

Annual Report

2022/23



The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's John Hirsch Mainstage. PHOTO BY JERRY GRAJEWSKI
Inset: John Hirsch and Tom Hendry.



About Royal MTC

When the Winnipeg Little Theatre and Theatre 77 merged to form the Manitoba Theatre Centre in 1958, the goal was to produce great theatre with mass appeal. Artistic Director John Hirsch and General Manager Tom Hendry staged professional productions of an eclectic array of plays – classics, Broadway hits and new Canadian work. With the establishment of a second stage for experimental work in 1960, and an annual provincial tour that began in 1961, MTC fully realized the original vision of a centre for theatre in Manitoba. Inspired by the breadth and quality of MTC's programming, a whole network of what became known as "regional theatres" emerged across North America.

The company produces in two venues: the Warehouse, which opened in 1969, and the Mainstage, completed in 1970. The theatres were renamed after the company's founders in 2008. In 2009, the Government of Canada designated the Mainstage a National Historic Site and, in 2010, Queen Elizabeth II granted the company a royal designation.

Today, the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre produces 10 plays on two stages, a regional tour, a wide range of youth programming and two annual festivals: Pimootayowin: A Festival of New Work (founded in 2021) and North America's second-largest Fringe Festival (founded in 1988). Attendance for Royal MTC programming averages 300,000 each year, and many Manitobans also support Royal MTC with donations and volunteer time. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Kelly Thornton and Executive Director Camilla Holland, Royal MTC remains Manitoba's flagship theatre.

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The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre is proud to call Manitoba home. Royal MTC is located in Winnipeg on Treaty 1 territory, the lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. We are thankful for the benefits sharing this land has afforded us, acknowledge the responsibilities of the Treaties, and embrace the opportunity to partner with Indigenous communities in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

Mandate

It is the aim of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre to study, practice and promote all aspects of the dramatic art, with particular emphasis on professional production.

Vision

Royal MTC's theatres and our province will teem with artists and audiences sharing in the act of imagining, enriching lives and communities.

Mission

Royal MTC exists to celebrate the widest spectrum of theatre art. Deeply rooted in the province of Manitoba, which gave it life and provides for its growth, Royal MTC aspires to both reflect and engage the community it serves.

Values

EXCELLENCE

Our commitment to excellence is reflected in the writing of each play and the artists who create each production, and is a promise to the volunteers, staff, funders and audiences who support it.

BALANCE

A commitment to balance is evident in the variety of our playbill and in the wide range of programs Royal MTC offers.

INCLUSION

Our commitment to inclusion ensures that as we share theatre throughout our city and province, we create a welcoming space for everyone.

ACCESSIBILITY

Our commitment to accessibility requires that we broaden our understanding of barriers to engagement, and work to eliminate them.

AFFORDABILITY

Our commitment to affordability is reflected in marshalling public and private sector support to keep ticket prices as low as possible for all Manitobans.

SUSTAINABILITY

Our commitment to sustainability begins with understanding our environmental impact, and implementing best practices in environmental sustainability in theatre.

LONGEVITY

Our commitment to longevity is evident in our governance structure, business practices and financial management.



Rob Yn Slade and Toby Hughes in *Yaga*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

Attendance

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE	67,987
TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE	11,965
WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL	99,845
REGIONAL TOUR	2,950
THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES	3,247
Attended 6 student-only matinee performances	
TOTAL	185,994



The cast of *Into the Woods*. PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

ROYAL
MTC
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre operates as a non-profit charitable organization, led by the Artistic Director, Executive Director, Board Chair and a volunteer Board of Trustees from the community. The management practices of Royal MTC are based on five best practice principles: forward planning, accountability, monitoring, a sound control environment and ongoing liaison with the Board of Trustees. The Board's input and agreement is sought regularly on the action plans developed by management. Royal MTC owes its success this season to the dedicated, enthusiastic, accountable and responsible governance by Board and staff. An open annual general meeting was held June 28, 2023 to report artistic and financial results to interested subscribers, patrons and community members.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Manitoba



MANITOBA
ARTS COUNCIL



CONSEIL DES ARTS
DU MANITOBA



WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL

★★★★ 1/2

“A seriocomic satire in
essence and scope.”

– THE FREE PRESS



Bailey Chin and Kevin Aichele in *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



What a profound joy for Royal MTC to deliver a full season on our stages for the first time in three years! It was an exceptional journey, from trepidation, to anticipation, to celebration, and throughout it all was a sense of excitement and profound gratitude that we could finally gather once again to share stories.

It was not without its challenges. Audiences were somewhat hesitant to return as they continued to work from home, got cozy on their couches, and did not spend time or dollars downtown. But with great perseverance, this incredible management team and staff delivered high quality productions that entertained, enlightened and inspired each one of us. They embraced the four priorities integral in the Strategic Renewal Plan – cultivating talent, fostering a deeper connection with community, engaging audiences and balancing the organizational foundation. Accelerated organizational conversations about diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility took centre stage, along with reimagining Royal MTC's relationship with all Manitobans.

In planning the 2022/23 season, the management team and the Board of Trustees had to ask ourselves the tough and complex question – can we produce a playbill with the scope and scale that our community has come to expect and love. The answer was a celebratory “Yes”! I extend our gratitude to our sponsors, donors, funders, volunteers and patrons for your tangible expressions of confidence and support.

Royal MTC must take the long view to be sustainable, rebuild audiences, manage costs, and explore new sources of revenue, while remaining relevant and true to our values. The Board of Trustees expressed unanimous support for the renewed Strategic Plan that will guide us through 2026. Camilla Holland (Executive Director) and Kelly Thornton (Artistic Director) along with their senior leaders continue to reconsider the current business model, develop a recovery strategy and most importantly, plan for growth. It would be irresponsible for any of us to simply focus on trying to restore what existed before the pandemic, because the world has changed in fundamental ways.

I want to acknowledge our dedicated staff – you are what makes the magic happen. Over the past few years as the pandemic unfolded, you were asked to constantly pivot, develop, implement creative solutions and deal with difficult new realities. You have shown a strong commitment not only to the theatre but to our patrons and our community. I would also like to recognize Shelley Stroski, MTC's long-time Controller who retires this year, for her unparalleled care, precision and years of dedication. Kelly and Camilla, to quote the late, great Tina Turner, “You're simply the best!”

This year we say farewell to John Guttormson (Past Chair of the Board) and Heather Clarke (Chair of the Operational Performance Committee) both of whom have reached their 10-year term limit. Our thanks and gratitude for your service and commitment; your judicious stewardship will have a profound and lasting effect! In closing, I extend my gratitude to the entire Board of Trustees and to those who have taken on additional responsibilities on the Executive Committee. Your love of Royal MTC is evident as we explore recovery, focus on growth, support management and welcome new and returning audiences.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Speers', with a stylized flourish at the end.

LAURIE SPEERS

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is a great pleasure to report on the 2022/23 season, a full season in more ways than one. To support a robust and brilliant line-up of beautiful plays, we needed to welcome back artists to fill our stages, and audiences to fill the seats. It was a great big year and we are so proud to have delivered almost every single performance without COVID interruption.

The season was made possible by a great act of faith by our Board of Trustees, who supported the strategic deployment of the resources in our Stabilization Fund to cover a substantial planned shortfall between our expenses and revenues. It is bold to plan a deficit of almost \$800,000 but a testament to their leadership. This investment meant that we could deliver a truly extraordinary “welcome back” season for audiences, volunteers, donors and stakeholders. This commitment was made possible by reinvesting into operating the funds that resulted from COVID recovery support over the previous two seasons of constrained activity.

A huge thank you to the full-time, part-time, seasonal and occasional staff in the shops, on our stages, in our administration and in our public-facing roles of box office and front of house, for helping us welcome back Winnipeggers. It is our employees and their extraordinary focus, energy and dedication who truly enabled Royal MTC to deliver our organizational priorities.

We are deeply grateful for the sustaining support of our funders, sponsors and donors. Our public funders – Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Manitoba Arts Council, the Province of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Arts Council and the Winnipeg Foundation – provide essential foundational support. Manitoba is an incredibly generous province, and we are the grateful beneficiaries of that largesse with the growing and deep commitment of individual donors. Along with wonderful sponsors and corporate supporters, this critical private sector support allows MTC to grow and thrive.

Profound thanks to Chair Laurie Speers for her excellent leadership this past season. The entire organization benefitted from her spirit of curiosity, careful consideration and calm demeanor when facing challenges, large and small. For Kelly and myself, the 2022/23 season required optimism, resilience and determination, and I’m happy to report that we have emerged with energy and enthusiasm intact. A standing ovation to departing Controller Shelley Stroski on your retirement, for her long and “practically perfect” tenure stewarding Royal MTC’s financial health.

In Stephen Sondheim’s brilliant *Into the Woods*, Granny reminds us that “the greatest prize can often lie at the end of the thorniest path.” With enormous confidence in the intelligence, acumen, passion and dedication of our team (including staff and volunteers) – that we head off bravely singing, together, with a milky white cow, red cloak, yellow hair and golden slipper –

*Into the woods – you have to grope,
But that’s the way you learn to cope.
Into the woods to find there’s hope
Of getting through the journey.*

Thank you to all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Camilla Holland". The signature is fluid and cursive.

CAMILLA HOLLAND

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



When I arrived in Winnipeg four short years ago, I came with a vision that honoured the past, while setting a course for our future. I was charged to consider our relevance, with a goal to truly become a theatre for all Manitobans. Delivering my first full season of programming has shown clearly that we're still very much in pursuit of this goal.

We approached this season with a dose of realism, charting a course for recovery that would entertain and enlighten our audience. We wanted to satisfy those supporters who have been with us for many years, and welcome warmly those who step through our door for the first time. Theatre is a place for everyone, and whether familiarity greets us on stage, or we witness a lived experience that is not our own, the universal human condition unites us.

The 2022/23 season was greeted with joy and enthusiasm. The long intermission that COVID bestowed upon us had robbed so many Manitobans of their favourite pastime. Audience members, with wide-eyed wonder, would stop me to say how thrilled they were to be back, how they had almost forgotten how special theatre was to them. If proof is in the numbers, then we have much to celebrate. The PRA rating summary shows the 2022/23 Mainstage season as the highest patron-rated season in the last decade, with 86% scoring our work 4 out of 5 or above.

The season delivered so many memorable moments, but the show that will remain forever engraved in my heart is Rosanna Deerchild's *The Secret to Good Tea*. It truly was a transformational experience for this organization and our audiences. Developed in Pimootayowin Creators Circle, the play marked our first world premiere production for an Indigenous playwright on the John Hirsch Mainstage and as we laughed, cried, and sat in wonder as the teepee was erected, we truly experienced the sacred power of theatre.

Overall, it was a season that delighted so many, a season where my audience finally got the chance to know me and savour a full uninterrupted playbill. A season where we made great strides in our road to recovery. My profound thanks to the artists who made this possible, for their stirring and spectacular performances throughout the season. Special thanks go to the understudy artists who worked tirelessly to ensure we were able to deliver almost all of our planned performances without interruption.

I want to thank the incredible staff who worked so hard to reboot our operations. Your passion and dedication to our work, our artists and our audience is inspiring. A special ovation to Camilla Holland, who was by my side. To the Board of Trustees, who are the best ambassadors for what we do, I also express my deepest gratitude. I salute Laurie Speers, who has brought such heart to her role as Chair, and a calm, clear approach as we steer this ship through stormy waters, and to John Guttormson, whose leadership throughout the COVID hiatus was exemplary.

George C. Wolfe wrote, "When art is created, it is not created strictly by an individual. A culture, a people, a time, and a place created it."

The 2022/23 season is an expression of all of us as we pursue truth, beauty and, above all, joy in the art we bring to this world.

Thank you all so much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kelly Thornton".

KELLY THORNTON



Big & Bold Storytelling

The 2022/23 season returned to the scope and scale that our audiences have come to know and love with a full slate of productions for the first time since the 2018/19 season. **183 ARTISTS** came together to present **SIX MAINSTAGE** and **FOUR WAREHOUSE** productions of brilliant theatre. Not only filled with big adventures, with hits like *The Three Musketeers* and *Into the Woods*, Royal MTC welcomed three world premiere productions that blew audiences away.



Omar Alex Khan, Pamela Mala Sinha and Mirabella Sundar Singh in *New*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

TWO LONG-AWAITED AND MUCH ANTICIPATED NEW WORKS

– *New* by Pamela Mala Sinha and *Burning Mom* by Mieko Ouchi hit the stage after being workshopped at Royal MTC since the 2019/20 season and the world premiere of Rosanna Deerchild's *The Secret to Good Tea* opened to rave reviews on the Mainstage. Developed for the 2021 Pimootayowin Creators Circle, this premiere marked the **FIRST PLAY FROM THE CREATORS CIRCLE** to be produced by MTC on the Mainstage.



Tracey Nepinak and Kathleen MacLean in *The Secret to Good Tea*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

The triumphant return of the Regional Tour visited **24 COMMUNITIES** across Manitoba and Ontario. From Churchill, to Kenora, to Minnedosa, **2,950 PATRONS** celebrated professional theatre right in their backyard.

Crafting Future Theatre Lovers



5,990 STUDENTS enthusiastically filled the theatre through our Theatre for Young Audiences program. Alongside schools attending regularly scheduled performances, an additional six student-only matinees filled the theatre with excited youth.



Student matinee of *Into the Woods*.

Reimagined this year, our Young Expressions program brought **16 STUDENTS** from local high schools together with theatre reviewers and artists. These super fans were the first to see our Mainstage productions and broadened their minds and love of theatre.

“I’m so glad I was part of this program and grateful to MTC for making it.” – STUDENT

Celebrating the Artist’s Journey



Royal MTC is committed to investing in programs that grow artistic talent. From play development and mentorship to scholarships and work experience, supporting theatre artists at all levels of development is key to creating a thriving community in Manitoba.

- Pimootayowin Creators Circle welcomed **SIX NEW INDIGENOUS PLAYWRIGHTS** into the program.
- The National Mentorship Program connected **12 BRIGHT EMERGING MANITOBA ARTISTS** with innovative and exciting senior theatre practitioners across the country to foster connections and opportunities.
- **28 STUDENTS** studying theatre full-time received a Jean-Murray – Moray Sinclair scholarship to ease the financial burden of pursuing their theatre training.
- **11 EARLY CAREER ARTISTS** were engaged as apprentices or assistants to refine and strengthen their craft.

Together, we enjoyed the benefits of supporting our local artists. **29 PAST RECIPIENTS** of scholarships and apprenticeships worked as actors, crew, and creative team members on MTC’s 2022/23 productions.

★★★★½

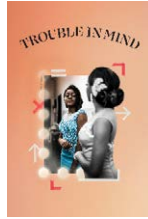
“A thrillingly fun stage musical”

– THE FREE PRESS



Jennifer Lyon and Sarah Luby in *Into the Woods*.

PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN



Network

Adapted for the Stage by Lee Hall
Based on the Paddy Chayefsky film

October 20 – November 12, 2022
PREVIEW • October 19

Director: Daryl Cloran
Set & Lighting Designer: Lorenzo Savoini
Costume Designer: Carmen Alatorre
Sound Designer: Dave Clarke
Video Designer: Hugh Conacher
Fight Director / Intimacy Director: Janine Waddell
Assistant Director: Amanda Goldberg
Stage Manager: Madison Henry
Assistant Stage Manager: Zahra Larche
Apprentice Stage Manager: Samantha Desiree

Cast: Bailey Chin, Nadien Chu, Sarah Constible, Braydon Dowler-Coltman, Alana Hawley Purvis, Reena Jolly, Kevin Klassen, Jim Mezon†, Glenn Nelson, Bernardo Pacheco, Michael Peng, Alex Poch Goldin, Leon Willey, Tenaj Williams, Richard Young

Understudies: Bailey Chin, Sarah Constible, Braydon Dowler-Coltman, Reena Jolly, Kevin Klassen, Glenn Nelson, Bernardo Pacheco, Michael Peng, Leon Willey

A co-production with Citadel Theatre

9,043 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES

The Three Musketeers

Adapted by Catherine Bush
from the novel by Alexandre Dumas

November 24 – December 17, 2022
PREVIEW • November 23

Director: Christopher Brauer
Fight Director: Rick Skene
Set Designer: Brian Perchaluk†
Costume Designer: Michelle Bohn
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson
Sound Designer & Composer: Daniel Roy
Choreographer: Nicole Kepp
Assistant Director: Matthew Paris-Irvine†
Assistant Costume Designer: Daina Leitold
Stage Manager: Karyn Kumhyr
Assistant Stage Manager: Angela Marshall
Apprentice Stage Manager: Ridge Romanishen
Apprentice Stage Manager: Emily Solstice Tait

Cast: Sharon Bajer†, Rodrigo Beilfuss†, Eric Blaist†, Tristan Carlucci†, Andrew Cecon, Melissa Langdon, Jacquie Loewen, Darren Martens, Hera Nalam, Rosie Simon, Sophie Smith-Dostmohamed, Krystle Snow, Ray Strachan†, Emilio Vieira, Cory Wojcik

Understudies: Robert Borges, Alan Castanaga, Shannon Guile

12,854 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES

Into the Woods

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine

Originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

January 12 – February 4, 2023
PREVIEWS • January 10 & 11

Director: Kelly Thornton
Music Director: Andrew St. Hilaire
Choreographer: Jillian Willems
Set & Costume Designer: Gillian Gallow
Associate Costume Designer: Joseph Abetria†
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher
Sound Designer: Chris Coyne
Fight Director: Jacquie Loewen
Intimacy Director: Sharon Bajer
Assistant Director / Assistant Choreographer: Rebekah Jones
Assistant Music Director: Phil Corrin
Stage Manager: Michael Duggan††
Assistant Stage Manager: Zahra Larche
Assistant Stage Manager: Katie Schmidt†
Apprentice Stage Manager: Samantha Desiree
Prosthetics: Christian Hadley

Cast: Vinnie Alberto†, Mariam Bernstein†, Rochelle Kives, Sarah Luby, Jennifer Lyon, Jawon Mapp, Clea McCaffrey, Laura Olafson, Tracy Penner, Jade Repeta†, Rhea Rodych-Rasidescu†, Ray Strachan†, Melanie Whyte, Tenaj Williams, Chase Winnicky†

Understudies: Matthew Fletcher†, Katie German, Rochelle Kives, Emily Meadows†, Laura Olafson, Justin Stadnyk†

Musicians: Andrew St. Hilaire, Phil Corrin, Julie Husband, Sharon Atkinson, Scott Miller, Mary Lawton, Bery Filsaime, Shane Hicks, Todd Martin, Dave Lawton

SPONSORED BY THE ASPER FOUNDATION &
THE GAIL ASPER FAMILY FOUNDATION

15,843 ATTENDED 28 PERFORMANCES

Trouble in Mind

By Alice Childress

February 16 – March 11, 2023
PREVIEW • February 15

Director: Cherissa Richards†
Set Designer: Cory Sincennes
Costume Designer: Sarah Uwadiae
Lighting Designer: Kevin Humphrey
Sound Designer: Ashley Au
Dialect Coach: Tré Cotten
Voice & Dialect Coach: Tom Soares
Assistant Director: Melissa Langdon
Apprentice Costume Designer: Kate George*
Stage Manager: Lisa Russell
Assistant Stage Manager: Paige Lewis
Apprentice Stage Manager: Devon Helm

Cast: Alana Bridgewater, Andrew Broderick, Oscar Derkx, Reena Jolly, Jodi Kristjanson†, Glenn Nelson, Alex Poch Goldin, Geoffrey Pounsett, Alvin Sanders

A co-production with Citadel Theatre

8,633 ATTENDED 25 PERFORMANCES



Jim Mezon in *Network*. PHOTO BY NANC PRICE

The Secret to Good Tea

By Rosanna Deerchild

March 23 – April 15, 2023

PREVIEW • March 22

Director: Renae Morriveau
Set Designer: Lauchlin Johnston
Costume Designer: Yolonda Skelton
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher
Sound Designer: Jason Burnstick
Video Designer: Carla Hernandez
Fight Director: Darren Martens
Assistant Costume Designer: Amy McPherson
Cree Language Advisor: Michael Lawrenchuk
Stage Manager: Karyn Kumhyr
Assistant Stage Manager: Angela Marshall
Assistant Stage Manager: Sadie Wannamaker
Apprentice Stage Manager: Bearchild Harper

Kathleen MacLean, Tracey Nepinak, Jeremy Proulx, James Dallas Smith, Emily Solstice Tait, Kelsey Kanatan Wavey†

11,898 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES

Burning Mom

By Miekko Ouchi

April 27 – May 20, 2023

PREVIEW • April 26

Director: Miekko Ouchi
Set Designer: Brian Perchaluk†
Costume Designer: Linda Beech
Lighting Designer: Larry Isacoff†
Sound Designer: Ashley Au
Video Designer: Cameron Davis
Apprentice Director: Zanifa Rasool*
Assistant Set Designer: Joyce Licup†
Stage Manager: Margaret Brook
Assistant Stage Manager: Michael Duggan††
Apprentice Stage Manager: Jazz Marcelino†

Cast: Lisa Horner, Megan McArton

SPONSORED BY THE WUCHIEN MICHAEL THAN FOUNDATION

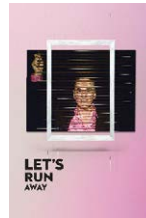
9,716 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES



Lisa Horner in *Burning Mom*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE PRODUCTIONS

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE SEASON SPONSOR: BMO FINANCIAL GROUP



New

By Pamela Mala Sinha

November 3 – 19, 2022

PREVIEW • November 2

Director: Alan Dilworth
Set Designer: Lorenzo Savoini
Costume Designer: Michelle Bohn
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher
Sound Designer: John Gzowski
Intimacy Director: Sharon Bajer†
Fight Director: Darren Martens
Cultural Consultant: Rubena Sinha
Apprentice Director: Jodi Kristjanson*
Stage Manager: Michael Duggan††
Apprentice Stage Manager: Tori Popp†

Cast: Fuad Ahmed, Shelly Antony, Dalal Badr, Alicia Johnston†, Omar Alex Khan, Pamela Mala Sinha, Mirabella Sundar Singh

In association with Necessary Angel Theatre Company

2,787 ATTENDED 13 PERFORMANCES

Let's Run Away

For reWork Productions

Written and Performed by Daniel MacIvor§

December 1 – 17

PREVIEW • November 30

Director / Dramaturg: Daniel Brooks§
Producer: Marcie Januska
Stage Manager: Alison Crosby§
Lighting Designer: Kimberly Purtell
Sound Designer: Deanna H. Choi
Associate Sound Designer: Dasha Plett
Assistant Director: Stephanie MacDonald

2,269 ATTENDED 18 PERFORMANCES

Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes

By Hannah Moscovitch

March 2 – 18, 2023

PREVIEW • March 1

Director: Kelly Thornton
Associate Director: Emma Welham†
Set Designer: Kara Pankiw†
Costume Designer: Shauna Jones
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson
Sound Designer: Ashley Au
Intimacy Director: Sharon Bajer†
Stage Manager: Zahra Larche
Apprentice Stage Manager: Ridge Romanishen

Cast: Kevin Aichele, Bailey Chin

3,160 ATTENDED 17 PERFORMANCES

Yaga

By Kat Sandler

April 6 – 22, 2023

PREVIEW • April 5

Director: Ann Hodges†
Set Designer: Adam Parboosingh
Costume Designer: Ksenia Broda-Milian††
Lighting Designer: Dean Cowieson†
Sound Designer: MJ Dandeneau
Fight Director: Jacquie Loewen
Ukrainian Language Coach: Ana Toumine
Apprentice Director: Christine Leslie*
Stage Manager: Dustyn Wales
Apprentice Stage Manager: Samantha Desiree

Cast: Toby Hughes, RobYn Slade, Marina Stephenson Kerr

SPONSORED BY THE ASPER FOUNDATION

3,749 ATTENDED 18 PERFORMANCES



Marina Stephenson Kerr in *Yaga*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

*Position funded through the Jean Murray – Moray Sinclair Theatre Apprenticeship Program †Past Jean Murray – Moray Sinclair Scholarship award winner

†Past Naomi Levin Theatre Scholarship award winner §The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance•Opera•Theatre Policy.

REGIONAL TOUR



The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and PlayNow.com were pleased to present our Regional Tour of *Assassinating Thomson*

Assassinating Thomson

Created & Performed by Bruce Horak

January 30 - March 4, 2023

Original Director: Ryan Gladstone
Stage Manager: Sadie Wannamaker
Apprentice Stage Manager: Jazz Marcelino
Tour Technical Director: Claire Bestland
Tour Technician: Will Medwick

2,950 ATTENDED 24 PERFORMANCES

JAN 30		Neepawa • Kaleidoscope Concert Series
JAN 31		Gimli • Kiwanis Club of Gimli and District
FEB 2		Thompson • Recreation, Parks and Culture, City of Thompson
FEB 3		Snow Lake • Aurora Borealis Arts Council
FEB 4		Flin Flon • Flin Flon Arts Council
FEB 8		MacGregor • Heartland Recreation Commission
FEB 9		Minnedosa • Minnedosa Performing Arts Committee
FEB 10		Strathclair • Strathclair & District Theatre Committee, Ltd.
FEB 11		Virden • Arts Mosaic
FEB 13		Brandon • Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium
FEB 14		Deloraine • Southwest Showcase Inc.
FEB 15		Souris • Souris District Arts Council
FEB 16		Killarney • Killarney Turtle Mountain Arts Council
FEB 17		Crystal City • Parklane Theatre Committee
FEB 21		Atikokan • Atikokan Entertainment Series
FEB 23		Dryden • Dryden Entertainment Series
FEB 24		Red Lake • Wilderness Entertainment Series
FEB 25		Kenora • Lake of the Woods Concert Group
FEB 26		Great Falls • Winnipeg River Arts Council
FEB 28		Steinbach • Steinbach Arts Council
MAR 1		Carman • Golden Prairie Arts Council
MAR 2		Portage la Prairie • Prairie Fusion Arts & Entertainment
MAR 3		Churchill • Churchill Arts Council

SPONSORED BY **PLAYNOW.COM**

FESTIVALS



Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival

The 35th annual Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival brought the city together for an in-person celebration of indie theatre for the first time in three years. Featuring local, national and international performing companies, the festival showcased dramas, musicals, comedies, stand-up and improv. The ticketed attendance totalled 59,845 with 56 sold-out performances and \$536,365.50 in box office revenue returned to the performing companies. Audiences were delighted by 111 performing companies with 983 performances. Instead of accepting a new round of lottery applications, the Fringe honoured the previously accepted cohort of artists that had originally been slated to perform at the postponed 2020 festival.

For the very first time, Fringe offered 100% of tickets in advance. Also new to the festival was the inclusion of \$10 door tickets for those 25 and under for all ticketed performances.

SUPPORTED BY **MANITOBA LIQUOR MARTS**

2022 WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL STATISTICS

TICKETED ATTENDANCE • 59,845
OUTDOOR ATTENDANCE (INCLUDING KIDS FRINGE) • 35,000-40,000 (APPROX.)
KIDS VENUE ATTENDANCE • 2,026
BOX OFFICE REVENUE • \$536,365.50
NUMBER OF PERFORMING COMPANIES • 111
NUMBER OF INDOOR PERFORMANCES • 983
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS • 568

Pimootayowin: A Festival of New Work

Pimootayowin: A Festival of New Work showcased the first public readings of six new plays written by the second cohort of the Pimootayowin Creators Circle. From September 27 to October 1, 2022, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre welcomed audiences to the Tom Hendry Warehouse lobby to enjoy the free script reading festival.

This year's works included *Maybe This Afternoon* written by Rhonda Apetagon and directed by Katie German; *The Rapturous Promises of Love and Death* written by Trevor Greyeyes and directed by Katie German; *Waawaakeshi* written by Nova Courchene and directed by Charlene Van Buekenhout; *Non-Machinable* written by Cynthia Wolfe-Nolin and directed by Katie German; *Cory and Daisy* by Bridget Courchene and directed by Simon Miron; and *Blood Sisters* written by Elizabeth Denny and directed by Charlene Van Buekenhout. 24 local artists helped bring these shows to life as actors and directors.

The Pimootayowin Creators Circle is led by Governor General Award-winning playwright Ian Ross and Assistant Program Director Katie German, who help guide Indigenous artists in playwriting. Pimootayowin is an Anishinaabemowin word meaning *Journey*, a word chosen by Ross who likens the creation of new art to a journey.

The next Pimootayowin: A Festival of New Work will be presented from September 24-29, 2023.

SUPPORTED BY **TD READY COMMITMENT**



Reading of *Cory and Daisy* by Bridget Courchene. PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

Workshop participants of *The Warrior* by Marie Barlizo. L TO R: Stephanie Sy, Hazel Venzon, Hera Nalam, Marie Barlizo, Dennis Gupa, Mary Nadine Maranan and Glenn Otero.



Literary Development

Royal MTC is thrilled to have presented three world premiere productions, *New* by Pamela Mala Sinha, *The Secret to Good Tea* by Rosanna Deerchild and *Burning Mom* by Mieko Ouchi as a part of the 2022/23 season. Each of these plays were written by women from the Canadian IBPOC community and touched the hearts of audiences with their connections to family, love and intergenerational strength. Another world premiere, *The Comeback* by Trish Cooper and Sam Vint, has completed development and will be debuting in 2024 as a part of the Mainstage season.

This year, the Pimootayowin Creators Circle welcomed six new artists to each write and workshop a new play which will be presented at the Pimootayowin Festival in the fall of 2023. The cohort included Mary Black, Ryan Black, Mike Lawrenchuk, Emily Meadows, Victoria Perrie, and Eric Plamondon. The Pimootayowin Creators circle is led by Governor General Award-winning playwright Ian Ross and assisted by Katie German. Two scripts from the first group of creators - *Elevate* by Dave McLeod and *Redemption Tax* by Tracey Nepinak - received continued development. The Pimootayowin Creators Circle was generously sponsored by **TD Ready Commitment**.

We were excited to welcome playwright Marie Barlizo for two residencies at Royal MTC with support of the Canada Council for the Arts. Marie, while developing her epic trilogy *The Betrayal Project* continued her writing of *The Fall* (part 1) and workshoped *The Warrior* (part 2). *The Warrior* underwent two in-person workshops with artists from the Winnipeg community. Playwright Joseph Aragon has continued development of his musical *Rizal*, which resulted in a workshop and invited read/sing-through led by director Nina Lee Aquino for a public audience. Royal MTC has commissioned the piece with the intent to produce this work.

Overall, we invested in the development of 14 new scripts and hired 41 artists to work on readings and workshops. These diverse activities are invaluable to the playwright's process, and ensure there is a strong pipeline of new work heading to the stage.



National Mentorship Program

From January - May of 2023, Royal MTC hosted its third session of the National Mentorship Program. This annual program aims to help Manitoban theatre practitioners overcome the barriers of geographic isolation to build a web of connections and opportunities. The National Mentorship Program is a part of Royal MTC's commitment to nurture and support our local talent pool, connecting the brightest emerging talent with the most innovative and exciting talent from across the country. Over five months, mentors and mentees scheduled one-on-one meetings to discuss theatre, leadership, skill development, personal growth and more. The program culminated in a pancake breakfast where current and past mentees gathered in person for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to discuss the impact of the program. The National Mentorship Program was generously supported by **RBC Emerging Artists**.

2022/23 NATIONAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

MENTEES

Vinnie Alberto	Kimberley Rampersad
Ashley Au	Debashis Sinha
Kirstin Caguioa	Andrea Macasaet
Kira Chisholm	Daniel MacIvor
Michael Duggan	John Gray
Colleen Furlan	Julie Tomaino
Julia Kroft	Lisa Rubin
Leaf Pankratz	Ess Hödlmoser
Sherri Pierce	Rick Miller
Rhea Rodych-Rasidescu	Fiona Sauder
Charlene Van Buekenhout	Lori Marchand
Alissa Watson	Karen Hines

MENTORS



End-of-season pancake breakfast for the participants of the National Mentorship Program.



Joanne Kelly speaks at the pre-show chat before the performance of *Network*.

Pre-Show Chats

This informal lecture series is free to attend for ticket-holders to the third Thursday evening of our Mainstage season. Patrons enrich their experience through pre-show, behind-the-scenes conversations with theatre professionals and special guests from our community.

THE 2022/23 LINEUP

NETWORK • Broadcaster and instructor Joanne Kelly spoke about the past, present and future of journalism. Attendance – 70

THE THREE MUSKETEERS • Professor Sebastien Roldan delved into writing, rewriting, and myth in *The Three Musketeers* and how it became a timeless success. Attendance – 60

INTO THE WOODS • Properties builder/buyer Zoë Leclerc-Kennedy shared how her team made stage magic in the woods and her favourite prop-making memories from past Royal MTC productions. Attendance – 64

TROUBLE IN MIND • Melissa Langdon, the assistant director of the show as well as MTC's Apprentice Artistic Director, took attendees behind the scenes into the rehearsal and creative processes of *Trouble in Mind*. Attendance – 51

THE SECRET TO GOOD TEA • Kim Wheeler, award-winning radio broadcaster and “bestie” of playwright Rosanna Deerchild spoke with playwright and Pimootayowin Creators Circle director Ian Ross about creating a new work. Attendance – 42

BURNING MOM • Longtime stage manager and current Director of Development Melissa Novacosky gave insight into the role of stage manager as the hub of all departments, and shared images and stories from her time on *Billy Elliot the Musical*. Attendance – 11

Talkbacks

Post-show, actors returned to the stage for a question-and-answer session with the audience. Talkbacks were hosted after the first Tuesday evening performance and second Wednesday matinee at the Mainstage, and after the first Tuesday evening performance and Thursday matinee at the Warehouse. Approximately **1,025 patrons** attended talkbacks throughout the season.

Our Talkback Facilitator Volunteers were Aaron Penner, Brandon Christopher, Christopher Brauer, Jack Fraser, Jeff Hirsch and Katrina Dunn.

Scholarships and Apprenticeships

In recognition and celebration of two Winnipeg personalities who contributed to our theatre's development, Royal MTC established the Jean Murray – Moray Sinclair Theatre Scholarship Fund. This fund awards scholarships to successful applicants who are full-time students attending accredited theatre schools or university theatre programs, and who intend to pursue a career in theatre.

Royal MTC awarded a total of **\$25,000** for the 2022/2023 academic year/theatre season, **\$6,031** of which was donated by our generous patrons through “pass-the-hat” performances of *Caplurnia*.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Julia Anderson	Hannah Marchant	Natalie Stefanson
Kate Berg	Rhianna Mathers	Erin Teodoro
Anika Binding	Victoria McNeil	Daniel Tompkins
Victoria Brimble	Jonathan Mourant	Bennette Villones
Josh Calabio	Kyle Mroz	Kali Wasilewski
Taryn Edgeworth	Madeline Paulic	Hunter Watson
Hannah Foulger	Honey Pham	Katie Welham
Haeln Gebre	Carolyn Schroeder	Mackenzie Wojcik
Taylor Izon	Juliette Schroeder-Suss	
Woojun Lim	Cali Sproule	

APPRENTICESHIP RECIPIENTS

Kate George – Apprentice Costume Designer for *Trouble in Mind*
Zanifa Rasool – Apprentice Director for *Burning Mom*
Jodi Kristjanson – Apprentice Director for *New*

Many past recipients of scholarships and apprenticeships were involved in the season. 29 worked as actors, crew, and creative team members on MTC's 2022/23 productions, while 8 past recipients are on MTC staff.

Assistant Roles

Royal MTC is committed to the cultivation of local talent by providing opportunities for early career artists to refine and strengthen their craft. Assistants work with established theatre artists to broaden their skills and obtain professional experience.

Matthew Paris-Irvine – Assistant Director for *The Three Musketeers*
Daina Leitold – Assistant Costume Designer for *The Three Musketeers*
Phil Corrin – Assistant Musical Director for *Into the Woods*
Rebekah Jones – Assistant Director and Choreographer for *Into the Woods*
Melissa Langdon – Assistant Director for *Trouble in Mind*
Emma Welham – Associate Director for *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*
Amy McPherson – Assistant Costume Designer for *The Secret to Good Tea*
Joyce Licup – Assistant Set Designer for *Burning Mom*
Rachel Baziuk – Props Assistant for multiple shows, supported by the CITT/
ICTS's In-House Assistantship Program, funded by Canadian Heritage's
Canada Performing Arts Workers Resilience Fund (CPAWRF).



The Cast of *The Three Musketeers*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

ASL-Interpreted Performances

Royal MTC offered American Sign Language Interpreted performances of *Let's Run Away* on December 13, 2022 and *Burning Mom* on May 14, 2023 arranging for ASL-users and members of the Deaf community to have seats with clear sightlines to take in the interpreter and the action onstage.

Audio Described Performance (New!)

Royal MTC offered an Audio Described performance of *Yaga* on April 19, 2023. During audio described performances, audience members who are blind or have low vision use a receiver and earpiece to hear about the physical action and visual elements of the production. These descriptions are voiced live, in real time, by a trained describer.

Backstage Pass

This season-long program gave grade 11 and 12 students an in-depth look at theatre. Students attended five theatre workshops led by members of Manitoba's professional theatre community followed by a matinee performance of the current Mainstage production. Participants were selected based on their application and teacher recommendations. **26 were accepted** into the program from College Louis-Riel, Churchill High School, Fort Richmond Collegiate, Windsor Park Collegiate, Daniel MacIntyre Collegiate Institute, River East Collegiate, Steinbach Regional Secondary School, Vincent Massey Collegiate, Tec Voc High School, Immanuel Christian School, St. Mary's Academy, Grant Park High School, JH Bruns Collegiate, Nelson McIntyre Collegiate, Kildonan East Collegiate and home school.

PARTICIPANTS

Victoria Alexander	Cyan Gargol	Madyson Oliver
Mohammed	Rachel Gehman	Aiko Paradis
Baker-Moussaoui	Al Gilbert	Andrew Singh
Meadow Baraniak	Olivia di Girolamo	Sophia Torchinsky
Mika Beaudry	Zoe Haggart	Cooper Vint
Eliza Binding	Sandhya Kami	Julia Vonck
Maija Buduhan	Alora Kempthorne	Madelyn Warkentine
Kiera Dewitt	Quinn McMullan	Olivia Wurch
Veronica Ford	Esther Momtchilov	Desmond Young

BACKSTAGE PASS WORKSHOPS

NETWORK • Stage Manager and Director of Development Melissa Novecosky took the participants through Royal MTC's hidden spaces to meet our talented craftspeople before sharing the ins and outs of stage management.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS • Actor and clown Spenser Payne led an exploration of character creation including status, physicality and imagination. Students worked individually and in groups to bring characters to life.

INTO THE WOODS • Jillian Willems, who choreographed the production, took participants through different ways to develop movements and used them to tell a story.

TROUBLE IN MIND • Secrets of theatre magic were revealed by Kari Hagness who shared stories from her time as the MTC Head of Props, taught techniques for script analysis, and encouraged participants in creating fake food from unconventional materials.

THE SECRET TO GOOD TEA • The participants dove into the creative process of writing for the stage with the guidance of playwright, director, performer, and Assistant Director of Pimootayowin Creators Circle Katie German.

FEEDBACK FROM THE STUDENTS

"This was a great way to push myself and try new things."

"I hope to try prop making again someday because of this exercise; it has truly opened my eyes to all sort of new jobs to explore in the theatre world!"

"Backstage Pass is a great way to connect with new areas of theatre and learn new ways to express yourself."

"Backstage Pass was an awesome experience! It was an amazing opportunity to see shows and learn about aspects of theatre I hadn't considered. My favourite part has been making friends and connections with other young artists my age!"

"I have enjoyed Backstage Pass so much! I really loved how many different facets of theatre we got to learn about - every time I leave I feel like I'm bursting with new knowledge and creativity! I feel encouraged now that I have a greater understanding of how big the theatre world is - like I will always be able to find a place for myself in it."

"I'm proud of myself for stepping outside my comfort zone and getting to know people better."

"Backstage Pass was such a great program to see theatre and actually learn about the ins and outs of theatre. Backstage Pass gave me the opportunity to see more plays than I've ever been able to before in a year. I'm really grateful for the experience and for the incredibly friendly and welcoming environment!"

"Thank you to Backstage Pass for providing me with accessible workshops and a way to see theatre. As someone who comes from a lower-income family theatre programs can sometimes seem out of reach. MTC removed that roadblock and for that I say thank you! I learned so much."





NextGen Fringers enjoying gelati at the 2022 Fringe Festival.

NextGen Fringers

NextGen Fringers brought together **23 youth** aged 16-23 who love the Fringe, or had never been and wanted to see what it's all about! Each got a pass for up to six free tickets to Fringe plays, opportunities to win prizes, and joined gatherings to connect with their theatre-going peers. The NextGen Fringers posted on social media to spread the word about the Fringe to other young people, contributed to a sticky-note wall at MTC with their discoveries and tips about the festival, and sent in their Fringe Faves to be shared by MTC, on Fringe's Instagram stories.

PARTICIPANTS

Alyssa Adair	Beryl Constantini	Clay Mykietowich
Amanda Allardice	Bec Groen	Emily Pokrant
Aurora Andrews	Jessica Grosshans	Eden Quiring
Candace Aphline	Alyssa Jackson	Ben Robertson
Ally Baydock	Maevie Kehler	Sydney Rubletz
Jean Blandon	Chelsea Kingerski	Natalie Stefanson
Victoria Brimble	Lasha Mackendenski	Cooper Vint
Vice Burton	Jonathan Mourant	

WHAT NEXTGEN FRINGERS HAD TO SAY

"It was a really fun time! I saw a bunch of incredible shows, a lot of which I probably wouldn't have if I wasn't in the program."

"I had the opportunity to see seven shows in a variety of genres including musical theatre, comedy, physical theatre and more. I was able to visit the Fringe with my family as well as some of my friends. The Fringe Festival was a perfect way to spend my days and helped to make my summer a bit more exciting."

"It was a really great experience. This was my first Fringe where I saw more than one show."

"It was so cool to discover different Winnipeg theatres and have the chance to watch different performances. It's something I probably wouldn't have paid too much attention to [without NexGen]... Being able to learn more about local artists and support them was great!"

Young Expressions Program (New!)

In an evolution of the past Teen Critic program, Royal MTC's Young Expressions students were amongst the first to see our Mainstage shows. They were invited to broaden their minds, sharpen their critical eyes, converse with theatre reviewers and artists, challenge their preconceptions and express their opinions. Students also had the opportunity to bring one or two guests to see *Burning Mom* and were able to experience the production with their friends and family. The season culminated with them creating a zine together.

16 participants were chosen based on their application and teacher recommendations. They came from Saint-John's Ravenscourt, Fort Richmond Collegiate, Westgate Collegiate, River East Collegiate, Ecole Edward Schreyer, St. John's High School, Glenlawn Collegiate, Kildonan East Collegiate, Kelvin High School, Garden City Collegiate, Vincent Massey Collegiate and Seven Oaks Met School.

PARTICIPANTS

Maxx Bonikowsky	Menal Kashalo	Tatiana Tuazon
Thomas Chau	Andrea Kizuik	Sophie Vermeylen
Camila Cisneros	Ivy O'Connor	Simon Hathout Willard
Ayla Cottes	Daniel Pescador	Kaelyn Yoon-MacRae
Marco Doga	Yasmine Ravandi	
Michael Hawrysh	Isabelle Santianez	

2022/23 Young Expressions special guests:

- Jill Wilson, Winnipeg Free Press Arts Editor
- Lara Rae, Comedian, Playwright and Freelance Reviewer
- Aisling Murphy, Theatre Critic and Editor of Intermission Magazine
- Emily Meadows, Actor, Playwright, and Pimootayowin Creators Circle member

FEEDBACK FROM THE STUDENTS

"I NEED everyone to know how amazing this program is. This made me want to see more productions."

"I enjoyed the passion each actor brought to the stage and all the connections portrayed felt authentic to the characters. This musical really proved itself as the show went on and it was truly a wonderful experience."

"From the very first scene to the last I was hooked in the story... I am so happy I was one of the people who got to see [The Secret to Good Tea] on opening night."

"I love the final message that [Into the Woods] has: 'you are not alone.' I really need to hear something like that."

"Overall, this show was a pleasure to watch and was created with deep thought and creativity."

"The writing was amazing and so many lines made me laugh. I left that stage with the biggest smile on my face."

"MTC's Young Expressions Program made me find a love and passion for theatre. It brings people together to experience joy and get inspired. Theatre has shown me that it brings communities together and lets us audience appreciate live, passionate work from every crew. I can't wait to watch more shows and hopefully design for some as well."

Theatre for Young Audiences

Royal MTC schedules student-only matinee performances for selected productions. This year, MTC offered student-only matinees for six productions: *Network*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Into the Woods*, *Trouble in Mind*, *The Secret to Good Tea* and *New*. A total of 3,039 students attended student-only matinee performances and 2,897 students attended regular performances with their school, for a total of **5,990 students** at shows this season. Approximately 2,175 students and teachers stayed for a talkback with actors after attending a performance.

Winnipeg's River Heights School was producing *Into the Woods Jr.* for their school play and attended our student-only matinee. As well, three actors from MTC's production met with the students over Zoom to answer their questions about preparing roles and life in the theatre.

SPONSORED BY CANADA LIFE

TESTIMONIALS FROM TEACHERS

"The students - and the chaperones! - absolutely loved the show. The performances were wonderful and the sets were stunning. Students walked away talking about lighting and set design ideas they could integrate into their own production. Thank you for making theatre accessible to young people and for helping foster a love for the performing arts!"

"I was very impressed one the staff provided a space for one of my Muslim students to pray in during the intermission."

"We really love the program and appreciate the opportunity to introduce theatre to our students."

"I love how accessible you make all your materials and how much you care about students and the arts!"

"The process was simple. The students had a fabulous time. It was truly a remarkable experience for many students. For some of the students it was their first time seeing a live show."

"My grade 12 class spent a full class period (55 minutes) discussing the play. It was an excellent discussion!"

"The whole process was incredibly straightforward and clear. My students were so excited that field trips are once again a possibility in this post-pandemic world."

"I am so grateful that there is a program that makes the theatre way more in reach for our students. It makes me happy to share my love of theatre with students."

"Thank you for providing this experience for students at such an affordable price. It was the first time for many students and we are all truly grateful. All students felt it to be an amazing play and experience."

"The whole experience was amazing - your staff were very kind and patient with us as my students settled in. And they all really enjoyed the show!"

Student Placement

In 2022/23, Royal MTC hosted a student from Seven Oaks Met School for a weekly placement from October-April. Grade 10 student Tatiana worked with Patron Services, Communications, Education and Enrichment, Fringe, and Development to help with administrative tasks, event set-up, research, ushering shows, sourcing social media ideas and proofing documents. Upon completion, Tatiana was offered a summer job working at the box office during the Fringe Festival.

Enrichment Guides

Enrichment guides were compiled for all ten shows of the Mainstage and Warehouse seasons. These guides were posted online for educators, students, and all other patrons to provide extra insight into our productions. They included plot synopses, playwright biographies, contextual background, glossaries, suggested classroom activities for educators and/or discussion prompts, and links to other resources including books, articles, videos and podcasts. Creators and contributors from outside of MTC included Arindam Sarkar, Desiree Pappel, Jessy Ardern, Sarah Farrant, Seraph-Eden Boroditsky and Tala Gammon.

Digital Content for Educators – Theatre People

The Theatre People Virtual Series offered educators the opportunity to bring theatre to their classroom for free, by introducing a theatre artist or craftsman for a 45-minute presentation and question-and-answer period. Virtual visits were presented to **eight classrooms** with a total of **194 students** who learned about properties, acting and playwrighting.

Theatre People also encompasses an online library of job descriptions with an emphasis on the wide variety of roles in theatre and the way that students are already learning and using applicable skills in their lives.

Theatre Under 30

Theatre Under 30 is a free membership program for young people aged 18-29. Members have exclusive access to world-class theatre for just \$20 a seat! In the 2022/23 season, the program had 1,589 members. **410 members purchased a total of 1,085 tickets** throughout the year.

Play on Words

The Winnipeg Public Library's talented Librarians provide amazing Explore More reading lists of resources that help you better connect with the play. In 2022/23, librarian-recommended reading lists were created for *New*, *Into the Woods* and *The Secret to Good Tea*.

BLACK & WHITE BALL

AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE AND WHIMSY

On Saturday, October 29, more than 440 guests joined us to BE ENCHANTED by the Black & White Ball in support of Royal MTC. From the moment guests passed under the forested archway festooned with fairy lights, to their final turn on the dance floor, it was an evening not soon forgotten.

On behalf of the artists supported by this fundraising event, we are deeply grateful to all the guests, sponsors, corporate table purchasers, donors and volunteers for creating another unforgettable evening.

Theatre has the power to transport audiences into a new world. For over 65 years, Royal MTC has been creating enchanting evenings at the theatre. Thanks to your help, we'll be here for another 65 years.

Congratulations to Maria Steeds, winner of the **Fillmore Riley** Vacation Prize!



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Big City All Star Band
Our incredibly hard-working volunteers, and Royal MTC Staff

ATTENDANCE • 446

NET PROCEEDS • \$121,664.29

2022 Black & White Ball Committee
photo: Back L to R: Dana Plett, Kelly Johnston, Rhonda Plett, Shelly Smith-Hines, Brenlee Carrington Trepel, K.C., Alana Chernecki, Brandi Johnson, Samantha Duha. Front L to R: Jenny-Lou Ryan, Elsebeth Hansen-Kriening, Kathryn Gompf. Not pictured: Antonio Buccini, Paulo Fernandes, Brad McCabe, Sachit Mehra.

ALL PHOTOS BY RED PHOTO CO.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Royal MTC/MBA Lawyers Play



A HILARIOUS WAY TO MAKE A LIVING!

The 2023 Lawyers Play cast certainly worked overtime on our 30th annual fundraising play, *9 to 5 The Musical*! The mighty team took on the campy cult classic filled with toe-tapping Dolly Parton hits. They donned their best blonde wigs and finest vintage office attire, delighting audiences from May 9 to 13 at the Tom Hendry Warehouse.

Cast entirely with Manitoba Bar Association members, the Lawyers Play is one of Royal MTC's largest fundraisers. Since its inception, this gala event has raised over \$1.1 million to support MTC and the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival.

Our deepest gratitude to patrons, donors, advertisers and sponsors for supporting our efforts. We'd also like to extend sincere thanks to the talented cast and hardworking crew, as well as our many volunteers and committee members.

9 to 5 The Musical

Music & Lyrics by Dolly Parton
Book by Patricia Resnick

Based on the 20th Century Fox Picture
Originally produced on Broadway by
Robert Greenblatt, April 2009

Orchestrator Bruce Coughlin

Arrangements & Additional Orchestrations
Stephen Oremus & Alex Lacamoire

May 9-13, 2023

Director & Choreographer: Jillian Willems*

Music Director: Phil Corrin

Production Design: Jamie Plummer

Wardrobe Coordinators: Thora Lamont &
Jackie Van Winkle

Wardrobe Stitchers: Penny Hanford & Martha Schram

Lighting Designer & Electrician: Fisher Wohlgenut

Audio: Tim Clark

Deck Audio: Ryan Spracklin

Keyboard Programming: Andrew St. Hilaire

Assistant Choreographer: Megan Fry

Stage Manager: Chuck McEwen

Assistant Stage Manager: Tori Popp

Assistant Stage Manager: Steph Blanchette

Cast: Gail Asper, Kathrine Basarab, Andrea Bellhouse,
Jennifer Bird, Laura Diamond, Tashia Dreger, Caleigh
Glawson, Benji Greenberg, Kate Henley, Deanna
Hiebert, David Kroft, Melanie LaBossiere, Jordan
Lang, Joel Lebois, Hayley Main, Jennifer Malabar,
Jim McLandress, Jeff Palamar, Myron Pawlowsky,
Victoria Perrie, Sandi Phillips, Ashley Pledger, Jodi
Plenert, Pamela Reilly, Maria Sabourin, Steve Scarfone

Musicians: Phil Corrin, Eric Vickar, Mike Swickis,
Nenad Zdjelar, Jeff Kula

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ATTENDANCE • 1,382

NET PROCEEDS • \$25,031.99



The cast of 9 to 5 The Musical.



Kathrine Basarab in 9 to 5 The Musical.

PHOTOS BY DAVID SWIECICKI



Tanya Keller, Manitoba Bar Association President,
with Melissa Novocosky, Royal MTC Director of
Development.



Joel Lebois in 9 to 5 The Musical.



The cast of 9 to 5.

*The participation of this Artist was arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance • Opera • Theatre Policy (DOT).



“...a masterful portrait of loneliness, yearning, grief and marriage which blends snappy, Neil Simon-esque domestic dialogue with a dramatic sharpness” – THE FREE PRESS



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Many thanks to our generous donors who made a difference with a gift during our 2022/23 season!

\$10,000+

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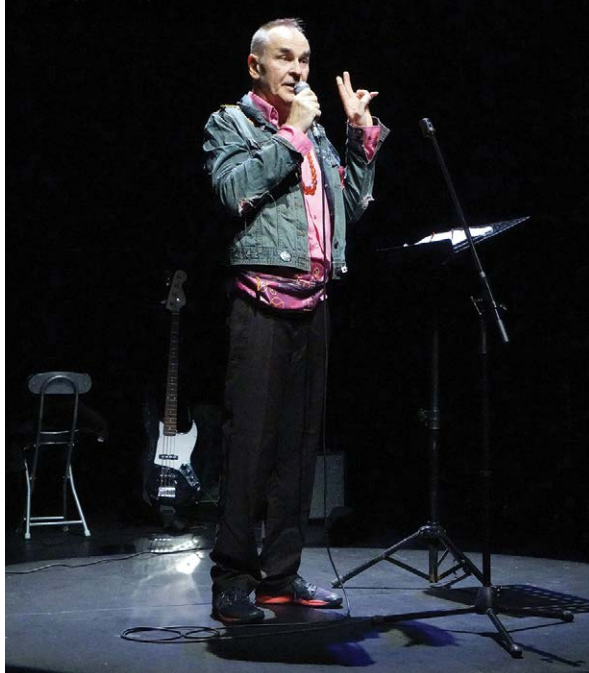
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John Hirsch and Tom Hendry shared a dream of creating great professional theatre with mass appeal. With the visionary support of Founders' Circle members - those who have made a planned gift to Royal MTC - their dream will live on for generations to come. Thank you to our Founders' Circle members.

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Final Bow

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre honours the passing of those dear to our theatre - people who've made a lasting commitment to this ephemeral art form.

Ken Brown, Founders' Circle Member, long-time supporter of the Fringe

Enid Butler, long-time supporter

Claire Green, MTC volunteer usher

Rita Gunn, Founders' Circle Member, MTC Board of Trustees, 2013-2017, long-time supporter of MTC and Fringe

Shirley A. Richardson, long-time supporter



“The reception from the audience
was rapturous... an undeniably
powerful piece of theatre”

– THE FREE PRESS



Tracey Nepinak and Kathleen MacLean
in *The Secret to Good Tea*.

PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

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Janice Marple, Volunteer Coordinator
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*Denotes past employee

FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position AS AT MAY 31, 2023

	OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND	STABILIZATION FUND	SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDS	2023 TOTAL	2022 TOTAL
ASSETS							
CURRENT							
Cash and cash equivalents	4,056,584				57,557	4,114,141	5,299,674
Accounts and grants receivable	1,124,882					1,124,882	1,159,994
Prepaid expenses	440,414					440,414	389,134
Due to/(from) funds	(2,072,946)	501,648	124,481	1,446,817		—	—
	3,548,934	501,648	124,481	1,446,817	57,557	5,679,437	6,848,802
CAPITAL ASSETS							
		1,289,582				1,289,582	1,157,422
	3,548,934	1,791,230	124,481	1,446,817	57,557	6,969,019	8,006,224
LIABILITIES							
CURRENT							
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	443,230					443,230	461,194
Deferred revenue	3,105,704					3,105,704	3,404,061
	3,548,934					3,548,934	3,865,255
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS							
		1,592,391				1,592,391	1,446,058
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS							
					57,557	57,557	59,112
	3,548,934	1,592,391			57,557	5,198,882	5,370,425
NET ASSETS							
Internally restricted	—		124,481			124,481	104,851
Invested in capital assets	—	198,839				198,839	224,874
Unrestricted	—			1,446,817		1,446,817	2,306,074
	—	198,839	124,481	1,446,817	—	1,770,137	2,635,799
	3,548,934	1,791,230	124,481	1,446,817	57,557	6,969,019	8,006,224

Statement of Operations & Changes in Net Assets AS AT MAY 31, 2023

	OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND	STABILIZATION FUND	SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDS	2023 TOTAL	2022 TOTAL
Revenue	10,273,550	194,865	—	—	23,400	10,491,815	7,514,708
Expenses	11,062,807	220,900	50,370	—	23,400	11,357,477	6,492,354
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(789,257)	(26,035)	(50,370)	—	—	(865,662)	1,022,354
Net assets, beginning of year		224,874	104,851	2,306,074	—	2,635,799	1,613,445
Interfund transfers	789,257	—	70,000	(859,257)	—		
Net assets, end of year	—	198,839	124,481	1,446,817	—	1,770,137	2,635,799

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“The whole cast is exceptional”

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The cast of *Trouble in Mind*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

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RobYn Slade, Marina Stephenson Kerr and Toby Hughes in *Yaga*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT