

Lunchbox Theatre warmly welcomes back a beloved holiday comedy, *With Bells On*. Tickets are on sale now.

CALGARY, AB – November 14, 2023 — Lunchbox is thrilled to bring **Darrin Hagen's *With Bells On*** back to Calgary! A Lunchbox Stage One Festival success story that was first produced by Lunchbox in 2010, *With Bells On* has since been performed all over the world, and even been adapted into a musical, [which is premiering in Edmonton this December](#). Playwright Darrin Hagen is a trailblazer in both the creation and study of drag performance in Alberta, and we couldn't be more delighted to bring this show back to Calgary as our holiday show.

Benjamin Toner's stunning costume designs are not to be missed. Toner was the winner of the first season of the '[Sew Fierce](#)' tv series and has also been the costume designer for the Calgary Stampede Grandstand Show for the past two years.

This is the holiday comedy for everyone, including people who feel excluded from traditional Christmas entertainment. *With Bells On* will run **November 28 - December 17** in the Studio Theatre at Vertigo.

With Bells On shows that the best gifts sometimes arrive in the most unlikely of packages.

Tickets are on sale now, range in price from \$25-\$35 per performance, and can be purchased at LunchboxTheatre.com

Synopsis:

He's a mild-mannered accountant with persistent bad luck who heads out for his first night of adventure after a nasty divorce. When he holds the elevator door for a 7-foot Glamazon who lives down the hall (who has "decked the halls" by creating the Ultimate Christmas Queen Pageant Outfit), they begin what should be an uneventful ride down to the main floor lobby.

But then the elevator gets stuck. And the unlikely duo is forced to work together to escape. The stakes are as high as her sparkly head-dress—she needs to be onstage by midnight, or relinquish her claim to the crown.

About the Playwright

Darrin Hagen is an award-winning playwright, composer and drag artiste. He is the author of *The Edmonton Queen*, which won a Sterling Award and was published in book form by Brindle & Glass Publishing. Darrin is the Artistic Director of Guys In Disguise, which recently celebrated a quarter-century of creating drag comedies that have toured across North America. He has received 7 Sterling awards for his work in the Edmonton theatre scene.

About the Director

Conrad Belau's (they/them) theatre credits are vast and varied, with favourites including *Walt Whitman's Secret* (the Frank Theatre Company), *The Virgin Trial* (Alberta Theatre Projects) and *Still Stands The House* (Wick Productions). Conrad finds a great joy in working on new works; in encouraging emerging playwrights and gathering a group of unique storytellers to flesh out and bring new and exciting ideas to life. Some of these projects include *ZOO* (Reckless Daughter Creative/Common Ground Festival), *breathe* (Shhh Productions) and *If I Was A Fairytale Princess...* (Golden Hour Productions). They are the creator and performer of the Instagram Livestream phenomenons *Mono Man Mia*, *Mono mAnnie Jr* and *ChicagOne*.

A Note From the Director

With Bells On was programmed in response to both the demand for its long-anticipated return, but also in response to the terrifying rise of anti-drag and anti-trans violence and discrimination. This production is a celebration of drag and its history, and a statement that drag is not just a performance, it is a way of life.

political actions. This production is a refreshing (and vital!) holiday comedy that celebrates those of us who have always felt odd or alone, and puts what makes us unique centerstage in a powerfully meaningful way. This production highlights the immense rising stars (both on and off stage!) of Calgary's theatre scene in an unabashedly queer and joyful production that is sure to wrap its audience up in a big Paddington-esque hug. I am incredibly honoured and privileged to work amongst these amazing artists, who have been willing to share their vision of what they want the world to be like (both on and off stage!) and have gracefully taken up my love for Dolly Parton, reveals and spectacle into many aspects of the show. With whimsy, delight and extravaganza, we hope to share the holiday experience with our audiences, while honouring our important and diverse drag and queer scene in Calgary."

WITH BELLS ON – November 28 - December 17, 2023

By **Darrin Hagen**

Directed by Conrad Belau

Cast:

Bernardo Pacheco | Ted

Joel Schaefer | Natasha

Note: All reviewers need to book complimentary tickets for the 1st week of the run. No exceptions.

