

Life of Pi Large-Print, Screen Reader-Friendly Program

Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre presents
in partnership with the Citadel Theatre

Life of Pi

Based on the novel by Yann Martel

Adapted by Lolita Chakrabarti

October 16-November 8, 2025

Run Time

2 hours 10 minutes, including
20-minute intermission.

Warnings

Rated PG 13 for mature
content, stylized violence,
depictions of animal ferocity
and death.

Theatrical haze, flashing
lights, loud sounds.

Things to know about our theatre

Ushers: Royal MTC's loyal volunteer ushers are available at every performance to assist patrons. They wear black or black and white, and lanyards with name tags.

Latecomers: Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager.

Courtesy to others: Talking, candy wrappers and coughing are distracting to fellow patrons and actors. We ask you to please keep noise to a minimum during a performance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Scents and Allergies: A number of Royal MTC patrons have medical reactions caused by scented products, so much so that

they can't enjoy the show.

Please consider others before using items such as colognes, perfumes and hairspray.

Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Hearing enhancement: FM Listening Devices are available free of charge in the lobby at the John Hirsch Mainstage and Tom Hendry Warehouse. Please see the House Manager for details.

Prohibited: The use of cameras and recording devices is strictly prohibited. Mobile devices must be turned off. To be contacted in an emergency, leave your name and seat number with the House Manager.

Director's Notes by Haysam Kadri

Life of Pi is a story of survival, belief, and the extraordinary resilience of the human spirit. At its heart, it is a fable about storytelling itself. How we shape narratives to make sense of the incomprehensible, and how imagination can become both a tool for endurance and a vessel for truth. What I am most excited about this piece is its rich theatricality. It dares to ask impossible questions and uses bold, visual poetry to answer them. How do you stage the vastness of the Pacific Ocean? A Royal Bengal tiger? A soul in crisis? That is exactly what theatre is made for. To transform the ordinary into the

extraordinary through collaboration, design, performance and belief. Directing this production has been a great privilege. The artistry, ingenuity, and heart that every member of this creative team, cast, and crew has brought to the process is nothing short of inspiring. Together, we have aimed to honour the depth of Yann Martel's novel and the powerful theatrical adaptation by Lolita Chakrabarti while creating something uniquely our own. A sincere thank you to Kelly Thornton and everyone at Royal MTC for the opportunity to bring this remarkable story to life with you.



Check out a video of the creation of the *Life of Pi* puppets!

Synopsis

Following civil unrest in their community, Pi and his family are given the opportunity to relocate to Canada. They gather the animals from their spectacular Pondicherry Zoo. Travelling aboard a cargo ship on the Pacific Ocean, tragedy strikes and a shipwreck strands Pi on a lifeboat alone – except for a small surviving group of animals, including a Royal Bengal tiger

Setting

1976-78. Pondicherry in India, Tomatlán in Mexico, and the Pacific Ocean.



named Richard Parker. As the company on the lifeboat rapidly dwindles and days turn into weeks, Pi and Richard Parker learn to coexist and fight for survival. Staying alive in a vast and unforgiving ocean is no easy feat, and Pi is forced to confront the limits of faith, resilience and his own perception of the world around him.

Enrich your Experience

Do you want to delve deeper into the play? Every show has an enrichment guide with help from experts and educators with background context, resources to explore and questions to keep the conversation going. Find at **RoyalMTC.ca/EnrichmentGuides.**

Credits

The Creative Team

Director: Haysam Kadri

Puppetry Director: Dayna Tietzen

Puppet Design and Fabrication: Puppet Stuff Canada

Set Designer: Beyata Hackborn *

Costume Designer: Joseph Abetria (Past Jean Murray - Moray Sinclair apprenticeship recipient)

Lighting Designer: April Viczko *

Video & Projection Designer: Corwin Ferguson *

Composer & Sound Designer: Joelysa Pankanea

Fight Director: Morgan Yamada

Assistant Director: Steven Conde

Assistant Set Designer: Amy Dass *

Lighting Design Assistant: Charlie Peters

Lighting Design Assistant: Victor Snaith Hernandez

Stage Manager: Molly Pearson

Assistant Stage Manager: Anna Davidson

Apprentice Stage Manager: Darlene Dela Cruz (Past Jean Murray - Moray Sinclair scholarship recipient)

Apprentice Stage Manager: Tia Morann

Special thanks: Yayoi Ban, Marina Mikhaylichenko, Andrés Moreno.

Designers with * are represented by Associated Designers of Canada.

The Cast

Pi Patel: Davinder Malhi

Nurse/Amma/Ensemble: Deena Aziz

Mrs. Okamoto/Ship's Captain/Ensemble: Andrea Cheung

Lulu Chen/Jai/Ensemble: Bailey Chin

Richard Parker Puppeteer 2/Ensemble: Braydon Dowler-Coltman

Richard Parker Puppeteer 1/Ensemble: Troy Feldman

Mrs. Biology Kumar/Zaida Khan/Ensemble: N Girgis

Father/Ghost Father/Ensemble: Ali Kazmi

Father Martin/Cook/Voice of Richard Parker/Ensemble: Kevin Klassen

Rani/Ghost Rani/Ensemble: Anaka Maharaj-Sandhu

Mamaji/Pandit-Ji/Ensemble: Azeem Nathoo

Ensemble: Kristen Padayas

Russian Sailor/Admiral Jackson/Ensemble: Garrett Ross

Ensemble: Suchiththa Wickremesooriya

Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of their appearance.



Visit our website to see headshots and zoom in on biographies!

<https://royalmtc.ca/Current-Plays/Life-of-Pi.aspx#cast-crew>

Biographies

Creative Team

Yann Martel

Yann Martel is a Canadian writer. He is the author of a collection of short stories and four novels, most notably *Life of Pi* for which he won the 2002 Man Booker Prize. Writing credits include: *The Facts Behind the Helsinki Roccamatios*, *Self*, *Life of Pi*, *Beatrice and Virgil*, *The High Mountains of Portugal* and the non-fiction collection *101 Letters to a Prime Minister: The Complete Letters to Stephen Harper*. *Son of Nobody*, a novel about the Trojan War, will be published in 2026. He lives in Saskatoon.

Lolita Chakrabarti

Royal MTC First engagement.

Other Theatre Playwriting:

Hamnet (RSC & West End); *Hymn* (Almeida Theatre & Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Red Velvet* (Tricycle Theatre, St Ann's Warehouse, West End); *Invisible Cities* (Manchester International Festival & Brisbane Festival); *The Greatest Wealth*, *Sylvia* (Old Vic); *Message in a Bottle* (Peacock Theatre).

Film/TV Acting: *The Hunt* (St Ann's Warehouse); *Screw* (CH4); *Vigil* (BBC1); *Showtrial* (BBC1); *Wheel of Time* (Amazon); *Hamlet* (RADA); *A Casual Vacancy* (BBC1/HBO); *Criminal* (Netflix); *Delicious* (Sky One).

Haysam Kadri

Royal MTC First engagement.

Other Theatre *Heist* (Citadel); *Homes: A Refugee Story*, *A Street Car Named Desire*, *Einstein's Gift* (Grand); *Heist*, *Clue*, *Nero Wolfe: Might As Well Be Dead* (Vertigo); *King James*, *In Wonderland* (ATP); *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Arts Club); *The Shoplifters*, *Romeo and Juliet* (TC); *The Three Musketeers*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Hamlet* (Shakespeare Company); *A Prairie Boy's Winter*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Dracula* (Mount Royal University); *Metamorphoses* (U of C); *Dracula* (Red Deer College).

Film/TV *The Last of Us*, *The Revenant*, *Hell on Wheels*.

Et Cetera Haysam is the Artistic Director of Alberta Theatre Projects.

Dayna Tietzen

Royal MTC Fraulein Kost in *Cabaret*.

Other Theatre Puppeteer in *War Horse* (Toronto/U.S. National Tour/Japan); Cirque du Soleil's *TORUK: The First Flight* (World Tour). Puppetry Director/Specialist: *Frozen* (Neptune); *Beauty and the Beast*, *Frozen*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Tangled*, *The Golden Mickeys*, *Disney Dreams* (Disney Cruise Line). Favourite other credits include Cassie in *A Chorus Line* (Stratford/Riverside Theatre/Arvada Centre); Morticia in *The Addams Family* (Neptune); Columbia in *The Rocky Horror Show* (TA).

Beyata Hackborn

Royal MTC *The Play That Goes Wrong* (with Citadel/TC).

Other Theatre *The Secret Garden, Village Wooing, The Playboy of the Western World, Overruled, Bright Lights* (Shaw); *The Inheritance* (CS); *Chris, Mrs.* (Boldly Productions); *Jersey Boys* (Citadel); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Arts Club/Citadel); *Heist* (Grand/Citadel); *Legally Blonde* (TC/Citadel); *Metronome, Mob, Horseplay* (Workshop West); *Sleight of Mind* (WCT).

Et Cetera Beyata is an award-winning set designer from Western Canada who lives with a lovely household of dogs and friends, enjoys long nights of model-building, good food, has a soft spot for Sondheim and magical, sometimes absurd

theatre. On a good day, she can juggle a bit.

Joseph Abetria

Royal MTC (selected) Costume Designer: *Indecent, Little Women, The Play That Goes Wrong* (with Citadel/TC), *The Comeback, The Piano Teacher, Calpurnia* (with NAC/Black Theatre Workshop). Upcoming: *Murder on the Orient Express, The Last Wife.*

Other Theatre (selected) Costume Designer: *Prophecy, Mary's Wedding, Iceland* (TPM); *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Grand Ghost* (Grand); *Snow White, Spelling 2-5-5* (MTYP); *Volare, Space Girl, Voice* (PTE); *Plé* (Plé Collective presented by MTYP); *Women of the Fur Trade* (Vault Projects).

TRAINING University of Winnipeg.

April Viczko

Royal MTC First engagement.

Other Theatre Lighting Design:

Skylight (TC). Costume Design:

Blackbird, True Love Lies

(Citadel); *Slime* (The Only

Animal/Banff Centre); *Butcher,*

The Circle, The Apology, Ash

Rizin', Thinking of Yu, Drama:

Pilot Episode (ATP); *Might As*

Well Be Dead, Murder on the

Orient Express, Strangers on a

Train, The Mousetrap, In the

Heat of the Night (Vertigo

Theatre). Production Design:

Hello Hello, Romeo & Juliet (Kill

Your Television). Set and

Costume Design: *As You Like*

It (Citadel); *Bea's Niece*

(Tarragon).

TRAINING/TEACHING April is the Chair of the Drama Department at the University of Alberta. She is a full member of

Associated Designers of Canada/IATSE 659.

Et Cetera aprilviczko.com

Corwin Ferguson

Royal MTC First engagement.

Other Theatre *Heist, Playing*

With Fire (Citadel); *Brigadoon*

(Shaw); *Forgiveness, Salesman*

in China, Rent (Stratford);

Homes (Grand); *Evil Dead the*

Musical (Starvox); *Into the*

Woods Jr, Newsies (Yellow Door

Theatre Project); *Mary Poppins,*

1984 (Saint John Theatre);

Rinaldo (Pacific Opera); *Hamlet,*

Julius Caesar, Richard III

(Shakespeare Company);

Playing with Fire, You Will

Remember Me (ATP).

TRAINING Graduate of the BPA Program at Capilano University, Studio 58 Acting Graduate.

Et Cetera corwinferguson.com

Joelysa Pankanea

Royal MTC First engagement.

Other Theatre *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Little*

Women (Citadel); *Behind the Moon* (Touchstone); *The Mousetrap* (TC); *Henry V* (Bard).

Film/TV *Comedy Invasion* (Hulu, Prime); *Rolling Hills* (Sunny Drake Productions).

Et Cetera Originally from Kenya, Joelysa is a multi-award-winning composer and sound designer from Vancouver. She'd like to thank Haysam Kadri, Craig Hall, the Citadel and Royal MTC teams, cast and crew for this incredible opportunity!

Morgan Yamada

Royal MTC Fight/Movement

Director: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (with Citadel).

Other Theatre Recent and selected: Fight/Intimacy

Director: *Little Women*, *A Streetcar Named*

Desire (Citadel). Fight

Director: *Die Walkure*

(Edmonton Opera); *Beauty and the Beast* (WCT). Intimacy

Director: *Where You Are, After Mourning – Before Van*

Gogh (Shadow Theatre).

Actor: *The Three Musketeers*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Citadel);

Glory (Chemainus Theatre Festival/National Tour/Original Cast – WCT, et al.).

Et Cetera For more info on her work, morganyamada.com.

Morgan is also one of Azimuth Theatre's Artistic Producers.

Steven Conde

Royal MTC First engagement.

Other Theatre: *Kensuke's Kingdom* (Storybook Theatre); *Good as Gold* (Flipside

Theatre); *The Underlings* (Wagonstage Theatre); *Sideshow, Madagascar the Musical* (Atlantis Theatrical); *My Name is Asher Lev, Suicide Incorporated, Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead, Wit* (Twin Bill Theatre). Assistant Director: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Stratford); *Beyond the Sea* (Lunchbox Theatre); *A Killing at La Cucina* (Vertigo Theatre); *Seafarer* (ATP); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (TC); *Matilda the Musical, Angels in America: Millennium Approaches, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, The Band's Visit, Waitress* (Atlantis Theatrical).

TRAINING MFA in Directing (University of Calgary).

Et Cetera Steven is a Board member at Theatre Alberta, Artistic Director at Flipside Theatre Collective and Artistic Associate at Vertigo Theatre.

Amy Dass

Royal MTC First engagement.

Other Theatre *Hyena's*

Trail (Here for Fear Collective); *Sprouts* (Concrete Theatre); *Tom at the Farm, Witch* (University of Alberta); *Local Diva* (Low Hanging Fruit Productions); *Emergence of Self* (Connections//Collisions).

TRAINING Graduate of the University of Alberta, associate member of Associated Designers of Canada and Canadian Institute of Theatre Technologies.

Molly Pearson

Royal MTC First engagement.

Other Theatre *The Mountaintop, Rubaboo, The Royale, The Garneau Block, A Christmas Carol, Children of God, Peter and the Starcatcher, Made in Italy* (Citadel); *As You Like It, The Tempest, Twelfth Night, Macbeth, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, A Comedy of Errors, The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, Love's Labour's Lost* (The Freewill Shakespeare Festival); *Vigilante* (Catalyst Theatre).

Anna Davidson

Royal MTC First engagement.

Other Theatre *The Sound of Music, The Fiancée* (Citadel); *Die Walkure, Das Reingold, Die Fledermaus, Bluebeard's Castle, Aquarius, Orphée+, La bohème* (Edmonton Opera); *The*

Fiancée (Chemainus Theatre Festival); *Don Giovanni* (NAC/Banff Centre).

TRAINING Theatre Production Program at MacEwan.

Et Cetera She works as an ASM and IATSE Local 210 theatre technician in amiskwacîwâskahikan (Edmonton).

Darlene Dela Cruz

Royal MTC Assistant Lighting Designer: *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (MBA/Lawyers Play).

Other Theatre Stage

Management: *The Gallery Wall* (Winnipeg Fringe

Festival); *Oh, the Humanity* (U of W). Carpentry: *White Girls in*

Moccasins, Forward, The

Drowning Girls (U of W). Other:

PAGBUO: A Story Building

Workshop (UNIT Productions);

MA-BUHAY! A New Musical!

(Rainbow); Winnipeg Fringe Festival.

TV *The Amazing Race Canada* Season 9.

TRAINING University of Winnipeg Theatre and Film.

Et Cetera Jean Murray – Moray Sinclair Apprenticeship recipient. Thank you to my parents for picking me up during late nights and to my sister who dragged me into theatre in the first place. Thank you to my friends who helped me get here and to my professors and mentors for the guidance and support. Thank you to Royal MTC for giving me this opportunity.

Tia Morann

Royal MTC *Indecent*.

Other Theatre *Countess Ory, Rocking Horse*

Winner (Manitoba Underground Opera); *Rock of Ages* (Rainbow); *La bohème, Carmen, Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North, Così fan tutte* (MB Opera); *A Year with Frog and Toad* (MTYP); *The Cunning Little Vixen* (COC); *The Magic Flute* (Little Opera Company).

TRAINING B.A. in Theatre Production and Stage Management from University of Winnipeg.

Et Cetera Special thanks to all the family for their support!

Cast

Davinder Malhi

Royal MTC First appearance.

Other Theatre *Wicked Nix*, *rihannaboi95* (YPT); *Fifteen Dogs* (Segal); *Casey and Diana* (Soulpepper/Stratford); *No Big Deal* (Roseneath Theatre); *Concord Floral* (CS).

Et Cetera Thank you to my wonderful family, friends and agent. This is a dream come true. Instagram: @davinder.pdf

Deena Aziz

Royal MTC First appearance.

Other Theatre *Sakura*, *Thy Woman's Weeds* (Centaur); *Birthday Candles*, *American Fast* (City Theatre); *The Supine Cobbler*, *Behaviour*, *The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble* (GCTC); *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Grand, Arts

Club); *Intractable Woman*, *If We Are Birds* (Imago); *The Tempest* (Pittsburgh Public); *Dust* (ATP); *Rice Boy* (CS, Stratford); *Julius Caesar*, *Twelfth Night* (Repercussion Theatre); *The Aeneid* (Talisman Theatre); *Elli Valli Ottla* (Théâtre Urbi et Orbi).
TV *Transplant*, *Diggstown*, *This Life*, *Being Human*.

Et Cetera Away from stage and camera, Deena works as a dramaturge, coordinator, and is a champion for equity and reform in the performing arts.

Andrea Cheung

Royal MTC First appearance.

Other Theatre *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

(Theatre Prospero); *Urban Tales* (Northern Light Theatre); *The King and I* (Citadel); *Laughing Wild* (Epiphany Theatre); *Springboards New Play Festival* (Workshop West Theatre); *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding* (Theatre Republic).

TRAINING Andrea is a graduate of Grant MacEwan Theatre Arts Program.

Et Cetera AMPIA nomination for Best Performance, Sterling Award nomination for Fringe Performance by an Actress.

Bailey Chin

Royal MTC *Little Women, Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes, Network* (with Citadel).

Other Theatre *Feast* (PTE).

TRAINING University of Manitoba – Black Hole Theatre.

Et Cetera Special thanks to S, who supports me endlessly, and to my family and friends for all of their love.

Braydon Dowler-Coltman

Royal MTC *Network* (with Citadel).

Other Theatre *As You Like*

It (Freewill Shakespeare Festival); *The Three Musketeers, Little Shop of Horrors* (ArtsClub/Citadel); *Pride & Prejudice, A Christmas Carol, Jane Eyre, The Tempest* (Citadel); *Burning Bluebeard* (Edmonton Actor's Theatre); *Bright Lights* (Blarney Productions); *Shakespeare's R+J* (Kill Your Television); *The Salon of the Talking Turk* (Teatro Live!); *Fortune Falls* (Catalyst Theatre).

TV *The Irrational* (NBC); *Abracadavers* (Numera Films).

TRAINING University of Alberta
BFA; Frantic Assembly;
Citadel/Banff Centre
Professional Training Program.

Troy Feldman

Royal MTC First appearance.

Other Theatre *The Forbidden Phoenix* (Citadel); *War Horse*, *The Heart of Robinhood*, *The Lord of the Rings* (Mirvish); *Little Amal* (The Walk).

Film/TV Overlord in *Overlord and the Underwoods* (CBC);
Score: A Hockey Musical, *Reign*, *Stepping Up*, *Kill Order*, *On the Ropes*.

Et Cetera Troy is a Toronto based actor, choreographer, (bboy/house) dancer, puppeteer and parkour artist. As a professional artist he has traveled across the globe performing. Special thanks and

love to his AZ fam, Mom and Nadine.

N Girgis

Royal MTC *Nine Dragons* (with Gateway/Vertigo), *The Drowning Girls* (Bent Out of Shape Productions), *Evita* (with TC).

Other Theatre Selected:

Charlotte's Web, *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon*, *The Drowning Girls* – Cross Canada Tour, *In Wonderland*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Blue Light* (ATP); *One Christmas Carol* (Storybook); *Dark Lady*, *Complete History Abridged*, *Blues in the Night* (Lunchbox Theatre); *The Mousetrap*, *Humble Boy*, *Counsellor-at-Law* (TC); *Dracula: Bloody Truth*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *The Ends of the Earth*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Vertigo); *Steel Magnolias*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*,

The Hound of the Baskervilles (Theatre NorthWest); *The Gig* (TA); *The Coyotes*, *Abundance*, *Beggar's Opera* (Caravan); *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Grand); *Titus Andronicus*, *Richard III* (Shakespeare Co.); *What You're Missing* (Chutzpah Festival); *Communion*, *Palace of the End*, *Life Skills* (Network); *Heroine*, *Love* (Northern Light); *Speaking in Tongues* (Shadow); *The Trespassers* (Belfry/VP); *Lion in the Streets* (Sage); *Deathtrap*, *Suite Surrender*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The 39 Steps* (Stage West); *Amadeus*, *Macbeth*, *The Constant Wife* (Atlantic Theatre Festival); *Speak* (Globe).

Ali Kazmi

Royal MTC First appearance.

Other Theatre *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (Crows); *Uncle Vanya* (Crow's/Mirvish); *Behind the Moon*, *Craze* (Tarragon); *New* (CS).

Film/TV Film: *Funny*

Boy (Deepa Mehta); *Beeba Boys* (Deepa Mehta); *The Breadwinner* (Angelina Jolie/Nora Twomey); *Umro Ayyar* (Azfar Jaffri); *Motorcycle Girl* (Adnan Sarwar); *Dobara Phir Se* (Mehreen Jabbar); *Baaji* (Saqib Malik). TV: *Taken*, *Law and Order TO*, *Designated Survivor*, *Transplant*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Baaghi*.

TRAINING Toronto Film School, NAPA (National Academy of Performing Arts).

Et Cetera Dora nominated for *Behind the Moon* (Tarragon). Multiple awards for film and TV

series. The world is full of magic things patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper.

Kevin Klassen

Royal MTC Recent and

selected: *ELEVATE:*

Manaaji'idiwin, The Sound of Music (with Citadel); *Network* (with Citadel), *A Doll's House, It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play, A Christmas Carol, Shakespeare in Love* (with Citadel), *Sarah Ballenden, The Audience* (with Mirvish), *Chimerica* (with CS), *Alice Through the Looking-Glass, Romeo and Juliet, The Shunning, White Christmas, Bleeding Hearts, Our Town, The Tempest, Feelgood* (with GCTC).

Other Theatre Recent and

selected: *Rock of Ages* (Rainbow); *The Prom* (Dry Cold); *Othello* (Echo/Beau/

Raven); *Mesa* (PTE); *Arcadia Citadel*); *Antony and Cleopatra* (SIR); *Edward II* (TBTR); *John and Beatrice* (TPM); *Death of a Salesman* (WJT); *Peter Pan* (MTYP).

Film/TV Recent and

selected: *Acting Good, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Little Bird, Burden of Truth, The Pinkertons, Niagara Motel.*

TRAINING 2015 Citadel/Banff

Professional Training Program; University of Winnipeg.

Et Cetera Love to Charlene and Phoebe.

Anaka Maharaj-Sandhu

Royal MTC First appearance.

Other Theatre *Mahabharata*

(Lincoln Centre, NAC, CS, Barbican Centre, Shaw); *Twelfth Night* (SIR); *Assistance, The Last Five Years* (Winnipeg Fringe Festival); *A Midsummer*

Night's Dream, Cabaret, Venus (NTS).

Film/TV *The Magic of Lemon Drops* (Hallmark); *Psycho Killer* (Regency); *Spencer Sisters* (CTV).

TRAINING National Theatre School of Canada (acting); University of Manitoba (BA, Political Science).

Et Cetera Anaka is a Dora Award-winning, gender non-conforming artist with a passion for storytelling that transcends conventional boundaries. Their work is inspired by a fascination with everyday life and the shared experience of theatre. After internationally touring WhyNot Theatre's *Mahabharata*, Anaka is grateful to perform again in their hometown. They dedicate this performance to their ancestors and loved ones: for

Nanie, Nana, Biji, Grandpa and Darius.

Azeem Nathoo

Royal MTC First appearance.

Other Theatre Canada

(selected): *1184* (Aga Khan Museum/Phoenix Arts); *Richard III* (Metachroma Theatre /Segal); *Three Men in a Boat & Bike* (Guild Festival); *Romeo & Juliet, The Taming of the Shrew, Caesar & Cleopatra* (Stratford); *Alice in Wonderland* (Theatre NorthWest). UK (selected credits): *Macbeth* (National Tour); *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Greenwich Playhouse); *Henry V* (Orange Tree); *Ideal Husband* (Leicester Haymarket); *Close to Home* (Theatre Alibi).

TV *Fubar, My Perfect Landing, HotZone, Mayday, XIII, Warehouse 13.*

TRAINING/TEACHING Trained at LAMDA, Azeem also teaches Shakespeare at George Brown Theatre School.

Et Cetera Currently working on his second play, *1462*, Azeem continues to serve on the board of Theatre Passe Muraille and is a recipient of a Tyrone Guthrie Award (Stratford) and three BWW Toronto nominations.

Kristen Padayas

Royal MTC First appearance.

Other Theatre *Dance Nation* (SkirtsAFire); *The Jungle Book*, *The Wedding Party* (ATP); *Barvinok* (Pyretic Productions); *A Fit*, *Happy Life*, *A Grand Time in the Rapids*, *The Scent of Compulsion*, *On the Banks of the Nut* (Teatro Live!); *Murder in the Studio*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse* (Vertigo Theatre); *Flight Risk* (Lunchbox

Theatre); *The Scarlet Letter* (TC); *Under Cover* (Concrete Theatre).

TRAINING Graduate of Grant MacEwan College Theatre Arts (2009) and University of Alberta Bachelor of Arts – Acting (2016).

Et Cetera Kristen received Elizabeth Sterling Haynes nominations for her performances in *Dance Nation* and *Under Cover*. She is an Associate Producer at Chromatic Theatre in Calgary and an Artistic Co-Producer at Impossible Mongoose in Edmonton. Love to D + A.

Garett Ross

Royal MTC *The Sound of Music* (with Citadel); *Shakespeare in Love* (with Citadel).

Other Theatre *Pride and Prejudice*, *Jane Eyre*, *Peter and*

the Starcatcher, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet (Citadel); *Nevermore, The Soul Collector, Vigilante* (Catalyst Theatre); *Fever Land, I Heard About Your Murder* (Teatro La Quindicina); *Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse* (Vertigo Theatre); *Liberation Days* (TC); *Jack Goes Boating* (Sage Theatre); *Outside Mullingar, The Best Brothers, Beginning of August* (Shadow Theatre); *Chicago, Hairspray, Sheer Madness* (Mayfield Dinner Theatre).

TRAINING Garrett has a BFA in Drama from the University of Alberta and is a graduate of the musical theatre program at Grant MacEwan.

Suchiththa Wickremesooriya

Royal MTC First appearance.

Other Theatre Bombay

Black (ATP); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (TiFT); *The Tempest* (Citadel); *Bend It Like Beckham*, North American Premiere (Star Vox); *The Secret Garden* (TC); *Three Men in a Boat, Three Men on a Bike* (Guild Festival Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare in Action).

TRAINING Graduate of MA Musical Theatre at Mountview Academy (London, UK).

Et Cetera Often works and creates with Deaf and Disabled communities. Currently the Associate Artistic Producer of Common Boots Theatre in Toronto. Follow him on FB, IG, Twitter (X) – @Suchiththaw

Message from the Artistic Director, Kelly Thornton

Welcome to MTC's 2025/26 season. It is my pleasure to bring this remarkable show to the stage. Our production of *Life of Pi* is the first non-replica production since the play premiered in the UK in 2019. This all-Canadian premiere is even more significant as the story, lovingly adapted for the stage by British playwright Lolita

Chakrabarti, was born in the mind of celebrated Canadian author Yann Martel.

Good storytelling should both entertain and enlighten, and this play delivers in spades. *Life of Pi* asks us to reflect on faith, trauma, perseverance and the power of story itself.

Thanks for joining us!

About the Production

Life of Pi is presented in arrangement with Theatre Global. www.theatreglobal.com
The videotaping of making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the

author's right and actionable under international copyright law.

Life of Pi was first performed at Sheffield Crucible on 21st June 2019, and in the West End at Wyndham's Theatre, produced by Simon Friend, with a first performance on 15th November 2021. *Life of Pi* made its North

American premiere at the A.R.T in Cambridge, Massachusetts on December 4, 2022 before opening on Broadway at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre on March 30, 2023. *Life of Pi* was originally Directed by Max Webster, Set and Costume Design by Tim Hatley, Puppetry

and Movement Direction by Finn Caldwell, Puppetry Design by Nick Barnes and Finn Caldwell, video Design by Andrzej Goulding, Lighting Design by Tim Lutkin and Tim Deiling, Sound Design by Carolyn Downing and Composition by Andrew T. Mackay.

About MTC

Royal MTC is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

Scenery, Carpentry and Show Running Crew at the John Hirsch Mainstage and the Tom Hendry Warehouse are members of IATSE Local 63.

Land Acknowledgement

Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre
is proud to call Manitoba home.

Royal MTC is located in
Winnipeg on Treaty 1, the
traditional territory of the
Anishinaabeg, Inninewak,
Anishinewak, Dakota Oyate and
Denesuline, and the National

Homeland of the Red River
Métis. We are thankful for the
benefits sharing this land has
afforded us, acknowledge the
responsibilities of the Treaties,
and embrace the opportunity to
partner with Indigenous
communities in spirit of
reconciliation and collaboration.

List of Theatre Abbreviations

A.C.T. American Conservatory Theater • San Francisco, CA

Arts Club Arts Club Theatre Company • Vancouver, BC

ATF Atlantic Theatre Festival • Wolfville, NS

ATP Alberta Theatre Projects • Calgary, AB

BAM Brooklyn Academy of Music • NYC

Bard on the Beach Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival •
Vancouver, BC

Belfry The Belfry Theatre • Victoria, BC

Blyth Blyth Theatre Festival • Blyth, ON

Broadway Theatre district • New York, NY

CBC Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Centaur Centaur Theatre Company • Montreal, QC

Citadel The Citadel Theatre • Edmonton, AB

COC Canadian Opera Company • Toronto, ON

CS Canadian Stage • Toronto, ON

Dora Dora Mavor Moore Award • Toronto, ON

Drayton Drayton Entertainment • Ontario

Dry Cold Dry Cold Productions • Winnipeg, MB

Factory Factory Theatre • Toronto, ON

GCTC The Great Canadian Theatre Company • Ottawa, ON

Grand The Grand Theatre • London, ON

HGJT Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company • Toronto, ON

Mirvish Mirvish Productions • Toronto, ON

Moving Target Moving Target Theatre Company • Winnipeg, MB

MTYP Manitoba Theatre for Young People • Winnipeg, MB

NAC National Arts Centre • Ottawa, ON

Necessary Angel Necessary Angel Theatre Company • Toronto, ON

Neptune Neptune Theatre • Halifax, NS

NFB National Film Board of Canada

NTS National Theatre School of Canada • Montreal, QC

Persephone Persephone Theatre • Saskatoon, SK

PTAM Popular Theatre Alliance of Manitoba • Winnipeg, MB

PTE Prairie Theatre Exchange • Winnipeg, MB

Rainbow Rainbow Stage • Winnipeg, MB

RNT Royal National Theatre • London, England

Royal Alex The Royal Alexandra Theatre • Toronto, ON

RSC Royal Shakespeare Company • Stratford-upon-Avon, England

RWB Royal Winnipeg Ballet • Winnipeg, MB

Sarasvati Sarasvati Productions • Winnipeg, MB

Segal The Segal Centre for Performing Arts • Montreal, QC

Shaw Shaw Festival • Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

SIR Shakespeare in the Ruins • Winnipeg, MB

Soulpepper Soulpepper Theatre Company • Toronto, ON

Stratford Stratford Festival • Stratford, ON

SummerWorks SummerWorks Theatre Festival • Toronto, ON

TA Theatre Aquarius • Hamilton, ON

Tarragon Tarragon Theatre • Toronto, ON

TBTR Theatre by the River • Winnipeg, MB

TC Theatre Calgary • Calgary, AB

TiFT Talk is Free Theatre • Barrie, ON

TNB Theatre New Brunswick • Fredericton, NB

Toronto Free Toronto Free Theatre • Toronto, ON

TPM Theatre Projects Manitoba • Winnipeg, MB

TSO Toronto Symphony Orchestra

U of M University of Manitoba

U of T University of Toronto

U of W University of Winnipeg

ViC The Village Conservatory for Music Theatre • Winnipeg, MB

VP Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company • Vancouver, BC

West End Theatre district • London, England

WCT Western Canada Theatre • Kamloops, BC

WJT Winnipeg Jewish Theatre

WSO Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra

WST Winnipeg Studio Theatre

YPT Young People's Theatre • Toronto, ON

zone41 zone41 theatre • Winnipeg, MB