



Former Youth Ensemble Performer Wins \$46,565 in November 50/50

December Grand Prize Draw at 3 p.m. on New Year's Eve

Monday, December 6, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 22-year-old **Alexandra Adam of Blenheim** got an early Christmas gift on December 1. She was the lucky winner of Drayton Entertainment's November Ultimate 50/50 Draw taking home a final jackpot of **\$46,565**. Her winning ticket was #99451576004.

“Artistic Director Alex Mustakas called while I was at work, so I didn't immediately know that I had won. I was a little shocked when he called me back later that afternoon! I started buying tickets for the Ultimate 50/50 draw in September, so it's only the third month that I've been playing. I guess it only takes one!” says Adam.

Now studying at Brock to be a teacher, Alexandra was a budding performer herself when she was younger, so it was important to her to support the theatre in any way she could.

“I was a member of the Youth Ensemble in the 2015 production of *Snow White: The Panto* at the Huron Country Playhouse in Grand Bend. It was an incredible experience, so I wanted to try and help make sure that other kids had access to the same experience I did.”

Alexandra and her fiancée just bought a house and are planning on getting married in a couple of years, so the windfall will provide a nice nest egg for them to start their lives together. She admits she will probably spend some of her winnings on theatre tickets and is really looking forward to seeing shows at the Drayton Entertainment theatres again.

“We are surprised and delighted that one of our former Youth Ensemble members is the winner this month,” says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. “It's wonderful that she wanted to support the theatre that offered her such a memorable learning experience many years ago. We wish Alexandra well with her studies to become a teacher who will undoubtedly support and encourage participation in the arts.”

Live theatre is back and performances are now on stage in Cambridge and St. Jacobs; *Back Home for the Holidays* is playing at Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge and *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline* is playing at St. Jacobs Country Playhouse. Both productions run through December 26. Even though audiences are returning to the theatres in person, the 50/50 draw will remain online as it eliminates a touchpoint with no physical 50/50 tickets. The online draw also allows more people across the province to play the popular raffle even if they are not visiting venues during the holiday season.

Drayton Entertainment's Ultimate 50/50 draw has been running monthly since March. The largest prize to date was in April for \$139,020. Tickets for the December Ultimate 50/50 draw are already on sale. It will include two Early Bird Prizes drawn on Friday, December 10 (\$500) and Thursday, December 23 (\$1,000). Proceeds from the December Ultimate 50/50 draw will be used to purchase new equipment for the new Drayton Entertainment Youth Academy, which opens in 2022.

"Now that we are beginning to reopen, we are eager to direct proceeds from the draws to areas that will have the greatest impact, like our youth programs," says Mustakas.

Currently under construction at 145 Northfield Dr. W. in Waterloo, the **\$3-million** project will transform an industrial warehouse into 10,000 sq. ft. of cultural infrastructure including rehearsal halls, classrooms, music rooms, acting studios, and more. Students will also have access to Drayton Entertainment's adjacent Production Centre for the Technical Arts, generating thousands of hours of new arts activity every year.

The Academy will provide a safe place where youth feel empowered to share their ideas and feelings regarding race, gender, ancestry, language, age, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, disability, thinking styles, opinions, and life experiences. A Tuition Bursary Endowment Fund will be implemented to remove the cultural, economic, communication, and physical barriers which impede participation for marginalized and underrepresented groups, including youth identifying as Black, Indigenous, and/or Persons of Colour (BIPOC), LGBTQ+, new Canadians, and Persons with Disabilities.

To learn more about the Youth Academy or to make a donation, please visit: <https://www.draytonentertainment.com/Online/article/youth-academy-give>

The December raffle will run through 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 31 with a Grand Prize draw at 3:00 p.m. on the same day. Tickets are available for purchase online at <https://drayton5050.com>. The jackpot is updated online in real-time and grows as more people participate – the published amount is the winner's take-home prize.

Tickets may be purchased by individuals 18 years or older and located in the Province of Ontario at the time of purchase. All ticket sales are final and ticket buyers will receive a receipt via email after purchasing that will list all numbers associated with the purchased tickets. Tickets are sold using an electronic raffle system approved by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) and supplied by Bump Worldwide Inc. Raffle License AGCO #RAF1229328. Please play responsibly. Ontario

Problem Gambling Helpline 1-888-230-3505 or visit www.connexontario.ca. For complete details including rules of participation and frequently asked questions, please visit: <https://drayton5050.com>.

Celebrate the return of live theatre by attending a performance in person this holiday season. For more details about holiday productions including performance times, health and safety protocols, and more please visit www.draytonentertainment.com.

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