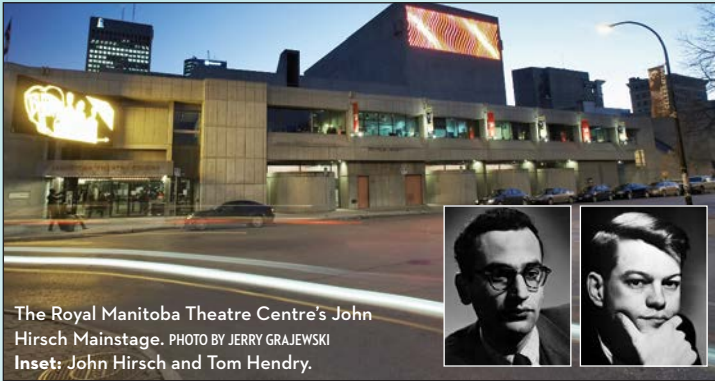


ANNUAL REPORT

2019/20

ROYAL
MTC
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE





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 Kelly Thornton and Executive Director Camilla Holland, Royal MTC remains Manitoba's flagship theatre.

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The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre is proud to call Manitoba home. Royal MTC is located in Winnipeg on Treaty 1 land, the traditional territory of the Inineu, Anishinaabe and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We are thankful for the benefits sharing this land has afforded us, and we are committed to the responsibilities of the Treaty. Hiy Hiy, Miigwetch, Wopida and Maarsii.



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.



Catherine Wreford in *Fun Home*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

ATTENDANCE

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE.....	63,003
TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE.....	17,724
WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL.....	168,674
SHAKESPEAREFEST.....	8,067
(Excluding 16,701 who attended <i>As You Like It</i> at the John Hirsch Mainstage)	
REGIONAL TOUR.....	4,390
THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES.....	3,812
Attended 11 student-only matinee performances	
TOTAL.....	265,670



The cast of *Bang Bang*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

ROYAL
MTC
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

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 24, 2020 to report artistic and financial results to interested subscribers, patrons and community members.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS



Manitoba 





“Absolutely loved it”

– PATRON



Sophie Smith-Dostmohamed and Lorraine James in
The New Canadian Curling Club. PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



To say that our 2019/20 season was one for the record books would be an understatement. Our first year under Artistic Director Kelly Thornton began with anticipation and success as her production of *Bang Bang* opened to great audiences and critical acclaim. *The Color Purple* was also very popular with our audiences and seems even more relevant given the current state of the world. After eight productions, including a Beatles-infused *As You Like It*, we found ourselves enjoying a season that would result in a positive financial position and strong audience response, positioning us well for our upcoming 2020/21 season.

The Board was focused on deliverables that are reflected in our Strategic Plan, including workshops to ensure Royal MTC reflects and responds to the evolving Manitoba community. Regular monitoring of our Key Performance Indicators identified that we were on target, and the reaction to our 2020/21 playbill and other initiatives were met with enthusiasm.

Well, then the unthinkable happened. The world was literally halted in its tracks by COVID-19. Royal MTC had no choice but to cancel our last two productions, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *The Legend of Georgia McBride*. This obviously led to a significant reduction in revenue, with many worse-case scenarios analyzed during the pandemic. In the end, I am pleased to announce the theatre was able to achieve only a small deficit position by the end of our fiscal year. I want to congratulate the management and entire staff of the theatre for the financial position we achieved, as reflected in our year-end results.

To experience only a \$40,000 operating deficit in one of the most challenging periods we have ever faced is due to many factors. As the pandemic hit, the organization moved decisively with cancellations, staff reductions and temporary layoffs, and I thank the artists and staff for the graciousness with which they received this difficult news. Record numbers of our loyal patrons donated back the value of their unused tickets for the final productions of the season. And finally, the opportunity to apply for various federal aid packages made a significant difference. Of course, we are also fortunate that MTC was a financially strong, successful organization at the outset.

I want to acknowledge our committed team of dedicated staff and volunteers at Royal MTC. Without you, we would never have achieved the success we have experienced. This pandemic will end, and we are confident that once again our patrons will experience the true magic that live theatre has to offer. And while our 2020/21 season still comes with some uncertainties, the management and Board of Trustees are confident that live theatre will return.

While my term as Chair of the Board of Trustees ends this year, I can truly say I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the role. This would not have been the case if it were not for the respect and friendship with our Executive Director, Camilla. And to Kelly, while your first year did not go exactly as planned, we are so grateful to have you as our Artistic Director. You have captured the hearts of our patrons, and I can say with the upmost authority, you are a true Winnipegger! We will most definitely enjoy many more successful years under your artistic direction.

I also want to thank our committed Board of Trustees. It is so refreshing to have such a dedicated group of professionals looking out for the best interests of the theatre. A big thank you to John Guttormson for taking over as Chair of the Board. Your participation in the many additional hours we have spent together working along with Kelly and Camilla to ensure that Royal MTC continues to be the force it is today is much appreciated.

I look forward to whatever our next season brings; indeed, the show must go on!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Christie'.

DAVID CHRISTIE

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The year will always be remembered as one torqued by COVID-19, but until March, we were on a particularly busy and engaged path with our wonderful staff, artists, volunteers and audiences. The season started earlier than usual, and our teams delivered extraordinary productions that lifted the hearts of audiences at both venues and across Manitoba with the Regional Tour. Kelly's Royal MTC directing debut launched a vibrant and exciting Warehouse lineup and we are so glad that we were able to end the final show at the Warehouse as planned before the mandatory shut-downs began.

Board Chair Dave Christie's two years have been critically important ones for our organization, covering Steven's 30th and final season and Kelly's first one. We have been blessed to have Dave as Chair through years of transition and, with COVID-19, a level of disruption. His calm and collaborative nature, enthusiasm for all things Royal MTC, and willingness and energy to be an active leader have been assets throughout. Kelly's integration into our community was smooth, due to her enthusiasm and openness to engage with Winnipeggers, and thanks to the Board of Trustees' efforts.

My profound thanks to the full Board of Trustees for their hard work through a complicated year; their dedication as volunteers is extraordinary. Our corporate and individual donors, sponsors, subscribers and corps of volunteers made significant and deeply appreciated contributions to the 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.

The real test of a leader is how they respond when things don't go as planned. I have to commend and congratulate Kelly, who survived the roller coaster and learning curve of her first season with grace and dignity, and an incredible well of energy for the work ahead. While we have been friends and colleagues for two decades, it has been this whirlwind first season that cemented a true and inspiring partnership. We are fortunate to have her as Artistic Director, leading MTC through the turbulence in the 2019/20 season, and the unpredictable seas ahead. On behalf of the staff, artistic community and Board, we share her heartbreak that Royal MTC won't deliver her first programmed season as planned, but we also have complete faith that she will inspire and illuminate us with her artistry and vision of a safe return to theatre.

My final thanks, as always, are for Royal MTC's incredible, amazing, brilliant staff members. Their generosity of spirit through a busy season and a disruptive shutdown is humbling. While our bottom line for the year is a smaller deficit than expected, the cost was in shortened, cancelled contracts and early and extended layoffs to 53 staff and 51 artists. Kelly and I so hope to be able to gather the full team back together soon. We thank all of our people - the actors, directors, writers, stage managers, designers, technicians, production staff, admin staff, patron services staff - for their trust in this trying time.

In this great intermission, we will hold fast to our dreams and memories of theatres - and indeed galleries and halls and parks and communities throughout the province - filled again with artists and audiences engaged in the act of imagining.

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

CAMILLA HOLLAND

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



It seems like yesterday that I walked into the offices at MTC, sat down at my new desk and assumed the artistic leadership of this incredible company. Last summer was a flurry of activity, filled with relationship-building – getting to know my staff, Board, donors and loyal patrons, as well as seeing the work of the artistic community at the Fringe Festival, and in the five days of auditions we did with the talented artists of Winnipeg.

I've often said that this year for me has been like learning to paddle in fast water. Summer turned to fall, and the theatre came alive with our season's programming. The work has been all-consuming and extremely fruitful, from directing *Bang Bang* at the Warehouse to shepherding the Mainstage and Warehouse shows, our Regional Tour, and the Master Playwright Festival. I was thrilled to be in such powerful dialogue with our audiences through potent and beautiful work on our stages.

I salute this organization for the passion and commitment that everyone brings to their game. The level of artistry of our craftspeople is world class, with production values that literally take our breathe away. The actors, designers, playwrights, directors and technicians risk everything to make great art happen. They are the flames in our fire, and we burn brightly because of them. The staff have become my family and their passion and commitment is undeniable, from our administrative staff to those in Box Office and front of house, I am deeply grateful for their work and loyalty to MTC.

I want to thank the Board of Trustees for so warmly welcoming me and my family into this community and for supporting me as I learned the ropes and made my way. Thank you for entrusting me with this job and providing such vital stewardship of our company. Your embrace of the work we do on and off the stage is immeasurable and we are truly grateful.

In particular, I want to thank our outgoing Chair Dave Christie for leading with such poise. He has been a champion of the organization and we are so appreciative of the time and energy he has invested. And to John Guttormson who stepped up this year, as he prepared to assume the Chair position. John has been a wonderfully supportive presence as well, and I look forward to working with him in the coming years in his new role

as Chair of the Board of Trustees. To all of the Committee Chairs, and Directors at large, thank you for the passion and commitment you bring to your positions.

In January I delivered my first season to the world and I am so grateful for the wonderful reception it received. And while we were all riding high on the crest of a beautiful wave, with 20/21 on the horizon, and two more exquisite shows lined up to round out our season, the fates decided to deliver a different path than any of us could ever have expected. But times of crisis test your mettle. And while all of us should be proud of how we have navigated in these very rough waters, Camilla, my partner in crime, has been an astonishing leader, steering a course to ensure the sustainability of our organization in the long term, while making tough but necessary decisions with grace, love and empathy for the people that she leads.

To the Winnipeg theatre community, both artists and arts lovers, thank you so much for your warm welcome. Your wonderful gestures and lovely messages have been so appreciated, and the generosity you have shown in these challenging times truly affirms what makes this city great!

Donna Walker-Kuhne, a marketing specialist in the US, has said the world is facing twin pandemics, as we confront COVID-19 and a reckoning with the systemic racism pervasive in our society and inherent in our institutions.

While there is a challenging road ahead, I am blessed to be surrounded by such a passionate team of people. The success of this organization is shared by all of us. Thank you for being here, and I look forward to the journey ahead.

All my very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Thornton".

KELLY THORNTON



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Royal MTC continues to grow our younger audience and develop loyal theatre lovers with a variety of youth engagement activities. Some highlights from this season include the following:

The Theatre Under 30 program grew to over **1,400 MEMBERS**. This program allows individuals under 30 years old to access tickets at a reduced price.

Student only matinees ensured that over **3,800 STUDENTS** from in and around Winnipeg saw a production.



The cast of *The Color Purple* during a Theatre for Young Audience post-show talkback.

A total of **\$4,160** was awarded to **10 SCHOOLS** for bussing subsidies; allowing **492 STUDENTS** from Winnipeg and rural schools to attend a Royal MTC performance.

The number of student placements tripled from previous years to **13 PARTICIPANTS** from **10 DIFFERENT SCHOOLS**. Placements occurred in acting, directing, stage management, set design and patron services.

20 PARTICIPANTS from **15 SCHOOLS** were accepted into the second year of the Teen Critic Program.

25 STUDENTS from **16 SCHOOLS** participated in the Backstage Pass program. They attended workshops taught by theatre professionals, performances and post show talkbacks with the cast.



REGIONAL TOUR

The cast of *The New Canadian Curling Club*, our largest touring cast in 17 years, was met with warm smiles and open hearts by **4,390 AUDIENCE MEMBERS** in **24 COMMUNITIES** around Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario in January and February!



The cast of the *The New Canadian Curling Club* regional tour.

“It is so wonderful to have plays come to the rural area. It means a lot to our small communities.”

– PATRON IN CRYSTAL CITY



ENDOWMENT

Thanks to your generosity, **\$209,000** worth of gifts were added this season to the Royal MTC Endowment - Steven Schipper Fund. The annual output of this fund supports the long-term financial stability of the organization and is held in perpetuity at The Winnipeg Foundation.



DEVELOPING NEW WORK

In the 2019/20 season Royal MTC developed the following productions:

- *Women of the Fur Trade* by Frances Koncan
- *New* by Pamela Mala Sinha
- *Burning Mom* by Mieko Ouchi
- *The Diviners* by Vern Thiessen, based on the novel by Margaret Laurence
- *New Work* by Trish Cooper and Sam Vint

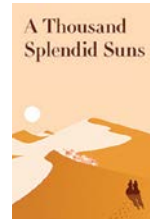
Emily Meadows, Tess Benger and Samantha Hill
in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*.

PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

“A sweet holiday treat”

– CBC





THE COLOR PURPLE

Based upon the novel written by Alice Walker and the Warner Bros./Amblin Entertainment Motion Picture

Book by Marsha Norman; Music & Lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray

October 24 - November 16, 2019
PREVIEWS • October 22 & 23

Director: Kimberley Rampersad
Music Director: Floyd Ricketts
Set Designer: Brian Perchaluk[†]
Costume Designer: Ming Wong
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher
Sound Designer: Peter McBoyle
Dramaturg: Mukonzi Musyoki
Fight Director: Miranda Allen
Stilt Walking Coach: Randall Fraser
Assistant Director: Patricia Darbasie
Stage Manager: Leslie Watson
Assistant Stage Manager: Michael Duggan[†]
Apprentice Stage Manager: Sarah McDowell

Cast: Ryan Allen, Andrew Broderick, Karen Burthwright, David Comrie, Janelle Cooper, Allison Edwards-Crewe, Omar Forrest, Tara Jackson, Jesse Lipscombe, Michael-Lamont Lytle, Masini McDermott, Jameela McNeil, Maiko Munroe, Sarah Nairne, Amber Tomlin, Tenaj Williams

Musicians: Sharon Atkinson, Cary Denby, Janice Finlay, Derrick Gottfried, Dave Lawton, Floyd Ricketts, Rob Siwik, Jeni Taylor, Nenad Zdjelar

A co-production with the Citadel Theatre

SPONSORED BY THE ASPER FOUNDATION & THE GAIL ASPER FAMILY FOUNDATION

18,185 ATTENDED 29 PERFORMANCES

Ellen Denny in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*

PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

By Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon

November 28 - December 21, 2019
PREVIEW • November 27

Director: Krista Jackson[†]
Set & Costume Designer: Gillian Gallow
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson
Sound Designer: Michael Wright
Composer: Paul De Gurse
Text & Dialect Coach: Shannon Vickers
Assistant Director: Cherissa Richards^{†§}
Assistant Set Designer: Shauna Jones*
Stage Manager: Chris Pearce
Assistant Stage Manager: Angela Marshall
Apprentice Stage Manager: Karen Sewell
Cast: Tess Bengler, Eric Blais[†], Ellen Denny, Samantha Hill, Nathan Howe, Darren Martens, Emily Meadows[†], Robyn Pooley[†]

14,880 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES



AS YOU LIKE IT

By William Shakespeare
Adapted and Directed by Daryl Cloran
Conceived by Daryl Cloran and Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival

January 9 - February 1, 2020
PREVIEWS • January 7 & 8

Music Director: Ben Elliott
Choreographer / Fight Director: Jonathan Hawley Purvis
Set Designer: Pam Johnson
Costume Designer: Carmen Alatorre
Lighting Designer: Gerald King
Sound Designer: Peter McBoyle
Creative Consultant: Rick Boynton
Assistant Director: Kayvon Khoshkam
Assistant Set Designer: Ksenia Broda-Milian[†]
Assistant Lighting Designer: Evan Wohlgemut
Stage Manager: Wayne Paquette
Assistant Stage Manager: Leslie Watson[†]
Apprentice Stage Manager: Zoë Leclerc-Kennedy
Clearance and Music Consulting: John Ciccone,
Copyright Music & Visuals

Cast: Lindsey Angell, Benjamin Camenzuli, Sarah Constible, Sharon Crandall, Emily Dallas, Oscar Derkx, Austin Eckert, Paul Essiembre, Jeff Irving, Kayvon Khoshkam, Jenny McKillop, Jameela McNeil, Robb Paterson, Justin Stadyk[†], Farren Timoteo

Musicians: Benjamin Camenzuli, Oscar Derkx, Austin Eckert, Justin Stadyk[†], Ensemble

A co-production with the Citadel Theatre
Part of ShakespeareFest 2020

SPONSORED BY THE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION

16,701 ATTENDED 28 PERFORMANCES

THE NEW CANADIAN CURLING CLUB

By Mark Crawford

February 13 - March 7, 2020
PREVIEW • February 12

Director: Miles Potter
Set & Lighting Designer: Steve Lucas
Costume Designer: Maureen Petkau
Sound Designer: Verne Good
Apprentice Set & Lighting Designer: Kara Pankiw*
Stage Manager: Kathryn Ball[†]
Assistant Stage Manager: Melissa Renaud

Cast: Lorraine James, Omar Alex Khan, Doug McKeag, Zhaopeng Meng, Sophie Smith-Dostmohamed

13,237 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES

In March 2020, COVID-19 spread into our country, province and city. The virus moved in and halted life swiftly and deeply. Organizations, art forms or businesses reliant on public gatherings were the first to be suspended. On March 13, 2020 we made the difficult decision and public announcement that our production of *A Thousand Splendid Suns* would be postponed. Weeks later the same fate would befall *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, and the Lawyers Play and all rental events quickly followed. We are grateful for the heart and work that had already gone into these productions and we thank all of the artists involved.

A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

By Ursula Rani Sarma
Based on the book by Khaled Hosseini

Postponed due to COVID-19

Director / Fight Director: Haysam Kadri
Original Staging: Carey Perloff
Choreographer: Stephen Buescher
Set Designer: Ken MacDonald
Costume Designer: Linda Cho
Lighting Designer: Robert Wierzel
Composer/Original Musician: David Coulter
Sound Designer: Jake Rodriguez
Assistant Director: Marc R. Bondy
Costume Coordinator: Alison Green
Associate Lighting Designer: Andrew F. Griffin
Associate Sound Designer: Verne Good
Stage Manager: Caryn Fehr
Assistant Stage Manager: Alana Freistadt
Apprentice Stage Manager: Katie Schmidt
Original Fight Consultant: Jonathan Rider
Original Dramaturg: Michael Paller
Original Cultural Consultant: Humaira Ghilzai
Child Supervisor: Paige Lewis
Child Supervisor: Liam Naughten

Cast: Anousha Alamian, Al Montaser Bellah
Al Jahed, Abraham Asto, Deena Aziz, Lucian-
River Chauhan, Argy Jenati, Anita Majumdar,
Shekhar Paleja, Munish Sharma, Sophie Smith-
Dostmohamed, Ziyana Vasaya

A co-production with the Arts Club Theatre
Company

THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE

By Matthew Lopez

Postponed due to COVID-19

Director: Robb Paterson
Choreographer: Stephanie Graham
Set & Costume Designer: Brian Perchaluk
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson
Sound Designer: Chris Coyne
Music Supervisor: Michael Perlmutter
Dialect Coach: Tom Soares
Drag Consultant: Vida Lamour
Assistant Choreographer: Matthew Armet
Stage Manager: Margaret Brook
Assistant Stage Manager: Angela Marshall

Cast: Thom Allison, Darren Martens,
Ryan James Miller, Beverly Ndukwu,
Cory Wojcik

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE PRODUCTIONS

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE SEASON SPONSOR: BMO FINANCIAL GROUP



BANG BANG

By Kat Sandler

October 3 - 19, 2019
PREVIEW • October 2

Director: Kelly Thornton
Set Designer: Adam Parboosingh
Costume Designer: Joseph Abetria
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson
Sound Designer: Brian Linds
Fight Director: Jacquie Loewen
Firearms Consultant: Dave Brown
Consulting Director: Audrey Dwyer†
Apprentice Director: Eric Rae*
Stage Manager: Kathryn Ball†
Assistant Stage Manager: Zahra Larche

Cast: Sébastien Heins, Tom Keenan, Beverly
Ndukwu, Alex Poch-Goldin, Warona Setshwaelo

A co-production with Belfry Theatre

4,076 ATTENDED 18 PERFORMANCES

FUN HOME

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron

Based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel

November 14 - December 1, 2019
PREVIEW • November 13

Director: Sarah Garton Stanley
Music Director: Rachel Cameron
Set & Costume Designer: Amy Keith
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher
Sound Designer: Chris Coyne
Assistant Director: Rebekah Jones*
Set Design Assistant: Darah Miah
Apprentice Set Designer: Kara Pankiw*
Stage Manager: Ali Fulmyk
Apprentice Stage Manager: Zoë Leclerc-Kennedy
Child Supervisor: Liam Naughten

Cast: Nelson Bettencourt†, Cassandra Consiglio,
Isabel Haderer, Mackenzie Kolton, Cash Laluk,
Elliot Ledlow, Carson Natrass†, Laura Olafson,
Catherine Wreford

Musicians: Rachel Cameron, Tony Cyre,
Karin Erhardt, Gilles Fournier, Julie Husband,
Carolyn Scholz

SPONSORED BY THE ASPER FOUNDATION

5,351 ATTENDED 20 PERFORMANCES

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

By Duncan Macmillan
with Jonny Donahoe

January 23 - February 8, 2020
PREVIEW • January 22

Director: Steven Schipper
Production Designer: Joe Pagnan
Stage Manager: Alana Freistadt
Apprentice Stage Manager: Karen Sewell

Cast: Michael Torontow

In association with Talk is Free Theatre

3,647 ATTENDED 18 PERFORMANCES

WOMEN OF THE FUR TRADE

By Frances Koncan

February 27 - March 14, 2020
PREVIEW • February 26

Director: Audrey Dwyer
Set & Costume Designer: Linda Beech
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher
Sound Designer: Daniel Roy
Dramaturg: Lindsay Lachance
Fight Director: Kristen Sawatzky
Apprentice Director: Chelsey Grewar
Stage Manager: Margaret Brook
Apprentice Stage Manager: Zoë Leclerc-Kennedy

Cast: John Cook, Toby Hughes, Kathleen
MacLean, Kelsey Kanatan Wavey, Elizabeth
Whitbread

4,650 ATTENDED 18 PERFORMANCES



Michael Torontow in *Every Brilliant Thing*

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 §Position funded through Obsidian Theatre's Associates Program

REGIONAL TOUR



The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries were pleased to present our Regional Tour of *The New Canadian Curling Club*

THE NEW CANADIAN CURLING CLUB

By Mark Crawford

January 31 – March 7, 2020

Director: Miles Potter

Set & Lighting Designer: Steve Lucas

Costume Designer: Maureen Petkau

Sound Designer: Verne Good

Apprentice Set & Lighting Designer: Kara Pankiw*

Stage Manager: Kathryn Ball†

Assistant Stage Manager: Melissa Renaud

Cast: Lorraine James, Omar Alex Khan, Doug McKeag, Zhaopeng Meng, Sophie Smith-Dostmohamed

4,390 ATTENDED 24 PERFORMANCES

JAN 7		Neepawa • Kaleidoscope Concert Series
JAN 9		Thompson • Recreation, Parks and Culture, City of Thompson
JAN 10		Snow Lake • Aurora Borealis Arts Council
JAN 11		Flin Flon • Flin Flon Arts Council
JAN 14		Steinbach • Steinbach Arts Council
JAN 15		Carman • Golden Prairie Arts Council
JAN 16		MacGregor • Heartland Recreation Commission
JAN 17		Strathclair • Strathclair & District Theatre Committee, Ltd.
JAN 18		Virden • Virden Arts Mosaic
JAN 20		Brandon • Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium
JAN 21		Minnedosa • Minnedosa Performing Arts Committee
JAN 22		Deloraine • Southwest Showcase Inc.
JAN 23		Souris • Souris District Arts Council
JAN 24		Crystal City • Parklane Theatre Committee
JAN 25		Morris • Morris Multiplex
JAN 26		Gretna • Southern Manitoba Concerts
JAN 29		Atikokan • Atikokan Entertainment Series
JAN 30		Sioux Lookout • Sioux Hudson Entertainment Series
JAN 31		Dryden • Dryden Entertainment Series
FEB 1		Red Lake • Wilderness Entertainment Series
FEB 2		Kenora • Lake of the Woods Concert Group
FEB 4		Lac du Bonnet • Winnipeg River Arts Council
FEB 5		Gimli • Kiwanis Club of Gimli and District
FEB 6		Portage la Prairie • Prairie Fusion Arts & Entertainment

SPONSORED BY **MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES**
SUPPORTED BY **MANITOBA 150**

FESTIVALS



WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

The 32nd annual Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival brought thousands of theatre fans to the festival to enjoy amazing theatre from local, national and international performers. The ticketed attendance totalled 98,673 with 209 sold-out performances and \$879,034 in box office revenue. The festival featured 178 companies with 1,511 indoor performances. Outdoor attendance totalled approximately 60,000-70,000.

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**

2019 WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL STATISTICS

TICKETED ATTENDANCE • 98,673

OUTDOOR ATTENDANCE (INCLUDING KIDS FRINGE) • 60,000 - 70,000 (APPROX.)

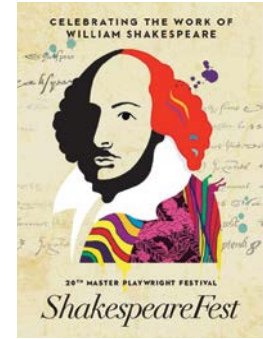
KIDS VENUE ATTENDANCE • 4,989

BOX OFFICE REVENUE • \$879,034

NUMBER OF PERFORMING COMPANIES • 178

NUMBER OF INDOOR PERFORMANCES • 1,511

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS • 827



MASTER PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL

The 20th and final Master Playwright Festival celebrated the life and work of poet, playwright and actor William Shakespeare, from January 20 – February 9. Theatre lovers enjoyed 28 productions and free events including an artist panel, play readings, film screenings and reimagined adaptations.

The festival gave the opportunity for emerging and established artists to collaborate and take a closer look at Shakespeare's career through theatre. Joining Royal MTC to honour the life and work of William Shakespeare, were 28 local companies: 7 Ages Productions, The Actors' Fund of Canada, The Adriana Theatre Collective, Beau Theatre, Bunbury Productions, Bunchback'd Toads, By the Book Productions, Echo Theatre & Raven, Fill The (W)hole Theatre Co, Flipside Opera, The Fox Den Collective, impel theatre, The Keep Theatre, The King's Players, KRAKT Theatre, Looking Glass Productions, PAL/ACTRA, Pocket Frock Productions, Providence Productions, R-G Productions, Saucy Gal Productions, Shakespeare in the Pub, Shakespeare in the Ruins, Shoestring Players, Theatre Projects Manitoba, University of Manitoba Theatre Program, The Village Conservatory for Music Theatre, Who Knows, Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre and zone41 theatre. Royal MTC's contribution to the festival was Shakespeare's sparkling production *As You Like It*, which was presented at the John Hirsch Mainstage.

2020 MASTER PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL (SHAKESPEAREFEST) STATISTICS

TICKETED ATTENDANCE • 24,768
(8,067 NOT INCLUDING ROYAL MTC)

FREE EVENTS ATTENDANCE
(LECTURES AND FILM SCREENINGS) • 312

OVERALL FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE • 25,080

OVERALL FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE REVENUE • \$880,368 (\$118,479 NOT INCLUDING ROYAL MTC)

NUMBER OF PERFORMING COMPANIES • 28

NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES • 253

WORDPLAY

Royal MTC produces an average of one new play each season. This year, we premiered *Women of the Fur Trade* by Frances Koncan. The one-act version won the Toronto Fringe's Best New Play Contest, and MTC premiered this new full-length version at our Warehouse as part of our passionate commitment to reflecting the Indigenous voices and stories of our province.

We also nominated Jake MacDonald for the Winnipeg Arts Council's Making a Mark Award in honour of his first play *The Cottage*. Writing for the stage is not for the faint of heart yet MacDonald, a celebrated writer of fiction and non-fiction, gamely committed himself to learning this new craft. Jurors lauded his life's work and the curiosity that still lured him into uncharted waters, and we were thrilled to be present when he accepted the award.

New work like MacDonald's and Koncan's doesn'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 program readings and workshops. In our quest for new work to produce, we also reviewed 84 script submissions this year: plays both new and previously produced that are read by MTC staff and freelance analysts. We also hired 31 artists to work on four scripts as part of our Wordplay series of readings and workshops in play development.

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.



Kathleen MacLean and Elizabeth Whitbread in *Women of the Fur Trade*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

CULTIVATING TALENT

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre helps young people imagine a life in the theatre and then realize their dreams. Audrey Dwyer is one of those young people and, in following the trajectory of her career here, we also trace the steps of those who have come before her.

Audrey Dwyer was still a student at the University of Manitoba when director Martha Henry cast her in our 1998 Mainstage production of *The Crucible*. Later that year, Dwyer auditioned successfully for a coveted spot at the National Theatre School, and MTC helped to support her studies in Montreal with three consecutive scholarships.

On the one hand, we wanted the world for this talented young artist, but we were also a little afraid that we were losing her forever. We took comfort from a radio interview John Hirsch gave on the day he and Tom Hendry launched our theatre in 1957. He was asked if there was a danger that we would train artists only to lose them to Eastern Canada or the United States. Hirsch said, "I think that is all right. People will look for greener fields and they will look for more profitable cities where there are more [opportunities]. New people will come up. The point is that you have to ensure that the talented young people who are growing up are going to get good training and that they are going to have some opportunities right in their own town."

While Dwyer thrived in Toronto, she did continue to have opportunities in her own town, returning here to perform in three plays between 2008 and 2015. But it was when new AD Kelly Thornton tapped Dwyer for the role of Associate Artistic Director this year that things really came full circle. When the appointment was announced, Audrey said, "To return to my hometown and work at the theatre where I took my first professional steps brings me immense joy."

Now, Dwyer auditions and interviews the next generation of applicants for the same Jean Murray - Moray Sinclair Scholarships that helped fund her own education. Those scholarships are named after Jean Murray, the only woman you see in the photos of Hendry and Hirsch planning their new theatre's future. That was just four years before Martha Henry became the new National Theatre School's first graduate, leaving classes early to come work with Hirsch on *The Lady's Not for Burning* at our theatre.

Our theatre's pioneers had a vision not just for our theatre but for the artists this theatre would nurture. They cultivated the acclaimed Martha Henry and her generation, who in turn cultivated Audrey Dwyer and her generation, who are, in turn, reaching out to a third generation. Without these artists, our theatre would not exist, and we are proud to play some small part in their creative evolutions.



Donald Campbell, John Hirsch, Tom Hendry and Jean Murray. PHOTO FROM THE JULY 16, 1958 EDITION OF THE WINNIPEG FREE PRESS.

PRE-SHOW CHATS

This informal lecture series is available to patrons who attend the third Thursday evening of our Mainstage season. Patrons enrich their experience through pre-show, behind-the-scenes conversations with theatre professionals and special guests from our community.

THE 2019/20 LINEUP

THE COLOR PURPLE • Music Director Floyd Ricketts shared his behind-the-scenes perspective on *The Color Purple*'s Grammy Award-winning score of jazz, gospel, ragtime and blues. Attendance - 47

MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY • Professor Pam Perkins delved into Jane Austen's enduring popularity and explored the adaptations that have emerged from Austen's books. Attendance - 40

AS YOU LIKE IT • Musicologist John Einarson took patrons on a magical mystery tour of the Beatles' enduring legacy and their impact on art-making today. Attendance - 54

THE NEW CANADIAN CURLING CLUB • Head of Properties Kari Hagness shared how her team helped the cast of *The New Canadian Curling Club* hurry hard on stage and her favourite prop-making memories from past Royal MTC productions. Attendance - 60

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 Mainstage, and after Tuesday evening performances and the Thursday matinee at the Warehouse. A total of **2,958** patrons attended talkbacks throughout the season.



The cast of *Fun Home* during a post-show talkback.

SCHOLARSHIPS & APPRENTICESHIPS

In recognition and celebration of two Winnipeg theatre pioneers who contributed to our company'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. 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.

Royal MTC awarded a total of **\$21,300** for the 2019/2020 academic year/theatre season. Thank you to our generous patrons who donated through our "pass-the-hat" performances of *BOOM X*.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Vincenzo Alberto	Brittney Fredrickson	Julia Nelles
Julia Anderson	Carmen Frost	Hillery Pham
Anika Binding	Brynn Godenir	Rhea Rodych-Rasideseu
Ivy Charles	Alison Helmer	Juliette Schroeder-Suss
Alexandra Chubaty	Samantha Hutchings	Natalie Faith Sluis
Boychuk	Heidi Malazdrewich	Bennette Villones
Madeline Emmonds	Ben McIntyre-Ridd	Hunter Watson
Laurel Fife	Victoria McNeil	Emma Welham
Dylan Floyd	Alanna McPherson	

APPRENTICESHIP RECIPIENTS

Kara Pankiw - Apprentice Set Designer for *Fun Home* and *The New Canadian Curling Club*

Eric Rae - Apprentice Director for *Bang Bang*

Chelsey Grewar - Apprentice Director for *Women of the Fur Trade*

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

Ksenia Broda-Milian - Assistant Set Designer for *As You Like It*

Rebekah Jones - Assistant Director for *Fun Home*

Shauna Jones - Assistant Set Designer for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*

Cherissa Richards - Assistant Director for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (position funded by the Obsidian Theatre's Associates Program)

RELAXED PERFORMANCE

Royal MTC offered a relaxed performance of *The New Canadian Curling Club* at the Mainstage on Feb 28, 2020. This is the fourth season Royal MTC has engaged in this accessibility initiative, which is designed to welcome audience members who would benefit from a more relaxed environment. Minor production changes are made to reduce startling effects and there is a relaxed attitude towards audience noise and movement. All patrons were invited to come, be themselves and experience live theatre.

ASL-INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE

Royal MTC offered an American Sign Language-interpreted performance of *Women of the Fur Trade* on Mar 12, 2020. The performance was held at the Warehouse, where good sightlines ensure that patrons don't miss any of the action.

NEW OPEN CAPTION PERFORMANCE

Royal MTC's first Open Caption experience was offered for a performance of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* on Dec 8, 2019. During the open-captioned performance, an electronic text display is positioned to the side of the stage, which shows what the actors are saying or singing and describes sound effects on stage. This benefits not only Deaf patrons or those with hearing loss, but also enhances the performance for the hearing audience as a whole who may have missed a word, phrase, joke, or lyric.

BACKSTAGE PASS

This season-long program gave Grade 11 and 12 students an in-depth look at theatre. Students attended four theatre workshops led by members of Manitoba's professional theatre community followed by a matinee performance of each Mainstage production. Participants were selected based on their application essay and teacher recommendations. 25 students from 16 different schools were accepted into the program.

Isabella Cotroneo	Fort Richmond Collegiate
Isabella Maria DiGirolamo	Fort Richmond Collegiate
Deshreeni Puhambugada	Fort Richmond Collegiate
Oliver Larkin	Garden City Collegiate
Felicity Gutierrez	Glenlawn Collegiate
Darshan Jain	Glenlawn Collegiate
Asal Naghibzadeh	Glenlawn Collegiate
Hafsa Qasim	J.H. Bruns Collegiate
Serenity Witicki-Jeanes	Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Brooke Shepert	Murdoch MacKay Collegiate
Augustus Stearns	Murdoch MacKay Collegiate
Jacky Pan	Nelson McIntyre Collegiate
Jessica Grosshans	River East Collegiate
Victor Balmana	Sisler High School
Maggie Koreen	Springfield Collegiate
Julia Armstrong	St. Mary's Academy
Giovanna Mazza	St. Mary's Academy
Akoul Tito	St. Mary's Academy
Seraphim Scratch	Tec-Voc High School
Marden Zamora	Tec-Voc High School
Madison Oliver	University of Winnipeg Collegiate
Taylor Izon	Vincent Massey Collegiate
Lucas Salomons	Vincent Massey Collegiate
Elizabeth Aribasoye	Windsor Park Collegiate
Southerly Vernon	Windsor Park Collegiate

BACKSTAGE PASS WORKSHOPS:

THE COLOR PURPLE • Stage Manager and Associate Director of Development Melissa Novocosky took the participants through Royal MTC's hidden spaces to meet our talented craftspeople before sharing the ins and outs of stage management.

MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY • The participants dove into the creative process of writing for the stage with the guidance of Playwright and Associate Artistic Director Audrey Dwyer.

AS YOU LIKE IT • Actor and improviser Andrea del Campo and musician Dave Quanbury encouraged participants to step outside their comfort zone and let their instincts guide them in this unique musical improv workshop.

THE NEW CANADIAN CURLING CLUB • Set Designer and Scenic Painter Shauna Jones gave the participants the opportunity to explore the world of set design and experiment with scenic paint techniques.

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



Backstage Pass students with Playwright/ Associate Artistic Director Audrey Dwyer.

NEW FRINGE TEEN CRITIC

A pilot of Fringe Teen Critic occurred in July 2019 with four Grade 10 - 12 youth who had just completed the 2018/19 Teen Critic program. Participants were given official Fringe media status, review deadlines, and were featured on the Fringe Patron Review website. Each participant reviewed two shows of different genres and at various venues, and were supported through the writing process by the Education and Community Engagement Manager. All the participants were first-time Fringe attendees!

Jessica Grosshans	River East Collegiate
Janice Hu	Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Oliver Larkin	Garden City Collegiate
Jacky Pan	Nelson McIntyre Collegiate

SPONSORED BY **DEBORAH GRAY**



TEEN CRITIC PROGRAM



PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

Royal MTC's Teen Critics were invited to broaden their mind, sharpen their critical eye, 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.

Dami Ogunsolu	Glenlawn Collegiate
Gabrielle Villeneuve	Grant Park High School
Simeon Momtchilov	Homeschool
Isabella Lee	J.H. Bruns Collegiate
Shanleigh Smith	John Taylor Collegiate
Ella Scratch	Kelvin High School
Janice Hu	Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Keira Jordan	Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Keenan Lehmann	Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Martine Munford	Morris School
Masimba Leonard Gozho	Nelson McIntyre Collegiate
Summer Talon	River East Collegiate
Tianna McDonald	St. John's High School
Kashton MacLeod	Tec-Voc High School
Saphyre Paille	Tec-Voc High School
Ashlin Daly	University of Winnipeg Collegiate
Janelle Forrester	Vincent Massey Collegiate
Vanessa Matsubara	Vincent Massey Collegiate
Lenex Redhead	Vincent Massey Collegiate
Emma MacIsaac	Westwood Collegiate

19/20 Teen Critic special guests:

- Joff Schmidt, CBC Theatre Reviewer
- Brian Drader, Executive Director of the Manitoba Association of Playwrights
- Lara Rae, Comedian, Playwright and Freelance Reviewer
- Kelly Thornton, Royal MTC Artistic Director
- Randall King, Winnipeg Free Press Reporter (Arts & Life)

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

BUS SUBSIDY

The 2019/20 Bus Subsidy Program allowed **492 students** to attend seven shows. A total of **\$4,160** was awarded to **10 schools** (Winnipeg schools in need and rural schools – as far away as Roblin).

SPONSORED BY **DEBORAH GRAY**

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

In 2019/20, Royal MTC hosted one-day placements for **13 high school students**, which involved experiences such as shadowing the *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* stage management team, watching rehearsal, observing the set load-in for *The New Canadian Curling Club*, assisting patron services, a behind-the-scenes tour and much more.

Oliver Larkin	Garden City Collegiate
Noah Luis	Kelvin High School
Cole Cossette McDermid	Kildonan East Collegiate
Karen Umandal	Maples MET School
Hunter Seida	Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute (Take Our Kids to Work Day)
Taryn Edgeworth	Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Lexa Godfrey	River East Collegiate (Take Our Kids to Work Day)
Alora Kempthorne	River East Collegiate (Take Our Kids to Work Day)
Maria Hermida	Shaftesbury High School
Julia Armstrong	St. Mary's Academy
Natalie Viebrock	St. Mary's Academy
Colin Block	Stevenson-Britannia Adult Learning Centre
Madison Brady	Teulon Collegiate (Take Our Kids to Work Day)

SPONSORED BY **DEBORAH GRAY**

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

This year, MTC offered student-only matinees for seven productions: *The Color Purple*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *As You Like It*, *The New Canadian Curling Club*, *Bang Bang*, *Fun Home*, *Every Brilliant Thing* and *Women of the Fur Trade*. As part of our TFYA programming, study guides were compiled for each production and posted online for educators, students and for all other Royal MTC patrons. A total of **3,812 students** attended student-only matinee performances and **1,625 students** attended regular performances with their school.

SPONSORED BY **CANADA LIFE**



Student matinee of *Women of the Fur Trade*.

NEW **DIGITAL CONTENT FOR EDUCATORS**

The Educator Online Support Initiative was created in response to educators' digital content needs during COVID-19. Eight videos were created featuring Royal MTC staff and artists.

HALF HOUR CALL • An interview series that spotlights a specific career in theatre and answers previously submitted questions from students.

WORD TO THE WISE • Theatre professionals answer the question: "What piece of advice would you give a young person who wants to pursue a career in theatre?"

DID YOU KNOW? • Theatre history facts.

ACTING TIPS FOR YOUNG ACTORS • Actor Kevin Klassen shares his golden nuggets of wisdom around auditions and professionalism in the rehearsal hall.

A curated list of links and resources were also sent to educators including access to Royal MTC's archive collection of set / costume designs and production photos.

SPONSORED BY **DEBORAH GRAY**

TD THEATRE UNDER 30

TD Theatre Under 30 is a free membership program for young people aged 18-29. Members have exclusive access to world-class theatre for just \$20 a seat! In the 2019/20 season, the program had a total of **1,478 members**, who purchased **791 tickets** throughout the year.

SPONSORED BY **TD**

YOUTH PROGRAMMING TESTIMONIALS

BACKSTAGE PASS

"Today has given me a whole new perspective to the world of theatre and most importantly, the people in it. I never would have thought that such a responsibility heavy job like stage management exists, and it's definitely made me more appreciative of plays."

"I never saw set design as a career I'd be interested in... and now I am!"

"I'm sorry this season has come to such an abrupt end but I'm so grateful to have been part of the Backstage Pass program. Being part of this program has been so educational and so much fun! It's wonderful to spend time at Royal MTC, try new things and meet new people. The opportunity to connect with other theatre kids and experienced professionals has been incredibly valuable. Thank you for an incredible experience."

TEEN CRITIC

"The story, the acting, the music - everything was so powerful. I felt like I could do anything after seeing this."

"I went into the theatre and came out with a new perspective."

CANOO

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 2019/20, our fifth year partnering with Canoo (formerly Cultural Access Pass), 140 new Canadians attended *The Color Purple* and *The New Canadian Curling Club*.

PLAY ON WORDS

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. A total of **78** attended in person and over **1,100** tuned in online via Facebook Live.

The Winnipeg Public Library's talented Librarians provide amazing **EXPLORE MORE** reading lists of resources that help you better connect with the play. In 2019/20, librarian-recommended reading lists were created for: *The Color Purple*, *Fun Home* and *As You Like It*.

MCNALLY ROBINSON COMMUNITY CLASSROOM

Partnered with McNally to offer a class on Alison Bechdel's best-selling graphic novel, *Fun Home*. Facilitated by Lara Rae, this class also included one discounted ticket to Royal MTC's production of *Fun Home*. Attendance - 7

"This musical hit me harder than any performance I've ever seen before. From a writing standpoint, the plot was very, very relatable for me. I could basically explain a big chunk of my life using this musical."

STUDENT PLACEMENT

"I learned about how the professional rehearsal processes and space feels with my own energy and was able to absorb more of an understanding of how production creation works, as well as the dynamics of the relationships and roles, and where I see myself fitting into that. I had a great time and am really grateful for the educational opportunities that enable students to move from audience into action. I really admire the sense of mentorship and welcoming community developed at MTC and look forward to discovering my place here and in the theatre community at large. Thanks to the tools and guidance that MTC has created in their programming and by providing productions that have fueled my drive in the theatre for years."

"It made me consider doing theatre for a living. I got to really see what it's like to work as an actress for live theatre and what my life could look like if I went through that path."

"I believe this experience has helped me with my career goals. It has allowed me to meet many professionals and hear about their experiences. What was especially valuable was being able to ask the stage managers about post-secondary education and gain some advice and insight from them."

SPECIAL EVENTS

BLACK & WHITE BALL



ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE!

Shakespeare may have written about love, but the Beatles made us sing about it! On Saturday, November 2, more than 500 guests joined us for the Black & White Ball: IMAGINE, in support of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre.

In addition to fantastic food and spectacular auction items, guests were wowed with a special performance by Those Guys and danced the night away to a Beatles-infused set list thanks to The Big City All Star Band. Our Black & White - After Dark tickets sold out this year, bringing in 50 new guests after 9:30pm to get the after party started.

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 evening. Your generous contributions support our many programs and productions while ensuring that live theatre continues to thrive in our community. Special thanks to our incredible Premier Sponsor **RBC** - your commitment to the arts, to Winnipeg, and to building vibrant communities is inspiring.

Please join us for another spectacular Black & White Ball on Saturday, January 30, 2021. Reserve your corporate table or individual tickets early so you don't miss the party of the year!

Congratulations to Jaime Beck, winner of the **Fillmore Riley** Vacation Prize, courtesy of **The Great Canadian Travel Group!**

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Brad McCabe
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Aideen Nash
Rhonda Plett
Bronya Rae-Pemberton
Jenny-Lou Ryan
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ATTENDANCE • 546

NET PROCEEDS • \$146,901

ALL PHOTOS BY RED PHOTO CO.

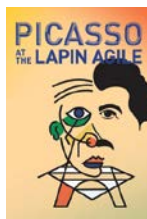


2019 Black & White Ball Committee – Back L TO R: Elsebeth Kriening, Kelly Johnston, Alana Chernecki, Camilla Holland, Linda McGarva-Cohen, Kelly Thornton, Aideen Nash, Bronya Rae-Pemberton, Tiffany Johnson-Sheldon, Albiana Bugujevci. Front L TO R: Lynda Tjaden, Kathryn Gompf, Peggy Alto, Shelly Smith-Hines, Brad McCabe, Jodee Stewart, Liz Baines, Claire Workman, Patty Christie.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ROYAL MTC/ MBA LAWYERS PLAY

Postponed due to COVID-19



PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE

By Steve Martin

Director: Michelle Boulet*

Choreographer: Catherine Wreford*

Cast: David Dick, Tashia Dreger, Reid Girard,
Benji Greenberg, Danny Gunn, Ashley Korsunsky,
Jim McLandress, Jaime Rosin, Neil Steen,
Geoffrey Toews, Maria Versace

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

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\$4,000-6,499

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

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Not all heroes wear capes, but we wouldn't blame you if you did! Our profound thanks to the more than 3,100 households who generously turned the value of their tickets from the performances cancelled due to COVID-19 into a donation. It's because of YOUR support that Royal MTC is better positioned to weather this storm and get back to creating captivating performances on stage. We want to take this moment to thank every one of you by name:

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ACCOUNTING/FINANCE

Sharon Burden, Payroll Administrator
Yvonne O'Connor, Accounts Payable Administrator
Shelley Stroski, Contoller

ADMINISTRATION

Brian Adolph, IT Manager
Elena Anciro, Education & Community Engagement Manager
Devan Graham, Director of Human Resources*
Camilla Holland, Executive Director
Daphne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant
Kathrin Moncaster, Senior Developer & Systems Administrator
Rachel Weessies, Director of Human Resources

ARTISTIC

Jenn Bahniuk, Artistic Coordinator
Casey Challes, Assistant to the Producer
Audrey Dwyer, Associate Artistic Director
Krista Jackson, Associate Artistic Director*
Jeff Kennedy, Literary Coordinator
Laurie Lam, Producer
Paige Lewis, Artistic Coordinator*
Kelly Thornton, Artistic Director
Kim Wheeler, Curator, The Bridge

BOX OFFICE

Sheena Baird, Director of Patron Services
Olaoluwa Fayokun, Patron Services Coordinator
Julie Gregorchuk, Box Office Manager*
Box Office Representatives: Rizaina Almario, Sharon Bunn,
Meaghan Fletcher, Melissa Langdon, Robyn Pooley, Joshua
Robertson, Katie Schmidt, Katie Spring, Lilian Talabis

CARPENTRY (JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE)

Louis Gagné, Layout Carpenter
Brent Letain, Master Carpenter
Chris Seida, Scenic Carpenter

DEVELOPMENT

Lisa Hunt, Special & Donor Events Coordinator
Michael Joyal, Development Data Manager
Melissa Novocosky, Associate Director of Development
Shelly Smith-Hines, Director of Development*
Kate Supleve, Development Manager*
Chris Turyk, Development Manager

FRONT OF HOUSE

Adrianne Breyfogle, Front of House Manager,
John Hirsch Mainstage
Kim Cossette, Front of House Manager, Tom Hendry Warehouse
Belinda Uings, Front of House Manager, John Hirsch Mainstage*
Front of House Staff: Jennifer Brisson, Shaylene Cote,
Rylen de Vries, Nick Fletcher, Elfie Harvey, Teresa Horosko,
Marissa Kellelt, Daniel MacPherson, Kimmy Martin, Graeme
Olson, Kat Petrash, Kaitlyn Schuster, Dyonssalynn Stoll,
Rita Vande Vyvere

MAINTENANCE

Andrew Drinnan, Building Superintendent
Chris Fletcher, Assistant Building Superintendent

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Sue Caughlin, Marketing & Communications Manager
Kathleen Cerrer, Publicist & Online Media Coordinator
Katie Inverarity, Director of Marketing & Communications
Desiree La Vallee, Ticketing Application Specialist
Savannah Lillies, Publications Coordinator
Thomas Urish, Sales Manager

PAINT

Susan Groff, Head Scenic Artist
Carla Schroeder, Head Scenic Artist
Melissa Smigelski, Scenic Painter

PRODUCTION

Claire Bourdin, Assistant Production Manager
Christine Corthey, Production Associate
Chris Coyne, Technical Director, John Hirsch Mainstage
Ian Kirk, Assistant Technical Director
Rick MacPherson, Technical Director, Tom Hendry Warehouse
Russell Martin, Director of Production

PROPERTIES

Kari Hagness, Head of Properties*
Jamie Plummer, Properties Builder
Lawrence Van Went, Master Builder

STAGE CREW

Joan Lees-Miller, Head of Wardrobe
Gary Plouffe, House Stage Hand
Claude Robert, Head Electrician
Chris Thomson, Head Carpenter
Michael Wright, Head of Sound

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE

Chris Brett, Head of Sound
Randy Zyla Harder, Head Electrician*
Rick MacPherson, Technical Director
Jacqueline Robertson, Acting Head Electrician
Rudy Wall, Head Carpenter

WARDROBE

Thora Lamont, Acting Head, Cutter
Lorraine O'Leary, Head of Wardrobe
Jackie Van Winkle, Head Buyer & Accessories Coordinator

WIGS

Beverly Covert, Wigs & Makeup Supervisor

WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL & MASTER PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL

Chuck McEwen, Executive Producer
Tori Popp, Festival Manager

HONORARY STAFF

Zaz Bajon, General Manager Emeritus
Steven Schipper, CM, OM, Artistic Director Emeritus



The cast of *The Color Purple*.
PHOTO BY IAN JACKSON, EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY. ©2019

*Denotes past employee

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF MAY 31, 2020

	OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND	STABILIZATION FUND	SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDS	2020 TOTAL	2019 TOTAL
ASSETS							
CURRENT							
Cash and cash equivalents	3,481,538				83,126	3,564,664	3,272,376
Accounts and grants receivable	953,144					953,144	1,223,690
Prepaid expenses	326,042					326,042	619,701
Due (to)/from funds	(1,402,412)	641,076	68,440	692,896		–	–
	3,358,312	641,076	68,440	692,896	83,126	4,843,850	5,115,767
CAPITAL ASSETS							
		1,413,149				1,413,149	1,415,054
	3,358,312	2,054,225	68,440	692,896	83,126	6,256,999	6,530,821
LIABILITIES							
CURRENT							
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	232,577					232,577	433,594
Deferred revenue	3,125,735					3,125,735	3,105,224
	3,358,312					3,358,312	3,538,818
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS							
		1,777,281				1,777,281	1,778,309
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS							
					83,126	83,126	67,704
	3,358,312	1,777,281			83,126	5,218,719	5,384,831
NET ASSETS							
Internally restricted	–		68,440			68,440	75,076
Invested in capital assets	–	276,944				276,944	302,979
Unrestricted	–			692,896		692,896	767,935
	–	276,944	68,440	692,896	–	1,038,280	1,145,990
	3,358,312	2,054,225	68,440	692,896	83,126	6,256,999	6,530,821

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AS OF MAY 31, 2020

	OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND	STABILIZATION FUND	SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDS	2020 TOTAL	2019 TOTAL
Revenue	10,586,944	246,760	–	–	21,300	10,855,004	11,959,627
Expenses	10,626,983	272,795	41,636	–	21,300	10,962,714	11,981,804
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(40,039)	(26,035)	(41,636)	–	–	(107,710)	(22,177)
Net assets, beginning of year	–	302,979	75,076	767,935	–	1,145,990	1,268,167
Transfer to Endowment Fund	–	–	–	–	–	–	(100,000)
Interfund transfers	40,039	–	35,000	(75,039)	–	–	–
Net assets, end of year	–	276,944	68,440	692,896	–	1,038,280	1,145,990

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

CORE FUNDERS



SEASON PARTNERS



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EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTION SUPPORTER



JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION SPONSOR



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JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCE SPONSORS



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BLACK & WHITE BALL



LAWYERS PLAY



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2019 WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL



MASTER PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL



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“Quirky, fun, riveting, really entertaining!”

– PATRON



This page: The cast of *As You Like It*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

Back cover: Kelsey Kanatan Wavey, Kathleen MacLean and Elizabeth Whitbread in *Women of the Fur Trade*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

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