

## ROYAL MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE AUDITION NOTICE

Part of the 2026-2027 Tom Hendry Warehouse Season & the 2027 MTC  
Regional Tour

# MISERY

By WILLIAM GOLDMAN;

Based on the novel by STEPHEN KING

Directed by ARDITH BOXALL

### PRODUCTION DATES:

Rehearsals Begin	January 4, 2027
First Preview Performance	January 27, 2027
Opening Performance	January 28, 2027
Closing Performance	February 13, 2027
Regional Tour Dates	February 19 – March 19, 2027

## IN-PERSON AUDITIONS in WINNIPEG, April 6-7, 2027

### Additional Info:

- **All applications should include both a headshot and resume.**
- Audition materials (sides) will be made available to those **Artists selected to audition.**
- Scripts are available to read on-site at MTC's John Hirsch Mainstage (174 Market Avenue) during Box Office hours.
- **Eligibility:** MTC is accepting applications from Artists **currently residing and able to work in Manitoba** and aged 18+.
- Artists who cannot attend an in-person audition in Winnipeg may request to submit a self-tape.
  - o Self-tapes will be due on **April 6, 2026.**
- While we thank all those who apply, only those selected for an audition will be contacted. Due to a limited number of audition times available, we are unable to see all Artists.

### Regional Tour:

- Artists cast in this production will also be contracted for the MTC Regional Tour, and should anticipate a full-time commitment to the project:
  - o Tech / Dress Rehearsal – Week of February 15, 2027
  - o Tour – February 19 through March 19, 2027, inclusive (dates subject to change):
    - *on the road full-time, staying overnight in communities across Manitoba and NW Ontario. One free day per week, but no opportunities to return to Winnipeg.*

### To Apply:

Please proceed to our Online Audition Portal at

<https://royalmtc.ca/Artists/Auditions.aspx>

Applications received until:

**Thursday March 26, 2026 (11:59pm)**

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### **PRODUCTION NOTES (from the creators):**

When famous author Paul Sheldon regains consciousness following a car wreck, he's bedridden in an isolated home. By a stroke of luck, the woman who saved him is both a nurse and his "number one fan". But soon, Annie's mild-mannered veneer wears thin, and Paul realizes his fate is tied to a woman who is obsessively plotting to keep him to herself.

As only he can do, Stephen King builds chilling tension as Annie's escalating demands threaten to send Paul hurtling toward an unhappy ending. The 1990 film version of *Misery* introduced a generation to Annie Wilkes. Today, she returns to a society just as obsessed with our heroes. Turns out, misery does love company.

### **CASTING NOTES / PHYSICAL & STAGING REQUIREMENTS (from the Director):**

This production includes moments of heightened physical storytelling and simulated stage violence. Actors should be comfortable with choreographed physical interaction and working with a fight director.

Physical elements in the production may include:

- Use of a wheelchair due to "broken" lower limbs – actor must also have ambulatory movement
- Depiction of injury (arm sling, leg splints) and assisted movement, including being lifted onto a bed
- Handling/lifting/swinging weapons such as a sledgehammer, typewriter, knife, gun, and medical syringe
- Simulated medical actions (taking/being force fed "pills", staged injection)
- Moments of physical struggle between characters and Choreographed stage combat involving grabbing, restraint, choking, and falls to the floor
- Stage effects including fire elements

All moments of physical contact or violence will be fully choreographed and rehearsed with appropriate safety protocols. Actors may also be required to physically move the set and manually transform the playing space.

### **ADULT CHARACTER BREAKDOWN (from the Director):**

#### **ANNIE WILKES** (*she/her, any ethnicity, plays early 40s-50s*)

Annie is a dangerously psychotic, physically imposing former nurse and "number one fan" who holds Paul Sheldon captive. She has extreme, violent mood swings, a rigid moral code, and a delusional, obsessive personality that blends nurturing care with torture.

She moves between devotion and rage with little provocation. She has a child-like mind that can be coldly-calculating and passionately enthusiastic.

"A dangerous psychotic with a *Romper Room* sense of good and bad, fair and unfair." - Stephen King

#### **PAUL SHELDON** (*he/him, any ethnicity, plays early 40s-50s*)

A very famous romance novelist. Intelligent, arrogant, resourceful. Held captive by Annie, Paul's situation leaves him immensely vulnerable mentally and physically. He relies on wit, creativity, and manipulation as he fights for survival. Experiences intense pain and injury from crashing his car, and endures torment and torture from his captor. Paul is in a bed or a wheelchair throughout the play; writing a novel to stay alive.

#### **BUSTER** (*any gender, any ethnicity, plays 40s-50s*)

A small-town local sheriff investigating the disappearance of Paul Sheldon. Friendly and inquisitive, Buster is a tragic character who gets too close to the truth. While the script refers to Buster as male, the character could be played by male or female actor.

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### **ABOUT ROYAL MTC:**

Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre is proud to call Manitoba home, and is located in Winnipeg on Treaty 1, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Inninewak, Anishinewak, Dakota Oyate, and Denesuline, 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 spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

### **INCLUSIVE CASTING:**

Royal MTC recognizes the importance of inclusivity in casting as part of our commitment to a safe, respectful, and inclusive ecology. For roles where identity characteristics are not prescribed, the Director will consider all Artists, without discrimination on any protected grounds.

### **CULTURAL INTEGRITY IN CASTING:**

When casting culturally-specific roles, or roles requiring specific lived experience, MTC will make every effort to audition and engage Artists who identify as part of the applicable community.

### **ACCESSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES:**

The audition, rehearsal, and performance spaces at the John Hirsch Mainstage are accessible via elevator/freight elevator. While the performance space at the Tom Hendry Warehouse is at ground level, the rehearsal space is accessed only via a flight of stairs.

### **SAFE AND RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE POLICY:**

Royal MTC is committed to fostering a safe and respectful workplace, free from any form of hate, discrimination, or harassment, where every individual treats one another with dignity and respect.

### **QUESTIONS:**

Please reach out to Leslie Watson, Company Manager, if you have any questions or other access needs.