

ROYAL MTC ANNOUNCES REIMAGINED 2020/21 SEASON

WINNIPEG, June 26, 2020 – Earlier this month, Royal MTC announced the postponement of *Network* and *The Sound of Music* to the 2021/22 season. Today, in response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Royal MTC announces Season 2.0, a reimagined 2020/21 season.

Our revised season will deliver six beautiful productions to Winnipeg audiences, and our Regional Tour to audiences around the province. The season will launch in January 2021, with a lineup that strictly adheres to Public Health guidelines, which limit singing and inter-provincial travel. Regrettably, this means that we have to postpone *Children of God*, *New* and *The Runner*, as well as the inaugural presentation of *The Bridge: A Festival of Ideas*.

Statement from Royal MTC **Artistic Director Kelly Thornton**: *“While it is disappointing to erode our season and cancel opportunities and work for artists, craftspeople and staff, the graciousness that has been demonstrated by these individuals is humbling. I’m particularly sad to cancel *The Bridge: A Festival of Ideas*, as now more than ever, a festival that explores deeply important conversations is needed in this world. But I stand behind my originally slated playbill and it’s my intention to bring these compelling stories to our stage in the future. I believe that our revised Season 2.0 allows us to deliver our organizational mission, and to keep the safety and health of our artists, audiences, staff and volunteers at the core of our decision-making process.”*

Statement from Royal MTC **Executive Director Camilla Holland**: *“I want to thank the leadership of our Board of Trustees for their unwavering commitment to guiding a path forward for a vibrant Royal MTC. These are difficult times for any organization whose operations and mission are built on the necessity of large public gatherings. I express my deepest gratitude to the staff and artists who have made emotional and financial sacrifices during this time, and our patrons and donors whose ongoing support sustains us.”*

In the absence of a definitive timeframe from Public Health, our programming must remain fluid. We thank our loyal subscribers for their continued patience and flexibility. Season 2.0 is created to allow for smaller gatherings of artists and audiences, which we hope will be viable starting in January. We assure ticket holders that they will have a range of options once we have clearance from Public Health.”

Royal MTC anticipates making a further announcement in September, including more details about micro and digital programming for the fall.

2020/21 REIMAGINED SEASON

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE

World Premiere

BURNING MOM

Written by Mieko Ouchi

NEW DATES January 7 – 30, 2021 (Preview January 6)

It wasn't supposed to be like this. At 63, Dorothy expected to jump into the RV and take off with her husband at the wheel. Now facing life without her co-pilot, she makes a terrifying decision. She's going to Burning Man. In the RV she's never driven. To join thousands of revellers in the Nevada desert at the world's largest art festival. Based on the playwright's mother, *Burning Mom* follows one woman's exploits as she sheds the pain and grief of the past so she may fully embrace the future. Told with bittersweet humour and hard-won courage, Dorothy's story will have you rooting for her all the way. Burning Man or bust. Who's coming along for the ride?

THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE

By Matthew Lopez

NEW DATES February 18 – March 13, 2021 (Preview February 17)

Previously scheduled for March 2020

Casey has the King's moves down cold, but the bar isn't doing so hot. Even so, he's all shook up when the club owner replaces his Elvis act with a drag show. With a baby on the way, Casey hangs up the white jumpsuit and tends bar until a drag queen on a bender leaves the staff high and dry. With big stilettos to fill, Casey reluctantly – and hilariously – undergoes a transformation that will change his life. Soon the adoring crowds are calling for Georgia McBride but his loved ones remain in the dark. Will Casey lose everything before he discovers the man he wants to be? Showcasing dazzling performances, killer outfits and epic drag show anthems, *The Legend of Georgia McBride* proves that life is a drag – and isn't it fabulous!

CALPURNIA

By Audrey Dwyer

A co-production with Canada's National Arts Centre

March 25 – April 17, 2021 (Preview March 24)

A hilarious and provocative look at class, race and family dynamics in a wealthy Jamaican-Canadian home. While Julie, a screenwriter, seeks to redress *To Kill a Mockingbird* through the perspective of Calpurnia – the Finch family maid – her father is consumed by plans for an important dinner, where he hopes to land his son in a prestigious law firm. As Precy, their long-time Filipina housekeeper, busily prepares for the occasion, ideas and opinions collide and are met with outrageous results. A brave, insightful play about privilege with lots of laughs along the way.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

Adapted by Catherine Bush from the novel by Alexandre Dumas

NEW DATES May 6 – 29, 2021 (Preview May 5)

Adventure meets romance in this cheeky and classic story of friendship and valour. D'Artagnan has arrived in Paris dreaming of joining the King's Musketeers. He meets the famous trio: Athos, Porthos and Aramis, but will he prove himself worthy to join their ranks and fight to defend the King's honour? D'Artagnan's heroism is put to the test when he discovers a secret plot devised by the manipulative Cardinal Richelieu. An exciting and hilarious adventure, complete with swashbuckling sword fights, political intrigue and well-plumed hats, this action-packed tale will be one for all, and all for one.

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE

YAGA

By Kat Sandler

NEW DATES March 4 – 20, 2021 (Preview Mar 3)

A cocky private investigator teams up with a small-town detective to find a missing person. The victim – if he's missing at all – was a bad dog who left a trail of conquests in his wake. Top on the list is Kath, an older professor with a reputation for bedding students. Is she a woman scorned? Is she a suspect? Or is she something more sinister? As the case unravels, predator and prey become indistinguishable and no one is safe. In this murder mystery-revenge comedy, inspired by Baba Yaga folklore, Kat Sandler (*Bang Bang*) conjures a twisted fairy tale for a new age. Beware the wicked witch – her secrets are best left unearthed.

THE WOLVES

By Sarah DeLappe

NEW DATES April 15 – May 1, 2021 (Preview April 14)

A Pulitzer Prize finalist, *The Wolves* takes us to the pitch for a teenage soccer team's weekly warm-up. During pre-game rituals, we eavesdrop. Their preoccupations cover a mind-boggling range of topics: boys/girls, scholarships, Cambodian dictators, social hierarchies and, of course, kicking their next opponent. Label them at your peril – they're tough to pin down. They want to fit in but need to stand out. They're feral and fierce but soft at the core. Featuring fast-paced dialogue and fancy footwork, *The Wolves* is a refreshingly candid look at one of society's most dismissed groups: teenage girls. They have a voice. They will only get stronger. They are The Wolves.

REGIONAL TOUR

PADRE X

By Marc Moir

February 9 – March 14, 2021

A story of bravery and beauty, this Fringe hit by Winnipeg writer Marc Moir brings to life the incredible true story of Chaplain John Weir Foote, who chose to stay behind with his unit during the Dieppe raid. *Padre X* has received awards from Fringe Festivals across Canada including Best of Fest and Outstanding Drama. Critics have called it "a pure triumph" and "a beautiful performance".

LAWYERS PLAY

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE

By Steve Martin

NEW DATES May 11 – 15, 2021

Previously scheduled for May 2020

This long-running Off Broadway absurdist comedy places Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso in a Parisian cafe in 1904 just before the renowned scientist transformed physics with his theory of relativity and the celebrated painter set the art world afire with Cubism. Popular actor and screenwriter Steve Martin plays fast and loose with fact, fame and fortune as these two geniuses muse on the century's achievements and prospects with infectious dizziness.

BLACK & WHITE BALL

The Black & White Ball previously scheduled for November 7, 2020 has been rescheduled for January 30, 2021. The Ball will be held at The Fairmont Winnipeg.

For more information, visit royalmtc.ca

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For more information, please contact:

Katie Inverarity, Director of Marketing & Communications
204 333 2945 | kinverarity@royalmtc.ca