

ROYAL MTC ANNOUNCES 2023/24 SEASON

Extraordinary stories of our time

WINNIPEG, January 27, 2023 – Artistic Director Kelly Thornton is thrilled to announce Royal MTC’s 2023/24 season, curated to satisfy the full spectrum of theatre goers. Showcasing 10 plays and a regional tour, this season runs the gamut of theatre and will be sure to have you laughing, crying, singing and smiling with farces, dramas, musicals and comedies.

In this season you’ll find yourself taken through time, solving mysteries in the 1950s in the laugh-out-loud cult-classic *Clue* or trying to keep up with the plucky Maria and von Trapp family in 1930s Austria in the timeless favourite *The Sound of Music*. We’re excited to bring *Beautiful* to our stage celebrating legendary singer-songwriter Carole King, as well as powerful historic dramas like *The Mountaintop* and *The Lehman Trilogy*. Join us in the present for the hilariously heartfelt *The Comeback*, created by one of Winnipeg’s most beloved theatre couples or *First Métis Man of Odesa* for a timely tale of love in the 2020s.

“Theatre is one of the most important art forms. We sit together and tell stories in the dark. And these tales make meaning of who we are and how we got here. This season plays with nostalgia, history, and our future, while resonating with the present moment we are living in,” said Thornton.

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE

CLUE

Based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn
Written by Sandy Rustin
Additional material by Hunter Foster and Eric Price
Based on the Paramount Pictures Motion Picture
Based on the Hasbro board game CLUE
Original Music by Michael Holland

October 19 – November 11, 2023 (Previews October 17 & 18)

Based on the cult classic movie and murder mystery board game, *Clue* is a fast-paced farce, with big laughs and snappy dialogue. A mysterious party, unusual monikers and a deadly secret bring together Colonel Mustard, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock, Professor Plum and Miss Scarlet for a night they’ll never forget. Of course, a dead body will throw a wrench into even the best of parties!

This colourful cast of characters may seem at odds with each other, but they all have one thing in common: they want to know whodunnit.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music by Richard Rodgers
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
Book by Howard Lindsay and Russell Crouse
Suggested by “The Trapp Family Singers” by Maria Augusta Trapp

Directed by Rachel Peake
A co-production with Citadel Theatre

November 30 – December 23, 2023 (Previews November 28 & 29)

One of the most beloved musicals of all time, *The Sound of Music* spoils us with our favourite things: songs we know by heart, the unsolvable Maria, her singing Sisters, the spunky von Trapp children and the imperious Captain who resists the rise of nationalism but not his growing affection for the sweet-hearted governess.

With infectious spirit and boundless joy, Maria brings music and laughter into the lives of the von Trapp family. Showcasing signature songs like Do-Re-Mi, My Favorite Things, So Long, Farewell and Climb Ev'ry Mountain, this cherished musical will delight you and your family this holiday season.

BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL

Book by Douglas McGrath
Words and Music by Gerry Goffin & Carole King | Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil
Music by Arrangement with Sony/ATV Music Publishing
Orchestrations, Vocal and Incidental Music Arrangements by Steve Sidwell
Directed by Kelly Thornton
A co-production with The Segal Centre

January 11 – February 3, 2024 (Previews January 9 & 10)

Woven with irresistible performances of chart-topping songs from Motown and Carole King's solo career, including the Grammy Award-winning album *Tapestry*, *Beautiful* tracks the rise of an artist who becomes one of the most celebrated singer-songwriters of all time.

Carole King dreams of being a songwriter, despite her mother's insistence that "Girls don't write music. They teach it." With talent to burn and youthful determination, Carole forges an unlikely path into the New York music business. When she pairs up with lyricist Gerry Goffin, her career soars. Soon, they're churning out hits for The Drifters, Bobby Vee and The Shirelles. But when their relationship hits a sour note, Carole must find her own voice. The remarkable story of a legendary musician.

THE MOUNTAINTOP

By Katori Hall
Directed by Audrey Dwyer

February 15 – March 9, 2024 (Preview February 14)

As a storm rages on April 3, 1968, civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. retires to his room at the Lorraine Motel. Exhausted, agitated and craving a cigarette, King wrestles with his next speech. When a beautiful maid delivers coffee to the room, small talk veers into a surprising conversation that exposes the preacher's vanity, vulnerability and uncompromising humanity. In this gripping reimagination of the night before King's assassination, we witness the hope and struggle of a man who must confront his destiny and his legacy to the people.

THE LEHMAN TRILOGY

By Stefano Massini

Adapted by Ben Power

Directed by Richard Greenblatt

March 21 – April 13, 2024 (Preview March 20)

In the 1840s, three immigrant brothers stood out from their Alabama neighbours: their textiles shop was closed on Saturday but open Sunday, they had a sign that contrasted a black background with bright yellow letters and, most importantly, they had a penchant for business that took them on a rags-to-riches story that reverberated into the 21st century.

With masterful storytelling, the Lehman brothers, Henry, Emanuel and Mayer, spin a tale of opportunity, invention and capitalism as they painstakingly weave their family into the fabric of America. The epic story of a nation.

THE COMEBACK

By Trish Cooper and Sam Vint

Directed by Eric Coates

April 25 – May 18, 2024 (Preview April 24)

When Jesse falls for Adam, neither have any idea what the future holds. But when they get pregnant, they must navigate the awkward and sometimes hilarious relationship between their Métis and Scottish settler families as they face the idea of raising a child.

On the surface, Adam's family is a rowdy, down-to-earth, blended family. But a legacy of racism has left its scars. Jesse wants to understand Adam but even he doesn't know who he really is. Until he decides to write a play and spark his family's comeback. A comedy about love and what it means to be family.

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE

FIRST MÉTIS MAN OF ODESA

By Matthew MacKenzie and Mariya Khomutova

Directed by Lianna Makuch

A Punctuate! Theatre Production

November 2 – 18, 2023 (Preview November 1)

In Matt and Masha's world, love conquers all. The two first appear as opposites: Masha loves the ocean and Matt loves mountains. Masha loves home and Matt travels like a circus boy. Masha is Ukrainian and Matt is Métis. But they share an undeniable connection that binds them together for life.

First Métis Man of Odesa is a poignant tale told in tandem about an international love affair and the inevitable hardships that come with navigating relationships. This is a love that transcends continents, pandemics, life-changing emojis and war.

AMONG MEN

By David Yee

Directed by Suzie Martin

A co-production with Theatre Projects Manitoba

January 25 – February 10, 2024 (Preview January 24)

In 10 years, Al Purdy and Milton Acorn will become celebrated Canadian poets, but for now, they are just two broke men drinking whiskey and fighting with a wood-fire stove.

This heartfelt and crude drama makes cussing sound like poetry (and coffee taste like whiskey) as the two men struggle to build an A-frame cottage, while dismantling the narrow notion of 20th century masculinity. On the precipice of greatness, and a hangover, the poets must wrestle with a darkness that fights back to turn everything into something greater than it is.

Royal MTC is thrilled to partner with Theatre Projects Manitoba to bring this brilliant play to the stage.

THE PIANO TEACHER

By Dorothy Dittrich

Directed by Simon Miron

February 29 – March 16, 2024 (Preview February 28)

After a devastating loss, Erin, a concert pianist, is no longer able to play. Inspired by a chance encounter, she approaches Elaine, a gifted piano teacher, to help her find music again. The weekly sessions start tentatively but soon find a rhythm that enriches the lives of both women. The lessons, along with an unexpected new friendship, draw Erin out of herself. And teacher becomes student when Elaine discovers she must confront her own loss once and for all.

Scored with exquisite piano music and awarded the 2022 Governor General's Literary Award for Drama, *The Piano Teacher* is a moving and lyrical play about love, loss, friendship, and the healing power of music.

GUILT: A LOVE STORY

Written and Performed by Diane Flacks

A Tarragon Theatre Production

April 4 – April 20, 2024 (Preview April 3)

Guilt is pesky. You can try to drown it with wine, push it down deep, or wrestle it to the ground, but still it lingers. Guilt is the party guest who refuses to leave. Part stand-up, part confessional, Guilt takes us on a roller coaster ride through infidelity, divorce, forgiveness and love. This laugh-out-loud comedy by Diane Flacks combines her comic prowess, keen intelligence and fierce honesty. She has spent her career wowing audiences and we are so pleased to welcome her to Winnipeg. Pack your bags, we're going on a guilt trip!

REGIONAL TOUR

MIX TAPES FROM MY MOM

Written and Performed by Cory Wojcik

Directed by Trish Cooper

Interspersed with select songs found on his mom's old mix tapes, as well as a few original songs, Winnipeg theatre veteran Cory Wojcik, backed by a four-piece band, recounts a story of the most difficult yet one of the most amazing days of his life. A show with songs you know and a story so unbelievable it could only be true. It's a concert, it's a show.

SUBSCRIBERS GET THE BEST SEATS AT THE BEST PRICE

Subscription packages for the 2023/24 season start at \$174.50 for Mainstage and \$88 for Warehouse. Current subscribers can renew now by calling the Box Office at 204 942 6537 (toll-free at 1 877 446 4500), or by visiting 174 Market Avenue or royalmtc.ca

Subscription benefits include a substantial savings over single ticket prices, easy monthly installment plans as well as dining and retail discounts in the theatre district.

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