

IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 24, 2016 .UBC THEATRE & FILM

SHE TOLD STORIES TO SURVIVE UNTIL SUNRISE.

IN BRIEF: MFA Candidate Evan Frayne directs *The Arabian Nights* by Mary Zimmerman. Preview: Wednesday, March 16. Opening Night, March 17. Runs till Saturday, April 2. No shows Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.

TICKETS: Adult: \$24.50, Seniors: \$16.50, Students:\$11.50

VENUE: Frederic Wood Theatre, 6354 Crescent Rd.

BOX OFFICE: 604.822.2678 or box.office@ubc.ca

BOOK ONLINE: www.ubctheatretickets.com/

MEDIA CONTACT: andrea.rabinovitch@ubc.ca,
604.822.3723, cell: 604.314.3905

WEBSITE: <http://www.theatrefilm.ubc.ca>

Passionate, playful, provocative storytelling, *The Arabian Nights* by Tony Award winning playwright/director Mary Zimmerman and directed by Vancouver favourite Evan Frayne tells the tale of Scheherezade's nightly telling of evocative tales. 1001 nights later the storyteller and listener are forever changed.

The 16 person cast of exuberantly talented Final and Intermediate year students from the UBC BFA Acting program romp through the lesser-known tales from *One Thousand and One Nights*, a collection of Middle Eastern and South Asian stories and folk tales compiled in Arabic during the Islamic Golden Age. As told by Drama Desk Award and Tony Award winning Mary Zimmerman, the power of storytelling to affect change, rises to the fore.

Sumptuous costumes in shades of blue by Nicole Bairstow , BFA in Theatre Design & Production, with an evocative set design by MFA candidate Heipo Leung, a sandbox of ornate pillows and lanterns, the performers never leave the stage while playing all the original music by Sound Designer Andy Horka themselves.

Story: Enraged by his wife's adultery, King Shahryar marries a bride a day and beheads her at sundown. When his vengeance ravages the town of its women, Shahryar finally meets his match when he weds the captivating storyteller Scheherazade. Each night he prepares for her execution but her evocative tales of human folly mesmerize Shahryar into delaying the deed. Over the course of one thousand nights, the plot thickens and Scheherazade's legends change both of their lives.

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM – Evan Frayne (Director), **Robert Gardiner** (Scenery and Lighting Design Supervisor), **Sophie Tang** (Lighting Design), **Tory Ip** (Assistant Lighting Design) **Heipo Leung** (Scenic Design), **Gwendolyn Loi** and **Courtney Verwold**(Assistant Scenic Design), **Nicole Bairstow**(Costume Design), **Lizzy Fu & Nicolette Szabo** (Assistant Costume Design), **Andy Horka** (Sound Design), **Jessica Lai**(Assistant Sound Design), **Benton Neufeld** (Stage Management), **Megan Lavergne & Linda Yang** (Assistant Stage Management).

CAST – Elizabeth Willow (Scheherezade), **Francis Winter** (Shahryar), **Mariam Barry** (Ensemble), **Riley Bugaresti** (Ensemble), **Daniel Curalli** (Ensemble), **Rowan Denis** (Ensemble), **Seamus Fera** (Ensemble), **Tai Graumen** (Ensemble), **Bronwyn Henderson** (Ensemble), **Sarah Hicks** (Ensemble), **Stefanie Michaud** (Ensemble), **Sophia Niewerth** (Ensemble), **Sachi Nisbet** (Ensemble), **Cassandra Phillips Grande** (Ensemble), **Parmiss Sehat** (Ensemble)

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