



Summer Theatre Finally Returns to King's Wharf Theatre in Penetanguishene

Canadian Comedy Starring Neil Aitchison Launches 2022 Season

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Audiences will be doubled over in laughter as *Sorry, I'm Canadian 2* launches the much-anticipated 2022 Season at the **King's Wharf Theatre** after a two-year hiatus at the popular summer venue. This Drayton Entertainment original production will amuse and delight theatregoers from **June 23 to July 10**.

Designed as a showcase for the homespun charm of the irrepressible **Neil Aitchison** as his lovable Mountie alter-ego, the production features a winning combination of side-splitting humour, razor-sharp political satire, and memorable musical selections that celebrate all things Canadian. *Sorry, I'm Canadian 2* is a brand-new show similar to other productions in the popular 'Canadian' series – crowd-pleasing favourites like *Canada 151: Better Late Than Sorry*, *Canadian Legends*, the original *Sorry ... I'm Canadian* production, and more.

"We are delighted to finally be opening the King's Wharf Theatre again with a show that will have Georgian Bay audiences tapping their toes and laughing out loud," says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment, who also directs the production. "This show is incredibly funny with amazing music – audiences are in for a real treat."

The Mountie in question, of course, refers to Aitchison who takes to the stage as RCMP Constable Archibald F. Inkster. Through Constable Inkster's hilarious musings, no political party, pop star, or public figure is left unscathed.

"We basically spend two hours poking fun at everything uniquely Canadian, and audiences can't get enough! But they ultimately leave the theatre completely uplifted, taking great pride in the tremendous accomplishments we have achieved as a nation," explains Mustakas.

Part of that pride is derived from Canada's rich musical heritage, which is displayed in full force. A talented five-piece band including **Al Braatz**, **Earl Filsinger**, **Duff MacDonald**, **Alex Panneton**, and **Leo Stock** will wow theatregoers with their versatility as they present lively and heartfelt renditions of memorable music from the *Great Canadian Songbook*. Multiple genres are

covered, from pop and country to bluegrass and jazz including hits like “Alberta Bound,” “Fox On The Run,” “Black Fly,” “Song of the Mira,” “I’se the B’ye,” “Sonny’s Dream,” “Farewell to Nova Scotia,” and many, many more.

In addition to singing and playing fiddle, 17-year-old Stock, who is from Stratford, is also featured as a step dancer in the production. In 2021, he was the Open Stepdance Winner and The Gilles Roy Trophy recipient at the Ontario Open Fiddle and Step Dance Contest.

As previously mentioned, Mustakas directs the production. He was recently awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by Her Excellency the Right Honourable **Mary Simon**, Governor General of Canada. Mustakas is being celebrated for his lifelong commitment to making the performing arts affordable and accessible. His distinctive business model has made Drayton Entertainment (operators of the King’s Wharf Theatre) one of the largest and most well-respected charitable arts organizations in Canada. At the height of its operations, the not-for-profit professional theatre company stages over 800 performances annually at its various venues, with attendance exceeding 250,000 each year. The Government of Ontario’s Tourism Regional Economic Impact Model (TREIM) estimates the organization’s economic impact on visitor spending at over \$80 million annually, positively affecting multiple communities throughout the province. Mustakas received his medal at a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on May 26.

He is joined by Music Director **Nicole Guse**, Costume Designer **Nicole Del Cul**, and Lighting Designer **Jeff JohnstonCollins**. **Amber Archbell** is the Stage Manager with **Kirstyn Keeble** as the Assistant Stage Manager.

Sorry, I’m Canadian 2 is proudly sponsored by **Brooklea Golf & Country Club**. Media Sponsors are **The Midland Mirror**, **Life 100.3**, **Bounce 104.1 FM** and **Midland Today**. The Design Sponsor is **To Do Ontario**.

Sorry, Im Canadian 2 is on stage from **June 23** to **July 10** at the King’s Wharf Theatre in Penetanguishene. In order to accommodate patrons of all comfort levels, performances are offered at various capacity limits and with differing vaccination requirements; some performances are full capacity with no vaccination requirement, some performances are limited capacity with no vaccination requirement, and some performances are limited capacity with vaccinations required. Patrons should choose the performance that best suits their comfort level.

Regular performance tickets are \$53 for adults, \$32 for youth under 20 years of age and \$43 for groups of 20 or more and select Discount Dates. HST is applicable to all ticket prices. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Box Office at **705-549-5555** or toll free at **1-855-drayton (372-9866)**, or online instantly at www.kingswharftheatre.com.

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