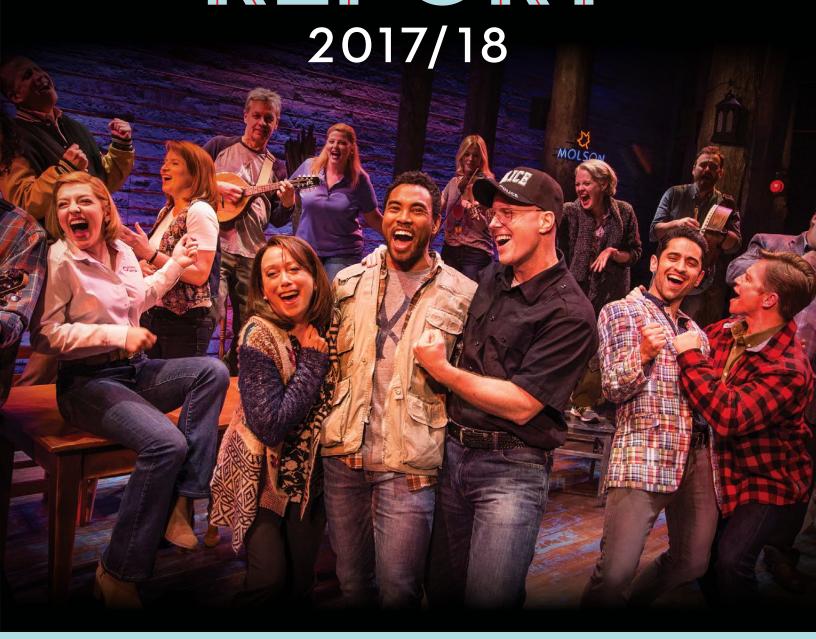


ANNUAL REPORT





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.

Since its founding, MTC has produced more than 600 plays with hundreds of actors, including Len Cariou, Graham Greene, Martha Henry, Judd Hirsch, Tom Hulce, William Hurt, Tom Jackson, Robert Lepage, Seana McKenna, Eric Peterson, Gordon Pinsent, Keanu Reeves, Fiona Reid, R.H. Thomson, Kathleen Turner and Al Waxman.

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: the Master Playwright Festival (founded in 2001) 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 Steven Schipper and Executive Director Camilla Holland, Royal MTC remains Manitoba's flagship theatre.



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.

MISSION

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre 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.

VISION

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

VALUES

QUALITY

A commitment to quality is reflected in the writing of each play, in the actors, directors and designers who create each production, and in 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.

AFFORDABILITY

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

ACCESSIBILITY

A commitment to creating theatre throughout the city and the province is evident in our festivals and touring productions.

SUSTAINABILITY

A commitment to sustainability is evident in our rigorous governance structure, our sound business practices and our prudent financial management.



ATTENDANCE

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE	102,814
TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE	14,999
WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL	179,908
SHANLEYFEST(Excluding 4,042 who attended Outside Mullingαr at the Tom Hendry Warehouse)	2,743
REGIONAL TOUR	4,683
THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCESAttended nine student-only matinee performances	5,174
TOTAL	310,321





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 27, 2018 to report artistic and financial results to interested subscribers, patrons and community members.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS



Canada Council Conseil des Arts for the Arts du Canada











MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



We carefully measure a lot here at Royal MTC – audience engagement, financial standing, fundraising progress and key performance indicators, among other things. By any standard, I submit that this, our 60th anniversary season, was a measurable success. Economically, theatrically and from a governance perspective, the 2017/18 season was a very good year for our theatre.

Tangible progress is being made on the directions and priorities set out in our strategic plan which was implemented in 2016/17. Royal MTC is operating well within the operational triggers and guidelines established by your Board of Trustees.

As we celebrate the close of our diamond anniversary, we are further proud of another operating surplus in 2017/18. The theatre's continued positive financial performance allows us to invest in our Stabilization Fund. While financial stability is only one measure of success, Royal MTC has a strong track record of stewarding resources carefully, investing in our artists, creative teams and craftspeople to make sure the shows on our stages are inspiring, compelling and beautifully executed.

I salute and thank the members of the Board of Trustees, and particularly the Executive Committee, for your dedicated service, committed effort and unwavering support of Royal MTC — this year and always. It has been both a privilege and honour to serve as your Chair the past two seasons. I wish you success going forward and particularly acknowledge David Christie as he assumes the position of Board Chair.

I also want to acknowledge our colleague and friend Brenda Zaporzan, who passed away this season. She and her husband, Darcy, were and remain fervent and cherished supporters of Royal MTC. Brenda served on the Board of Trustees for five years, departing in 2015. For the first three of those years, she did double duty as chair of the Black & White Ball Committee. In her last two years on the Board, she served as Secretary to the Executive Committee. Even after leaving the Board and right up until her untimely passing, Brenda remained on the Black & White, Nominating and Legacy Giving Committees. She is profoundly missed.

With every dark cloud comes a silver lining and Brenda's request that gifts in her memory be made to Royal MTC has only further served to benefit this place she obviously loved. In excess of \$100,000 has been contributed to Royal MTC's Endowment Fund in Brenda's name. I think I can say with some confidence that Brenda would have been thrilled to learn that The Founders' Circle Legacy Giving Campaign, in which she was integrally involved, exceeded its goal this year in celebration of the theatre's diamond anniversary. To the generous and forward-thinking Legacy Giving campaign donors, I salute and thank you for your support.

One significant announcement during the 60th anniversary season was the news of Steven Schipper's retirement from Royal MTC, which was formally announced on March 10, 2018, after a remarkable 30-year tenure. The public reaction was overwhelmingly one of respect, thanks, and best wishes. Steven himself would want me to clarify that he's simply moving on to the "next challenge in his life", and he would most certainly and characteristically be humble about his impact at Royal MTC.

To the Royal MTC staff and management team, I marvel at everything you do and thank you for your devoted service and support during my term as Chair. To Royal MTC's corps of loyal volunteers, our audiences, as well as our corporate and individual donors, thanks for your tangible expressions of confidence and support. We will never take you for granted. Finally, to my wife, Jennifer, thanks for your own commitment to Royal MTC and supporting me in my role as Board Chair.

A. C. (TONY) FLETCHER

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



1958 was a banner year. Musicians Michael Jackson, Prince, Joan Jett and Anita Baker were born. So were Terry Fox, Jean Charest, Darryl Sutter and Colm Feore. Duff Roblin was appointed Premier of Manitoba, and the Right Honourable Ellen Fairclough was the first Canadian woman to hold the position of Prime Minister for two days during John Diefenbaker's absence from the country. The Avro Arrow flew for the first time, NORAD was signed between the US and Canada, Pierre Berton won the Governor General's Award for *Klondike*. And listed as the top entry under Arts & Literature on the Wikipedia page for 1958 in Canada is: *the Manitoba Theatre Centre opens*.

Royal MTC's 60th anniversary was as glittering and valuable a diamond year as we could have hoped. We'd like to think that even our founders would have been proud of accomplishments on and off stage this season. I'd like to particularly mention two major projects that, in typical Royal MTC fashion, were accomplished on time, on budget and with great impact.

I'm pleased to announce Royal MTC's Archives are now open at the Archives of Manitoba. This means that anybody can access our more than 37 metres of textual records, including 14,500 photographs, for professional or academic research, personal history, or deep curiosity. In 2015 we asked the MTC Foundation to support this goal; their three-year commitment made it possible for us to hire Archivist Mary Horodyski. Thanks to her efforts, along with a few dedicated volunteers and student placements, not only are the Archives open, but they are significantly more comprehensive and searchable than before. If anyone reading this is in the process of cleaning their basement, we are missing some programs from the 1960s and 1970s; there's a list on our website. Our work on our Archives has deepened our understanding of our history, and the impact we have had on our province for six decades.

In partnership with the Board and the Resource Development committee, we set another goal for the 60th anniversary: to welcome 60 individual or family members to our Founders' Circle, those who have have committed to a charitable gift to Royal MTC in their will or estate planning. Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, we reached 62 members of this most special group by May 31, 2018. Their forward-looking and generous

commitment will help ensure the success of our next 60 years, and the 60 years after that. The Winnipeg Foundation was a valued partner in this campaign, and we thank them for their support. I also want to celebrate the hard work of our Legacy Giving Committee: Kerry Dangerfield, Jack Fraser, John Guttormson, Maureen Jay, Jim McLandress, Derek Rolstone, and the late, great Brenda Zaporzan.

Our six decades of success and growth would not have been possible without government investment. Continued thanks to our core and sustaining funders: the Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, the Manitoba Arts Council, the Province of Manitoba, and the Winnipeg Arts Council for their contributions to Royal MTC's activities, and their special support for the Fringe Festival, the Regional Tour and the Master Playwright Festival.

In our 60th anniversary we chose to add a land acknowledgment to our Ovation programs. It's worth restating here: Royal MTC acknowledges that our two venues are on Treaty 1 territory and that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

With the new fiscal year, Board of Trustees Chair Tony Fletcher hands the reins to Dave Christie. Tony has been a dedicated and passionate leader, and we have benefitted immeasurably from his thoughtful and strategic tenure as Chair. Incoming Chair Dave Christie is deeply engaged with the community, has great passion for Royal MTC, and has demonstrated his leadership as a member of the Executive. He will preside as Chair over two significant seasons, leading us with confidence through the Artistic Director transition.

My thanks to our Board, supporters, subscribers and staff for their invaluable contributions in helping our 60th anniversary season shine.

CAMILLA HOLLAND

CHMans

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Our 60th anniversary reminded us that we stand on the shoulders not of giants, but of ordinary men and women with extraordinary ideas about what our community and, indeed, our world could be. We are the heirs of their courage, their imagination and their tenacity. It can't have been easy to create a theatre of our own in a place that knew only the temporary pleasure of touring shows. The roadhouses were a necessary respite from pioneer life but lacked what vintners refer to as *terroir*: the flavour of the region. What we needed was our own people on our own stages, and our anniversary gave us the chance to celebrate the rising tide of local talent that has transformed our theatre and our province.

Manitoba actors played major roles in almost all our productions this year, and created some of the season's most indelible memories. Jeremy Walmsley from Once led 100 guitars in a rousing version of "Falling Slowly," the Bard himself could not have summoned a more regal Elizabeth I than Sarah Constible in Shakespeare in Love, and Daniel Chen made an auspicious debut as the suave nightclub owner and prime suspect in Nine Dragons. What gave us even more cause for celebration was that these productions also played the Grand Theatre in London, the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, Vertigo Theatre in Calgary and Gateway Theatre in Richmond. In an era when tariffs and trade deficits are much on our minds, our theatre has become as much exporter as importer, and our audiences, like our artists, now span the country.

Of course, geographical expansionism is not our end goal. Any great theatre's sole purview is the heart of humanity: how close can we come to dramatizing the essential truth of life, and how can this truth assuage the solitude that is our common lot? Come From Away, for example, struck a deep chord within our community by showing us characters rising above fear and prejudice. Its playwrights turned the chilling threat of 9/11 into a heartwarming celebration of international hospitality and community cohesiveness (if that's not a paradoxical union).

Then again, perhaps that paradox is what Canadian *terroir* tastes like – a cooperative welcome – because that's certainly how our theatre came to be. Sixty years ago, a close-knit community helped an impossibly young Hungarian refugee re-create the rich theatrical memories of his youth. That they triumphed is a testament to the artists and audiences who shared John Hirsch's dream, and to their descendants, whose grace and goodwill shape all our ends.

Yours always,

STEVEN SCHIPPER

Hum Chipper

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS













SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

Based on the screenplay by Marc Norman & Tom Stoppard Adapted for the stage by Lee Hall

October 19 - November 11, 2017 PREVIEW • October 18

Director: Daryl Cloran
Set & Costume Designer: Cory Sincennes
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson
Sound Designer: Matthew Skopyk
Music Director: Don Horsburgh
Fight Director: Jonathan Hawley Purvis
Choreographer: Laura Krewski
Dialect Coach: Doug Mertz
Dramaturg: Josh Wickard
Apprentice Director: Suzie Martin*†
Stage Manager: Michelle Chan
Assistant Stage Manager: Kathryn Ball
Apprentice Stage Manager: Zoë Leclerc-Kennedy

Cast: Robert Benz, Tristan Carlucci[†], Patricia Cerra, Andrew Chown, Sarah Constible, Patricia Darbasie, Paul Essiembre, Matthew Fletcher[†], Gabe Grey, Tom Keenan, Kayvon Khoshkam, Kevin Klassen, Andrew MacDonald-Smith, Garett Ross, Ray Strachan[†], Luc Tellier, Farren Timoteo, John Ullyatt, Ashley Wright, Bahareh Yaraghi

A co-production with the Citadel Theatre

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted by Bruce McManus From the novel by Charles Dickens

November 23 - December 16, 2017 PREVIEW • November 22

Director: Steven Schipper Set Designer: Gillian Gallow Costume Designer: Judith Bowden Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson Composer / Vocal Coach: Danny Carroll Sound Designer: John Bent Jr. Choreographer: Teri-Lynn Friesen[†] Accessibility Consultant: Stefanie Wiens OT REG (MB) Apprentice Director: Rebekah Enns Assistant Set Designer: Eric Dizon Lighting Design Apprentice: Tori Popp* Stage Manager: Karyn Kumhyr Assistant Stage Manager: Michael Duggan[†] Assistant Stage Manager: Jessica Freundl Apprentice Stage Manager: Steven Smits Child Supervisor: Adeline Sokulski

Cast: Omar Benson, Andrea del Campo, Paul Essiembre, Kevin P. Gabel[†], Isla Gorton, Isabel Haderer, Lindsay Johnson, Kevin Klassen, Keenan Lehmann, John B. Lowe, Arne MacPherson, Darren Martens, Ross McMillan, Ryan James Miller, Esther Momtchilov, Carson Nattrass†, Robb Paterson, Robyn Pooley†, Cassandra Potenza, Cherissa Richards†, Meredith Rose, Heather Russell†, Renelle Thiessen, Isaac Vint

SPONSORED BY

CIBC WOOD GUNDY, MADAMS INVESTMENT GROUP & PLETT WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP

COME FROM AWAY

January 11 - February 3, 2018 PREVIEWS • January 4-10

Book, Music and Lyrics: Irene Sankoff and David Hein Director: Christopher Ashley Musical Staging: Kelly Devine Music Supervisor / Arrangements: Ian Eisendrath Set Designer: Beowulf Boritt Costume Designer: Toni-Leslie James Lighting Designer: Howell Binkley Sound Designer: Gareth Owen Hair Designer: David Brian Brown Orchestrations: August Eriksmoen Dialect Coach: Joel Goldes Casting Director: Stephanie Gorin, CDC, CSA N.Y. Casting: Telsey + Company / Rachel Hoffman, CSA Creative Consultant: Michael Rubinoff Music Director: Bob Foster Associate Music Director: Richard Evans Associate Choreographer: Richard J. Hinds Production Stage Manager: The. John Gray Stage Manager: Lisa Humber Assistant Stage Manager: Katie Honek Resident Director / Choreographer: Dayna Tekatch Apprentice Stage Manager: Steven Smits Production Management: Scot Whitham Production Supervisor: Juniper Street Productions General Management: Alchemy Production Group Marketing Strategy and Direction: On The Rialto

Cast: Saccha Dennis, Steffi DiDomenicantonio, Barbara Fulton, Lisa Horner, James Kall, George Masswohl, Ali Momen, Jack Noseworthy, Cory O'Brien, Kristen Peace, Eliza-Jane Scott, Kevin Vidal

Press Representative: Polk & Co.

Understudies: Susan Dunstan, Kate Etienne, Amir Haidar, Jeff Madden, David Silvestri, Cailin Stadnyk

Band: Tristan Avakian, Kim Ratcliffe, Anna Ludlow, Spencer Murray, Jonathan Maharaj, Sean Kilbride, Bob Foster, Richard Evans, Greg Hawco, Rick Whitelaw, Zach Redler, Ryan Driscoll, Andrew Barrett for Lionella Music, LLC

A Canadian Regional Premiere at Royal MTC by special arrangement with David Mirvish and Junkyard Dog Productions

SPONSORED BY THE GAIL ASPER FAMILY FOUNDATION & THE ASPER FOUNDATION

ONCE

Book by Enda Walsh Music and Lyrics by Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová Based on the Motion Picture Written and Directed by John Carney

> February 15 - March 10, 2018 PREVIEWS • February 13 & 14

Director / Choreographer: Tracey Flye
Music Director: Joseph Tritt
Set & Costume Designer: Brian Perchaluk†
Lighting Designer: Louise Guinand
Sound Designer: William Fallon
Vocal Coach: Paula Potosky
Assistant to the Director: Thomas Alderson
Stage Manager: Leslie Watson
Assistant Stage Manager: Melissa Cameron
Apprentice Stage Manager: Ryan Bjornson
Original Production Concept: John Tiffany
Child Supervisor: Maggie Nagle

Cast: Isaac Bell, Nathan Carroll, Duncan Cox, Quinn Dooley, Isabel Haderer, Jeff Hamacher, Amanda LeBlanc, Duff MacDonald, Jane Miller, Alicia Toner, Jeremy Walmsley, Daniel Williston, Cory Wojcik

A co-production with the Grand Theatre

THE HUMANS

By Stephen Karam

March 22 - April 14, 2018 PREVIEW • March 21

Director: Philip Akin
Set & Costume Designer: Brian Perchaluk†
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher
Sound Designer: Michael Wright
Assistant Director: Frances Koncan††
Set & Lighting Design Apprentice: Darah Miah*
Stage Manager: Margaret Brook
Assistant Stage Manager: Linsey Callaghan
Apprentice Stage Manager: Zahra Larche

Cast: Kate Besworth, John Bourgeois, Jane Burpee, Nicola Cavendish. Tom Keenan. Heather Russell†

MORNING AFTER GRACE

By Carey Crim

April 26 - May 19, 2018 PREVIEW • April 25

Director: Krista Jackson[†]
Set & Costume Designer: Charlotte Dean
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson
Sound Designer: Michael Wright
Fight Director: Paul Essiembre
Assistant Director: Cory Wojcik
Stage Manager: Chris Pearce
Assistant Stage Manager: Ali Fulmyk
Apprentice Stage Manager: Tori Popp[†]

Cast: C. David Johnson, Fiona Reid, Alvin Sanders

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE PRODUCTIONS

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE SEASON SPONSOR: BMO FINANCIAL GROUP









NINE DRAGONS

By Jovanni Sy

October 26 – November 11, 2017 PREVIEW • October 25

Director: Craig Hall
Set Designer: Scott Reid
Costume Designer: Deitra Kalyn
Lighting Designer: Anton de Groot
Composer & Sound Designer: Andrew Blizzard
Projection Designer: Jamie Nesbitt
Fight Director: Karl Sine
Voice & Dialect Consultant: Jane MacFarlane
Cantonese Translator: Derek Chan
Assistant Director: Jenna Rodgers

Assistant Costume Designer: Elizabeth Wellwood Fight Director Assistant: Zakk MacDonald Stage Manager: Michael Howard

Assistant Stage Manager: Linsey Callaghan
Cast: Scott Bellis, Daniel Chen, Natascha Girgis,

Toby Hughes, Duval Lang, John Ng

A world premiere co-production with Gateway Theatre and Vertigo Theatre

SUPPORTED BY

THE WUCHIEN MICHAEL THAN FOUNDATION

OUTSIDE MULLINGAR

By John Patrick Shanley

February 1 - 17, 2018 PREVIEW • January 31

Director: Peter Pasyk
Set & Costume Designer: Charlotte Dean
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher
Sound Designer: Chris Brett
Dialect Coach: Rae Ellen Bodie
Stage Manager: Margaret Brook
Assistant Stage Manager: Katherine Dermott

Cast: Nigel Bennett, Terri Cherniack[†], Alicia Johnston[†], Mike Nadajewski

Part of ShanleyFest 2018

DI AND VIV AND ROSE

By Amelia Bullmore

March 8 - 24, 2018 PREVIEW • March 7

Director: Heidi Malazdrewich[†]
Set & Costume Designer: Brian Perchaluk[†]
Lighting Designer: Larry Isacoff[§]
Sound Designer: Chris Brett
Apprentice Director: Angelica Schwartz^{*}
Stage Manager: Chris Pearce

Assistant Stage Manager: Katherine Dermott

Cast: Sarah Constible, Cherissa Richards, Charlene Van Buekenhout

HEISENBERG

By Simon Stephens

April 12 - 28, 2018 PREVIEW • April 11

Director: Steven Schipper
Set & Costume Designer: Linda Beech
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher
Sound Designer: Chris Brett
Choreographer: Catherine Wreford
Assistant Director: Dora Carroll†
Stage Manager: Karyn Kumhyr
Apprentice Stage Manager: Zoë Leclerc-Kennedy

Cast: Paula Potosky, Stephen Russell†

SPONSORED BY

THE ASPER FOUNDATION



Stephen Russell and Paula Potosky in Heisenberg. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

REGIONAL TOUR



The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries were pleased to present our regional tour of A Christmas Carol.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Charles Dickens Adapted and performed by Rod Beattie

November 19 - December 21, 2017

Stage Manager: Douglas Beattie Tour Technical Director: Ian Kirk Tour Technician: James Thurmeier

Cast: Rod Beattie

4,683 ATTENDED 24 PERFORMANCES

NOV 19 | Steinbach • Steinbach Arts Council

NOV 20 | Gimli • Kiwanis Club of Gimli and District

NOV 22 | Thompson • Recreation, Parks and Culture, City of Thompson

NOV 23 | Snow Lake • Aurora Borealis Arts Council

NOV 25 | Portage la Prairie • Luanne Anderson

NOV 27 | Eriksdale • Eriksdale Recreation Centre

NOV 28 | MacGregor • Heartland Recreation Centre

NOV 29 | Neepawa • Kaleidoscope Concert Series

NOV 30 | Minnedosa • Minnedosa Performing Arts Committee

DEC 1 | Dauphin • Watson Arts Centre

DEC 2 | Strathclair • Strathclair & District Theatre Committee, Ltd.

DEC 3 | Virden • Virden Arts Mosaic

DEC 5 | Deloraine • Southwest Showcase Inc.

DEC 6 | Crystal City • Parklane Theatre Committee

DEC 7 | Souris • Souris District Arts Council

DEC 8 | Gretna • Southern Manitoba Concerts
DEC 9 | Lac du Bonnet • Winnipeg River Arts Centre

DEC 10 | Kenora • Lake of the Woods Concert Group

Level of the Woods Contest Grou

DEC 12 | Sioux Lookout • Sioux Hudson Entertainment Series

DEC 13 | Dryden • Dryden Entertainment Series

DEC 14 | Red Lake • Wilderness Entertainment Series

DEC 16 | Atikokan • Atikokan Entertainment Series

DEC 19 | Brandon • Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium

DEC 21 | Morris • Morris Multiplex



WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

Theatre fans came out in droves to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival, leading to the festival's second-best attendance ever. The box office sizzled with indoor ticketed attendance totaling 104,908 with 138 sold-out performances and \$875,157 in box office revenue that was returned to performing companies. The total revenue represents a 21% increase over last year. The festival featured 186 companies with 1,583 total indoor performances. Royal MTC is the only regional theatre in Canada to produce a Fringe Festival, and presents the event as part of its proud commitment to developing new artists and audiences. Since its inception in 1988, the Winnipeg Fringe has enjoyed tremendous growth and ranks as the second-largest event of its kind in North America. Because participants are accepted to the festival through a lottery, artists enjoy complete artistic freedom as they present independent theatre to appreciative audiences.

SUPPORTED BY MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES

2017 WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL STATISTICS

TICKETED ATTENDANCE • 104,908

OUTDOOR ATTENDANCE (INCLUDING KIDS FRINGE) • 75,000 (APPROX.)

KIDS VENUE ATTENDANCE • 5,165

BOX OFFICE REVENUE • \$875,157

NUMBER OF PERFORMING COMPANIES • 186

NUMBER OF INDOOR PERFORMANCES • 1,583

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS • 755



MASTER PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL

The 18th Master Playwright Festival honoured the life and work of Irish-American playwright, screenwriter and director John Patrick Shanley. From January 30 to February 18, 2018, theatre fans gathered to watch 11 full productions and experience two play readings, three films, two lectures and interactive events. Other events included a director's panel and free film screenings of Shanley's most celebrated films. Dramedy *Outside Mullingar*, was performed at The Tom Hendry Warehouse from February 1 to 17, 2018.

Joining Royal MTC to celebrate the life and work John Patrick Shanley were: Beau Theatre Co., Broken Record Productions, Dalnavert Museum & Visitors' Centre, Naked Theatre Productions, PAL/ACTRA, R-G Productions, Shoestring Players, Tara Players, Tent Pole Productions, The Keep Theatre, Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre, Winnipeg Public Library and Vault Projects.

2018 MASTER PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL (SHANLEYFEST) STATISTICS

TICKETED ATTENDANCE • 6,785

FREE EVENTS ATTENDANCE (LECTURES AND FILM SCREENINGS) • 192

OVERALL FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE • 6,977

OVERALL FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE REVENUE • \$157,594

NUMBER OF PERFORMING COMPANIES • 15

NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES • 88

NEW CREATIONS

WORDPLAY

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre produces an average of one new play each season. This year, Jovanni Sy's murder mystery *Nine Dragons* had its world premiere at our Tom Hendry Warehouse, in co-production with Vertigo Theatre in Calgary and Gateway Theatre in Richmond.

Vancouver reviewer Colin Thomas wrote about the resonance of *Nine Dragons*: "You don't have to think too hard to associate the Ripper's forgotten Chinese victims with Canada's missing and murdered indigenous women and girls or to recognize the relationship between our current opioid crisis and the trade in opium and heroin, which plays a part in *Nine Dragons*. Besides, it's great to see a racially complex story on-stage in the racially complex Lower Mainland." Or in Winnipeg, we might add.

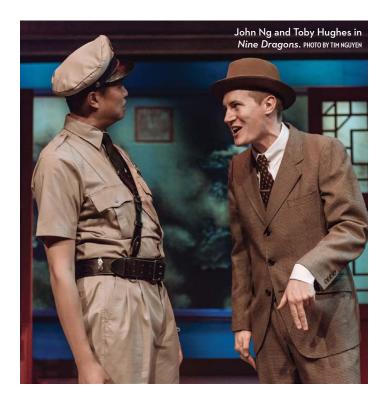
We are also proud to see creations that started at Royal MTC find warm receptions well beyond our theatre. During the summer of 2018, the famed Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine staged the US premiere of *Grumpy Old Men: The Musical*, which premiered at our John Hirsch Mainstage in 2011.

Of course, new work doesn't just happen. Writers and their work must be nurtured. We commission new plays (Royal MTC has several in various stages of development), we provide dramaturgical support, and we program readings and workshops.

In our quest for new work to produce, we also reviewed 126 script submissions this year: plays both new and previously produced that were read by Royal MTC staff and freelance analysts. This year, we hired 80 artists to work on nine scripts as part of our Wordplay series of readings and workshops.

These diverse activities help playwrights turn their dreams into reality, allow other artists to contribute to the creative process early, and give our audiences the inside track on the best new plays being written here and abroad.

SPONSORED BY INVESTORS GROUP



EXPANDING THE THEATRE EXPERIENCE

CULTIVATING TALENT

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre cultivates talent through a series of programs. By inviting students to attend performances on our stages and in their schools, we help them imagine a life in the theatre, both as artists and as audience members. Our scholarship program helps bring those dreams within reach, while apprenticeships give artists the hands-on experience they need to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Angelica Schwartz directed *The Drowning Girls* at our 2016 Fringe Festival and co-directed *The Hollow* and *Savage in Limbo* at our most recent Master Playwright Festivals. This season, she apprenticed with Director Heidi Malazdrewich on *Di and Viv and Rose*. She says, "I was able to voice my ideas with the director in a collaborative setting and influence the show musically. ... It was an incredible experience to be able to work on a very technically challenging show on a smaller stage." We like to think her experiences in our festivals and our apprenticeships helped her secure a spot in the directing program at the prestigious National Theatre School in Montréal next year.

Like Schwartz, many artists use our festivals as professional spring-boards. Wren Brian, a perennial Fringe Festival staffer, won the 2017 Harry S. Rintoul Memorial Award for best new Manitoba play at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival. The award was a landmark in Brian's life: "Since adding the Rintoul Award to my CV, I have applied successfully for both Manitoba Arts Council and Winnipeg Arts Council grants. The award boosted my confidence and contributed in a tangible way to my evolution as a professional."

Our co-productions help local artists expand their geographical and artistic horizons. Sarah Constible was one of five local actors who made their Citadel Theatre debuts in Edmonton with Shakespeare in Love:

"I'd almost resigned myself to thinking that I would never work professionally outside of Winnipeg. Then suddenly there I was in this wonderful theatre I'd never even seen before, playing this great role [Queen Elizabeth I] and working with Daryl Cloran, who's a terrific director. Now I actually have another out-of-town gig in Montréal at the Segal Centre playing Nora in A Doll's House, Part 2. The director talked to both Cloran and Steven Schipper before casting me, so the one role really did lead to another. I've grown as an artist so much over the years through my work at MTC, and now the theatre is helping me enter another new and exciting phase."

We are always proud to support the work of local artists and, this year, 47% of all actors at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre were Manitobans. We are also pleased that two plays - A Christmas Carol and Di and Viv and Rose - featured casts composed entirely of Manitobans. Without our artists, our theatre would not exist, and we are proud to play some small part in their creative evolutions.



THEATRE UNDER 30

TD 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 2017/18 season, the program welcomed 557 new sign-ups, with a total of 1,152 members, who purchased 680 tickets throughout the year. Members also received invitations to intimate and exclusive pre-show events.

SPONSORED BY TD

PRE-SHOW CHATS

Pre-Show Chats (formerly called Monday Mix) is an informal lecture series available to patrons who attend the third Thursday evening performance at the John Hirsch Mainstage. Patrons enrich their experience through pre-show conversations with local theatre professionals and special guests from our community.

THE 2017/18 LINEUP

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE • Shakespeare in Love is just one example of how Shakespeare's life and plays continue to endure and fascinate. Brandon Christopher, Associate Professor of English at the University of Winnipeg, led us through an exploration of Shakespeare adaptations and his works in contemporary culture. Attendees: 35

A CHRISTMAS CAROL • Manitoba playwright Bruce McManus shared his experience adapting a Dickens' classic and witnessing its remount on Royal MTC's stage. Attendees: 42

COME FROM AWAY • Master Carpenter Brent Letain gave the inside scoop on how Royal MTC re-created the Broadway set of Come From Away. Attendees: 86

ONCE • Archival volunteers Peggy Barker and Elsie Douglas provided an in-depth look at the carefully researched and curated photos of Royal MTC's 60th anniversary display. Attendees: 27

THE HUMANS • After a behind-the-scenes tour, Royal MTC's Head of Props, Kari Hagness, revealed how props magically complete the world on stage. Attendees: 55

MORNING AFTER GRACE • Morning After Grace is a hilarious and hopeful exposé of the not-so-secret lives of seniors. Morning After Grace Director and Royal MTC's Associate Artistic Director Krista Jackson delved into the creative process, from casting to research and rehearsals. Attendees: 31

TALKBACKS

Post-show, actors returned to the stage for a question-and-answer session with the audience. Talkbacks were hosted after Tuesday evening performances and the final Wednesday matinee at the John Hirsch Mainstage, and following Tuesday evening performances and Thursday matinees at the Tom Hendry Warehouse. A total of 4,704 patrons attended talkbacks throughout the season.

BACKSTAGE PASS: THEATRE PERSPECTIVES FOR STUDENTS

This season-long program gave 27 Grade 11 and 12 students an in-depth look at theatre. Students attended six theatre workshops led by members of Manitoba's professional theatre community followed by a matinee performance of each John Hirsch Mainstage production. Participants were selected based on their application essay and teacher recommendations.

Twenty-seven students from Winnipeg, rural Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario were accepted into the program:

Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Dryden High School Pedro Anishinabie Dryden High School Damon Armstrong Carter Pihulak Dryden High School Dryden High School Kenzie Rowat **Emily Stark** Fort Richmond Collegiate Madeline Emmonds Garden City Collegiate Quentin Fecyk Miles Macdonell Collegiate Laurel Fife Miles Macdonell Collegiate Trey Chaske Murdoch MacKay Collegiate Kaitlin Henderson Murdoch MacKay Collegiate Blavze Swerid Murdoch MacKay Collegiate Candice Aphline Oyugi River East Collegiate Seven Oaks MET School Aidan Zeglinski Avoub Moustarzak St. James Collegiate **Avery Tremblett** St. James Collegiate St. John's Ravenscourt Meagan Fennell Denise L. Estacio Tec Voc High School Wesley Blair Hansen Tec Voc High School Sydney Mann Treherne Collegiate Jamie Anderson Vincent Massey Collegiate Jessica Cole Vincent Massey Collegiate Janelle Forrester Vincent Massey Collegiate Sarah Lamoureux Vincent Massey Collegiate Tim Gehman Westwood Collegiate Tyler Findlay Warren Collegiate

THE 2017/18 LINEUP

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE • Shannon Vickers, dialect coach for many MTC productions, taught students how to perfect various accents and master their voices.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL • Actor Kevin Klassen walked the students through the auditioning process. They learned about the different types of auditions and had the chance to present a piece and get feedback.

COME FROM AWAY • Playwright and songwriter Angus Kohm taught the students how to write a dynamite script.

ONCE • Actor/improviser Andrea del Campo and msician Dave Quanbury taught the students how to think quickly on their feet in this unique musical improvisation workshop.

THE HUMANS • Set and costume designer Brian Perchaluk revealed *The Humans* design concepts to the students.

MORNING AFTER GRACE • Stunt performer and fight choreographer Rachel Hiebert showed the students all the tricks to make stage fighting look convincing while staying safe at the same time.

SPONSORED BY BELL MTS & SUBWAY

ASL-INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE

Royal MTC offered an American Sign Language-Interpreted performance of *Di and Viv and Rose* on March 13, 2018. The performance is held at the Tom Hendry Warehouse, where good sightlines ensure that patrons don't miss any of the action.

RELAXED PERFORMANCE

Royal MTC offered a relaxed performance of Once at the John Hirsch Mainstage on March 4, 2018. This is the second season Royal MTC has engaged in this accessibility initiative, which is designed to welcome audience members with sensory sensitivities, dementia, autism spectrum disorders, learning disorders, or anyone for whom the regular theatre experience can be challenging. Small modifications are made to the production and the patron experience to help reduce anxiety and create a more relaxed environment for everyone.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

Royal MTC hosted high school internships that ranged from 90 hours to one-day placements, involving experiences such as shadowing A Christmas Carol stage management team, ushering, doing research at the Archives of Manitoba, observing a rehearsal, shadowing a sound designer, and much more.

Victoria McNeil Angelina Stripling Denzel Hooke Karina Lawe Britanie Sousa 12-week internship one-day placement one-day placement one-day placement one-day placement Kelvin High School Lorette Collegiate Maples MET School Maples MET School Maples MET School

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Nominated by their school, our Student Ambassadors (grades 9 – 12) had the opportunity to experience the excitement and energy of opening night with a guest of their choosing, while spreading their love of theatre. Royal MTC had 11 Student Ambassadors this season.

Kalie Peters
Asha Stott
Yasmin Amer
Demitra Simeonidis
Victoria McNeil
Helio Kruizenga
Gabriel Francis Mayna

Gabriel Francis Maynard Hewan Nega Coral Yeryk MariLynn Champagne Jordan Skelly College Jeanne-Sauve
College Jeanne-Sauve
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Fort Richmond Collegiate
Kelvin High School
Miles Macdonnell Collegiate
Miles Macdonnell Collegiate
Murdoch MacKay Collegiate
Murdoch MacKay Collegiate
St. Anne Collegiate
Windsor Park Collegiate

CULTURAL ACCESS PASS

The only program of its kind in the world, the Institute for Canadian Citizenship's Cultural Access Pass (CAP) provides members with free admission to more than 1,400 of Canada's premier cultural attractions. In 2017/18, our third year partnering with CAP, 21 new Canadians attended *Shakespeare in Love* and 14 attended *Once*.

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Royal MTC schedules student-only matinee performances for selected productions. This year, MTC offered matinees for six productions: Shakespeare in Love, Nine Dragons, A Christmas Carol, Come From Away, Once and The Humans. As part of our TFYA programming, seven study guides were compiled and posted on our website where they could be accessed by all Royal MTC patrons.

A total of 5,174 students attended student-only matinee performances.

In addition to those who attended the student-only matinees, 1,927 students attended regular performances, and 206 students subscribed to the entire Mainstage and/or Warehouse season with their school.

SPONSORED BY **GREAT-WEST LIFE ASSURANCE CO.**TICKET SUBSIDIES PROVIDED BY **GREYSTONE MANAGED INVESTMENTS**

SCHOLARSHIPS & 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. Also, this fund awards apprenticeships to emerging professional artists and craftspeople who have completed accredited post-secondary training within the past two academic years and are looking for opportunities to gain experience in professional theatre.

Royal MTC awarded a total of \$20,000 for the 2017/18 academic year/theatre season.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Alexandra Chubaty
Boychuk
Bethany Cooke
Tyra Godenir
Lauren Gowler
Mallory James
Emily Jane King
Hannah Krostewitz
Elliot Lazar
Madeline Hanton
Alanna McPherson

Emily Meadows Julia Nelles Kelsey Wavey Erica Wilson

APPRENTICESHIP RECIPIENTS

Zoë Leclerc-Kennedy Darah McCarthy Suzie Martin Victoria Popp Angelica Schwartz

PLAY ON WORDS

From Page to Stage is a series of free noon-hour presentations in the Carol Shields Auditorium at the Millennium Library. Royal MTC's artists, staff and craftspeople share behind-the-scenes stories and explore literary connections to great plays and musicals. The sessions run from 12:10 – 12:50pm and each presentation is broadcast via Facebook Live. A total of 115 people attended in-person and over 1,600 tuned in online.

Many thanks to Deborah Gray for her generous support to expand our Youth and Educator Engagement this season.

SPECIAL EVENTS

BLACK WHITE



A NIGHT TO SHINE

The room dazzled, the conversation sparkled and the party was spectacular at the RBC Convention Centre, York Ballroom, as the Black & White Ball celebrated Royal MTC's 60th season – our diamond anniversary! Performer Kimberley Rampersad drew 600 quests into the ballroom with a brilliant rendition of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend." The night was filled with delicious food and amazing auction prizes. Enthusiastic guests danced to the music of the Danny Kramer Dance Band during dinner and well into the night.

Royal MTC and the event committee sincerely thank the guests, sponsors, corporate table purchasers, donors and volunteers for making this event our most successful yet. These generous contributions support our many programs and productions while ensuring that live theatre continues to thrive in this community. Special thanks to Premier Sponsor **RBC** for their continued support.

Congratulations to Carol Johnson, winner of the Fillmore Riley Vacation Prize!

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ATTENDANCE • 597

NET PROCEEDS • \$176,951.38







SPECIAL EVENTS

ROYAL MTC/MBA LAWYERS PLAY



WITNESS TO GREAT THEATRE!

Agatha Christie's suspenseful thriller *Witness for the Prosecution* kept audiences guessing until the very end, with 15 Manitoba Bar Association members serving up shocking testimony, impassioned outbursts and a surprising twist. The Tom Hendry Warehouse was buzzing from May 9 to 12 with excitement for the Lawyers Play – a fundraiser in support of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre.

Celebrating its 26th production, the Royal MTC/MBA Lawyers Play is a vital fundraising event for the theatre and has raised more than \$1 million since 1990!

We wish to thank our patrons, donors, advertisers and sponsors for supporting our efforts to offer extraordinary theatre at accessible prices to all Manitobans. Royal MTC would also like to extend sincere thanks to the talented cast and hardworking crew, as well as our many volunteers and committee members.

ALL PHOTOS BY DAVID SWIECICKI

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

By Agatha Christie

May 9-12, 2018

Director / Fight Director: Paul Essiembre*
Production Designer: Kari Hagness
Wardrobe Coordinator: Thora Lamont
Lighting Designer: Randy Zyla Harder
Audio: Chris Brett
Dialect Coach: Tom Soares
Stage Manager: Chuck McEwen
Assistant Stage Manager: Jen Cheslock
Assistant Stage Manager: Paige Lewis

Cast: David Dick, Caleigh Glawson, Brenda Keyser, Peter Kingsley, Ashley Korsunsky, Ryan Krahn, Alex Nisbet, Jeff Palamar, Kaitlynn Porath, Brad Regehr, Steve Scarfone, Priti Shah, Robert Tyler, Heather Wadsworth, Kyla Wills

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TICKETS SOLD FOR FOUR PERFORMANCES • 762 NET PROCEEDS • \$40,686











Melissa Beaumont, Manitoba Bar Association President, with Melissa Hazelton & Kalyn Bomback, Committee Members.



Witness for the Prosecution.



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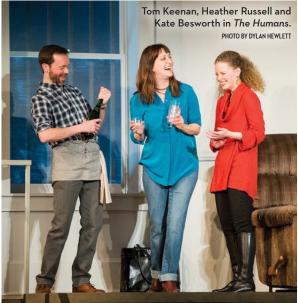
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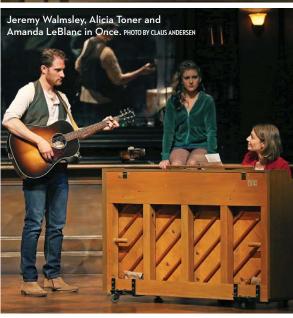
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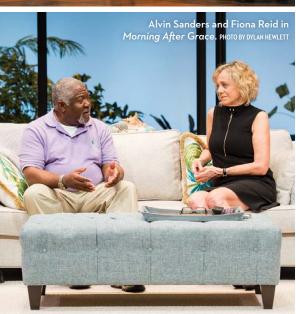
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"...all-local supporting cast, including a delightful turn from John B. Lowe as the Ghost of Christmas Present"



John B. Lowe in A Christmas Carol. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT



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ASSETS CURRENT								
Cash and cash equivalents	3,155,726					57,606	3,213,332	3,354,387
Accounts and grants receivable	953,784	10,000					963,784	991,444
Prepaid expenses	631,216						631,216	460,048
Due to/(from) funds	(1,313,104)	433,535	56,837	732,732	100,000		_	_
	3,427,622	433,535	56,837	732,732	100,000	57,606	4,808,332	4,805,879
CAPITAL ASSETS		1,685,461					1,685,461	1,333,287
	3,427,622	2,118,996	56,837	732,732	100,000	57,606	6,493,793	6,139,166
LIABILITIES CURRENT								
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	372,635						372,635	335,878
Deferred revenue	3,054,988						3,054,988	3,040,656
	3,427,623						3,427,623	3,376,534
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS		1,740,397					1,740,397	1,459,075
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS						57,606	57,606	45,203
	3,427,623	1,740,397				57,606	5,225,626	4,880,812
NET ASSETS								
Internally Restricted	_		56,837				56,837	41,361
Invested in capital assets	_	378,598					378,598	420,750
Unrestricted	_			732,732	100,000		832,732	796,243
	_	378,598	56,837	732,732	100,000	_	1,268,167	1,258,354
	3,427,623	2,118,995	56,837	732,732	100,000	57,606	6,493,793	6,139,166

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AS OF MAY 31, 2018

OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND	STABILIZATION FUND	ASM WORKING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDS	2018 TOTAL	2017 TOTAL
11,005,131	211,896	_	_	_	20,000	11,237,027	10,701,643
10,933,642	254,048	19,524	_	_	20,000	11,227,214	10,515,534
71,489	(42,152)	(19,524)	_	_	_	9,813	186,109
	420,750	41,361	696,243	100,000	_	1,258,354	1,072,245
(71,489)	_	35,000	36,489	_	_		
_	378,598	56,837	732,732	100,000	_	1,268,167	1,258,354
	FUND 11,005,131 10,933,642 71,489 (71,489)	OPERATING FUND REPLACEMENT FUND 11,005,131 211,896 10,933,642 254,048 71,489 (42,152) 420,750 (71,489) —	OPERATING FUND REPLACEMENT FUND DEVELOPMENT FUND 11,005,131 211,896 — 10,933,642 254,048 19,524 71,489 (42,152) (19,524) 420,750 41,361 (71,489) — 35,000	OPERATING FUND REPLACEMENT FUND DEVELOPMENT FUND STABILIZATION FUND 11,005,131 211,896 — — 10,933,642 254,048 19,524 — 71,489 (42,152) (19,524) — 420,750 41,361 696,243 (71,489) — 35,000 36,489	OPERATING FUND REPLACEMENT FUND DEVELOPMENT FUND STABILIZATION FUND CAPITAL RESERVE FUND 11,005,131 211,896 — — — — 10,933,642 254,048 19,524 — — 71,489 (42,152) (19,524) — — 420,750 41,361 696,243 100,000 (71,489) — 35,000 36,489 —	OPERATING FUND REPLACEMENT FUND DEVELOPMENT FUND STABILIZATION FUND CAPITAL RESERVE FUND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDS 11,005,131 211,896 — — — 20,000 10,933,642 254,048 19,524 — — 20,000 71,489 (42,152) (19,524) — — — — 420,750 41,361 696,243 100,000 — (71,489) — 35,000 36,489 — —	OPERATING FUND REPLACEMENT FUND DEVELOPMENT FUND STABILIZATION FUND CAPITAL RESERVE FUND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDS 2018 TOTAL 11,005,131 211,896 — — — 20,000 11,237,027 10,933,642 254,048 19,524 — — 20,000 11,227,214 71,489 (42,152) (19,524) — — — 9,813 420,750 41,361 696,243 100,000 — 1,258,354 (71,489) — 35,000 36,489 — — —

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