

MADFOX THEATRE



Tiny Beautiful Things

BASED ON THE BOOK BY *CHERYL STRAYED*

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY *NIA VARDALOS*

CO-CONCEIVED BY *MARSHALL HEYMAN, THOMAS KAIL, AND NIA VARDALOS*

DIRECTED BY *PETE MACLEOD*

February 1st to 4th, 2023



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FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - PETE MACLEOD

This is not the show that I thought would mark my directorial debut. I've had at least a dozen others sitting on our bookshelf at home that I assumed would happen first. Truthfully, when Michelle brought me this script about a year ago, my very first action was to create a list of local directors who I thought would be best to bring it to life. I couldn't envision how I would stage it, doubted if my voice was the appropriate one to speak on some of these topics, and on, and on and on.

After our first read-through, which was solely part of a series of playreadings and prior to cementing it as part of our season, our crew knew we wanted to see this mounted in Kelowna, and I secretly started contemplating what my potential stamp could be on this beautiful piece of writing. I found the courage to pitch Michelle, who had truly adopted this show as her baby and passion project, to see if she would be open to me taking the helm as director. I am incredibly grateful for her response, and that she and the entire cast have put their full trust in me and my vision.

"WELCOME. THIS IS A DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE,
ACCEPTING AND SAFE SPACE."



Thank you to our 2023 Pack Members and Season sponsors, for supporting what we consider to be brave theatre programming for the Okanagan.

To Mathilde at the French Cultural Centre, Dawn Ewen our Front of House Manager, and Sophie Jederman our Stage Manager - you have all come together to help us put on the best show we can and we are incredibly grateful.

To those whose love over the past few months outside of rehearsal flowed through this process every step of the way: Laura, Corey, Crissy, and Anna.

To this cast: Angela for having faith in me with her incredible return to stage, Mikayla who has become accustomed to our Musical Mayhems and with trust said 'Yes!' without even knowing what show I was asking her to do, Casey for taking a leap of faith into a genre he couldn't see himself in, and to our Sugar, Michelle for bringing us this script and turning in a performance that no one will soon forget. With all the talent we have in our city, this is truly my dream cast, thank you all for the experience.

For reasons you're about to understand, this play has altered me. Not only on my view as an artist, but also my perspective on the love and loss that has occurred in my life over the past few years. My hope is that you, the audience, are able to find some healing in our little show. From the bottom of all of our hearts, thank you for coming out to the theatre.

Sincerely, Pete MacLeod



NIA VARDALOS

The letters are real. I thought, as I read Cheryl Strayed's incredibly moving book, *Tiny Beautiful Things*. People wrote these letters. A few years ago, author Cheryl Strayed gave advice as Sugar for the literary website, *The Rumpus*, and later collected the letters into a book. Journalist Marshall Heyman gave his friend, director Thomas Kail, the book and Tommy gave it to me suggesting it could become a play. As I read the letters exchanged, I wept, smiled, and was astonished by the raw and extraordinary candor. Sugar and the writers of the letters reveal themselves, and we find ourselves in their conundrums and sorrows, in their lives lived and roads traveled. I yearned to be as bold, audacious and willful. As I adapted the book into a play, I found the words so illuminating that I grieved and moved on from certain events of my own. Still, if I had one letter to write, it would be: Dear Sugar, I hope to be as brave as the writers of the letters and as open as Cheryl Strayed. – Nia Vardalos

MADFOX THEATRE

PRESENTS

TINY BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

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FEATURING
MICHELLE DEIGHTON

CASEY EASTON MIKAYLA JONES ANGELA SCHJDOT

STAGE MANAGER
SOPHIE JEDERMAN

DIRECTOR
PETE MACLEOD

FEBRUARY 1 - 4, 2023





Crissy Zach
RE/MAX Kelowna

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AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER BROKER



CAST

Sugar	Michelle Deighton
Letter Writer 1	Casey Easton
Letter Writer 2	Angela Schjdot
Letter Writer 3	Mikayla Jones

TIME & PLACE

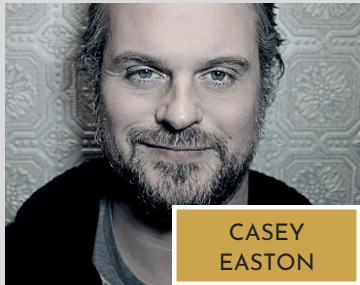
Late evening into early morning.

Approximately 85 minutes with no intermission



MICHELLE
DEIGHTON

There could be no more joyous return to stage for Michelle than in her first role in a MadFox production - made more special because of this beautiful show with these amazing, talented people. You may have seen her last few shows before Covid-19 where Michelle was lucky enough to play the iconic M'Lynn Eatenton in the KAS production of *Steel Magnolias* and perform in the Fred Skeleton production of *Drowning Girls*. Many thanks to Pete for taking a chance on this show and all of us.



CASEY
EASTON

Casey is performing in his first ever Madfox show, and has found the experience challenging but very fulfilling. Challenging in the aspect that this show can't be authentically represented without feeling the emotional roller coaster that comes with the brilliant writing. I can say the process has been creatively rewarding, respectful, and a truly cathartic process for me, personally. Hopefully, it represents something similar for you.



MIKAYLA
JONES

You may recognize Mikayla from *Little Women* as Jo - Bumpershoot or *3 Little Pigs* as Siu - KAS. Mikayla grew up in Kelowna and left in 2014 to attend Randolph College for the Performing Arts in Toronto. Although she loved her time there and had the opportunity to work with some amazing people, home was calling. Some Toronto credits include: Chastity/Featured Dancer in *Anything Goes* - Wavestage Theatre, Betty Blast in *Footloose* - RCPA, and Kelsey in *Lonely Hearts Club* - Short Film. This is Mikayla's first -official- time working with the wonderful group at MadFox, and although her new fox tattoo may have set the universal alignments in motion, she can't help but be grateful to work with such an incredible cast and creative team! Mikayla hopes that you can go into this play with an open mind, but more importantly an open heart.



ANGELA
SCHJODT

Last seen as the Evil Queen in the recent TKS production of *Snow White*, Angela is thrilled to be able to dive deep into such a powerful and moving script as *Tiny Beautiful Things*. Previous theatre credits include: *Noises Off* (Belinda) and *Lend Me a Tenor* (Diana). A long-time Kelowna resident, Angela is also a member of Spectrum Singers choir and teaches music and drama in School District #23. Angela would like to thank Pete and Michelle of Madfox Theatre for the opportunity to be a part of this tiny, beautiful production.

THANK YOU



Your support of live theatre in our community enriches each of our productions and drives us to keep creating. Thank you for being here!

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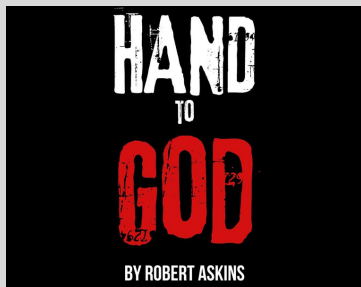
FACEBOOK
MadFox Theatre



Pete is the proud Artistic Director of MadFox Theatre and after years on stage, *Tiny Beautiful Things* marks his directorial debut. He is primarily known in the Okanagan for his theatre roles including: *Little One*, *Equus*, *The Pillowman*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *1984*, and more. He has won awards through TheatreBC and was acknowledged for his artistic contributions by the City of Kelowna in 2019 with an Honour in the Arts designation. Since the pandemic, Pete has turned his focus to film and was recently featured as a supporting lead in a National Geographic historical drama distributed through Apple TV. Connect with Pete over Instagram @pete.macleod or check out MadFox Theatre's upcoming 22/23 slate at www.madfoxtheatre.com.

MADFOX THEATRE

COMING THIS SEASON



Set in a Sunday school in the small town of Cypress, Texas, *Hand to God* focuses on individuals taking part in the Ministry's Puppeteer program. Shy and inquisitive student Jason, has finally found his outlet, that is until his once soft-spoken hand puppet, Tyrone, takes on a dangerous personality of his own.

April 19th - 22nd, 2023



A delicate monologue, completely devastating and beautifully powerful.

Directed by Christopher Weddell.

August 17th & 18th, 2023

