

For immediate release



Centaur Theatre Company

Presents

CHOIR BOY

Written by **Tarell Alvin McCraney**

Director **Mike Payette**

Musical Director & Arranger **Floyd Ricketts**

October 9 to 29, 2018

With

**Patrick Abellard, Vlad Alexis, Quincy Armorer, Steven Charles, Lyndz Dantiste,
Christopher Parker and Paul Rainville**

Set & Costume Designer **Rachel Forbes** | *Lighting Designer* **Andrea Lundy**
Stage Manager **Crystal MacDonell** | *Assistant Director* **Dayane Ntibarikure**
Assistant Stage Manager **Isabel Quintero Faia**

“vivid, magnetic and moving”

- The New York Times

“complex and beautiful”

- Chicago Tribune

Montreal, 24th September, 2018 – Centaur Theatre opens its 50th season with **Choir Boy**, written by **Tarell Alvin McCraney**, the Oscar-winning writer of *Moonlight*. **Mike Payette** returns as Director after closing Centaur’s previous season with his sensitive direction of *Hosanna*. **Floyd Ricketts**, Conductor of the McGill University Chorus and the Assistant Conductor of McGill’s Schulich Singers, provides the Musical Direction and Arrangements. **Choir Boy** had its world premiere in 2012 at the Royal Court in London (UK) with its Broadway debut scheduled for December 2018. This is an opportunity for local audiences to see a Montreal production on home turf.

“bracing” and “provocative”

- The New York Post

“exhilarating, multi-layered”

- The Guardian (UK)

Choir Boy is a beautifully told coming-of-age story buoyed by the joyous harmonies of Gospel music and R&B. The Drew Prep School for Boys is dedicated to the formation of strong, ethical Black men. Pharus was born to sing and wants nothing more than to take his rightful place as leader of the school’s legendary choir. Will the school have the courage to accept a gay choirmaster or will it muzzle this angelic voice determined to be heard? **Choir Boy** presents a moving portrait of young Black men focused on their dreams, finding their way to adulthood through the confusing social and sexual mores typical at a pivotal age.

“It is incumbent upon me, as the leader of an arts organization, to open doors. The recent, long overdue discussion about cultural context and inclusivity in theatre gives me the opportunity to discover artists that I don’t know or haven’t yet met and put them on the Centaur stage to depict a broader, more inclusive reflection of our world. When Mike Payette brought Choir Boy to me, it opened the door to an honest,

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rarely told story about young Black men in pursuit of their dreams, summoning the courage to be who they were meant to be. The striking Spiritual, Gospel and R&B music, the golden voices of these gifted actors, and the incredible design team make Choir Boy the most compelling choice to open Centaur's landmark 50th season."

- Eda Holmes, Centaur Theatre Artistic and Executive Director

Media Call: Tuesday **October 9**, 2018 at **12:30pm**.

NEW Preview Pre-show Convo: Thursday **October 11** at 7PM in the Ted T. Katz Family Trust Gallery. Free and open to the public. Meet *Choir Boy's* team of designers in a behind-the-scenes Q&A exploring the subtle and meticulous crafts that bring a playwright's words and a director's vision to life.

Sunday Chat-Up: Sunday **October 14** at **12:30pm** in the Ted T. Katz Family Trust Gallery. Join Gazette Editor-in-Chief, **Lucinda Chodan**, in conversation **Floydd Ricketts**, *Choir Boy's* Musical Director and Arranger. The African American Spiritual, and how to perform the genre to help it flourish without cultural appropriation, will be the focus of the discussion. Free public event with refreshments provided by **Bonaparte Restaurant**.

Post-Show Talkbacks: **Thursday October 18** and **Sunday October 21**. Audience members are invited to stay after the performances for a Q&A with select members of the cast and design team.

Saturday Salon: Saturday **October 27** following the matinée performance in the Ted T. Katz Family Trust Gallery. Using two Centaur current season plays with "children" in the title—Hannah Moscovitch's *Other People's Children* and Lucy Kirkwood's *The Children*—Centaur's Artistic and Executive Director, **Eda Holmes**, and Imago Theatre's Artistic Director, **Micheline Chevrier**, discuss what makes a play relevant and necessary as a piece of theatre. Both plays, written and directed by women, explore the experience of being a parent and a citizen in today's world.

Production Dates:

Previews:	October 9, 10, and 11	8:00 PM
Opening:	Friday October 12	8:00 PM
Evenings:	Tuesday through Saturday	8:00 PM
Matinées:	Saturday and Sunday	2:00 PM
Dark:	Monday	-----
Closing:	October 28	2:00 PM

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