatre Projects, to be named to Avenue Magazine's Top 40 Under 40 and to have received the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Artist Award for his body of work as a theatrical innovator. [Read more.](#)

Christopher Duthie, Co-Playwright

Christopher Duthie is an actor, playwright, theatre creator and co-founder of Bad Knaps Theatre Collective. His plays and creations include *SensoryBox* with Eric Rose (Ghost River Theatre); *A Dinner Party* (Bad Knaps Theatre Collective – Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama Shortlist, 2020 Calgary Critics Award Best Original Play); *Of Fighting Age* with Col Cseke and David van Belle (High Performance Rodeo/Verb Theatre/Glenbow Museum) and *n00b* (Y-Stage Vertigo Theatre), which appeared at YPT in 2014. [Read more.](#)

Richard Lee, Host

Richard Lee is an award-winning theatre artist and filmmaker. His work has garnered him three Dora Mavor Moore Awards and multiple nominations. His play *Monday Nights* (an interactive and immersive basketball show), has recently toured to PuSH International Performing Arts Festival, after a successful run at Toronto's Luminato Festival. Richard is an advocate of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the arts and works tirelessly for a better, more thoughtful tomorrow. [Read more.](#)

Emily Promise Allison, Designer

Emily Promise Allison is an artist and educator who uses alternative approaches to living by questioning conventional human behaviour. She studied Sculpture at the Glasgow School of Art and is a 2015 AUArts Sculpture Graduate with Distinction. www.emilypromiseallison.com

Michaela Steven, Stage Manager

Michaela is a theatre and live events stage manager, arts administrator, and writer. At YPT: *Mary Poppins*. Other stage management credits include: *Love from Afar*, *Romeo & Juliet* (a Company of Fools); *Behaviour*, *Rule of Three* (Great Canadian Theatre Company); *Beautiful Man*, *Little Pretty and the Exceptional* (Factory Theatre); *A&R Angels* (Crow's Theatre); *Onegin* (Musical Stage Company/National Arts Centre); *Leading Ladies*, *You Are Here*, *Rose's Clothes* (Thousand Islands Playhouse).

Stephen Colella, Dramaturg

Past projects at YPT include: Director/Dramaturg for *Selfie* (Dora Award - Outstanding TYA Play, PGC TYA Award) and Co-Director/Dramaturg for *Antigone: 方*; Dramaturgy for over two dozen world premieres including: *Hana's Suitcase*, *i think i can* (Dora Award - Outstanding New Musical), *Scarberia*, *Sultans of the Street* (Dora Award -

Outstanding TYA Play) and *Minotaur* (YPT/Polka Theatre/Theatr Clwyd); Co-adapter of *Love You Forever...And More Munsch* (Dora Award – Outstanding TYA Production/Canada Council TYA Prize) and *Munschtime!*. Other work includes: Director – *Tiny Treasures* (Manitoba Theatre For Young People); Dramaturgy - Alameda Theatre, Marionetas de la Esquina/Kennedy Center, fu-Gen Theatre, and The Paprika Festival. He is currently a board member of ASSITEJ Canada.

About Young People's Theatre

Young People's Theatre (YPT) is North America's oldest – and Canada's largest professional producer and presenter of theatre for young audiences. Over the past 56 years, YPT has staged many of the most important plays that form the canon of work for youth in our country. YPT continues to develop new work and create partnerships with theatre companies across the country and around the world. The enriched learning experiences of YPT's Education & Participation Department provide young people with opportunities to develop their whole being. Through Drama School programs, workshops in community shelters and agencies, educational initiatives in Toronto classrooms, and training and apprenticeship opportunities, we place learning at the centre of everything we do. With new online drama-based programming, YPT continues to support the needs of educators, students and families by creating innovative opportunities for online learning. Visit youngpeoplestheatre.org to learn more.

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Media Contact: Clare Hill, Communications Officer, Young People's Theatre
647.267.6550 | chill@youngpeoplestheatre.org
[Photos](#): login **yptmedia** | password **yptphotos**