

"Jordan Tannahill is one of the hottest names in Canadian theatre" - Montreal Gazette

"The poster child of a new generation of artists for whom 'interdisciplinary' is not a buzzword, but a way of life" - The Globe and Mail

Canadian Stage presents the world premiere of a new work from Jordan Tannahill

DECLARATIONS

Runs January 23 – February 11 at the Berkeley Street Theatre

Toronto, ON – Returning to Canadian Stage for the third time in as many seasons, acclaimed multi-disciplinary artist **Jordan Tannahill** writes and directs a new world premiere creation, ***Declarations***, onstage at the Berkeley Street Downstairs Theatre from **January 23 – February 11**.

An ode to mortality - that of the playwright's mother, his own, mankind's – ***Declarations*** is a joyful and moving attempt to capture the objects, sensations, and experiences that make up a life. Through a lyrical text and choreographed physical score, five performers chronicle a life pulled through time, encountering mythology, political calamity, meteorological phenomena, pop culture, and everyday happenstance along the way. What accumulates is a staggering archive of images, sense memories and voices asserting that here lived, for a time, a woman.

"We are so thrilled to have Jordan creating a new piece for our 30th anniversary season," said **Matthew Jocelyn**, Canadian Stage Artistic and General Director, *"and to be presenting work by this truly singular artist for the third season in a row. Jordan truly exemplifies our desire at Canadian Stage to showcase boundary breaking, genre defying work, and this new project will share yet another facet of his astonishing artistic dexterity. **Declarations** is a deeply personal work for him, while also an exploration of the most fundamental desires of all artistic expression."*

A movement-theatre piece in three parts, ***Declarations*** is a living archive of gestures, objects, and stories that stand in witness and testament to the life of his mother, as well as to the act of creation itself. While the piece is choreographed and scripted, the gestures the dancers perform in response to a series of scripted declarative statements, will be improvised by the performers in an effort to keep the work constantly alive and evolving.

"Declarations is about the desire to articulate the entirety of a life, as it faces down mortality, and the inherent impossibility of doing so," commented **Tannahill**. *"In a sense all art occupies the space between human experience and our sublime failure to fully articulate human experience. I wanted to create a piece that spoke to that, to create an archive, fated to be woefully incomplete, of a life lived, in this case, the life is mine; but through their embodiment of the text, it also becomes that of the performers, and their improvised movement is an attempt to keep this archive a living one, changing night after night. What emerges is a joyful testament to being alive."*

A long time Canadian Stage collaborator, Tannahill (who won a Governor General's Award for ***Age of Minority: Three Solo Plays***) was playwright in residence at Canadian Stage in 2014.2015. The company closed their 2015.2016 season with Tannahill's ***Botticelli in the Fire & Sunday in Sodom*** (2017 Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best New Canadian Play) and opened the 2016.2017 season with his 2015 Dora Award-winner for Best New Play, ***Concord Floral*** - initially developed as part of Canadian Stage's 2012 ***Festival of Ideas and Creation***.

Concurrent to the run at Canadian Stage of *Declarations*, Coach House Press will publish the play in February 2018 and in January 2018, House of Anansi will publish Tannahill's debut novel, *Liminal*. Jordan is also currently writing the text for *Xenos*, dancer-choreographer Akram Khan's final solo performance, which will premiere in Greece in February 2018.

Declarations will be on stage at the Berkeley Street Theatre from January 23 – February 11 (Previews: Jan 23 & 24, Media night: Thursday, January 25 – 8:00pm). Performances run Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8:00pm, Fridays at 7:00pm, with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays, and on Wednesday, Jan 31 & Feb 7 at 1:00pm. Tickets from \$39 to \$69 are available online, by phone at 416.368.3110, or in person at the Berkeley Street box office. For details visit www.canadianstage.com.

Facebook: Canadian Stage | **Twitter/Instagram:** @CanadianStage | #csDeclarations

Website: canadianstage.com/online/declarations

About *Declarations*, a Canadian Stage production

On stage at the Berkeley Street Theatre, January 23 – February 11

Media night: January 25, 8:00pm

Creative team:

Playwright + Director	Jordan Tannahill
Lighting Design	Kimberly Purtell
Stage Manager	AJ Laflamme
Assistant Stage Manager	Ashley Ireland

Ensemble:

Robert Abubo
Danielle Baskerville
Jennifer Dahl
Philip Nozuka
Liz Peterson

For more information or interview requests, please contact:

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About Canadian Stage – celebrating 30 seasons

Founded in 1987, Canadian Stage is one of the country's leading not-for-profit contemporary performing arts companies, sharing new, innovative stage work from Canada and around the world. Led by Artistic & General Director Matthew Jocelyn, Canadian Stage produces and presents a new hybrid of multidisciplinary performance that pushes the boundaries of form and style, integrating theatre, dance, music, multimedia and more. Canadian Stage is dedicated to reinforcing the presence of Canadian art and artists within an international cultural dialogue, by acting as a home, incubator and exporter of leading Canadian and global performance. The company stages an annual season at three historic locations: the Bluma Appel Theatre; the Berkeley Street Theatre; and the High Park Amphitheatre, home to Shakespeare in High Park. Offering a range of education, artist training and community outreach programs, Canadian Stage is committed to cultivating tomorrow's artistic innovators and audiences. For more information, visit canadianstage.com.