

ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12



ROYAL
MANITOBA
THEATRE
CENTRE

mtc
LIFE PERFORMED
LIVE

*"Five stars don't seem adequate to honour Cavendish. One can't imagine any performer bringing more **LOVABLE, SAUCY HUMANITY** to Shirley, or giving the character a stronger underpinning of decency, pluck and **RESILIENCE**." – Winnipeg Free Press*



ABOUT THE ROYAL MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

When the Winnipeg Little Theatre and Theatre 77 merged to form the Manitoba Theatre Centre in 1958, their 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 Theatre, which opened in 1969, and the Mainstage Theatre, completed in 1970. The theatres were renamed after the company's founders in 2008. In 2009, the Government of Canada designated the Mainstage Theatre a National Historic Site and, in 2010, Queen Elizabeth 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 MTC programming averages 300,000 each year, and many Manitobans also support MTC with donations and volunteer time. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Steven Schipper and General Manager Camilla Holland, MTC remains Manitoba's flagship theatre.

Cover: Marina Stephenson Kerr as Nellie McClung in *The Fighting Days*. PHOTO BY BRUCE MONK

This page: Nicola Cavendish in *Shirley Valentine*. PHOTO BY BARBARA ZIMONICK

Back cover: Marc Bendavid and Pam Patel in *Romeo and Juliet*. PHOTO BY BRUCE MONK



***“FRESH and RELEVANT ...
[Seana McKenna] delivers a
graceful, wrenching
performance as Mrs. Warren”***

- CBC

Seana McKenna in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. PHOTO BY BRUCE MONK

ATTENDANCE

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE	99,319
TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE	19,426
WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL.....	172,845
SHAWFEST 2012	4,821
(excluding 4,854 who attended <i>Mrs. Warren's Profession</i> at the Tom Hendry Warehouse)	
REGIONAL TOUR	4,122
attended 25 performances	
THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES.....	4,356
attended 6 student-only matinee performances	
TOTAL.....	308,889

SUBSCRIPTIONS

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE	15,047
TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE	2,640
TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS.....	17,687

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, MTC aspires to both reflect and inform the community it serves.

VISION

MTC's theatres and our province will teem with artists and audiences sharing in the act of imagining.

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 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Our 2011/12 year was a remarkable one with lots to celebrate, including a record-breaking Fringe Festival and spectacular attendance at the Tom Hendry Warehouse. As a result of the leadership of Artistic Director Steven Schipper and his production team, MTC had an artistically vibrant season. Our audiences were treated to performances that would rival those

you would see on any stage around the world and there were so many outstanding productions that it is impossible to single out any one of them.

While MTC continues to have one of the highest subscription rates in the country, we found ourselves out of balance on the financial side, specifically in ticket revenue at the John Hirsch Mainstage, despite a strong line-up featuring wonderful artists and creators.

At the beginning of September, Camilla Holland joined us as our new General Manager, and has very quickly made herself known as a leader in the arts community in Manitoba. Camilla worked closely with staff and the Board of Trustees to address and mitigate the financial challenges in the season. Fortunately, thanks to prior years of financial strength, we have been able to absorb the losses in MTC's stabilization fund.

One of the important steps that the Board undertook this past year was the renewal of MTC's Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan outlines four key directions: to champion theatre as an art form, to build and sustain productive relationships with our audience, to produce theatre that resonates with and engages a broad audience, and to secure the resources necessary to enjoy artistic freedom. These core principles will help direct the actions of MTC through to 2016.

With this season, I am ending my term as Chair of MTC and it has been a real honour to have served in that role. MTC has accomplished much during this time, including obtaining the Royal designation, a new Strategic Plan and the continued production of top-notch quality theatre for our audiences. These successes are not because of my efforts but rather are due to those who preceded me as well as our strong Board and very talented and committed staff.

I would like to thank the Board and, in particular, the members of the Executive Committee for their leadership over the past year. MTC is fortunate to have hundreds of loyal volunteers, and they do an outstanding job in supporting the activities of the Fringe Festival, fulfilling ushering duties at our two theatres, and participating on various committees.

I must thank MTC's many generous corporate and individual donors, our sponsors, Arts Stabilization Manitoba, and of course the three levels of government, who continue to support us year after year. MTC's renewed Strategic Plan outlines our values – quality, balance, affordability, accessibility, sustainability – and these would not be achievable without the generous support of so many.

I wish Kerry Dangerfield every success as he takes over as Board Chair. Having worked with him over the years, I am confident the Board is in very capable hands.

Gary Hannaford, FCA

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



It has been an extraordinary first season for me at MTC. I've had a wonderful welcome from the staff, the Board of Trustees, our supporters and audience members, and the entire arts community.

The 2011/12 season certainly had its challenges, but we also welcomed warm audiences to excellent produc-

tions. As in every season of this very successful organization, we kept a firm hand on the bottom line of expenses, and staff and Board together worked very hard to bridge the revenue gap. Our efforts were ultimately not successful, but we made strategic operational decisions to help ensure that upcoming seasons would not have the same challenges.

The great strength of the Canadian theatre community is our interconnectedness and the closure of our long-time producing partner the Vancouver Playhouse has had a ripple effect across the country. On a national level, their loss has fostered new and productive conversations with elected officials, with artists, and, critically, with audiences.

We recognize that our greatest strength for 55 years has been our loyal and dedicated subscribers, our single ticket buyers and donors, and the corporations who believe in our work. As we look towards 2012/13 we hope to welcome more Manitobans, and we're renewing our focus on bringing younger patrons through our doors, to ensure that we're fostering the next generation of supporters.

I'd like to thank the Board of Trustees – MTC's great advocates in the community – for their governance and leadership this season, and for their encouragement and trust.

I benefitted immeasurably from the energy and commitment of two particular individuals – Board Chair Gary Hannaford and Artistic Director Steven Schipper. I can't imagine two stronger pillars of support for my first year, and I thank both for their guidance.

Thank you to government partners the Canada Council for the Arts, the Manitoba Arts Council, the Winnipeg Arts Council, and Canadian Heritage for their long-standing support of MTC and our vision, mission and mandate.

My final and heartfelt thanks to the MTC staff for their support this year – most (if not all) of them have worked only under the leadership of the inimitable and inspirational Zaz Bajon, and they have been extraordinarily kind to the new girl in town.

Camilla Holland



This season, artists and audiences sparked an inextinguishable flame in our memories. It was our good fortune to have three legendary Canadian actors – Nicola Cavendish, Martha Henry and Seana McKenna – grace our stages in a single season. Cavendish resurrected and refined her signature role as Shirley Valentine, reminding us why we came to love

her 20 years ago. Henry brought a stunning combination of violence and vulnerability to the role of the matriarch in *August: Osage County*, a star turn that had Canadian theatre lovers flying to Winnipeg. McKenna added another classic role to her growing list of accomplishments here, recreating with honesty and grace the pragmatism and wounded pride of Shaw's Mrs. Warren. While these three Canadian actresses brought unquestioned mastery to their roles, our own Manitoba artists also made indelible impressions on audiences.

Our theatre's goal is to reflect and inform the community we serve, and few productions have come as close to achieving this goal as *The Fighting Days*. Many audience members were stunned to learn about the vision (and divisions) that characterized the women's suffrage movement in our province in the early 20th century. This Manitoba story was brought to life by a local creative team, including director Robb Paterson and designer Brian Perchaluk. Together, they created a typographical declaration of the play's ideas, looming poetically over the play's many Winnipeg locations.

This evocative set showcased Winnipegger Sarah Constible in her first leading role at MTC. She enthralled audiences and held the centre of our stage, and she was not alone in this feat. Other Manitoba actresses took leading roles this season, some of them (like Sarah) for the first time. Cherissa Richards returned to Winnipeg to charm us in the role of Vivie Warren, rising to the challenge of acting opposite Seana McKenna, just as Sharon Bajer held us spellbound as Barbara Weston, ably matching wits with Martha Henry.

Only Jennifer Lyon had played leading roles before, in such musicals as *My Fair Lady*, but *Next to Normal* was easily the most daunting. Lyon had to sing almost constantly, in a demanding rock style, all while her character plumbed the depths of mental illness. It was a harrowing (and ultimately heartening) performance in a play that proved cathartic for many audience members.

Next to Normal closed our subscription season with a message of hope in the face of despair, and buoyed our spirits in the weeks following the demise of our frequent collaborator, the Vancouver Playhouse. The fall of that once-great theatre (and the colleagues there who have shared our artistic journey over the years) reminded us of the fragility of our cultural institutions, and the constant nurturing required to sustain them. Theatre has power in it, but it is a power drawn from those who inhabit its walls: the artists who ignite the flame of imagination and the audiences who bask in its warmth and light.

Steven Schipper

HONORARY MEMBERS

HIS HONOUR, Lt. Governor Philip S. Lee
THE HONOURABLE Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba
HIS WORSHIP, Mayor Sam Katz

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Gary Hannaford, FCA, CHAIR
Kerry Dangerfield, CHAIR-ELECT/CHAIR, COMMUNITY RELATIONS
Patrick Green, TREASURER/CHAIR, ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE
David Carefoot, ASSISTANT TREASURER
Anthony C. Fletcher, SECRETARY
Robert Eastwood, CHAIR, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
Jim McLandress, CHAIR, GOVERNANCE & STRATEGIC PLANNING

TRUSTEES

David Atkins	Derrick Coupland	Michelle Weinberg
Brenlee Carrington	Sandy Gousseau	Rick Workman
Trepel	Jeff Lamothe	Richard L. Yaffe
David Christie	Bruce Leslie	Brenda Zaporzan

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Gerry Couture, CHAIR	Yude Henteleff	Andrew Ogaranko, QC
Gail Asper	Ken Houssin	James Pappas
Morley Blankstein	Gordon Keatch	John Petersmeyer
Doneta Brothie	Colin R. MacArthur, QC	Lawrence Prout
Angus Campbell	Patrick J. Matthews	Jeff Quinton
Hy Dashevsky	Claire W. Miller	Patricia Rabson
Glen Dyrdra, FCA	Jeffrey Morton, FCA	Margaret Redmond
John F. Fraser	Hon. Jack Murta	Susan Skinner
Jean Giguere	Lillian Neaman	Al Snyder
Charron Hamilton	Shelley Nimchonok	Maureen Watchorn

ROYAL MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE



The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre operates as a non-profit charitable organization, led by the Artistic Director, General Manager, Board Chair and a volunteer Board of Trustees from the community. The management practices of 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. 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, 2012, to report artistic and financial results to interested subscribers, patrons and community members.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS



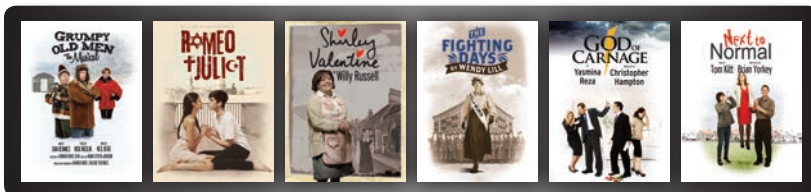
MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DU MANITOBA



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des Arts
du Canada



WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL



GRUMPY OLD MEN

The Musical

BOOK BY Dan Remmes
MUSIC BY Neil Berg
LYRICS BY Nick Meglin

BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. FILM WRITTEN BY Mark Steven Johnson
PRODUCED WITH PERMISSION OF Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures

OCTOBER 13 - NOVEMBER 5, 2011

DIRECTOR Bill Castellino
ORCHESTRATOR Larry Hochman
MUSIC SUPERVISOR & ARRANGER David Holcenberg
MUSIC DIRECTOR Elizabeth Baird
CHOREOGRAPHER John MacInnis
SET DESIGNER Douglas Parashuk
COSTUME DESIGNER Judith Bowden
LIGHTING DESIGNER Scott Henderson
SOUND DESIGNER John Bent Jr.
VIDEO CREATOR Deco Dawson
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Ray Strachan
NY CASTING Clemmons/Dewing Casting
STAGE MANAGER Evan R. Klassen
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Sheena Sanderson
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Leslie Sidley
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER Jessica Freundl
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER Andrew Luczczyzn
PRODUCER Jeff Gardner
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Ken Denison

THE CAST Frank Adamson, Susan Anton, DeAnn deGrujter, Michelle Fisk, Timothy Gledhill, Lisa Horner, Douglas E. Hughes, Gerald Isaac, Cameron MacDuffee, Debbie Maslowsky, Ken Page, Kimberley Rampersad, John Rubinstein, Conrad John Schuck, Cailin Stadnyk, Justin Stadnyk, Mark Weatherley

MUSICIANS Sharon Atkinson, Elizabeth Baird, Rick Boughton, Janice Finlay, Ron Halldorson, Dave Lawton, John Miller, Ali Rainey, Rob Siwik, Nenad Zdjelar
REHEARSAL PIANIST/COPIST Andrew St. Hilaire
CONTRACTOR Dave Lawton

Presented in association with Grumpy Old Partners LP

17,275 attended 31 performances

ROMEO + JULIET

BY William Shakespeare
NOVEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 17, 2011

DIRECTOR Steven Schipper
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER Michael Gianfrancesco
LIGHTING DESIGNER Michael J. Whitfield
VIDEO DESIGNER Sean Nieuwenhuis
SOUND DESIGNER Michael Wright
FIGHT DIRECTOR Jacqueline Loewen
COMPOSER Danny Carroll
STYLE/MOVEMENT COACH James Dodding
CHOREOGRAPHER Roula Said
ACCENT CONSULTANT Susan Stackhouse
FIREARMS COORDINATOR Dave Brown
ADVISOR Alon Nashman
ADVISOR Shahin Sayadi
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Heidi Malazdrewich
APPRENTICE DESIGNER Amy Harrison
ASSOCIATE VIDEO DESIGNER Ben Chaisson
STAGE MANAGER Chris Pearce
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Sandra McEwing
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Michelle Lagassé
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER Matthew Lagacé

THE CAST Amir Amiri, Marc Bendavid, Simon Bracken, Andrew Cecon, Terri Cherniack, Andrea Davis, Pragna Desai, Omar Habib, Marvin L. Ishmael, Omar Khan, Kevin Klassen, Matthew Lagacé, Heidi Malazdrewich, Harry Nelken, RJ Parrish, Pam Patel, Gareth Potter, Ray Strachan, Stephanie Sy, Ari Weinberg, Hani Zakaria, Timothy Zeigler

16,469 attended 29 performances

Shirley Valentine

BY Willy Russell
JANUARY 5 - 28, 2012

DIRECTOR Roy Surette
SET DESIGNER Anne-Séguin Poirier
COSTUME DESIGNER Phillip Clarkson
LIGHTING DESIGNER Luc Prairie
SOUND DESIGNER Peter Cerone
STAGE MANAGER Rick Rinder
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Wanda Bretecher

THE CAST Nicola Cavendish
ALTERNATE Ellie King

SPONSORED IN PART BY THE



17,175 attended 29 performances

THE FIGHTING DAYS

BY Wendy Lill

FEBRUARY 9 - MARCH 3, 2012

DIRECTOR Robb Paterson
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER Brian Perchaluk
LIGHTING DESIGNER Larry Isacoff
SOUND DESIGNER Michael Wright
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Jennifer Lyon
STAGE MANAGER Margaret Brook
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Candace Maxwell
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER Lisa Nelson

THE CAST Richard Clarkin, Sarah Constible, Daria Puttaert, Marina Stephenson Kerr

15,983 attended 29 performances

GOD OF CARNAGE

BY Yasmina Reza
TRANSLATED BY Christopher Hampton
MARCH 15 - APRIL 7, 2012

DIRECTOR Miles Potter
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER Gillian Gallow
LIGHTING DESIGNER Gerald King
FIGHT DIRECTOR Carson Nattrass
STAGE MANAGER Evan R. Klassen
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Peter Jotkus
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER Sandra Morton

THE CAST Oliver Becker, Shauna Black, John Cassini, Vickie Papavs

A co-production with the Vancouver Playhouse

SPONSORED IN PART BY

Gail Asper & THE LATE Babs Asper

15,662 attended 29 performances

Next to Normal

MUSIC BY Tom Kitt
BOOK & LYRICS BY Brian Yorkey
APRIL 19 - MAY 12, 2012

DIRECTOR Robb Paterson
MUSIC DIRECTOR Bob Foster
CHOREOGRAPHER Stephanie Graham
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER Douglas Parashuk
LIGHTING DESIGNER Scott Henderson
SOUND DESIGNER John Bent Jr.
MUSIC DIRECTION INTERN Joseph Tritt
STAGE MANAGER Karyn Kumhyr
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Melissa Novocosky
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER Ayden Buss
STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERN Maria Zarrillo

THE CAST Jonathan Cullen, Peter Deiwick, Steffi DiDomenicantonio, Jennifer Lyon, Liam Tobin, Shawn Wright
UNDERSTUDY Jan Skene

MUSICIANS Tony Cyre, Karin Erhardt, Bob Foster, Greg Lowe, Louise Pauls, Nenad Zdjelar
REHEARSAL PIANIST Andrew St. Hilaire
CONTRACTOR Dave Lawton

SPONSORED IN PART BY

Deborah Gray

16,755 attended 29 performances

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCE SPONSORS

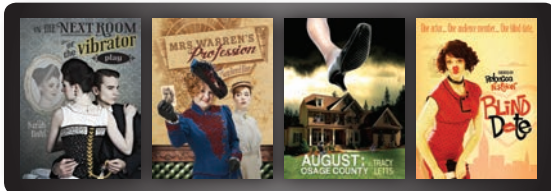


THOMPSON DORFMAN SWEATMAN LLP



DESIGN SPONSOR





IN THE NEXT ROOM or the vibrator play

BY Sarah Ruhl
NOVEMBER 3 - 19, 2011

DIRECTOR **Richard Rose**
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER **David Boechler**
LIGHTING DESIGNER **Rebecca Picherack**
COMPOSER/SOUND DESIGNER **John Gzowski**
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **Jodi Sprung-Boyd**
ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER **Verne Good**
STAGE MANAGER **Kinnon Elliott**
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER **Michael Duggan**

THE CAST **Marci T. House, Melody A. Johnson, Trish Lindström, Ross McMillan, Elizabeth Saunders, Gordon Tanner, Jonathan Watton**

A co-production with
Tarragon Theatre

SPONSORED BY

Deborah Gray

4,560 attended 20 performances

MRS. WARREN'S Profession

BY George Bernard Shaw
JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 4, 2012

DIRECTOR **Alisa Palmer**
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER **Charlotte Dean**
LIGHTING DESIGNER **Hugh Conacher**
SOUND DESIGNER **John Gzowski**
ASSOCIATE SOUND DESIGNER **Debashis Sinha**
DIALECT & TEXT COACH **Shannon Vickers**
APPRENTICE DIRECTOR **Heidi Malazdrewich***
STAGE MANAGER **Michelle Lagassé**
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER **Michael Duggan**

THE CAST **Tom Keenan, Arne MacPherson, Seana McKenna, Cherissa Richards, Stephen Russell, Gordon Tanner**

Part of ShawFest 2012

4,854 attended 20 performances

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

BY Tracy Letts
MARCH 8 - 24, 2012

DIRECTOR **Ann Hodges**
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER **Brian Perchaluk**
LIGHTING DESIGNER **Larry Isacoff**
SOUND DESIGNER **Michael Wright**
FIGHT DIRECTOR **Jacqueline Loewen**
DIALECT & TEXT COACH **Shannon Vickers**
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **Daria Puttaert**
APPRENTICE DIRECTOR **Leigh Anne Parry**
STAGE MANAGER **Chris Pearce**
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER **Jessica Freundl**

THE CAST **Frank Adamson, Julia Arkos, Sharon Bajer, Melanie Dean, Martha Henry, Samantha Hill, Arne MacPherson, Steven Ratzlaff, Brigitte Robinson, Miriam Smith, Robert Glen Thompson, David Warburton, Cory Wojcik**

SPONSORED BY

THE ASPER FOUNDATION

5,197 attended 20 performances



CREATED BY **Rebecca Northan**
APRIL 5 - 21, 2012

MIMI **Rebecca Northan**
MIMI UNDERSTUDY **Julie Orton**
SCENOGRAPHERS **Jamie Northan, Kristian Reimer**
STAGE MANAGER/SOUND IMPROVISER **Sean Bowie**

Presented in association with
Kevin McCollum & LAMS Productions

4,815 attended 20 performances

* POSITION FUNDED THROUGH THE JEAN MURRAY -
MORAY SINCLAIR THEATRE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

MEDIA SPONSORS



Winnipeg Free Press



retail**MEDIA**



light**visions**



Murray Farnell, Kevin Klassen, Alix Sobler and Elizabeth Stephenson in *The Melville Boys*. PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

The Melville BOYS

BY Norm Foster

JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 25, 2012

THE CAST **Murray Farnell, Kevin Klassen, Alix Sobler, Elizabeth Stephenson**

4,122 attended 25 performances

DIRECTOR **Chris Sigurdson**
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER **Janelle Regalbuto**
LIGHTING DESIGNER **Laura Lindeblom**
SOUND DESIGNER **Mike Wright**
STAGE MANAGER **Leslie Sidley**
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER **Kathryn Ball**
TOUR TECHNICAL DIRECTOR **Ian Kirk**
ASSISTANT TOUR TECHNICAL DIRECTOR **Chris Hadley**

JAN. 24	Steinbach, MB	STEINBACH ARTS COUNCIL
JAN. 25	Crystal City, MB	PARKLANE THEATRE COMMITTEE
JAN. 26	Killarney, MB	MUNICIPALITY OF KILLARNEY-TURTLE MOUNTAIN
JAN. 27	Souris, MB	SOURIS DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL
JAN. 28	Virden, MB	VIRIDEN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
JAN. 30	Deloraine, MB	SOUTHWEST SHOWCASE INC.
JAN. 31	Brandon, MB	PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION OF MANITOBA
FEB. 1	Portage La Prairie, MB	WILLIAM GLESBY CENTRE
FEB. 2	Gladstone, MB	GLADSTONE DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE BOARD
FEB. 3	Neepawa, MB	KALEIDOSCOPE CONCERTS INC.
FEB. 4	Strathclair, MB	STRATHCLAIR THEATRE COMMITTEE
FEB. 6	Minnedosa, MB	MINNEDOSA PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE
FEB. 7	Binscarth, MB	VAGABOND THEATRE COMPANY
FEB. 8	Dauphin, MB	DAUPHIN & DISTRICT ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL & THEATRE AMISK
FEB. 10	Flin Flon, MB	FLIN FLON ARTS COUNCIL
FEB. 11	Snow Lake, MB	AURORA BOREALIS ARTS COUNCIL
FEB. 12	Thompson, MB	RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURE, CITY OF THOMPSON
FEB. 15	Eriksdale, MB	ERIKSDALE MUSEUM
FEB. 16	Gimli, MB	KIWANIS CLUB OF GIMLI AND DISTRICT INC.
FEB. 17	Carman, MB	GOLDEN PRAIRIE ARTS COUNCIL
FEB. 18	Beausejour, MB	BROKENHEAD RIVER COMMUNITY HALL INC.
FEB. 21	Atikokan, ON	ATIKOKAN ENTERTAINMENT SERIES
FEB. 22	Sioux Lookout, ON	SIoux HUDSON ENTERTAINMENT SERIES
FEB. 23	Dryden, ON	DRYDEN ENTERTAINMENT SERIES
FEB. 24	Kenora, ON	LAKE OF THE WOODS CONCERT GROUP

REGIONAL TOUR SPONSORS



WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL



From July 13 to 24, 2011, North America's second largest Fringe Festival provided 12 days of theatre without a net, eye-popping outdoor attractions and thrills for the whole family with Big Top Fringe. With 150 performing companies, 1,201 performances and 24 indoor venues, Fringers had plenty of opportunities to run away with the circus. Indoor attendance reached 87,845, up from 86,717 in 2010.

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre is the only regional theatre in Canada to produce a Fringe Festival. For 24 years, the Winnipeg Fringe has been presented as part of MTC's ongoing commitment to developing new artists and audiences for live theatre.

Since all companies participating in the Fringe are accepted into the festival through a non-juried lottery, artistic innovation is allowed to flourish. The festival is an important springboard for local companies, and many produce for the first time on a Fringe stage. The festival returns 100% of the box office revenue to the performing companies and in 2011, \$630,029 was returned to independent theatre artists.



2011 WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL STATISTICS

INDOOR ATTENDANCE | 87,845
OUTDOOR STAGE ATTENDANCE | 85,000
INCLUDING KIDS FRINGE
OVERALL ATTENDANCE | 172,845
BOX OFFICE REVENUE | \$630,029
(100% RETURNED TO ARTISTS)
NUMBER OF PERFORMING COMPANIES | 150
NUMBER OF INDOOR PERFORMANCES | 1,201
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS | 798

2011 WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL SPONSORS



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien



MASTER PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL



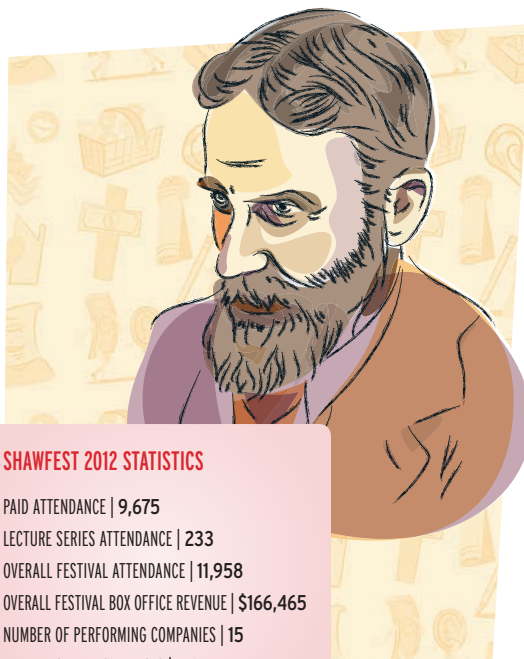
SHAWFEST 2012

From January 19 to
February 5, the Royal

Manitoba Theatre Centre presented the 2012 Master Playwright Festival, featuring the work of Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw. Since 2001, MTC has provided opportunities for professional and emerging artists from a variety of organizations and independent companies to produce the work of a master playwright under the umbrella of a larger festival. This annual event also offers patrons the chance to immerse themselves in the work of a playwright who may not have a regular home on Winnipeg stages.

Shaw's work was explored with 11 full productions, two original works, radio broadcasts of two other plays, a free film presentation of *My Fair Lady*, two fundraisers, a literary roast and readings. The festival also featured a free lecture series which saw Leonard Conolly, President of the International Shaw Society, present an introductory lecture titled *Why Shaw Still Matters*.

In addition to MTC, participating companies were: 101.5 UMF, Actors' Fund of Canada, Black Hole Theatre Company, Manitoba Association of Playwrights, Merlyn Productions, Nomadic Players, PAL Winnipeg, Resonator Theatrical, Shoestring Players, Tara Players, Theatre on TAP, Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre Society, Winnipeg Public Library and zone41 theatre.



SHAWFEST 2012 STATISTICS

PAID ATTENDANCE | 9,675
LECTURE SERIES ATTENDANCE | 233
OVERALL FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE | 11,958
OVERALL FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE REVENUE | \$166,465
NUMBER OF PERFORMING COMPANIES | 15
NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES | 116

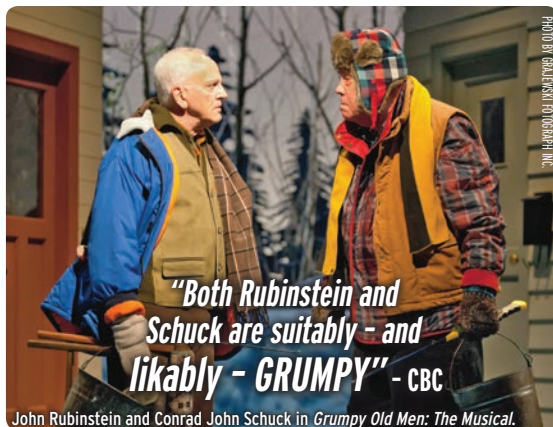
SHAWFEST 2012 SPONSORS



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien





"Both Rubinstein and Schuck are suitably - and likably - GRUMPY" - CBC

John Rubinstein and Conrad John Schuck in *Grumpy Old Men: The Musical*.

WORDPLAY

MTC produces an average of one new play each season, and this season was no exception. After the late, great Sam Lutfiyya saw our 2008 production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, he suggested that his friends in New York should launch their musical version of *Grumpy Old Men* here before taking it to Broadway. Creators Dan Remmes, Neil Berg and Nick Meglin were impressed with the generous response of Winnipeg audiences.

We were also proud to see plays that started at MTC find warm receptions well beyond our theatre. In particular, Rick Miller and Daniel Brooks' *Bigger Than Jesus* (2003) played at Toronto's Factory Theatre in September and October, and travelled to New York for a run at NYU in April.

New plays don't just happen. Playwrights and their work must be nurtured. We commission new plays (MTC has four 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 accepted 128 script submissions this year; plays both new and previously produced are read by MTC staff and freelance analysts. This year, we hired a record 89 artists to read 12 of the most promising scripts for MTC staff as part of our Wordplay series of readings and workshops.

WORDPLAY SPONSOR  **Investors Group**

CULTIVATING TALENT

MTC cultivates talent through a series of programs. By inviting students to attend MTC performances on our stages and in their schools, we help them imagine a life in the theatre, both as artists and as audience members. MTC's 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.

For those already working in the profession, we help broaden their skills. Janelle Regalbuta has a Fine Arts degree and works as a scenic artist, but a Jean Murray - Moray Sinclair apprenticeship on *White Christmas* helped her transition to theatre design. This season, she made her MTC design debut, creating sets and costumes for the regional tour of *The Melville Boys*.

We also broaden artists' geographical horizons. This season, MTC mounted a joint production of Sarah Ruhl's *IN THE NEXT ROOM or the vibrator play* with Toronto's Tarragon Theatre. When auditions were held in Winnipeg, local actor Ross McMillan was cast, and made his Toronto stage debut in the play. Local actor Cherissa Richards took the opposite route, establishing herself out east (Quebec's National Theatre School and Ontario's Shaw Festival) before returning home to make her MTC debut as Vivie in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*.

Finally, MTC's Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival offers low-risk opportunities for artists to stretch themselves and to use our festival as a professional springboard. Actor/playwright Alix Sobler first came to our attention as a popular Fringe performer from New York. Now settled in Winnipeg, Sobler made her MTC acting debut this year in *The Melville Boys*.

MTC is proud to work with such local artists. In fact, 48 per cent of all actors in this Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre season were Manitobans, while four plays - *The Fighting Days*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *August: Osage County* and *The Melville Boys* - featured casts composed almost entirely of Manitobans. Without our artists, our theatre would not exist, and we are pleased to play some small part in their creative evolution.

Below: Trish Lindström, Melody A. Johnson, Elizabeth Saunders and Ross McMillan in *IN THE NEXT ROOM or the vibrator play*. PHOTO BY CYLLA VON TIEDEMANN



"Smart and sharp ... BUZZES with enough charm to gratify" - CBC

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

MONDAY MIX

Monday Mix is an informal lecture series available to patrons who subscribe to the second Monday of our John Hirsch Mainstage season. Led by local professionals, each session explores a component of the current production.

THE 2011/12 LINEUP:

GRUMPY OLD MEN: THE MUSICAL | October 24, 2011 | Zaz Bajon, MTC General Manager Emeritus, discussed the art of "sealing the deal" with co-productions.

ROMEO AND JULIET | December 5, 2011 | Jacqueline Loewen, Fight Director of *Romeo and Juliet*, demonstrated the art of stage combat.

SHIRLEY VALENTINE | January 16, 2012 | Shannon Vickers, Professor of Voice and Diction at the University of Winnipeg, revealed how to create a British accent with different dialects.

THE FIGHTING DAYS | February 20, 2012 | Jack Bumsted, historian and owner of Whodunit Mystery Bookstore, spoke about the early 20th Century suffrage movement and the role that men played.

GOD OF CARNAGE | March 26, 2012 | Bob Foster, Music Director of *Next to Normal*, shared his experiences with taking a musical score from the page to the stage after the audience toured MTC.

NEXT TO NORMAL | April 30, 2012 | Laura Lindeblom, MTC Assistant Production Manager, let the group in on the secrets of the trickiest prop from *God of Carnage*.

Total attendance: 359



Jennifer Lyon and Peter Deiwick in *Next to Normal*.
PHOTO BY BRUCE MONK.

"Extraordinarily POWERFUL musical ... hits all the right notes with its compelling mix of HUMOUR and DRAMA" - CBC

TALKBACKS

Post-show, actors return to the stage for a question-and-answer session with the audience. Talkbacks are hosted after Tuesday evening performances and Wednesday matinees at the John Hirsch Mainstage and after Tuesday evening performances and Thursday matinees at the Tom Hendry Warehouse.

TALKBACKS
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BACKSTAGE PASS: THEATRE PERSPECTIVES FOR STUDENTS

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

27 students came from rural and Winnipeg schools to attend:

Anna MacDonald (7 OAKS MET SCHOOL) | Katie VanKoughnet (CARMAN COLLEGIATE) | Emma Kunkel (THE COLLEGIATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG) | Robyn Hasselstrom (ÉCOLE SAINT-LAZARE) | Katie Robinson Hoppa, Kieran Knock (FORT RICHMOND COLLEGIATE) | Cassandra Julian, Angelica Schwartz (GARDEN CITY COLLEGIATE) | Elliot Lazar (GRAY ACADEMY) | Cora Fast (GREEN VALLEY SCHOOL, GRUNTHAL, MB) | Brayden Kosar (HAPNOT COLLEGIATE, FLIN FLON, MB) | Natalia Moroz, Raylene Harewood (MILES MACDONELL COLLEGIATE) | Melissa Lacelle, Sabrina Janke (MORRIS SCHOOL) | Marie Merz, Marc LeBeau, Stephanie Urbanski (MURDOCH MACKAY COLLEGIATE) | Calum Desrochers (NELSON MCINTYRE) | Janelle Tarr (PORTAGE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE) | Savannah Brandt, Kelsey Schellenberg (ROSENORT SCHOOL) | Rebecca Schur, Isaac Loewen (STEINBACH REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL) | Catie Peterson (STONEWALL COLLEGIATE) | Devon Gillingham, Druscilla Henault (TRANSCONA COLLEGIATE)

THE 2011/12 LINEUP:

GRUMPY OLD MEN: THE MUSICAL | October 26, 2011 | Laurie Lam, MTC Producer and writer; Ben Ross, MTC Technical Director | Students learned how to make a dynamite script and then saw how a production made its way onto the stage.

ROMEO AND JULIET | December 7, 2011 | Rob Borges, Stage Fighting Choreographer | Students participated in a stage fighting workshop and learned how to make their battles look realistic while staying safe.

SHIRLEY VALENTINE | January 18, 2012 | Shannon Vickers, Professor of Voice and Diction, University of Winnipeg | Students got the opportunity to do a full-scale vocal warm-up and then learned how to do a variety of accents.

THE FIGHTING DAYS | February 22, 2012 | MTC Staff | Students took part in a backstage tour of the theatre.

GOD OF CARNAGE | April 4, 2012 | Sue Groff, Head Scenic Artist | Groff led a hands-on workshop that gave students a chance to create their own scenic art.

NEXT TO NORMAL | May 2, 2012 | Robb Paterson, Associate Artistic Director & Bob Foster, Musical Director | Paterson and Foster wrote and directed the students in their very own two-minute musical.

BACKSTAGE PASS:
THEATRE PERSPECTIVES
FOR STUDENTS SPONSOR



"Frothy, fun and crowd-pleasing" - CBC

Rebecca Northan as Mimi, *Blind Date*.



JEAN MURRAY - MORAY SINCLAIR THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP

In recognition and celebration of two Winnipeg personalities who contributed to our theatre's development, MTC established the Jean Murray - Moray Sinclair Theatre Scholarship almost 50 years ago. 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. This fund also 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.

The fund is sustained by MTC's patrons, who generously respond each season as we "pass the prop" during the run of one John Hirsch Mainstage production.

During *White Christmas* in our 2010/11 season, patrons kindly donated \$27,479.95. In combination with additional funding that remained from the 2009/10 collection, MTC awarded a total of \$30,400 for the 2011/12 academic year/theatre season.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Ashley Alberg	Andrea Houssin
Hannah Anderson	Jordan Hyndman
Jessy Arden	Kendra Jones
Eric Blais	Frances Koncan
Hilary Carroll	Ryan McDonald
Olivia Danylchuk	Veronique Mowbray
Matthew Fletcher	Mark Nelson
Madison Friesen	Jade Repeta
Teri-Lynn Friesen	Louriza Tronco
Jennica Grienke	Samantha Walters
Jacqueline Harding	Priscilla Yakielashek

APPRENTICESHIP RECIPIENTS

Andrew Luczenczyn
Heidi Malazdrewich
Casey Shapira
Candace Van Osch

NAOMI LEVIN THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 1976, this scholarship is dedicated to Naomi Levin, who was associated with MTC for a number of years. Naomi Levin Theatre Scholarships are available to persons studying production/technical aspects of theatre. To qualify, applicants must attend an accredited theatre production program, or apprentice with a professional theatre.

RECIPIENT Andrew Luczenczyn

John Cassini and Oliver Becker in *God of Carnage*. PHOTO BY BRUCE MONK

*Four strong performances in a very polished,
SHARP production* - Winnipeg Free Press

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

MTC schedules student-only matinee performances for selected productions. This year, MTC offered six student-only matinees for *Romeo and Juliet*. A total of 4,356 students attended (213 subscribers, 4,143 casual attendees).

In addition to the 4,356 students who attended the student-only matinees, 490 students subscribed to our regular performances, and 4,577 students attended casually.

As part of our TFYA programming, study guides were compiled for the John Hirsch Mainstage season and posted on our website where they could be accessed by all MTC patrons.

THEATRE FOR YOUNG
AUDIENCES SPONSOR

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"Sparkling WIT" - Winnipeg Free Press



Cherissa Richards as Vivie Warren in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. PHOTO BY BRUCE MONK

Steven Ratzlaff, Brigitte Robinson,
Martha Henry and Arne MacPherson in
August: Osage County. PHOTO BY BRUCE MONK



*"Plenty of pitch-black
humour ... this sprawling family
drama is both CAPTIVATING
and TERRIFYING"* - CBC



MTC staff on the set of *Romeo and Juliet*. PHOTO BY COLIN VIEBROCK

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Black & White Gala Ball committee

PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

BLACK & WHITE GALA BALL

On Saturday, November 5, 2011, the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre presented its 29th annual Black & White Gala Ball in the historic Fort Garry Hotel's Grand Ballroom. This much-anticipated fundraising evening welcomed 400 guests who indulged in a sumptuous dinner and the marvellous talents of The Danny Kramer Event Band. The Grand Ballroom was a perfect backdrop for an evening of classic 1960s elegance. Guests were treated to a surprise flash mob, which initiated a move to the dance floor and kept it packed until the evening came to an end.

We sincerely thank our community of sponsors, donors, volunteers and guests for making this evening so memorable. Your kind contributions support the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's many programs and productions while ensuring that live theatre continues to thrive in our community. We are truly grateful to our exclusive event sponsor, RBC Wealth Management, RBC Dominion Securities and RBC Royal Bank, for their generous support.

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Attendance: 385

Net Proceeds:

\$100,169.81



PHOTO BY LAURA LINDBLOM

MTC/MBA COMMUNITY PLAY

From May 2 to 5, 2012, the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and the Manitoba Bar Association (MBA) presented Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* at the Tom Hendry Warehouse. MTC's 20th Community Play would not have been possible without the partnership of the MBA and the sponsorship of PwC.

The MTC/MBA Community Play is an important annual fundraiser for MTC and the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival. MTC is very grateful for the loyal support of the MBA and their members, without whom we would not have raised more than \$800,000 over the years.

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre extends a heartfelt thank you to the talented cast and hardworking crew, as well as our many volunteers, sponsors, advertisers and audience members.

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THE MOUSETRAP

BY Agatha Christie

MAY 2 - 5, 2012

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Holmstrom, Peter Kingsley, Brad

Regehr, Leith Robertson, Neil Steen

RADIO VOICE John Harvie

787 attended 4 performances

Net Proceeds: \$47,074.20

Below: *Mousetrap* patrons enjoy a post-show reception in the lobby of the Tom Hendry Warehouse.

PHOTO BY STACI BENCHARSKI



Key Prize winner Michael Paterson with Black & White Gala Ball Chair Brenda Zaporzan.

PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN



ANNUAL GIVING

Each year, hundreds of loyal individual and corporate supporters invest in what they love by making a generous annual gift to MTC. These donors help produce the exciting and innovative work seen on our two stages, provide hundreds of students with an in-depth look at the theatre world through our Backstage Pass program and help us open our doors wide with affordable ticket prices. For this generous support, we offer a variety of donor benefits – based on the donation amount – that enhance their theatre-going experience. These benefits range from name recognition in various forms, to invitations to exclusive special events, to the opportunity to watch an onstage rehearsal.

To all of our corporate and individual friends: thank you so very much for the support!



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The cast of *August: Osage County*.
PHOTO BY BRUCE MONK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF MAY 31, 2012

	OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND	STABILIZATION FUND	ASM WORKING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDS	2012 TOTAL	2011 TOTAL
ASSETS CURRENT								
Cash & short term investments	\$1,926,330					\$55,426	\$1,981,756	\$2,843,798
Restricted cash	–						–	300,000
Accounts & grants receivable	645,834						645,834	604,288
Prepaid expenses	339,488						339,488	334,812
Due to/(from) funds	(305,997)	1,743	13,721	290,533	–		–	–
	2,605,655	1,743	13,721	290,533	–	55,426	2,967,078	4,082,898
CAPITAL ASSETS		2,680,442					2,680,442	2,752,338
	\$2,605,655	\$2,682,185	\$13,721	290,533	–	\$55,426	\$5,647,520	\$6,835,236
LIABILITIES CURRENT								
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	\$257,777						\$257,777	\$414,126
Deferred revenue	2,347,878						2,347,878	2,393,644
	2,605,655						2,605,655	2,807,770
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS		2,123,224					2,123,224	2,336,719
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS						55,426	55,426	61,770
	2,605,655	2,123,224				55,426	4,784,305	5,206,259
NET ASSETS								
Restricted	–						–	300,000
Internally Restricted	–		13,721				13,721	7,982
Invested in capital assets	–	558,961					558,961	591,934
Unrestricted	–			290,533			290,533	729,061
	–	558,961	13,721	290,533	–	–	863,215	1,628,977
	\$2,605,655	\$2,682,185	\$13,721	\$290,533	–	\$55,426	\$5,647,520	\$6,835,236

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AS OF MAY 31, 2012

	OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND	STABILIZATION FUND	ASM WORKING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDS	2012 TOTAL	2011 TOTAL
Revenue	\$8,787,054	\$457,426	–	–	\$100,000	\$30,900	\$9,375,380	\$9,582,459
Expenses	9,207,208	490,399	12,635	–	–	30,900	9,741,142	9,511,505
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(420,154)	(32,973)	(12,635)	–	100,000	–	(365,762)	70,954
Net assets, beginning of year		591,934	7,982	729,061	300,000	–	1,628,977	1,558,023
Transfer to endowment fund					(400,000)		(400,000)	
Interfund transfers	420,154	–	18,374	(438,528)	–	–		
Net assets, end of year	–	\$558,961	\$13,721	\$290,533	–	–	\$863,215	\$1,628,977

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