

For immediate release – July 10, 2017

“**** (out of four) *Girl Crush* is as achingly personal as it is immensely entertaining.”

– The Calgary Herald

The Musical Stage Company & Canadian Stage present the Toronto premiere of
Sharron Matthews’ hit cabaret

GIRL CRUSH

ONE NIGHT ONLY - July 24, 2017 at the High Park Amphitheatre

Created by and starring SHARRON MATTHEWS

TORONTO – [The Musical Stage Company](#) (formerly Acting Up Stage Company) & [Canadian Stage](#) present the Toronto premiere of Sharron Matthews’ dynamite cabaret *GIRL CRUSH*, fresh off its highly acclaimed runs in New York City and Calgary. *GIRL CRUSH* will play for one night only at Toronto’s High Park Amphitheatre, home to Shakespeare in High Park, on July 24, 2017 at 8 PM.

Sharron Matthews has been lauded not only for her cabaret work (named "Best of the Fest" two years running by the Scotsman Newspaper at the Edinburgh Fringe) but also for her celebration of her own shape and form. Sharron developed the ground-breaking, body and life celebrating cabaret *GIRL CRUSH* that premiered in April 2017 with a three-week run at Calgary’s Lunch Box Theatre.

GIRL CRUSH weaves the re-imagined music of well-known artists including Kim Carnes, The Police, Blondie, Rick Springfield, Beyoncé and Cyndi Lauper into relatable tales of heartbreak, obsession, awe and love. This inspiring, moving and hysterical musical journey is a cabaret tour de force.

***GIRL CRUSH* creator and star Sharron Matthews says, “*GIRL CRUSH* is a cabaret with a song and a story for everyone, it is a cabaret that will awaken your heart and mind...it is a cabaret that is *filled* with some of your favourite songs as you have *never* heard them before. I can’t wait to finally bring this show to Toronto and couldn’t be more excited to do so at the High Park Amphitheatre.”**

The Musical Stage Company Artistic Director Mitchell Marcus says, “*What could be better than an al fresco evening with the “Canadian Goddess of Cabaret”?* I am thrilled to be working with Canadian Stage to present Sharron Matthew’s *GIRL CRUSH* in the High Park Amphitheatre, a uniquely Torontonians and warmly welcoming venue. Sharron is an infectious performer with a gift for weaving song and storytelling into a highly engaging and very moving experience. *GIRL CRUSH* is a hilarious and deeply resonant experience and I am so delighted that Toronto audiences will finally get to see what audiences in New York and Calgary have been raving about.”

Tickets:

Tickets are \$30 (Artsworker/Students: \$20). Tickets are available by phone at 416-368-3110, online at www.canadianstage.com, or in person at the Canadian Stage box office. This is a General Admission event.

For more information, to request interviews, photography, or tickets, contact:
Victoria Barber, victoria@musicalstagecompany.com – 416-927-7880 ext. 227

Facebook: [@MusicalStageCo](https://www.facebook.com/MusicalStageCo)

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Instagram: [@MusicalStageCo](https://www.instagram.com/MusicalStageCo)

Hashtag: #GirlCrushTO #MondayInTheParkWithSharron

About Girl Crush

Running time: 60 minutes, no intermission

Created & Performed by: Sharron Matthews

Musician: Kevin Ramessar

Creative Consultant: Mark Bellamy

Arrangements: Wayne Gwillim

Developed, in part, with Lunchbox Theatre in Calgary, AB

Co-Presented by The Musical Stage Company & Canadian Stage

About Sharron Matthews

Sharron Matthews is perhaps best known around the world as "Joan the secretary," serving up comedic gold and playing opposite Tina Fey in the film *Mean Girls*, but it's her internationally acclaimed cabarets that leave audiences begging for more. Sharron has created and starred in several full-length cabarets, performing across Canada, the US, in Edinburgh, London, and Cape Town. Among her many accolades, Sharron was named "Woman of the Year" in 2012 by UK's The New Current, Scotsman's "Best Of The Fest" at Edinburgh Fringe Festival (2011) and "#1 Cabaret in New York City" by NiteLife Exchange (2010). Last year Sharron headlined Ottawa's CRACKUP comedy festival in which she was featured at two Gala arena shows performing for over 3500 people each night. Her latest cabaret *GIRL CRUSH* premiered in April 2017 at Calgary's Lunch Box theatre and played for three weeks.

Sharron's stage credits include Lottie in Hal Prince's *Showboat*, Madame Thernardier in *Les Miserables* (opposite Colm Wilkinson and Sutton Foster), the Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Babette in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz* (Dora Award nomination), and as part of the powerhouse ensemble in *Love Loss And What I Wore* (alongside Andrea Martin). On the small screen, Sharron may be seen in a principal role in NBC's *Taken*. Previously Sharron hosted, co-wrote and consulted on Slice TV's *MEME gURL* in 2016 and starred on Global TV's hit reality show, *Canada Sings*, for two seasons (nominated for the prestigious Realscreen Award). Mostly recently Sharron filmed the movie *Buckout Road* starring Danny Glover and Evan Ross. From 2013 to 2016, Sharron was Canada's first Cabaret-Artist-In-Residence at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto.

Sharron looks forward to debuting her cabaret for kids, *Unapologetically Me*, after three years of development, at Canada's prestigious Young People's Theatre in October 2017.

www.sharronmatthews.com

About The Musical Stage Company

The Musical Stage Company is Canada's largest not-for-profit, professional theatre company dedicated to musical theatre. We create transformative experiences through musical storytelling locally, nationally and internationally by:

1. Connecting audiences to stories that matter
2. Connecting Canadian stories to the world
3. Connecting young people to their voices
4. Connecting diverse voices to each other

Established in 2004 as Acting Up Stage Company, we unveiled our new name in 2017 alongside the ambitious goals of making Canada a leader in musical theatre, reaching every Torontonians through diverse musical stories, and creating a national and international presence.

Our productions – including award-winning contemporary musicals, world premieres and concerts – are seen live by 30,000 people over the 80+ nights that we are onstage annually in venues both traditional and surprising. We incubate new Canadian musicals from development to production, investing in Canadian musical theatre writers and building national and international partnerships. To date, our work has been recognized with 61 Dora Award nominations, 11 Dora Awards and 12 Toronto Theatre Critics' Awards.

Beyond the stage, we build and enrich communities through musical storytelling. Our robust education programs develop the artists and audiences of tomorrow, offering musical theatre training that boosts self-confidence and self-expression for over 100 young people each year without cost to the participants. We also curate innovative musical programs in partnership with diverse organizations, maximizing the resonance of our work across disciplines and communities.

For more information visit: www.musicalstagecompany.com

About Canadian Stage – celebrating 30 seasons

Founded in 1987, Canadian Stage is one of the country's leading not-for-profit contemporary performing arts companies, sharing new, innovative stage work from Canada and around the world. Led by Artistic & General Director Matthew Jocelyn, Canadian Stage produces and presents a new hybrid of multidisciplinary performance that pushes the boundaries of form and style, integrating theatre, dance, music, multimedia and more. Canadian Stage is dedicated to reinforcing the presence of Canadian art and artists within an international cultural dialogue, by acting as a home, incubator and exporter of leading Canadian and global performance. The company stages an annual season at three historic locations: the Bluma Appel Theatre; the Berkeley Street Theatre; and the High Park Amphitheatre, home to Shakespeare in High Park. Offering a range of education, artist training and community outreach programs, Canadian Stage is committed to cultivating tomorrow's artistic innovators and audiences. For more information, visit canadianstage.com.