

## THE TWO OF US

A play adapted by Croatian-Canadian director, Svjetlana Jaklenec  
Written by the multi-awarding winning Croatian playwright Tena Štivičić

THE TWO OF US has its North American debut at Toronto's Fringe Festival 2018  
The Mother | The Daughter | The Mistress

It's all about immigrant women. With a cast of powerhouse women along with a female crew and production team with Croatian, Spanish, Italian, and Indian roots. **THE TWO OF US** challenges traditional ideas about a woman's role in society. It is an opportunity to share with pride the Croatian contemporary culture and art with mainstream Canadian theatre audiences.

**THE TWO OF US** is a dark comedy which tells the story of complex family dynamics and female friendship. LENA and ANJA who after a seemingly chance encounter in a night-club, become inseparable. Aimless survivors of the Serbo-Croatian war, the women bond over drugs, music and a lifestyle verging on nihilism. As their intimacy becomes more intense, the dark secret at the heart of their friendship starts to unravel them.

Writer Tena Štivičić says: "The story is fiction, inspired by a single sentence "Sometimes I wonder where you will be when you hear that I've died" but it [also] came from a desire to give a voice to young women of my generation growing up and becoming adults in a particular set of circumstances in a post-war Croatia."

The play is a passion project of film and television director Svjetlana Jaklenec, an award-winning director from Croatia which she left after the war in 1996. She says, "**THE TWO OF US** is about women like myself, sprouting from teenagers into adolescence during wartime. They were innocently trying to discover who they were just as the world around them was falling apart. Now they are attempting to find ways to deal with their PTSD and it's effects". Svjetlana is excited to explore the different journeys individuals take to become functioning, productive well adjusted members of society rather than giving into self pity and victimhood.

With **THE TWO OF US**, Svjetlana is coming back to her theatre roots that she left behind in Croatia where she founded a Children's Theatre *Nikola* in 1990. It had a long run of 20 years with a hiatus during the war, and only recently has closed its doors.

**THE TWO OF US** was the first Croatian play to be performed in Serbia since the break up of Yugoslavia. The hit production won the Audience Award at Croatia's Marulićevi dani Festival. There have been several successful productions, including one staged at the National Theatre in Zagreb. This production will mark its North American debut and be the first outside of Europe. Come see it for yourself!

**Red Drapes Productions** presents **THE TWO OF US** in association with The Toronto Fringe Festival. Starring: Deborah Grover, Beatriz Yuste, Shannon Currie; Stage Manager: Emily Barraclough; Set design: Christine Urquhart; Costumes: Margarita Brody; Composer: Brock Simpson; Lighting designer: Imogen Wilson

Toronto Fringe Communications Manager: Tessa Cernik: [communications@fringetoronto.com](mailto:communications@fringetoronto.com)  
The Two Of Us Media Rep Contact: Kulbinder Saran Caldwell, Red Drapes Productions  
[TwoOfUsFRINGE@gmail.com](mailto:TwoOfUsFRINGE@gmail.com); 416-898-4484