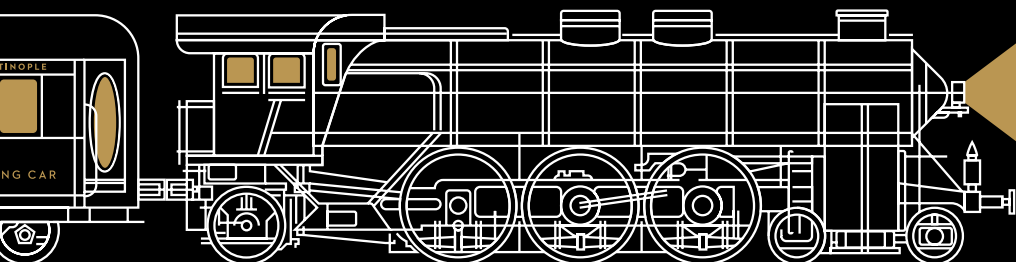


WELCOME  
TO A  
MAGNIFICENT  
JOURNEY

ROYAL MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE  
BLACK & WHITE BALL

SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 1, 2025





Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre is proud to call Manitoba home. Royal MTC 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 the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.



# EVENT SCHEDULE

## 6 PM

### RECEPTION

Sponsored by Birchwood Lexus  
Sparkling Wine, Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres

### SILENT AUCTION

Sponsored by Tanchak Wealth Management

## 7 PM

### WELCOME ADDRESS FOLLOWED BY DINNER

Donna Fletcher and Justin Stadnyk, *Emcees*  
Evan Klassen, *Executive Director* and Kelly Thornton, *Artistic Director*

### LIVE AUCTION

Sponsored by Charity Auction Group

### FILLMORE RILEY VACATION PRIZE

Tickets available until 10:30 PM

## Dancing until 1 AM

BIG CITY ALL STAR BAND

MESSAGE FROM

# THE CHAIR OF THE ROYAL MTC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

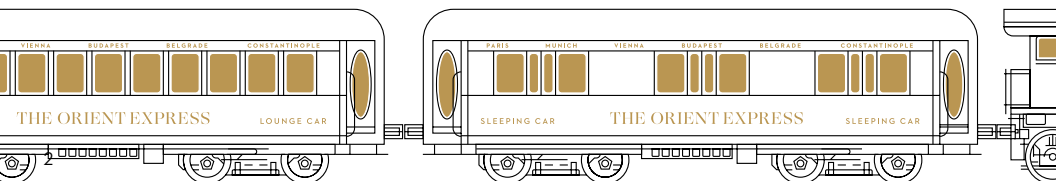
The date: October 4, 1883. The place: Gare de Strasbourg, Paris. The occasion: Maiden voyage of a train the newspapers dubbed The Orient Express. Its destination: Constantinople (now Istanbul).

Writing for the Smithsonian Magazine, journalist David Zax described delighted rail passengers marvelling at the train's intricate wood paneling, deluxe leather furniture, silk sheets, and wool blankets for the beds. In October 1883, no one would have predicted The Orient Express would be remembered not just for its opulence but also for its artistic intrigue. A perfect playground for presidents, spies, lovers, and ... murderers! By extension-a perfect

theme for Royal MTC's Black & White Ball and teaser for Royal MTC's January, 2026 mainstage production.

In the spirit of The Orient Express, we invite you to enjoy the glitz, the glamour, the food and the music for which Royal MTC's Black & White Ball has become famous. That said, kindly tone down the spying and murdering.

The Black & White Ball has been instrumental in Royal MTC's quest to make high quality professional live theatre accessible to all Manitobans. Royal MTC is extremely grateful for the support of all those attending tonight as well as for our many other donors and sponsors. We, of course, would



be nowhere without our committed patrons, whether subscribers or casual ticket buyers. It is for you that we do what we do.

The Black & White Ball is made possible by a dedicated and creative team of Royal MTC staff and volunteers. Tickets for this year's event were sold out by July 31, 2025. Please join us in thanking Co-Chairs Jenny-Lou Ryan and Sharan Atwal and their entire committee.

We hope to see you all at the theatre. The 2025-2026 Mainstage and Warehouse seasons promise to be spectacular.

David Kroft, *Chair*



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Kroft, *Chair*

Emily Burt

Blair Doell

Brad Favel

Kerry Feeney

Jessica Floresco

Susan Freig

John Guttormson

James Kepp

Katrina Lee-Kwen

Linda McGarva-Cohen

Patrick McLenehan

Jocelyne Prefontaine

Nalini Reddy

Loren Remillard

Sudhir Sandhu

Laurie Speers

Claire Workman

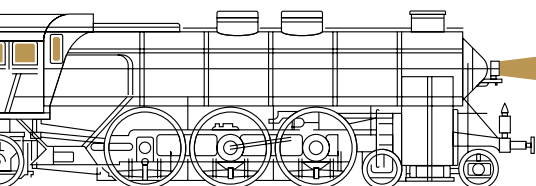
Nicole Zajac

Kelly Thornton

*Artistic Director*

Evan Klassen

*Executive Director*



## MESSAGE FROM

# THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE BLACK & WHITE BALL COMMITTEE

Welcome to Royal MTC's Black and White Gala, A Magnificent Journey! Tonight, we gather not only to celebrate Royal MTC's accomplishments, but also to honour the remarkable journey we share as a community of vision, passion and purpose.

With deep gratitude, we acknowledge our sponsors and supporters. Your generosity and steadfast commitment make evenings such as this possible, and your belief in the mission of Royal MTC continues to guide us forward.

To our distinguished guests, thank you for being with us. Your presence brings warmth and meaning to this occasion. Many of you have accompanied us through the years, while others join us for the first time. Whether long-standing friend or new companion, you are an essential part of our story, and we are truly honoured to share this evening with you.

Finally, we extend our appreciation to our extraordinary event team, whose vision, dedication, and creativity have shaped this Gala into the magnificent celebration before us. Last but not least, to our long standing volunteers, your tireless efforts and loyal commitment over the years have been the foundation of our success. We are deeply grateful for your continued service.

May tonight serve as an aspiring glimpse of the journey still ahead. It has been our absolute privilege to be a part of this memorable evening.

Jenny-Lou and Sharan



The image shows two handwritten signatures in white ink. The signature on the left is 'Jenny-Lou' and the signature on the right is 'Sharan'. They are written in a cursive, flowing style. The background of the page features a faint, stylized line drawing of a vintage car, which is partially obscured by the text and signatures.

# OUR DEEPEST THANKS

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event possible. We truly could not make great theatre without you.

Special thanks to everyone at Royal MTC and the Manitoba Museum who helped make this event happen.

## COMMITTEE

**Jenny-Lou Ryan &  
Sharan Atwal, Co-Chairs**

Kaela Acheson  
Kim Boughton  
Antonio Buccini  
Nicole Fay  
Kathryn Gompf  
Stacey Grocholski  
Elsebeth Hansen-Kriening  
Colleen Kroeker  
Ryan Leech  
Brad McCabe  
Julie-Anne McCallum  
Kirsten McConnell  
Dana Plett  
Rhonda Plett  
Shelly Smith-Hines  
Ellie Topnik

## STAFF

Heidi Struck  
*Director of Development*  
  
Stephanie Porrior  
*Event Coordinator*  
  
Meaghan Fletcher  
*Event Assistant*  
  
Evan Klassen  
*Executive Director*  
  
Andrea Mancini  
*Soirée Event Planning*  
  
Michelle Peters  
*Soirée Event Planning*  
  
Amelia Dueck  
*Soirée Event Planning*

# THANK

## SILVER SPONSOR



## AUCTION SPONSOR



## LIVE AUCTION



## VACATION RAFFLE



## TRAVEL PARTNERS



## ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR



## BRONZE SPONSOR



## DESSERT SPONSOR



## COCKTAIL SPONSOR



## WINE SPONSOR



## SUPPORTERS



# YOU





# CHEERS!

TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS,  
CORPORATE PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

## PRIME TABLES

Gendis

Innovair Group

Penner Oil Inc.

People Corporation

Wellington-Altus

Whiteland Real Estate

Number TEN Architecture

Parrish & Heimbecker

PCL Constructors Canada Inc.

Progressive Real Estate

Qualico

RRC Polytech

Richardson International Ltd.

Wawanesa

## CORPORATE TABLES

Canada Life

Cardinal Capital Management

CIBC Capital Markets

Deloitte

DentalCorp

Dycom Direct Mail Services

Manitoba Blue Cross

Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries

## DONORS

Jennifer Blumenthal & Danny Bubis

Laura Lomow

Jocelyn Unrau

*\*List as of October 17, 2025.*

**FillmoreRiley**  
VACATION PRIZE

# LUXURY RIVER CRUISE FOR TWO

**IN THE HEART OF BELGIUM & HOLLAND**

**Enjoy an 8 day luxury river cruise for two with  
TAUCK through the heart of Belgium and Holland.**

Flights provided by Air Canada. Travel dates are June 3 to 10, 2026.

Your trip must be booked no later than February 28, 2026.

Tickets are available for purchase in the lobby during performances of *Life of Pi* and *Elf: The Musical* or by phone. For further details, contact Patrick at 204 954 6411.

See [royalmtc.ca/bw](http://royalmtc.ca/bw) for full prize details & raffle rules.

Valued at over \$24,000  
**BUY TICKETS NOW!**  
1 for \$50, 3 for \$100

Proceeds in support of Royal MTC's  
productions and programs.

ROYAL  
**MTC**  
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

COURTESY OF



AIR CANADA

**BON  
ADVENTURE**  
TRAVEL

**TAUCK** 

# MENU

## • ACT I •

### **Tomato Soup**

Tomato, fennel and wild rice

## • ACT II •

### **Fresh Green Salad**

Artisan greens, quinoa, orange, whipped jalapeno goat cheese, watermelon radish, roasted almonds with a sumac vinaigrette

## • ACT III •

### **Beef Rib**

Red wine braised beef rib, roasted king oyster mushroom, mashed potato, golden beet, asparagus, basil coulis and butternut squash puree

### **Risotto**

Carrot risotto with romesco cauliflower

## • STANDING OVATION •

**Dessert provided by Flour & Flower**

## • ENCORE •

**McDonald's Cheeseburgers and Junior Chickens**

WINE PROVIDED BY **Jones & Company**  
— WINE MERCHANTS —

NOV 25 — DEC 24



# The Musical

BOOK BY  
Thomas Meehan  
And Bob Martin

MUSIC BY  
Matthew Sklar

LYRICS BY  
Chad Beguelin

Based upon the New Line Cinema film written by David Berenbaum

ROYAL  
**MTC**  
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

JOHN  
HIRSCH  
MAINSTAGE

RoyalMTC.ca  
204 942 6537



# SILENT AUCTION

SPONSORED BY TANCHAK WEALTH MANAGEMENT

## WE'VE GONE DIGITAL!

Visit [blackandwhiteauction.ca](http://blackandwhiteauction.ca) or use the Givergy tablet in the foyer to bid on the wide selection of wonderful prizes and art pieces for auction.

### NEED HELP GETTING STARTED?

Ask a Givergy staff member or volunteer if you have any questions!

### HOW TO WIN

- Create an account on the tablet or on your personal device.
- View items by lot number or category.
- Bid on items you love — you can even set a maximum bid, so Givergy does the work for you. Don't worry, it only bids automatically if you are outbid. Set it and forget it!
- You will be notified with your winning bids via e-mail when the auction ends.

### THE DETAILS

- Prizes will be automatically paid in full by the winning bidder after the auction closes.
- Pick-up and delivery of items will be scheduled during the week of November 19-22.
- Tax receipts are only available for the portion of a payment that is above the listed value of the items.



**BID NOW!**

**Auction Closes Monday, November 3, 2025 at 8:00PM**

# THANK YOU

## TO OUR GENEROUS AUCTION DONORS!

529 Uptown  
 Abby Mann and Code Ninja  
 Arborea  
 Assiniboia Downs  
 Back to Pack Rescue Shelter  
 and Andrew Din  
 Barb Pritchard  
 Bergmann's on Lombard  
 Birchwood  
 BluFish  
 Brasserie Nonsuch Brewing  
 Company  
 Breezy Bend  
 Broadway Florists  
 Canadian Footwear  
 Charlene Du Toit  
 Closet Therapy and  
 Leah Bracken  
 Cranked Energy Bar  
 Crown Cap (1987) Ltd.  
 Danali  
 Decadence Chocolates Inc.  
 De Luca's  
 Edward Carriere  
 Elkhorn Resort  
 Ellie Topnik  
 Empty Cup Collective  
 Flour & Flower  
 FoodFare  
 FortWhyte Alive  
 Georgia Coy Studio  
 Glendale Golf and Country Club  
 Global Drain Technologies  
 Grand Pines Golf Course  
 Greek Market  
 Gusto North  
 Harwood Design Builders  
 Hilary Druzman  
 Holly Ann Friesen  
 Houseworks, Chores and More  
 Inn at the Forks and Smith  
 Restaurant

Jane's Restaurant  
 Jean-Pierre Parenty  
 Jensen's Nursery and  
 Garden Centre  
 Kaizen  
 Kari Hagness  
 Katherine Twaddle  
 Kendrick's Outdoor Adventures  
 Lakhvir Kaur  
 Lilac Bakery  
 Lineage House  
 Luxe BBQ  
 Luxe FURNITURE  
 Manitoba Centennial Centre  
 Corporation  
 Manitoba Club  
 Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries  
 Manitoba Museum  
 Manitoba Opera  
 Manitoba Theatre for  
 Young People  
 Margery Koop  
 McDiarmid Flowers  
 McNally Robinson Booksellers  
 Minte Cosmetology  
 Mondetta  
 MPG Sport  
 Myüz Artistry  
 Niakwa Golf and Country Club  
 Nicolino's Restaurant  
 Nola and Emily Butcher and  
 Mike Del Buono  
 Open Concept Yoga  
 Pamela Jeffries  
 Pat McCullough  
 Peasant Cookery  
 Prairie Theatre Exchange  
 Red River College Polytechnic  
 RINK and Testify Performance  
 Royal Winnipeg Ballet  
 Saddlery  
 Sharan Atwal

Shelter Canadian Properties  
 SKIN Clinic  
 Smack Pet Food  
 Small Mercies and Silver Lotus  
 So Over It  
 Soal The Label  
 Sophie Theodorou  
 Special Olympics  
 Stella's Café  
 Sturgeon Creek Dental and  
 Dr. Sharan Atwal  
 Sugar Blossom  
 Susan Ferley  
 Sweets To Go  
 Taylor Tennis Club  
 Ten Spa at the Fort Garry  
 The Fitual  
 The Fort Garry Hotel  
 The Keg Steakhouse  
 Thermea  
 Torque Brewing Co  
 TR McKoys  
 True North Sports and  
 Entertainment  
 Visage  
 Vittorio Rossi and Frank Trunzo  
 WAG-Qaumajuq  
 Westbrook Dental Group  
 and Dr. Ken Hamin  
 Winnipeg Comedy Festival  
 and Gas Station Arts Centre  
 Winnipeg Folk Festival  
 Winnipeg Theatre Festival  
 Winnipeg Winter Club and  
 Rob Guthrie  
 WK Chan Jewellers  
 Woodlands Gallery  
 YMCA-YWCA Winnipeg  
 Yoga Public  
 Yuk Yuk's

# SUPPORTING CHARITIES

## ONE BID AT A TIME

Charity Auction Group has graciously donated their time and services this evening to run our Live Auction. Thank you, Charity Auction Group, for your support of Royal MTC!



### HOW TO WIN

- The live auction will be held following dinner. Hold up the numbered paddle located at your seat to make a bid.
- Live auction prizes are won by the highest bidder. Successful bidders will be contacted by Royal MTC Staff about pick up or delivery after the bidding ends.
- Royal MTC accepts payment by credit card, cash, and cheque. Prizes must be paid in full before the close of the evening.

LOT #1

# WOW! In-Home Dining Experience



## ENJOY AN UNBELIEVABLE EVENING OF EXTRAORDINARY DINING

Enjoy an unforgettable in-home dining experience for eight, crafted by award-winning Executive Chef Luc Jean of WOW! Catering.

This exquisite four-course meal features the finest ingredients, expert preparation, and a perfect wine pairing for the main course.

Chef Luc and his professional team will transform your home into a fine-dining venue, delivering bold flavours and flawless service.

Date to be mutually agreed upon. Not available Dec 8, 2025 – Jan 9, 2026.

Gratuity not included.

Donated by WOW! Catering



## LOT #2

# Walk-on Role for *Elf: The Musical*



### STAR IN *ELF: THE MUSICAL!*

This is your chance to be in the magic — with a walk-on role in *Elf: The Musical* at Royal MTC, running Nov 25–Dec 28, 2025! Get the full star treatment with a professional costume fitting, your own dressing room and the chance to step into a featured scene. Plus, 10 tickets for your family and friends to watch you shine! And that's not all — you'll

also receive 10 tickets to come back and see *Murder on the Orient Express* with your guests!

Choose your performance date: Dec 9, 12, 16 or 18 (7:30 PM). Confirm by Nov 14, 2025. Your moment in the spotlight is waiting — don't miss it!

Donated by Royal MTC

## LOT #3

# Explore the Canadian Rockies with Rocky Mountaineer



## ALL ABOARD FOR THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME!

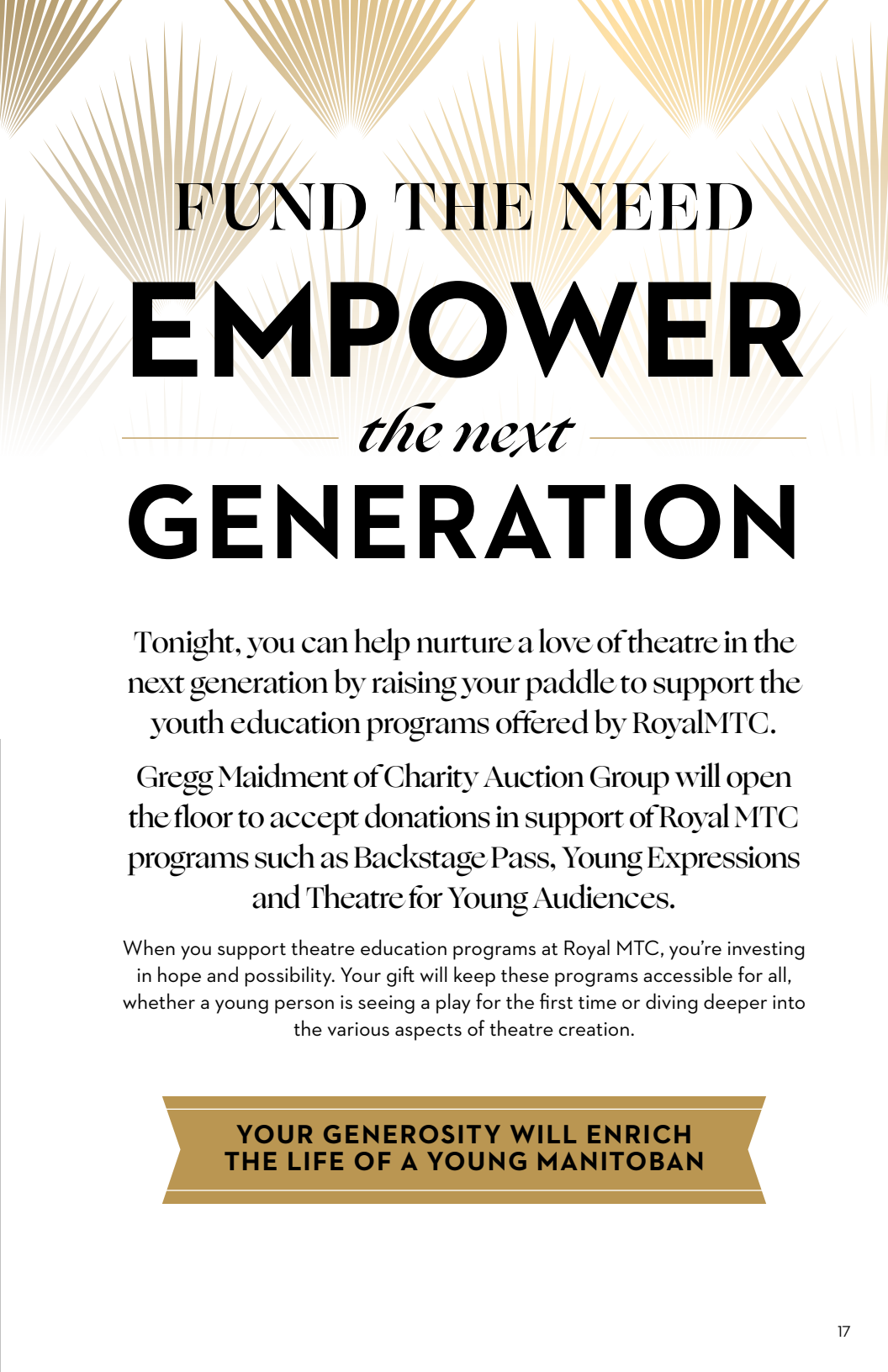
Experience a two-day rail adventure in luxurious GoldLeaf Service aboard the world-famous Rocky Mountaineer.

Choose from two breathtaking 2026 routes:

- First Passage to the West  
(Vancouver to Lake Louise/Banff)
- Journey Through the Clouds  
(Vancouver to Jasper)

Travel in a bi-level coach with panoramic domed windows, spacious reclining seats, and enjoy gourmet meals, snacks, and beverages—all included. Enjoy personalized service from onboard hosts as stunning scenery and captivating stories unfold. Package includes hotel accommodations prior to, during and after the rail adventure and round-trip airfare.

Donated by Rocky Mountaineer and Royal MTC



# FUND THE NEED EMPOWER *the next* GENERATION

Tonight, you can help nurture a love of theatre in the next generation by raising your paddle to support the youth education programs offered by RoyalMTC.

Gregg Maidment of Charity Auction Group will open the floor to accept donations in support of Royal MTC programs such as Backstage Pass, Young Expressions and Theatre for Young Audiences.

When you support theatre education programs at Royal MTC, you're investing in hope and possibility. Your gift will keep these programs accessible for all, whether a young person is seeing a play for the first time or diving deeper into the various aspects of theatre creation.

**YOUR GENEROSITY WILL ENRICH  
THE LIFE OF A YOUNG MANITOBAN**

JAN 14 — FEB 7

*Agatha Christie's*  
**MURDER  
ON THE  
ORIENT EXPRESS**

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY  
KEN LUDWIG

In partnership with Citadel Theatre



ROYAL  
**MTC**  
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

JOHN  
HIRSCH  
MAINSTAGE

RoyalMTC.ca  
204 942 6537

*Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals  
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

# OUR FUTURE WILL BE A MAGNIFICENT JOURNEY

## Thank you for joining us at the Black & White Ball tonight!

Your participation and generosity helps Royal MTC continue to stand out as a vibrant arts and culture option in Winnipeg, creating a better place for all of us to live. Ten stories will be shared at the John Hirsch Mainstage and Tom Hendry Warehouse this season for theatre goers of all ages to enjoy.

However, none of this is possible without the support from our community.

### BECAUSE OF YOU:

- Exceptional theatre has a home on our stage •
- Local artists are developing their craft through mentorship and training •
- A new generation of theatre lovers are seeing shows and learning through engaging youth programs •





# SEAL IT



# IN A SNAP

Red Photo Co. will be snapping candid photos throughout the evening and keep an eye out for 6 Degrees Roaming Photobooth between 9pm-12am for a digital memento of all the fun.

Share your photo booth fun and stay in touch with us @MTCwinnipeg and #MTCbwBall

Please note: photos may be used in print and on Royal MTC's promotional platforms.

Please inform the Red Photo Co. team if you do not wish to have your photo used.



Redphoto.co.

The background of the entire image is a solid black. It is decorated with a repeating pattern of gold-colored sunburst or fan-like shapes. Each shape is composed of many thin, straight lines radiating from a central point, creating a starburst effect. These shapes are arranged in a staggered, grid-like pattern across the entire surface.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE

2026

BLACK & WHITE BALL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7



174 Market Avenue • Winnipeg, Manitoba • R3B 0P8

[RoyalMTC.ca](http://RoyalMTC.ca)

