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CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF THEATRICAL EXCELLENCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

IGNITION THEATRE  
PRESENTS:  
**proof**  
A PLAY BY DAVID AUBURN

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR DRAMA  
WINNER OF THE TONY AWARD FOR BEST PLAY

RED DEER – Ignition Theatre, celebrating fifteen years of theatrical excellence, is proud to launch its milestone season with a seminal production of the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play **proof** by David Auburn.

Performances begin October 17<sup>th</sup> and run through October 26<sup>th</sup> (NO SHOWS MON & TUES). Curtain is 7:30PM nightly at the Red Deer Memorial Centre, Nickel Studio (Third Floor). Tickets are \$20.00 / \$25.00 (Friday and Saturday Performances) and available online at [www.ignitiontheatre.ca](http://www.ignitiontheatre.ca) and at the theatre box office 30 minutes prior to curtain.

Patrons are also encouraged to visit Ignition Theatre online for further information about the play, upcoming productions and to purchase discounted season tickets.

Discretionary Warning: Mild Coarse Language and Mature Themes.

**proof** is directed by Ignition Theatre's Artistic Director MATT GRUE (*Gruesome Playground Injuries, The Year of Magical Thinking*), marking his 30<sup>th</sup> production with the company since its inception. 'Proof' stars MORGAN HALEY SMITH (*Ignition Debut; The Diary of Anne Frank*), CHRISTOPHER SCHULZ (*Gruesome Playground Injuries, Tape, The Shape of Things*), KATE ADAMS (*The Shape of Things*) and PAUL BOUTLBEE (*Oleanna, Tuesdays with Morrie, The Drawer Boy*).

**"AN EXHILARATING AND ASSURED NEW PLAY; ACCESSIBLE AND AS COMPELLING AS THE BEST SORT OF DETECTIVE STORY" - THE NEW YORK TIMES**

*PROOF is the story of an enigmatic young woman, Catherine, her manipulative sister, their brilliant father, and an unexpected suitor. They are all pieces of the puzzle in the search for the truth behind a mysterious mathematical proof.*

*A young, but guarded Catherine, grieves over the loss of her father, a famous mathematician, who had become somewhat of a legend at the local university for his ability to solve complicated proofs; and whose life and brilliant career came to premature end due to a lengthy and devastating battle with dementia.*

*Just as Catherine begins to give in to her fear that she, too, might suffer from her father's condition, her older sister Claire returns home to help "settle" family affairs; and Hal, one of the father's old students, starts to poke around the house...*

*What Hal discovers in an old speckle-bound notebook brings to light a buried family secret that tests the sisters' kinship as well as the romantic feelings growing between Catherine and Hal; which is to say nothing of the far reaching consequences should the notebook become public.*

*Equal parts gut wrenching drama and absorbing mystery with a healthy dose of biting humour thrown in for good measure; PROOF, in addition to its prestige and critical acclaim, will surely be recognized as one of the true classics of modern, contemporary theatre.*

**"AUBURN HAS TAKEN ON SOME BIGGIES HERE; WHAT THE LINK MAY BE BETWEEN GENIUS AND MENTAL INSTABILITY, WHY IT IS THAT LIVES GET STUCK, AND HOW ELUSIVE THE TRUTH CAN BE... PROOF'S LEVEL OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND THE REALNESS OF ITS CHARACTERS SHOW THAT AUBURN HAS BOTH DEPTH AND A VOICE" - THE NEW YORKER**

"Fifteen years ago, I programmed PROOF as Ignition's inaugural production. Without knowing whether Ignition would survive through its first season, let alone its first production, I selfishly ensured that I'd have the opportunity to mark my own professional debut with not only my favourite play, but a play I considered to be one of the best plays written in my lifetime. And while today I have more than 30 professional credits to my name, PROOF remains as both my favourite and has concretely established itself as one of the great plays of its time or any time.

How a play about math and mathematicians can be so accessible and entertaining speaks to Auburn's gift of unearthing the universal common denominators and using them as a foundation from which to tell us a surprising, compelling, tremendously satisfying story about, and filtered through, four of the most layered and honestly written characters in any piece of theatre I've read or directed;

And what a gift to re-assemble 3 of the original 4 cast members from all those years ago to bring back to life, what turned out to be, one of Ignition's most memorable and talked about productions over the course of the past fifteen years. Revisiting the play with so much more experience and perspective has been both nostalgic and has offered each of us tremendous insight into just how much we've grown as individual artists and as a company. Above all else, this play kicks ass and you'll be hard pressed to find anything better on stage or screen; you have every reason to see this play" – *Matt Grue, Artistic Director*

Ignition Theatre, est. 2004, has presented some of the most memorable, provocative and ultimately rewarding live theatre in Central Alberta's history; including such critically acclaimed, smash hits as: *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Deathtrap*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *The Glass Menagerie* (co-pro; Prime Stock Theatre), *Marion Bridge*, *tick, tick...BOOM!*, *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, [title of show], *Bug*, *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*. *The Year of Magical Thinking* and *Gruesome Playground Injuries*. Ignition is perhaps most broadly known for producing one of Central Alberta's most beloved holiday traditions, *It's a Wonderful Life: The Live Radio Drama*. Additionally, Ignition has produced several World Premieres including: *Year After Year*, *Fertile Choices*, *Divide* and *Oral Fixations*; two multidisciplinary arts festivals: *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *Bohemian Rhapsody: Redux*; and our extremely popular Live From New York Series! Featuring: *Seth Rudetsky's Big Fat Broadway*, *Rhapsody in Seth*, *Miranda Sings!*, *Anthony Rapp: On Life, Love and the musical Rent* and *Adam Pascal: In Concert*. Finally, in 2013, Ignition expanded its artistic mandate and began producing feature films. The first, *Year After Year*, based on Ignition's original stage musical of the same name, screened internationally and was nominated for 5 AMPIA Awards including Best Picture; the second, *Break On Through* recently wrapped up its award winning festival run, which also included an AMPIA nomination for Best Screenplay, and is now available of Vimeo VOD, featured on several platforms such as Apple TV, Roku and Google Chromecast. Ignition begins principal photography on its third feature film in October of 2019 with several more films in development. Matt Grue has served as Ignition Theatre's Artistic Director since its inception.

# proof

A PLAY BY DAVID AUBURN

STARRING:

MORGAN HALEY SMITH (*Catherine*)

CHRISTOPHER SCHULZ (*Hal*)

KATE ADAMS (*Claire*)

and PAUL BOULTBEE (*Robert*)

DIRECTOR/SET DESIGN: Matt Grue

LIGHTING DESIGN: Patrick Beagan

SOUND DESIGN/ORIGINAL MUSIC: Dustin Clark

STAGE MANAGER: Stephanie Grue

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS: Marnie Rath, Rachel Huedepohl

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Stephen Ridge

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MEDIA CONTACT

Matt Grue, Artistic Director, Ignition Theatre

403.348.9556 – matt@ignitiontheatre.ca