

Immediate Release

Young People's Theatre Presents World Premiere of **TRUTH**

Based on the Governor General's Award-Winning novel

"The Gospel Truth"

Jan. 29 – Feb. 23, 2024

TORONTO, ON (Jan. 12, 2024) – This February, [Young People's Theatre \(YPT\)](#) is proud to present the world premiere of [Truth](#) – a powerful adaptation of the Governor General's Award-winning novel, "The Gospel Truth" by **Caroline Pignat**. Written by celebrated playwright and librettist **Kanika Ambrose** and directed by award-winning actor and director **Sabryn Rock**, *Truth* transports audiences back in time to an 1850's Virginian plantation where the life of a young Black girl is changed forever with the arrival of a stranger from the north. *Truth* makes its debut on the Ada Slaight Stage from **Jan. 29 – Feb. 23, 2024**. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

"I am beyond grateful to be directing *Truth* as Kanika Ambrose's writing is beautifully nuanced, powerful and challenging in a thrilling way," says **Director Sabryn Rock**. "What is particularly inspiring to me is the play's heroine, Phoebe: a mute teenaged girl who is enslaved yet who somehow finds the courage to risk everything to seek freedom in the face of brutal oppression. Working on a narrative that follows a young Black female character who is underestimated and surprises everyone (including herself) by what she is capable of, this is a story I never got to see much in the theatre growing up. I hope audiences can relate to this journey and are empowered by Phoebe's spirit."

Truth marks the second collaboration between Rock and Ambrose, who first worked together on the critically-acclaimed *our place* (Dora Award for Outstanding New Play, 2023). The production has been in development at YPT since 2019 as part of the company's New Play Development program. "I wanted to write a story that centered on the Black characters and brings their beauty and humanity to the forefront of difficult circumstances," says **Ambrose**. "Both Sabryn and YPT have shown really careful and thoughtful planning around the needs of both the young audiences that will see the play and the needs of this story. And that is really special."

From the American South to St. Catharines, Ontario, *Truth* chronicles the fierce strength and resilience of a community as it struggles to find freedom. It is a powerful story about finding and creating hope in even the darkest of times.

"I think it is important to remind ourselves of our history: our victories and our defeats, the good and the ugly aspects of how we, as people, arrived at our present reality," says **YPT Artistic Director Herbie Barnes**. "Our young people tend to live in the 'right now'. Thus, at times, a gentle reminder of who we are – and who we were – helps to ensure our future will be more promising."

Truth features performances by **Wade Bogert-O'Brien, Jasmine Case, Chiamaka Glory, Dante Jemmott, Dominique LeBlanc, Jeff Miller** and **Micah Woods**.

Additional credits include Set & Costume Designer: **Shannon Lea Doyle**; Lighting Designer: **Shawn Henry**; Sound Designer: **Thomas Ryder Payne**; Hair, Wigs and Makeup Designer: **Brooklyn Johnson**; Fight & Intimacy Director: **Anita Nittoly**; Historical Movement Consultant: **Fairy J**; Assistant Lighting Designer: **Connor Price-Kelleher**; Assistant Sound Designer: **Raha Javanfar**; Puppet Creator: **Nina Hartt**; Stage Manager: **Laura Baxter**; Assistant Stage Manager: **Anna R. Kaltenbach**.

YPT's 2023.24 Season is Proudly Supported by **The Slight Family Foundation as Lead Donor**
and **BMO as Season Presenting Sponsor**.

TRUTH

Performances:

Previews: Jan. 29 & 30 at 10:15AM

Weekdays: Feb. 6, 8, 13, 15, 21 & 22 at 10:15AM & 1:00PM | Feb. 7, 9 & 23 at 10:30AM

Weekends & Holiday: Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 19 at 2:00PM | Feb. 4, 11 & 18 at 1:00PM

Relaxed Performances: Feb. 9 at 10:30AM & Feb. 10 at 2:00PM

Recommended for ages 10+

Run time: Approx. 70 minutes

Tickets: \$10-\$39 (plus HST & service charges)

Purchase Online: youngpeoplestheatre.org

About Young People's Theatre

Young People's Theatre (YPT) recently launched the next stage in the company's 58-year history, co-led by Artistic Director Herbie Barnes and Executive Director Nancy Webster. This new era also marked the unveiling of YPT's expanded and renovated theatre complex, more than 10 years in the making. As Canada's largest and oldest professional theatre for young audiences, the company produces and presents a full season of theatre and arts education programming, serving approximately 150,000 patrons annually. With the purchase and renovation of YPT 161 Studios across the street from its historic theatre, YPT has expanded its footprint, increased its accessibility, refreshed its lobbies, and upgraded the theatrical equipment capabilities of its 433-seat Ada Slight Stage and 115-seat Studio. United in vision, the two facilities now anchor the corner of Front and Frederick streets in downtown Toronto creating Canada's largest theatre complex for young people. With its broad-ranging educational programs and exceptional productions, the company has an annual operating budget of approximately \$5 million. [Learn more.](#)

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Connect with Young People's Theatre



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