



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TICKETS ON SALE AS LIVE THEATRE RETURNS TO FORT MCMURRAY

(Fort McMurray, AB - July 5, 2021) — Tickets are now on sale for ***Purge***, produced by Theatre; Just Because in partnership with Keyano Theatre. The drama opens Thursday, July 15 for live and virtual performances. Live performances run July 15-17 and on-demand performances will be available from July 15-25.

Purge by Sofi Oksanen is the first live theatre production in Fort McMurray since the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and closures began in Wood Buffalo in March 2020. The drama, which utilized technology throughout the audition and rehearsal process, will have both live performances and virtual streaming on-demand.

"The road to returning to the stage has been a challenge, full of abrupt changes, new methods, and a lot of flexibility, but it has also been a road full of creativity, passion, and an overwhelming love for the arts," says Director and Producer Hanna Fridhed. "Being able to create together again, and such a powerful piece as ***Purge***, has been cathartic and rewarding, and we are looking forward to sharing the power of live theatre with the Wood Buffalo audience once again. We are also thrilled to invite an audience outside our region, as well as those who are still hesitant about live events, to experience ***Purge*** through virtual streaming, which is a first for local theatre."

Rehearsals for ***Purge*** included a hybrid model of virtual, outdoor, and indoor meetings in adherence to the changing COVID-19 protocols. The production will be professionally filmed and edited by Twisted Gears Studios, a local production company. The final product is a high-quality recording available to audiences on-demand for 24 hour periods.

"We are so excited and optimistic that ***Purge*** will mark the start of a new chapter for the arts in our region, as we move forward from the pandemic," says Bailey Yarkie, Artistic Director of Theatre; Just Because. "It's been incredible seeing everyone's hard work come together – from the familiar faces of Fort McMurray theatre to the newcomers."

Performances of ***Purge*** are as follows:

Live performances: July 15-17, 2021

On-demand performances: July 15-25, 2021

Live tickets are \$40 each and virtual tickets are \$10 each. Tickets are available at <https://bit.ly/YMMPurge>.



Purge is made possible by the generous support of community sponsors. Thank you to Production Sponsors Flett Manning Moore Law and HVAC Solutions; Stage Sponsors AKRON Engineering, Wood Buffalo Paving, CEDA, Canadian Tire, Paul Davis; Media Sponsor Mix 103.7; Headshot Sponsor Jenna Buffett Photography; Video Sponsor Twisted Gears Studios; and Supporting Sponsor AlumaSAFWAY.

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About *Purge*:

Purge, by Sofi Oksanen, is a riveting and suspenseful tale of two women dogged by their own shameful pasts. Set in both the years following WW2 and the early 1990s, the play centres on issues still very relevant to our society today.

When Aliide Truu, an older woman living alone in the Estonian countryside, finds a dishevelled girl huddled in her front yard, she suppresses her misgivings and offers her shelter. Zara is a young sex-trafficking victim on the run from her captors, but a photo she carries with her soon makes it clear that her arrival at Aliide's home is no coincidence. Survivors both, Aliide and Zara engage in a complex arithmetic of suspicion and revelation to distil each other's motives; gradually, their stories emerge, the culmination of a tragic family drama of rivalry, lust, and loss that played out during the worst years of Estonia's Soviet occupation.

About Theatre; Just Because:

We believe theatre is an impactful expression of the human experience used to meaningfully challenge artists and engage communities, and work to empower artists to take ownership of their work through community-based and professionally-driven theatre productions and workshops. You can read more about Theatre; Just Because on our [website!](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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