

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/19



The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's John Hirsch Mainstage. PHOTO BY JERRY GRAJEWSKI
Inset: John Hirsch and Tom Hendry.



ABOUT ROYAL MTC

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



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

VISION

Royal MTC's theatres and our province will team with artists and audiences sharing in the act of imagining, enriching lives and communities.

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 Royal 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.



Farren Timoteo in *Made in Italy*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

ATTENDANCE

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE.....	92,535
TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE.....	16,962
WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL.....	183,251
IBSENFEST.....	2,983
(Excluding 5,115 who attended <i>A Doll's House</i> at the Tom Hendry Warehouse and 11,793 who attended <i>A Doll's House, Part 2</i> at the John Hirsch Mainstage)	
REGIONAL TOUR.....	3,661
THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES.....	4,029
Attended 10 student-only matinee performances	
TOTAL.....	303,421



Jeff Yung and Simu Liu in *Vietgone*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT



The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre operates as a non-profit charitable organization, led by the Artistic Director, Executive Director, Board Chair and a volunteer Board of Trustees from the community. The management practices of Royal 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. Royal 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, 2018 to report artistic and financial results to interested subscribers, patrons and community members.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



This past season was a marked success, and included the most important artistic transition for Royal MTC in our six decades.

In his extraordinary 30-year tenure as Artistic Director, Steven Schipper helped shape the landscape of theatre in Manitoba and across Canada, and had a hand in creating Winnipeg's tight-knit artistic community. His commitment to fostering local talent on stage and behind the scenes has forged a robust and prosperous community that offers people the chance to live in Winnipeg while making a career in theatre. Steven demonstrated that collaboration always produces a great result: better theatre, happier audiences and more interesting programming.

Steven assembled an incredible playbill for Royal MTC's 61st season. The resonant theme of the 2018/19 season was "Home" and this was delivered beautifully across shows at the John Hirsch Mainstage, the Tom Hendry Warehouse, through the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival and the Master Playwright Festival, and across the province with our Regional Tour. A particular highlight was welcoming legendary Canadian artist Robert Lepage back to Winnipeg for a special presentation of 887. Robert last performed here in Steven's first season, in 1989/90.

The strength of the art on the stages was matched by positive financial results, and we are all justly proud to report an operating surplus on the season. Royal MTC's corporate and individual donors demonstrated their generosity and support, and we thank the many individuals and corporations who contributed to our campaigns, events and programs.

The Board of Trustees, at his final Board meeting, appointed Steven Artistic Director Emeritus, in honour of his years of stellar service. At our Tribute event, we announced over \$500,000 of donations, pledges and match contributions made in his honour to our newly named Royal MTC Endowment - Steven Schipper Fund at The Winnipeg Foundation. The Endowment Fund now stands at close to \$20 million, allowing us to move confidently into our future, take bold creative risks and optimize programming and outreach.

Of course, with all endings, come new beginnings. After a comprehensive and rigorous search, Kelly Thornton was unanimously appointed as our Artistic Director Designate. An acclaimed director and dramaturg, and Artistic Director at Nightwood Theatre (Toronto) for 17 years, Kelly has been recognized for artistic excellence and her mentorship of emerging talent. Her legacy at Nightwood is one of significant growth and success, matched with bold, inclusive programming. We are thrilled to welcome Kelly and her family to Winnipeg.

We are fortunate to have an incredible staff behind the scenes at Royal MTC. The true team effort by all is evident day in and day out, and we so appreciate the many people who make our theatre shine. I also want to thank the Board of Trustees; their enthusiasm is evident at every meeting, engaging in rigorous conversation, and ensuring that we deliver the goals of our Strategic Plan. A special thanks to past Chair Tony Fletcher, who also chaired the Search Committee, demonstrating so aptly the significant difference that dedicated volunteers make. So much of what I love about MTC - my experience at the performances, the joyous Fringe, the success of the Black & White Ball, those dancing and singing lawyers who put their hearts on the line - is connected to volunteers. My final thanks is to them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Christie".

DAVID CHRISTIE

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The 2018-19 season featured two Mainstage premieres of work by Manitoba playwrights. This feat was a tribute to both the talent in our province, and to Steven's investment in local playwrights over his three-decade tenure. We launched with an adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* by Ellen Peterson, and ended with Jake McDonald's first play, *The Cottage*, a story relevant to all Manitobans: the hand-over of a property from one generation to the next. The season was further bookended by our announcement of Kelly Thornton as Artistic Director Designate in October, and our farewell to Steven in late May.

I had the great fortune to lead Royal MTC with Steven for eight years, and ours was a joyful, productive and fun partnership. When I was being interviewed for my position, I had a somewhat secretive lunch with Steven at Nathan Detroit's. I initially thought that he had chosen the location for its anonymity and the unlikelihood of running into anyone he or I knew. Or perhaps that it was a reference to his love of musicals (a sly reference to *Guys and Dolls*). We were interrupted every five minutes by Board members, subscribers, volunteers, and friends. It was a brief window into Steven's approachability, engagement with audience members, and keen interest in other people. Steven was generous in sharing the successes as well as the challenges, with quiet charm, integrity and hard work. I thank him for his friendship and support.

Steven assembled a beautiful 2018-19 season celebrating the theme of "home" in many and diverse forms. From the inspiring *Matilda* to Nora's epic journey across our two venues in Ibsen's original *A Doll's House*, and Hnath's sequel *A Doll's House, Part 2*. Manitobans of all ages found themselves reflected on our stages. In years to come, Warehouse audiences can say they saw Simu Liu perform back-flips in *Vietgone*; he's now Marvel's newest superhero in *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*.

The hundreds of artists, creators, craftspeople and staff who made this busy season successful each deserve a paragraph (but my space is limited). I will however thank our first Indigenous Arts Leadership Fellow, Seraph-Eden Boroditsky. Supported by the Winnipeg Arts Council, Seraph-Eden joined our team in September and it was a season of learning for both her, and our institution. Seraph-Eden supported

development and administration, the Lawyers Play, the Fringe Festival, and developed and delivered a workshop series for staff about Reconciliation.

Thanks to our Board of Trustees, our corporate and individual donors, subscribers and staff for your immense and deeply appreciated contributions to our 61st season. We value our core and sustaining funders: the Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, the Manitoba Arts Council, the Province of Manitoba, and the Winnipeg Arts Council for their contributions to Royal MTC's activities, and their special support for the Fringe Festival, the Regional Tour and the Master Playwright Festival.

I can't let the curtain fall on 2018-19 without mentioning a deep loss for MTC, in the untimely death of staff member Melanie Sexton, age 41, of cancer. Melanie worked for MTC for over 20 years, in Box Office and in our Accounting Department. She was warm, funny and smart, and dedicated to her colleagues, our theatre and our audiences. The United Way's campaign landed on my desk the week Melanie died; the slogan this year is "Conscious Kindness" and I can't think of two words that better describe her.

Writing this report feels a bit like closing up a cottage at the end of the summer. We smile when we recall the highlights of the year past, but also look forward to the exciting events to come. We bid farewell to Steven, and hello to Kelly, who starts her journey in Winnipeg in the 2019-20 season. I know that our growing community of artists and audiences will welcome, celebrate and embrace her, the same way they adopted Steven thirty years ago.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Camilla Holland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CAMILLA HOLLAND

“Haunted and haunting, *John* is far from ordinary theatre and not to be missed.”

– CBC MANITOBA



David Reale and Rosie Simon in *John*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

A TRIBUTE TO STEVEN

On Wednesday May 29, Royal MTC hosted a free sold-out Tribute to Steven at the John Hirsch Mainstage. Many subscribers, donors, artists and supporters attended, and contributed warm messages of thanks to Steven. Past Chairs of the Board of Trustees offered the following praise:



Royal MTC marquee on May 29.

Steven gets along with everyone, whether it's Board members, volunteers, high-strung egotistical lawyers, governments, donors, media, administrators, other theatre groups, and artists. It's why he has survived and flourished at Royal MTC and it's why Royal MTC has survived and flourished under his leadership as well.

- Gail Asper

We were blessed with Steven's wonderful, humble communication skills; always involving and engaging others, seeking out their thoughts. And, always quick to share the spotlight shining on our many successes, which were so much of Steven's making.

- Angus Campbell

Steven made me realize I was not simply contributing to Royal MTC, I was helping build a better world because I was helping foster empathy between people, and empathy between people breeds tolerance. We've been incredibly fortunate to have been driven by Steven's vision in one of Canada's finest arts and cultural institutions.

- Gerald H. Couture (Gerry)

Is it possible that 30 years ago, the Board of Trustees recognized that you were something special? I know from my own time at Royal MTC how special you are. You are a man who is very talented but modest and indeed, self-effacing, often crediting others with your many theatre successes. Your gentle enthusiasm, eloquence and clarity of thought could both charm and persuade almost anyone, certainly any board member.

- Kerry Dangerfield



Steven Schipper with his children Nate Schipper and Susan Schipper.

I know without doubt that the quality of theatre offered by Royal MTC is world class in the truest sense of that overused phrase, and that Steven's vision, compassion and connection with Royal MTC's audiences is the reason why. I know the play must go on. I know it will continue to be fantastic in the post-Steven era, but it will not be the same without him.

- Glen Dyrda

When Steven announced his retirement, he also let it be known, in his typically humble, self-deprecating manner, that he did not want a tribute or celebration. We met for one of our intermittent lunches. I pitched Steven on the inevitability of a retirement celebration. Steven said it must be modest, dignified and nothing but "A plain pine box". He made me promise. What choice did I have? Then the kicker. Steven, at his most politic and strategic best, said I should chair the celebration committee.

- Tony Fletcher

Steven, this failed golf pro, was always a soft-spoken, tolerant and gentle leader who, together with Zaz Bajon, built MTC into a leader in Canadian theatre.

- Jeffrey Morton

Manitoba has always had a rich history of fostering and promoting the arts in Canada, with outstanding leadership. Being an artistic director can often lead down a lonely and vulnerable path. You made over and over again something so deeply personal, and then presented it to the world with an open heart. Not everyone is so fearless.

- Jack Murta

It has been my pleasure to witness a most extraordinary career.

"A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives roses"
- Confucius

Thank you, Steven, for one enormous bouquet!

- Susan Skinner



Jennifer Lyon, Debbie Maslowsky and Laura Olafson perform at the event.

ALL PHOTOS BY DAVID SWIECICKI

RENEWED FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY

Thanks to generous donations from YOU, \$500,000 will be added to the Steven Schipper Endowment Fund.

THEATRICAL EXCELLENCE

EXCEPTIONAL THEATRE THAT INSPIRES
AND REFLECTS OUR WORLD



2019 *Buying the Farm* cast and crew

The 50th Regional Tour brought *Buying the Farm* to audiences all over Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario in January and February 2019. In just **39 days**, they **travelled more than 6,000 km** and played to **3,661 patrons** in **24 rural communities**.

The young Winnipeg performers in *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* proved that “even if you’re little you can do a lot”, charming and inspiring audiences every performance. Our three-way co-production ended its run in Vancouver in July 2019.

DEVELOPING LOCAL TALENT

NURTURING LOCAL ARTISTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL



New play development with
Ellen Peterson and Krista Jackson.
PHOTO BY DAVE SWIECICKI

Development of two new Manitoban plays including an adaptation of Jane Austen’s novel *Sense and Sensibility* by Winnipeg playwright Ellen Peterson, and *The Cottage* by beloved novelist Jake MacDonald.

The Director and Design Assistant Program cultivated local talent and provided opportunities for early career designers and directors to refine and strengthen their craft. The launch of this program in the 2018/19 season granted four applicants the opportunity to work with established theatre artists to broaden their skills and obtain professional experience.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

ENRICHING STUDENTS’ LIVES THROUGH THE POWER OF THEATRE



Student matinee of *It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play*.

A consistent year over year increase in student attendance. A total of **9,591 students** visited Royal MTC in the 2018/19 season, a **35% increase!**

TD Theatre Under 30 membership program is going strong with over **1,000 members**.

Backstage Pass, Teen Critic and the Student Placement program offered free training to youth, exposing them to all aspects of theatre and enhancing their critical thinking skills.

New this season - 37 NextGen Fringers between the ages of 16-21 each received a free VIP 6 pass. Participants then shared their Fringe experiences online by sending out some good vibes on social media.



2018 Next Gen Fringers

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MAKING THE THEATRE MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE

For the third consecutive season, we were pleased to present a relaxed performance for *Made in Italy*. Relaxed Performances are designed to welcome audience members who would benefit from a more relaxed environment.

ASL interpreted performance of *A Doll's House* for members of the Deaf community.

We continue to engage with the community through enriching conversations that delve deeper into the stories we present on our stages. Programs include: Pre-show chats, talkback series, and a long-standing partnership with the Winnipeg Public Library.

“Hugely entertaining. Actors were great as were the special effects and staging.”

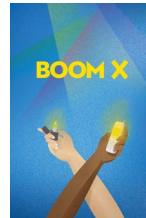
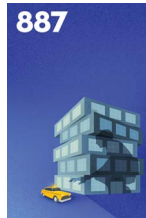
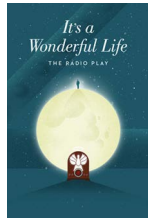
– PATRON



The cast of Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*.

PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Adapted by Ellen Peterson
From the novel by Jane Austen

October 18 - November 10, 2018
PREVIEW • October 17

Director: Krista Jackson[†]
Set & Costume Designer: Judith Bowden
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson
Sound Designer: Michael Wright
Text & Dialect Coach: Shannon Vickers
Dramaturg: Bruce McManus
Stage Manager: Chris Pearce
Assistant Stage Manager: Heather Lee Brereton
Apprentice Stage Manager: Christopher Brackett
Apprentice Stage Manager: Katie Schmidt
Cast: Sharon Bajer, Terri Cherniack[†], Ava Darrach-Gagnon, Paul Essiembre, Luke Humphrey, David Jansen, Tom Keenan, Julie Lumsden, Aaron Pridham, Cherissa Richards[†], Heather Russell[†], Natalie Viebrock, Alissa Watson

14,492 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: THE RADIO PLAY

Adapted by Philip Grecian
Based on the film by Frank Capra

November 22 - December 15, 2018
PREVIEWS • November 20 & 21

Director: Steven Schipper
Original Director: Robb Paterson
Set & Costume Designer: Michael Gianfrancesco
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher
Composer: Danny Carroll
Sound Designer: John Gzowski
Choreographer: Catherine Wreford
Apprentice Director: Daphne Finlayson*
Stage Manager: Margaret Brook
Assistant Stage Manager: Katherine Dermott
Apprentice Stage Manager: Sarah McDowell
Cast: Eric Blais[†], Wade Bogert-O'Brien, Danny Carroll, John Gzowski, Toby Hughes, Kevin Klassen, Amanda Lisman, Jennifer Lyon, Robb Paterson, Tracy Pennert[†], Ray Strachan[†], Jon Ted Wynne[†]

SPONSORED BY THE GAIL ASPER FAMILY FOUNDATION & THE ASPER FOUNDATION

16,254 ATTENDED 28 PERFORMANCES

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL

Book: Dennis Kelly
Music & Lyrics: Tim Minchin

Orchestrations & Additional Music by
Chris Nightingale

January 10 - February 2, 2019
PREVIEWS • January 8 & 9

Director: Daryl Cloran
Music Director: Don Horsburgh
Choreographer: Kimberley Rampersad
Set & Costume Designer: Cory Sincennes
Lighting Designer: Gerald King
Sound Designer: Brad Danyluk
Fight Director: Jacqueline Loewen
Dialect Consultant: Shannon Vickers
Russian Coach: Dmitriy Shishkin
Assistant Director / Assistant Choreographer: Anna Kuman
Assistant Music Director: Aretha Tillotson
Assistant Set & Costume Designer: Ksenia Broda-Milian**
Assistant Lighting Designer: James Thurmeier
Stage Manager: Allison Spearin
Assistant Stage Manager: Kathryn Ball[†]
Apprentice Stage Manager (Performance): Nyssa Beairsto
Apprentice Stage Manager (Rehearsals): Zahra Larche
Child Supervisor: Liam Naughten
Assistant Child Supervisor: Adeline Sokulski

Cast: Anna Anderson-Epp, Lauren Bowler, Sophie Braunstein, Cassandra Consiglio, Sharon Crandall, Quinn Derksen, Ben Elliott, Schaefer Engbrecht, Hudson Francis, Becky Frohlinger[†], Julio Fuentes, Zachary Gordon, Corben Kushneryk, Alison MacDonald, Andrew MacDonald-Smith, Johan Malolos, Nathan Malolos, Lilla Solymos, Justin Stadnyk[†], John Ulliyatt, Kaelyn Yoon-MacRae

Musicians: Sharon Atkinson, Julian Bradford, Rachel Cameron, Karin Erhardt, Janice Finlay, Derrick Gottfried, David Grott, Shane Hicks, Don Horsburgh, Dave Lawton, Brendan Thompson

In partnership with Arts Club Theatre Company and Citadel Theatre

WESTERN CANADIAN PARTNER
IG WEALTH MANAGEMENT

20,936 ATTENDED 29 PERFORMANCES

887

Featuring Ex Machina/Robert Lepage
Written, Designed, Directed and Performed by
Robert Lepage

February 8-10, 2019

English Translation: Louisa Blair
Creative Direction & Design: Steve Blanchet
Dramaturg: Peder Bjurman
Assistant Director: Adèle Saint-Amand
Composer & Sound Designer: Jean-Sébastien Côté
Lighting Designer: Laurent Routhier
Image Designer: Félix Fradet-Faguy
Associate Set Designer: Sylvain Décarie
Associate Properties Designer: Ariane Sauvé
Associate Costumes Designer: Jeanne Lapierre
Production Manager: Marie-Pierre Gagné
Production Assistant: Véronique St-Jacques
Technical Director: Paul Bourque
Tour Manager: Véronique St-Jacques
Technical Directors - Touring: Jeanne Gosselin, Olivier Bourque
Stage Manager: Nadia Bélanger
Sound Manager: Olivier Marcil
Lighting Manager: Nicolas Boudreau
Video Manager: Dominique Hawry
Costumes & Properties Manager: Isabel Poulin
Head Stagehand: Chloé Blanchet
Multimedia Integration: Nicolas Dostie
Technical Consultants: Catherine Guay, Tobie Horswill
Acting Consultant - Creative Process: Reda Guerinik
Director's Agent: Lynda Beaulieu

1,243 ATTENDED 3 PERFORMANCES

A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2

By Lucas Hnath

February 21 - March 16, 2019
PREVIEW • February 20

Director: Krista Jackson[†]
Set & Costume Designer: Teresa Przybylski
Lighting Designer: Michael Walton
Sound Designer: Michael Wright
Assistant Director: Frances Koncan**
Apprentice Costume Designer: Ayobami Ige*
Assistant Lighting Designer: Katherine Johnston[†]
Stage Manager: Leslie Watson
Assistant Stage Manager: Katherine Dermott

Cast: Paul Essiembre, Deborah Hay, Kate Hennig, Bahareh Yaraghi

A co-production with Mirvish Productions

Part of IbsenFest 2019

11,793 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES

BOOM X

Written, Directed and Performed by
Rick Miller

March 21 - April 13, 2019
PREVIEW • March 20

Executive Producer: Jeff Lord
Lighting Designer / Production Manager:
Bruno Matte
Video & Projection Co-Designer: Nicolas Dostie
Video & Projection Co-Designer:
Irina Litvinenko
Costume & Props Designer: Virginie Leclerc
Stage Manager / Dramaturg: Craig Francis
Stage Manager (select performances):
Laurel Oneil
Set & Sound Designer / Composer: Rick Miller
Assistant Production Manager: Aidan Ware
Graphic Design: Logograph
Music Licensing: Lucie Bourgooin (Permission)
Music Licensing: Michael Perlmutter (Instinct)
Produced by Kidoons and WYRD Productions,
in association with Theatre Calgary and
The 20K Collective

12,716 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES

THE COTTAGE

By Jake MacDonald

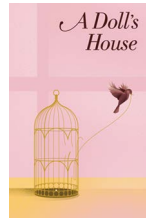
April 25 - May 18, 2019
PREVIEW • April 24

Director: Robb Paterson
Set & Costume Designer: Brian Perchaluk[†]
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson
Sound Designer: Michael Wright
Choreographer: Catherine Wreford
Fight Directors: Jacqueline Loewen,
Rick Skene
Dramaturg: Tricia Cooper
Assistant Director: Simon Miron[†]
Apprentice Set & Costume Designer:
Megumi Hari
Apprentice Lighting Designer:
Hayley Mummery^{*}
Stage Manager: Karyn Kumhyr
Assistant Stage Manager: Christopher Brackett
Apprentice Stage Manager: Katie Schmidt
Cast: Jane Burpee, Adam Hurtig, Tom Keenan,
Jennifer Lyon, Doug McKeag, Chris Sigurdson,
RobYn Slade, Cory Wojcik
Voices of offstage children: Cooper Vint and
Isaac Vint

15,101 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE PRODUCTIONS

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE SEASON SPONSOR: BMO FINANCIAL GROUP



VIETGONE

By Qui Nguyen

November 1-17, 2018
PREVIEW • October 31

Director: Robert Ross Parker
Choreographer: Wayne Santos
Set & Costume Designer: Joanna Yu
Lighting Designer / Video Designer:
Hugh Conacher
Sound Designer / Composer: Alex Punzalan
Fight Director: Jacqueline Loewen
Assistant to the Director: Loc Lu
Stage Manager: Michael Duggan[†]
Apprentice Stage Manager: Zahra Larche
Cast: Peter Fernandes, Simu Liu, Stephanie Sy,
Jennifer Villaverde, Jeff Yung

In association with fu-GEN Theatre and Hope
and Hell Theatre Co.

4,411 ATTENDED 18 PERFORMANCES

A DOLL'S HOUSE

By Henrik Ibsen

Translated by Joan Tindale

January 31 - February 16, 2019
PREVIEW • January 30

Director: Rona Waddington
Set & Costume Designer: Brian Perchaluk[†]
Lighting Designer / Video Designer:
Hugh Conacher
Choreographer: Catherine Wreford
Stage Manager: Chris Pearce
Apprentice Stage Manager: Katie Schmidt
Child Supervisor: Adeline Sokulski
Eric Blais[†], Kevin Klassen, Jennifer Lyon,
Gavrail Momtchilov, Kaloyana Momtchilov,
Toni Reimer, Shannon Taylor, Cory Wojcik
Part of IbsenFest 2019

SPONSORED BY THE ASPER FOUNDATION

5,115 ATTENDED 19 PERFORMANCES

MADE IN ITALY

Written and Performed by Farren Timoteo

February 28 - March 16, 2019
PREVIEW • February 27

Director: Daryl Cloran
Set Designer: Cory Sincennes
Costume Designer: Cindy Wiebe
Lighting Designer: Conor Moore
Sound Designer: Mishelle Cuttler
Choreographer: Laura Krewski
Stage Manager: Christine Leroux
Tour Technical Director: Liam Befurt

A Western Canada Theatre Production

3,982 ATTENDED 18 PERFORMANCES

JOHN

By Annie Baker

April 4 - 20, 2019
PREVIEW • April 3

Director: Christopher Brauer
Set & Costume Designer: Brian Perchaluk[†]
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson
Sound Designer: Chris Brett
Auditing Director: Christine Leslie
Stage Manager: Margaret Brook
Apprentice Stage Manager: Darius Hahn

Cast: Terri Cherniack[†], Maggie Nagle,
David Reale, Rosie Simon

3,454 ATTENDED 18 PERFORMANCES



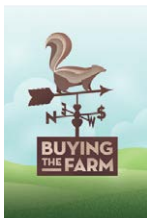
Rosie Simon and David Reale in *John*.

PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

^{*}Position funded through the Jean Murray - Moray Sinclair Theatre Apprenticeship Program

[†]Past Jean Murray - Moray Sinclair Scholarship award winner [†]Position funded through the Kingfisher Foundation

REGIONAL TOUR



The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries were pleased to present our Regional Tour of *Buying the Farm*.

BUYING THE FARM

By Shelley Hoffman and Stephen Sparks

January 31 – March 7, 2019

Director: Thom Currie
 Scenic & Costume Designer: Adam Parboosingh
 Sound Designer: Chris Brett
 Stage Manager: Ali Fulmyk
 Apprentice Stage Manager: Zahra Larche
 Tour Technical Director: Ian Kirk
 Tour Technician: Brian Britton

Cast: Tristan Carlucci, Olivia Ulrich, Sandy Winsby

In partnership with Magnus Theatre

3,661 ATTENDED 24 PERFORMANCES

- JAN 31 | Steinbach • Steinbach Arts Council
- FEB 1 | Portage la Prairie • William Glesby Centre
- FEB 3 | Pinawa • Winnipeg River Arts Council
- FEB 4 | Gimli • Kiwanis Club of Gimli and District
- FEB 5 | Gimli • Kiwanis Club of Gimli and District
- FEB 10 | Flin Flon • Flin Flon Arts Council
- FEB 11 | Snow Lake • Aurora Borealis Arts Council
- FEB 13 | Strathclair • Strathclair & District Theatre Committee, Ltd.
- FEB 14 | Neepawa • Kaleidoscope Concert Series
- FEB 16 | Brandon • Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium
- FEB 18 | Minnedosa • Minnedosa Performing Arts Committee
- FEB 19 | Deloraine • Southwest Showcase Inc.
- FEB 20 | Crystal City • Parklane Theatre Committee
- FEB 21 | Souris • Souris District Arts Council
- FEB 23 | Virden • Virden Arts Mosaic
- FEB 24 | Altona • Southern Manitoba Concerts
- FEB 25 | Carman • Golden Prairie Arts Council
- FEB 26 | MacGregor • Heartland Recreation Commission
- MAR 2 | Morris • Morris Multiplex
- MAR 3 | Kenora • Lake of the Woods Concert Group
- MAR 4 | Red Lake • Wilderness Entertainment Series
- MAR 5 | Dryden • Dryden Entertainment Series
- MAR 6 | Sioux Lookout • Sioux Hudson Entertainment Series
- MAR 7 | Atikokan • Atikokan Entertainment Series
- MAR 14-30 | Thunder Bay • Magnus Theatre

SPONSORED BY MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES

FESTIVALS



WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

The 31st annual Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival attracted thousands of theatre lovers to the festival, breaking box-office records.

The box-office was bustling with indoor ticketed attendance totaling 103,251 with 245 sold-out performances and \$890,624 in box office revenue. The total revenue represents a 1.75% increase over last year. The festival featured 178 companies with 1,516 total indoor performances and 178 outdoor companies. Outdoor attendance totalled approximately 75,000-80,000.

Royal MTC is the only regional theatre in Canada to produce a Fringe Festival, and presents the event as part of its proud commitment to developing new artists and audiences. Since its inception in 1988, the Winnipeg Fringe has enjoyed tremendous growth and ranks as the second-largest event of its kind in North America. Because participants are accepted to the festival through a lottery, artists enjoy complete artistic freedom as they present independent theatre to appreciative audiences.

SUPPORTED BY MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES

2018 WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL STATISTICS

TICKETED ATTENDANCE • 103,251
 OUTDOOR ATTENDANCE (INCLUDING KIDS FRINGE) • 75,000-80,000 (APPROX.)
 KIDS VENUE ATTENDANCE • 4,407
 BOX OFFICE REVENUE • \$890,624
 NUMBER OF PERFORMING COMPANIES • 178
 NUMBER OF INDOOR PERFORMANCES • 1,516
 NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS • 797 (WHO WORKED 3,990 SHIFTS AND DONATED APPROXIMATELY 19,805 HOURS)



MASTER PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL

The 19th Master Playwright Festival honoured the life and work of dramatist and poet Henrik Ibsen from January 29 – February 17. Theatre fans enjoyed 12 productions and free events including a directors' panel, a film screening and a radio/web broadcast. The collaborative festival gave the opportunity for emerging and established artists to present work by the "father of realism."

Joining Royal MTC to celebrate the life and work Henrik Ibsen were 16 local companies: 101.5 UFMF, Black Hole Theatre, Echo Theatre, Looking Glass Productions, Naked Theatre Productions, PAL/ACTRA, PTE Adult Company, R-G Productions, Shoestring Players, Tara Players, The Actors' Fund of Canada, The Sons of Ibsen, Winnipeg Public Library, Vault Projects, Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre and Zone41 Theatre.

Royal MTC's contribution to the festival were Henrik Ibsen's riveting story, *A Doll's House* which was presented at the Tom Hendry Warehouse, and Lucas Hnath's *A Doll's House, Part 2* at the John Hirsch Mainstage.

2019 MASTER PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL (IBSENFEST) STATISTICS

TICKETED ATTENDANCE • 19,891
 FREE EVENTS ATTENDANCE (LECTURES AND FILM SCREENINGS) • 979
 OVERALL FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE • 20,870
 OVERALL FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE REVENUE • \$190,447
 NUMBER OF PERFORMING COMPANIES • 16
 NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES • 165

WORDPLAY

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre produces an average of one new play each season. This year, new plays by Manitoba playwrights opened and closed our Mainstage season. Ellen Peterson's new adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* launched the year, while Jake MacDonald's *The Cottage* capped the season. Both plays balanced comedy and drama as they explored our precarious sense of home and belonging, and served as fitting farewells to outgoing Artistic Director Steven Schipper.

We are also proud to see creations that started at MTC find warm receptions well beyond our theatre. This season, Jovanni Sy's *Nine Dragons* (Tom Hendry Warehouse, 2017) received a Jessie Richardson Theatre Award in Vancouver, for Outstanding Original Script.

Of course, great original plays don't just happen. Writers and their work must be nurtured. We commission new plays (MTC has several 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 reviewed 114 script submissions this year: plays both new and previously produced that are then read by MTC staff and freelance analysts. This year, we hired 54 artists to work on 6 scripts as part of our Wordplay series of readings and workshops.

These diverse activities help playwrights turn their dreams into reality, allow other artists to contribute to the creative process early, and give our audiences the inside track on the best new plays being written here and abroad.



CULTIVATING TALENT

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre cultivates talent through a series of programs. By inviting students to attend performances on our stages and in their schools, we help them imagine a life in the theatre, both as artists and as audience members. Our 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.

We know Simon Miron best as an actor, playing Charles Condomine in *Blithe Spirit* and the title role in *Sunday in the Park with George* at our Master Playwright Festivals. This season, he assisted Director Robb Paterson on *The Cottage*. He says, "I had a lot of support from stage management, the dramaturges and Robbie to make sure I was able to complete the tasks that were given to me. I'm hoping that I can build on the relationships I've developed at Royal MTC. ... It's quite difficult to get experience working with actors and learning how best to communicate with different people. The more assistants that can be brought into the process, the better."

Many artists use our festivals as professional springboards. Actor Duncan Cox, whose musical theatre skills helped animate *Once* on our Mainstage, won the 2018 Harry S. Rintoul Memorial Award (with co-writers Tanner Manson and Ben Townsley) for best new Manitoba play at the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival. The award helped boost Duncan's burgeoning career: "Winning the award has given me the gift of knowing that not only are people watching me and my work as I develop and grow, but that they are enjoying what they find! There is no stronger motivator to keep me working, experimenting, and most of all playing, than having an audience express joy in the art that I'm creating."

Our co-productions help local artists expand their geographical and artistic horizons. Krista Jackson made her Toronto directing debut when our co-production of *Doll's House, Part 2* transferred to the Mirvish's CAA Theatre:

It was broadening and instructive to lead first-hand the planning, creation and execution of a major co-production. Being able to observe and participate in the cultures of two different theatre institutions - to get to peek behind two sets of curtains and see how technical, marketing and production staffs' differ on the same project - was a fascinating experience.

We are always proud to support the work of local artists and, this year, 68% of all actors at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre were Manitobans. We are also pleased that one of the Mainstage production - *The Cottage* - featured a cast composed entirely of Manitobans. Without our artists, our theatre would not exist, and we are proud to play some small part in their creative evolutions.



PRE-SHOW CHATS

Pre-Show Chats (formerly called Monday Mix) is an informal lecture series available to patrons who attend the third Thursday evening of our John Hirsch Theatre season. Patrons enrich their experience through pre-show conversations with local theatre professionals and special guests from our community.

THE 2018/19 LINEUP

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY • Playwright Ellen Peterson shared her journey adapting *Sense and Sensibility* for the Royal MTC stage. Attendees: 64

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: THE RADIO PLAY • Patrons rode the airwaves back to the golden age of radio with veteran broadcaster, journalist and author Garry Moir, who shared stories of Manitoba's rich radio past. Attendees: 51

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL • Head of Wardrobe, Lorraine O'Leary, revealed how she and her team took on the monumental task of dressing Broadway's biggest little hero and the rest of Roald Dahl's colourful crew of characters. Attendees: 48

A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2 • Did you know that Royal MTC is a National Historic Site? Before entering Lucas Hnath's *A Doll's House, Part 2* patrons learned about our home with architectural writer and historian Jeffrey Thorsteinson and a behind-the-scenes tour. Attendees: 54

BOOM X • Patrons travelled back in time with historian George Buri, who weighed in on the explosive quarter century portrayed in *BOOM X*. Attendees: 53

THE COTTAGE • Local playwright Jake MacDonald shared his creative process and his inspiration for his hilarious and touching play. Attendees: 55

TALKBACKS

Post-show, actors returned to the stage for a question-and-answer session with the audience. Talkbacks were hosted after Tuesday evening performances and the final Wednesday matinee at the John Hirsch Theatre, and after Tuesday evening performances and Thursday matinees at the Tom Hendry Theatre. A total of **5,246 patrons** attended talkbacks throughout the season.



The cast of *A Doll's House, Part 2* during a post-show talkback.

SCHOLARSHIPS & APPRENTICESHIPS

In recognition and celebration of two Winnipeg personalities who contributed to our theatre's development, Royal MTC established the Jean Murray-Moray Sinclair Theatre Scholarship Fund. 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. Also, this fund 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.

Royal MTC awarded a total of **\$20,300** for the 2018/19 academic year/theatre season. Thank you to our generous patrons who donated through our "pass-the-hat" performances of *Once*.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Julia Anderson	Emily Jane King	Rhea Rodych-Rasideseu
Bohdan Dyck	Elliot Lazar	Bennette Villones
Laurel Fife	Jessica Lemanski	Kelsey Wavey
Meagan Fennell	Christine Leslie	Emma Welham
Dylan Hatcher	Shannon Loewen	Erica Wilson
Mallory James	Heidi Malazdrewich	
Cuinn Joseph	Alanna McPherson	

APPRENTICESHIP RECIPIENTS

Ayobami Ige	Hayley Mummery
Daphne Finlayson	Robyn Hasselstrom

NEW DIRECTING AND DESIGN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Royal MTC is committed to the cultivation of local talent by providing opportunities for early career designers and directors to refine and strengthen their craft. Through our Assistant Program, successful applicants work with established theatre artists to broaden their skills and obtain professional experience.

SUPPORTED BY THE KINGFISHER FOUNDATION

Frances Koncan, Assistant Director, *A Doll's House, Part 2*
 Simon Miron, Assistant Director, *The Cottage*
 Ksenia Broda-Milian, Assistant Set Designer, *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*
 Katherine Johnston, Assistant Lighting Designer, *A Doll's House, Part 2*

ACCESS ACTIVATORS RELAXED PERFORMANCE TRAINING

Royal MTC partnered with the British Council of Canada to host an Access Activators Relaxed Performance Training on Sept 10-12, 2018. Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Rainbow Stage, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Sick + Twisted Theatre, Shakespeare In The Ruins, and Royal Winnipeg Ballet attended.

RELAXED PERFORMANCE

Royal MTC offered a relaxed performance of *Made in Italy* at the Tom Hendry Warehouse on March 10, 2019. This is the third season Royal MTC has engaged in this accessibility initiative, which is designed to welcome audience members who would benefit from a more relaxed environment, including (but not limited to) those with sensory sensitivities, learning differences, autism spectrum disorder, and first-time theatregoers. Minor production changes are made to reduce startling effects and there is a relaxed attitude towards audience noise and movement.

ASL INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE

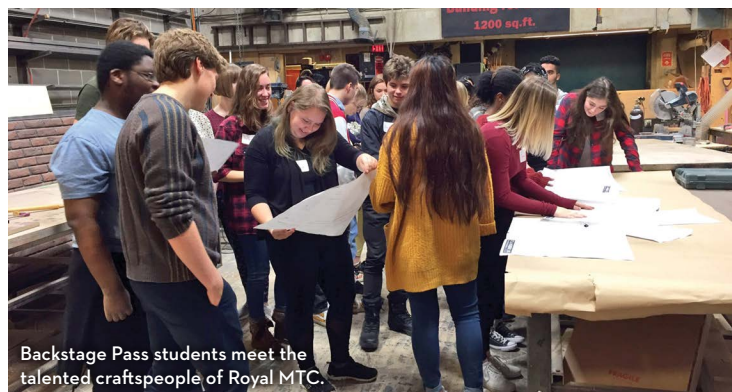
Royal MTC offered an American Sign Language Interpreted performance of *A Doll's House* on February 14, 2019. The performance was held at the Tom Hendry Warehouse, where good sightlines ensure that patrons don't miss any of the action.

BACKSTAGE PASS

This season-long program gave 27 Grade 11 and 12 students an in-depth look at theatre. Students attended six theatre workshops led by members of Manitoba's professional theatre community followed by a matinee performance of each John Hirsch Theatre production. Participants were selected based on their application essay and teacher recommendations.

27 students from Winnipeg, rural Manitoba, and northern Ontario were accepted into the program:

Anika Binding	Churchill High School
Asha Stott	College Jeanne Sauve
Kennady Cook	Dryden High School
Christison Maua	Dryden High School
Jenna Stuart	Dryden High School
Jean Blandon	Elmwood High School
Esther Adebisi	Fort Richmond Collegiate
Elena Franklin	Grant Park High School
Ben McIntyre-Ridd	Grant Park High School
Victoria McNeil	Kelvin High School
Ceana McKee	Kildonan East Collegiate
Abigail Hildebrandt	Linden Christian School
Anika Olfert	Linden Christian School
Taryn Edgeworth	Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Gabriel Maynard	Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Masimba Leonard Gozho	Nelson McIntyre Collegiate
Kristian Cahatol	Sisler High School
Howard Polo A. Monleon	Sisler High School
Sadie Louisa Kornavski	St. James Collegiate
Wendy Liu	St. John's-Ravenscourt
Tianna McDonald	St. John's High School
Katie Welham	St. Mary's Academy
Megan Martens	Steinbach Regional Secondary School
Nicolas Firth	Tec-Voc High School
Lilian Talabis	Tec-Voc High School
Ronin Kubrakovich	Vincent Massey Collegiate
McKenzie Rosenberg	Vincent Massey Collegiate



Backstage Pass students meet the talented craftspeople of Royal MTC.

BACKSTAGE PASS WORKSHOPS:

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY • Stage Manager Melissa Novecosky, took the participants through Royal MTC's hidden spaces to meet our talented craftspeople, who work together to create the magic on stage. They also learned how actor, director, dramaturge, and playwright Ellen Peterson transferred ideas from the page to the stage, before seeing her adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*!

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: THE RADIO PLAY • Actor and director Kevin Klassen guided the participants through the audition process, which included the opportunity to present an audition piece and receive feedback.

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL • Professional vocal coach and professor Shannon Vickers opened her tool box to share warm ups, vocal techniques, accents, and more!

A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2 • Building an entire world in limited space and time is truly an art. In this workshop, participants gained insights and inspiration from lighting, costume and set designer Ksenia Broda-Milian.

BOOM X • Participants took their listening skills, their imagination, and ability to work with others to the next level! Actor/improviser Andrea del Campo and musician Dave Quanbury taught them how to let their instincts guide them in this unique musical improv workshop.

THE COTTAGE • Stunt performer and fight choreographer Rachel Heibert guided the participants through the impeccable timing, discipline and attention to safety that goes into fight choreography.

SPONSORED BY **DEBORAH GRAY**
LUNCH PROVIDED BY **SUBWAY**



Backstage Pass students with Actor/improviser Andrea del Campo and musician Dave Quanbury.

PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

NEW TEEN CRITIC PROGRAM



PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

Royal MTC's Teen Critics were invited to broaden their minds, sharpen their critical faculties, and converse with theatre reviewers and artists, while being amongst the first to see our Mainstage shows. Twenty Teen Critics were chosen based on their application and teacher recommendations.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jamin Bains | Collège Jeanne-Sauvé |
| Maia Everton | Collège Jeanne-Sauvé |
| Nevada Mogan | Collège Jeanne-Sauvé |
| Justine Keith Reyes | Daniel McIntyre Collegiate |
| Hillery Pham | Elmwood High School |
| Oliver Larkin | Garden City Collegiate |
| Gillian Brown | Grant Park High School |
| Zoe Kehler | Linden Christian School |
| Hannah Merchant | Linden Christian School |
| Janice Hu | Miles Macdonnell Collegiate |
| Serenity Autumn Rose | Miles Macdonnell Collegiate |
| Witicki-Jeanes | Murdoch Mackay Collegiate |
| Gaile Cruz | Nelson McIntyre Collegiate |
| Jacky Pan | River East Collegiate |
| Jessica Grosshans | River East Collegiate |
| Daniela Morato Barreda | River East Collegiate |
| Candace A. Oyugi | River East Collegiate |
| Aidan Zeglinski | Seven Oaks Met School |
| Ashlin Daly | University of Winnipeg Collegiate |
| Anwyl Chang | Vincent Massey Collegiate |
| Jessica Cole | Vincent Massey Collegiate |

18/19 Teen Critic special guests:

- Joff Schmidt, CBC Theatre Reviewer
- Jen Zoratti, Winnipeg Free Press Columnist (Arts & Life)
- Randall King, Winnipeg Free Press Reporter (Arts & Life)
- Jill Wilson, Winnipeg Free Press Senior Editor (Arts & Life)
- Stephanie Sy, Professional Actor
- Brian Drader, Executive Director of Manitoba Association of Playwrights

The program ended with a Teen Critic Family Night. Participants invited one family member for a pre-show reception, backstage tour, and performance of *The Cottage*.

SPONSORED BY **DEBORAH GRAY**
MEALS PROVIDED BY **PIZZA HOTLINE**



PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

In 2018/19, Royal MTC hosted one-day placements for high school students, which involved experiences such as shadowing the *Matilda* stage management team, observing a design presentation and rehearsal, shadowing a costume designer, a behind-the-scenes tour and much more.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Kaitlyn Wallmuth | Lockport School (Take Your Kid to Work Day) |
| Tayman Turner | Miles Macdonell Collegiate |
| Erin Tierney | Sturgeon Heights Collegiate |
| Janelle Forrester | Vincent Massey Collegiate |

BUS SUBSIDY

The 2018-19 Bus Subsidy Program allowed **650 students** to attend eight shows. A total of **\$4,940** was awarded to **13 schools** (Winnipeg schools in need and rural schools from as far away as Nelson House).

SPONSORED BY **DEBORAH GRAY**

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES



Student matinee of *Sense & Sensibility*.

Royal MTC schedules student-only matinee performances for selected productions. This year, MTC offered student-only matinees for seven productions: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Vietgone*, *It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play*, *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*, *A Doll's House*, *Made in Italy* and *BOOM X*. As part of our TFYA programming, study guides were compiled for selected productions (eight) and posted on our website where they could be accessed by all Royal MTC patrons.

A total of **4,029 students** attended student-only matinee performances and **3,157 students** attended regular performances.

SPONSORED BY **CANADA LIFE**

TD THEATRE UNDER 30

TD Theatre Under 30 is a free membership program for young people aged 18 to 29. Members have exclusive access to world-class theatre for just \$20 a seat! In the 2018/19 season, the program had a total of **1,264 members**, who purchased **809 tickets** throughout the year. Members also received invitations to intimate and exclusive pre-show events at FORTH.

SPONSORED BY **TD**

CANOO

(Formerly CULTURAL ACCESS PASS)

The only program of its kind in the world, the Institute for Canadian Citizenship's Canoo Program provides members with free admission to more than 1,400 of Canada's premier cultural attractions and discounts on travel. In 2018/19, our fourth year partnering with Canoo, **269 new Canadians** attended *Sense and Sensibility*, *It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play*, *A Doll's House, Part 2*, *BOOM X* and *The Cottage*.

PLAY ON WORDS



Head of Properties Kari Hagness shares behind-the-scenes stories.

From Page to Stage is a series of free noon-hour presentations in the Carol Shields Auditorium at the Millennium Library. Royal MTC artists, staff and craftspeople share behind-the-scenes stories and explore literary connections to great plays and musicals. Each Friday session runs from 12:10-12:50pm and is a great way to better connect with the story. A total of **74** attended in person and over **3,256** tuned in online via Facebook Live.

The Winnipeg Public Library's talented Librarians provide amazing Explore More reading lists of resources that help audiences better connect with the play. In 2018/19, librarian-recommended reading lists were created for: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Matilda*, *BOOM X* and *The Cottage*.

NEW MCNALLY ROBINSON COMMUNITY CLASSROOM

MTC partnered with McNally to offer a class on adapting *Sense and Sensibility*, facilitated by Ellen Peterson.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING TESTIMONIALS

BACKSTAGE PASS

"I've loved the opportunity to be in this program this year and everyone in the program and at MTC made it a safe space for everyone. Being at MTC is always so much fun and thanks to these experiences, I've been given the confidence to pursue theatre as a career. Thank you for this opportunity and thanks to everyone at MTC for always being so kind. I can't wait to hopefully come back here one day!"

"This entire program has been so amazing. My eyes have been opened to so many aspects of theatre that I hadn't considered learning all about before."

"The whole experience of Backstage Pass is one I will remember forever. I learned so much and made new friends. I'm just super grateful and happy I got to participate in Backstage Pass."

"Being part of Backstage Pass is one of the best decisions I've ever made! I loved all the people, all the workshops, and all the knowledge I gained over the last six months. Thank you for letting me be a part of this!"

TEEN CRITIC

"Teen Critic was such an amazing opportunity. We all started off as strangers and grew to become a close knit group. I've learned so much about theatre and reviews, not only from our guest speakers, but from my peers (I can now call them my friends!) too. It was great getting to hear everyone's opinions and view points, helping me expand my views. I looked forward to coming here each session and truly don't want it to end. I will miss everyone so incredibly much. I will miss the heated discussions and all our agreements. I am so grateful to be given this opportunity. I have come to enjoy theatre even more than I did."

"When I first started this program, I didn't take it that seriously. I thought that there was food and a free boring play. But when I saw *Sense and Sensibility*, it really opened my eyes to how others had a passion for theatre, and soon after I realized that I also do. I'm really happy I got to experience all types of plays from radio plays to musicals. Even though I get shy when I express my opinions, I managed to become more confident due to this program."

"Coming to the Teen Critic program, I'd never been exposed to the world of theatre whatsoever, but now I can 100% say I wholeheartedly love and respect it. The amount of time, energy, passion and talent I've seen from the professionals we've been fortunate enough to meet is truly inspiring. This program was so fun and I am so grateful to have been a participant. Thank you!"

STUDENT PLACEMENT

"My experience as an intern with the student program at Manitoba Theatre Centre was one I will remember for a long time and helped me to appreciate the backstage work rather than just the piece that is presented in the end. I believe this opportunity is something any high school student driven in the arts would love and I would easily tell my peers to apply. Overall, my experience was a very positive one that really inspired me to appreciate theatre as a whole and recognize that it's more than just acting that goes into a piece of live theatre."

SPECIAL EVENTS

BLACK & WHITE BALL



REVEALING A FABULOUS NIGHT!

Imagine an evening of elegance. An evening of fine dining and dancing. An evening of masquerade. On Saturday, November 3, Royal MTC welcomed guests to the Black & White Ball, celebrating the power of storytelling. The night was filled with delicious food and amazing auction prizes. Enthusiastic guests danced throughout dinner and well into the night.

On behalf of the artists supported by the funds raised, we're deeply grateful to all the guests, sponsors, corporate table purchasers, donors and volunteers for creating another unforgettable event. Your generous contributions support our many programs and productions while ensuring that live theatre continues to thrive in our community. Special thanks to Premier Sponsor **RBC** for their continued partnership.

Please join us for another spectacular Black & White Ball on Saturday, November 2, 2019.

Congratulations to Kenneth Coughlin, winner of the **Fillmore Riley** Vacation Prize!

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Barb Christie
Patty Christie
Aynsley Cockshott
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Aideen Nash
Maybelle Pacak
Rhonda Plett
Barbara Pritchard
Bronya Rae-Pemberton
Jenny-Lou Ryan
Lynda Tjaden
Claire Workman
Lisa Zadro

ATTENDANCE • 587

NET PROCEEDS • \$152,713.58

ALL PHOTOS BY MANUEL F. SOUSA PHOTOGRAPHY



2018 Black & White Ball Committee — Back L TO R: Paulo Fernandes, Aynsley Cockshott, Alana Chernecki, Claire Workman, Deb Mazur, Barb Christie, Aideen Nash, Jodee Stewart, Tiffany Johnson-Sheldon, Kelly Johnston, Lynda Tjaden, Jason Kasper, Elsebeth Kriening, Camilla Holland, Linda McGarva-Cohen. Front L TO R: Patty Christie, Liz Baines, Lisa Zadro, Rhonda Plett, Barbara Pritchard, Bronya Rae-Pemberton, Jenny-Lou Ryan, Peggy Alto, Shelly Smith-Hines, Brad McCabe. PHOTO BY MANUEL F. SOUSA PHOTOGRAPHY



ROYAL MTC/MBA LAWYERS PLAY



THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC!

It was an ABBA-solutely fabulous week as members of the Manitoba Bar Association sang and strutted their stuff in *Mamma Mia!* Our Dancing Queens lit up the Tom Hendry Warehouse from May 7 to 11 for the annual Lawyers Play.

Cast entirely with members from the Manitoba Bar Association, the Lawyers Play is one of Royal MTC's largest fundraisers and since its inception in 1990 has raised over \$1,090,000 to ensure vibrant theatre remains accessible to all Manitobans.

So we say, thank you for the music and thank you to our patrons, donors, advertisers and sponsors for supporting our efforts. Royal MTC would also like to extend sincere thanks to the talented cast and hardworking crew, as well as our many volunteers and committee members.

ALL PHOTOS BY DAVID SWIECICKI

MAMMA MIA!

Music and Lyrics by
Benny Andersson
Björn Ulvaeus

and some songs by Stig Anderson

Book by Catherine Johnson
Originally Conceived by Judy Craymer

May 7-11, 2019

Co-Director: Steven Schipper*
Co-Director: Teri-Lynn Friesen
Musical Director: Rachel Cameron
Choreographer: Matthew Armet*
Production Designer: Kari Hagness
Wardrobe Coordinators: Thora Lamont and Lorraine O'Leary
Lighting Designer: Ksenia Broda-Milian
Audio: Tim Clark
Stage Manager: Chuck McEwen
Assistant Stage Managers: Linda Beech, Seraph-Eden Boroditsky and Meaghan Fletcher

Cast: Gail Asper, Andrea Bellhouse, Jennifer Bird, Paul Cooper, Laura Diamond, Tashia Dreger, Caleigh Glawson, Blair Graham, Benji Greenberg, Melissa Hazelton, Kate Henley, Reannah Hocken, Joan Holmstrom, Chaobo Jiang, Jamie Jurczak, Ryan Krahn, David Kroft, Melanie LaBossiere, Hayley Main, Jim McLandress, Louis Mendelson, Anastasiia Movchan, Jeff Palamar, Leo Palay, Myron Pawlowsky, Sandi Phillips, Nalini Reddy, Margaret Redmond, Pamela Reilly, Evan Roitenberg, Jaime Rosin, Steve Scarfone, Darcia Senft, Kyla Wills

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Nalini Reddy, Gail Asper and Margaret Redmond in Mamma Mia!



Melanie LaBossiere, Hayley Main and Caleigh Glawson in Mamma Mia!

*The participation of this Artist was arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance • Opera • Theatre Policy.

**“It’s a superb performance that creates
a solid centre for a strong cast.”**

– CBC MANITOBA



Shannon Taylor and Kevin Klassen in *A Doll's House*.
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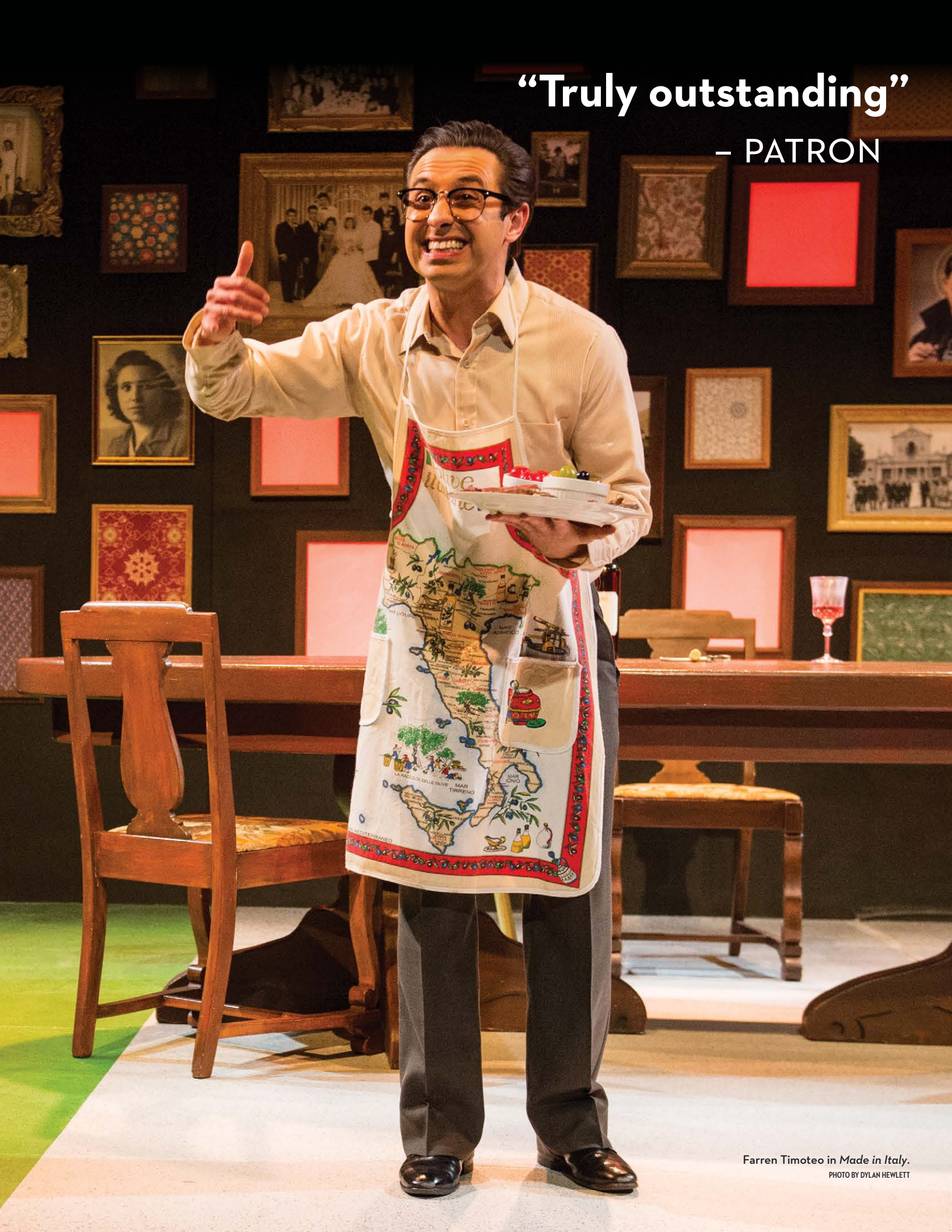
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Farren Timoteo in *Made in Italy*.
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Kate Hennig and Deborah Hay in
A Doll's House, Part 2. PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

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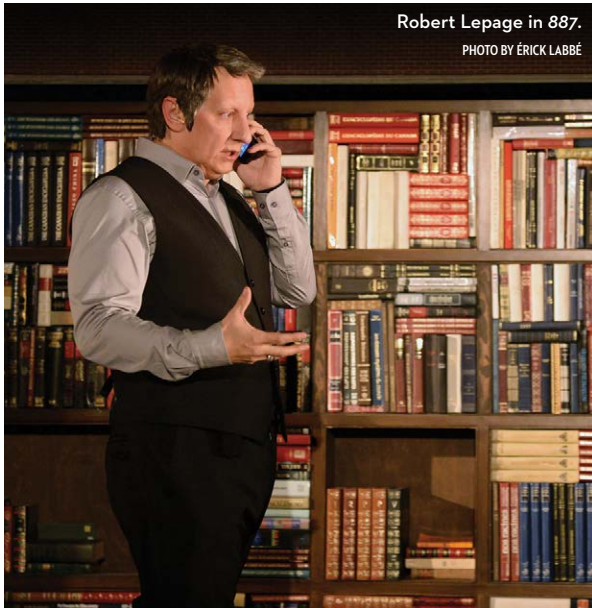


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Robert Lepage in *887*.

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Heather Russell, Natalie Viebrock and
Julie Lumsden in *Sense and Sensibility*.

PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN



Paul Essiembre and Deborah Hay in
A Doll's House, Part 2. PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

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John Hirsch and Tom Hendry shared a dream of creating great professional theatre with mass appeal. With the visionary support of Founders' Circle members - those who have made a planned gift to Royal MTC - their dream will live on for generations to come. Thank you to our Founders' Circle members.

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Tristan Carlucci and Olivia Ulrich
in *Buying the Farm*. PHOTO BY THOM CURRIE

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FINAL BOW

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre honours the passing of those dear to our theatre - people who've made a lasting volunteer or philanthropic commitment to this ephemeral art form.

Lavone Ethridge, MTC volunteer

*2018/19 Royal MTC Board of Trustees/Advisory Board members †2018/19 Royal MTC staff ‡Monthly donors §Fondly Remembered

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Royal MTC staff on the set of Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

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FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF MAY 31, 2019

	OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND	STABILIZATION FUND	ASM WORKING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDS	2019 TOTAL	2018 TOTAL
ASSETS								
CURRENT								
Cash and cash equivalents	3,204,672					67,704	3,272,376	3,213,332
Accounts and grants receivable	1,223,690						1,223,690	963,784
Prepaid expenses	619,701						619,701	631,216
Due to/(from) funds	(1,509,245)	666,234	75,076	767,935	0		–	–
	3,538,818	666,234	75,076	767,935		67,704	5,115,767	4,808,332
CAPITAL ASSETS								
		1,415,054					1,415,054	1,685,461
	3,538,818	2,081,288	75,076	767,935	0	67,704	6,530,821	6,493,793
LIABILITIES								
CURRENT								
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	433,594						433,594	372,635
Deferred revenue	3,105,224						3,105,224	3,054,988
	3,538,818						3,538,818	3,427,623
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS								
		1,778,309					1,778,309	1,740,397
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS								
						67,704	67,704	57,606
	3,538,818	1,778,309			0	67,704	5,384,831	5,225,626
NET ASSETS								
Internally Restricted	–		75,076				75,076	56,837
Invested in capital assets	–	302,979					302,979	378,598
Unrestricted	–			767,935			767,935	832,732
	–	302,979	75,076	767,935	0	–	1,145,990	1,268,167
	3,538,818	2,081,288	75,076	767,935	0	67,704	6,530,821	6,493,793

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AS OF MAY 31, 2019

	OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND	STABILIZATION FUND	ASM WORKING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDS	2019 TOTAL	2018 TOTAL
Revenue	11,701,914	237,413	–	–	–	20,300	11,959,627	11,237,027
Expenses	11,631,711	313,032	16,761	–	–	20,300	11,981,804	11,227,214
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	70,203	(75,619)	(16,761)	–	–	–	(22,177)	9,813
Net assets, beginning of year		378,598	56,837	732,732	100,000	–	1,268,167	1,258,354
Interfund transfers	(70,203)	–	35,000	35,203	(100,000)	–	(100,000)	
Net assets, end of year	–	302,979	75,076	767,935	0	–	1,145,990	1,268,167

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This page: Tom Keenan, Jennifer Lyon and Chris Sigurdson in *The Cottage*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT
Back cover: Simu Liu and Stephanie Sy in *Vietgone*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

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