

# canadianstage

THE CANADIAN PREMIERE OF THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED PLAY

## THE CHILDREN

Written by Lucy Kirkwood

Directed by Eda Holmes

A Canadian Stage and Centaur Theatre Co-Production

September 25 – October 21, 2018 at the Berkeley Street Theatre

“An Astonishment. Bristling with chills and suspense.”

-- THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Thought-provoking and haunting.”

– NY DAILY NEWS

“Intriguing and thrilling.”

– ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

★★★★ “Sly, gripping and darkly funny.”

– THE TIMES OF LONDON

★★★★★ “Beautifully written, superbly acted, and unexpected. See it.”

– THE MAIL ON SUNDAY

Toronto, ON – After a successful debut at the Royal Court in London and on Broadway at the Manhattan Theatre Club, the highly acclaimed 2018 Tony Award nominated Best Play, *The Children*, makes its Canadian premiere at Canadian Stage’s Berkeley Street Theatre from September 25-October 21, 2018.

Written by **Lucy Kirkwood**, hailed by *The Independent* as, “the most rewarding dramatist of her generation,” and directed by **Eda Holmes**, Dora and Toronto Theatre Critics Award-winner, this post-apocalyptic tense drama is an unsettling thought-provoking commentary on reparation and redemption.

In a remote countryside cottage, two retired scientists, husband and wife, live a seemingly quiet life in the aftermath of a devastating catastrophe at a nearby nuclear power station. When an old friend and colleague unexpectedly turns up at their door after almost 40 years, they soon discover the shocking reason for her visit, forcing them to confront their responsibility for past actions and to make a difficult choice about future generations.

“We are thrilled to present this extraordinarily relevant and powerful play in partnership with Montreal’s Centaur Theatre. It asks: what is the responsibility that people living now owe to future generations? This question could not be more salient as we simultaneously experience the effects of climate change and witness the erosion of important environmental protection treaties. Lucy Kirkwood’s play masterfully paints a disturbing picture of what may happen if we continue to shirk our obligations to take care of our world,” says Artistic Director Brendan Healy.

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Featuring a stellar cast of theatrical greats: Gemini, Dora, and Merritt Award-winning stage, television, and film actor **Geordie Johnson**; ACTRA Award of Excellence and Order of Canada stage, film, and television star **Fiona Reid**; and Dora and Canadian Screen Award-winner **Laurie Paton**, *The Children* forces us to examine the heavy price we may pay in the future for the mistakes of the past.

“Lucy Kirkwood is one of today’s most talented, contemporary playwrights addressing timely stories, says director Eda Holmes.” “Her play *The Children* asks the question – what are we leaving behind for the next generation? The three characters all came of age in the activist era of the 70’s and Kirkwood uses the microcosm of the romantic triangle of their youth to examine the hard realities that they now face as the adults in the world. It is a call-to-action play, one that optimistically states that we are in this together and have the tools to take on the future – strong, hopeful, courageous words for the current and future generations.”

*The Children* is on stage at the Berkeley Street Theatre from September 25 to October 21. Performances run Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 8 PM, Fridays at 7 PM, and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 PM. Tickets range from \$39 to \$79 and are available for purchase online, by phone at 416-368-3110, or in person at the Berkeley Street Box Office. For details visit [canadianstage.com](http://canadianstage.com)

**Facebook:** Canadian Stage / **Twitter/Instagram:** @CanadianStage

Website: <https://www.canadianstage.com/Online/thechildren>

## **MEDIA NIGHT: SEPTEMBER 27**

**To receive further information or for interview requests, please contact  
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### **ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE**

Canadian Stage is one of the country’s leading not-for-profit contemporary performing arts organizations. The company produces, presents, commissions, and collaborates with multiple partners on cross-disciplinary work with a focus on performance styles that integrate theatre, dance, film, visual arts and more. Sharing innovative and vibrant performance work from Canada and around the world, it stages performances at three Toronto venues: The Bluma Appel Theatre at Civic Theatres Toronto; The Berkeley Street Theatre; and the High Park Amphitheatre.

In July 2018, Montreal-born, award-winning theatre director and actor Brendan Healy was appointed Artistic Director. A graduate of Canada’s Theatre School, Healy was the Artistic Director of Buddies and Bad Times Theatre and most recently the Artistic Director, Performing Arts, for the City of Brampton. Healy is excited to build upon Mathew Jocelyn’s artistic legacy and looks forward to continuing the company’s commitment to being the bridge between Canada and the world.

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## **ABOUT CENTAUR THEATRE**

Situated among the cobblestone streets of historic Old Montreal and residing in Canada's first stock exchange building, Centaur Theatre is an integral part of Montreal's arts community as the city's premiere English-language theatre.

In 2017, on the eve of the theatres' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the Board of Directors announced Eda Holmes as Centaur Theatre Company's fourth Artistic & Executive Director. Formerly the Associate Artistic Director at the renowned Shaw Festival, Holmes seeks to celebrate the diversity of the company's history and make Centaur Theatre the place for all Montrealers to find stories that open up the world in new ways from new points of view. Her first season begins in October of 2018 and features a season drawn from a combination of contemporary Canadian and International plays produced by the finest theatre artists in the country – most of whom call Montreal home.