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WINNIPEG
FRINGE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 30, 2022

- James & Jamesy: Right This Way -
- World Premiere -

From the Fringe Beginnings to the Centennial Concert Hall

Winnipeg, MB – In 2013, Winnipegger Alastair Knowles and Vancouverite Aaron Malkin donned jodhpurs and a bowler hat, twisted their tongues into British accents, packed up 200 fine china teacups, and hit the Canadian Fringe Festival circuit running - literally running - from one line-up to another, with 8-foot banners strapped to their backs, handing out thousands of flyers promoting their British Comedy, *2 for Tea*. Winnipeg was stop number four, after London (Ontario), Montreal, and Toronto. By the time they showed up at their venue in Winnipeg, Son of Warehouse, a 100-seat makeshift theatre up a narrow flight of stairs, word of their show had preceded them. The lineup for *2 for Tea* often stretched north of 3 hours.

Nine years, a Canadian Comedy Award, and 800+ shows later, the duo are still at it. The jodhpur and bowler wearing James & Jamesy personas of *2 for Tea* will be performing their holiday comedy *O Christmas Tea*, now a show that tours annually, at Winnipeg's Centennial Concert Hall on Dec 30. Malkin says, "We last brought the show to Winnipeg in 2018. It was the final show to play at the Pantages Playhouse before it was sadly shuttered."

"It blows my mind that we're bringing James & Jamesy to a stage as magnificent as the Centennial Concert Hall," says Knowles, sitting at the back of the orchestra seats during a walkthrough of the venue. "I did perform here as an 11 year old with Manitoba Opera, sing-shouting as part of the children's chorus in *La Bohème*, but this will be a whole different cuppa tea!"

This year at Fringe they're debuting *James & Jamesy: Right This Way*, their first new show as a duo since 2015, and with it, they are tackling heavier subject matter: Trauma. To do so, they're using clown and physical comedy to shed light on the resistance and revelation that can occur when diving the depths of a traumatic memory. Despite their training as clowns, *Right This Way* will be the pair's first time donning traditional clown attire and embracing the stereotypical image.

"The pandemic put an abrupt end to our rigorous touring schedule, and gave us the opportunity to reflect on the kind of theatre we wish to produce. Having family in therapy dealing with early traumas helped us appreciate the complexity and importance of that process," says Knowles.

"We decided to build a show that reduces the stigma around asking for help while at the same time retains the joyous, laugh-out-loud experience that our fans have come to expect from our shows," adds Malkin.

James & Jamesy: Right This Way, plays the PTE Mainstage as part of the Winnipeg Fringe Festival, July 13 - 24, 2022.

About James & Jamesy

Since 2012, James & Jamesy have been fearlessly embodied by Aaron Malkin as James and Alastair Knowles as Jamesy. Together with director David MacMurray Smith, they create award-winning performances that blend theatre, physical comedy, and dance to take audiences on fantastical trips of the imagination.

Venue #16: PTE Mainstage (at Portage Place)

Tickets: \$12 + service fee

Online: WinnipegFringe.com

In Person: Royal MTC, 174 Market Ave

Showtimes:

Wed, July 13, 5:30pm

Sun, July 17, 4:00pm

Thu, July 21, 6:15pm

Thu, July 14, 10:30pm

Mon, July 18, 5:45pm

Fri, July 22, 4:00pm

Fri, July 15, 6:15pm

Tue, July 19, 8:45pm

Sat, July 23, 6:00pm

Sat, July 16, 8:30pm

Wed, July 20, 4:00pm

Sun, July 24, 8:30pm

Information

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We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

About Canada Council for the Arts

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