

Annual Report

2024/25



Land Acknowledgement

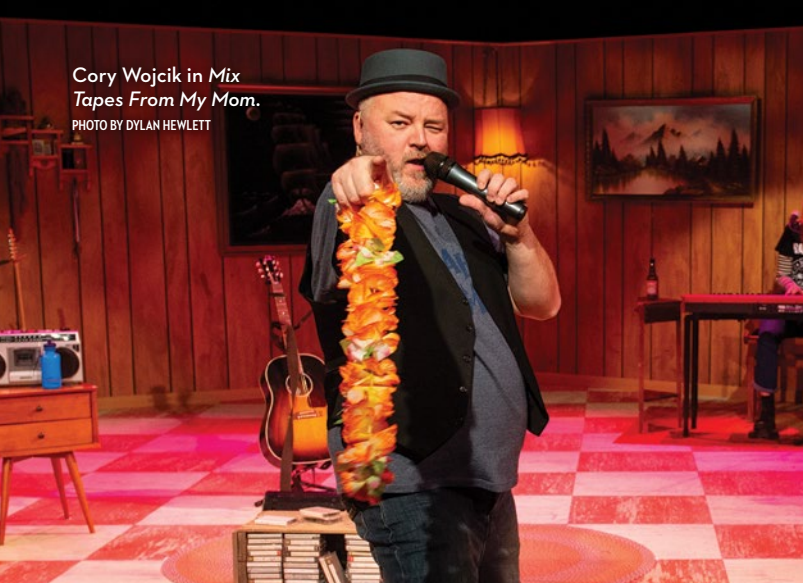
Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre is proud to call Manitoba home.

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.

Nolan Moberly in
ELEVATE: Mannaji'idiwin.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT



This mural was created for *ELEVATE: Mannaji'idiwin*. “7 beings or ‘animals’ of our Sacred Ancestor teachings are here in spirit at sunrise for the beginning of a new day and time. The eagle is the most prominent and reaches the entirety of the view because in the teachings they represent Love. Love is very important for all life to sustain itself/ourselves/each other.” – MURAL ARTIST, PEATRE THOMAS



Cory Wojcik in *Mix Tapes From My Mom*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT



Noah Beemer and Sharon Bajer in *Casey and Diana*. PHOTO BY DAHLIA KATZ



Joel Schaefer, John Ulyatt, Honey Pham and Daniela Vlskalic in *The Play That Goes Wrong*. PHOTO BY NANC PRICE

Table of Contents

ABOUT ROYAL MTC	4
MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS	7
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	8
MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	9
SEASON IMPACT	10-11
MAINSTAGE/WAREHOUSE PRODUCTIONS	12-13
REGIONAL TOUR	14
FESTIVALS	14
NEW CREATIONS	15
EXPANDING THE THEATRE EXPERIENCE	15
EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT	16-22
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	23
SPECIAL EVENTS	24-25
SUPPORTERS	27
FINAL BOW	31
STAFF	32
FINANCIALS	33
SUPPORTING PARTNERS	34

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.

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: Pimootayowin: A Festival of New Work (founded in 2021) 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 Evan Klassen, Royal MTC remains Manitoba's flagship theatre.

Cover: Laura Olafson, Stephanie Sy and Rhea Rodych-Rasidescu in *Waitress*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

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.

Vision

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

Mission

Royal MTC 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.

Values

EXCELLENCE

Our commitment to excellence is reflected in the writing of each play and the artists who create each production, and is a promise to 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.

INCLUSION

Our commitment to inclusion ensures that as we share theatre throughout our city and province, we create a welcoming space for everyone.

ACCESSIBILITY

Our commitment to accessibility requires that we broaden our understanding of barriers to engagement, and work to eliminate them.

AFFORDABILITY

Our commitment to affordability is reflected in marshalling public and private sector support to keep ticket prices as low as possible for all Manitobans.

SUSTAINABILITY

Our commitment to sustainability begins with understanding our environmental impact, and implementing best practices in environmental sustainability in theatre.

LONGEVITY

Our commitment to longevity is evident in our governance structure, business practices and financial management.

“With stellar performances and music, Indecent weaves human rights themes like antisemitism and homophobia into a heartening and heartbreaking reflection on the power of theatre and love, and on art’s ability to let people retain and enact their dignity, even in terrible times.”

– JEREMY MARON, CMHR CURATOR OF HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE CONTENT



The cast of *Indecent*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

86,283

**JOHN HIRSCH
MAINSTAGE**

9,205 subscribers attended 6x
31,053 single tickets

14,995

**TOM HENDRY
WAREHOUSE**

1,962 subscribers attended 4x
7,147 single tickets

81,224

**WINNIPEG FRINGE
THEATRE FESTIVAL**

3,228

**REGIONAL
TOUR**

3,805

**THEATRE FOR
YOUNG AUDIENCES**

6 student-only matinees



189,535

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

**ROYAL
MTC**
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre operates as a non-profit charitable organization, led by the Artistic Director, Executive Director, 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 September 15, 2025 to report artistic and financial results to interested subscribers, patrons and community members.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS



“It was lovely to revisit this classic tale. The time flew by as the cast delivered this beautiful story which has some relevance today.”

– PATRON



MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS



This past season was one of celebration, reflection, and meaningful transition. As Co-Chairs of the Board of Trustees, we are delighted to share highlights from an extraordinary year at Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, one marked by artistic excellence, operational resilience and renewed leadership.

Our 2024/25 season delivered on its promise to take audiences on a remarkable journey. Ten productions featuring over 140 artists brought laughter, tears, and inspiration to our stages.

This season marked a structural first for Royal MTC, as we served as Co-Chairs of the Board. Although a temporary solution introduced under unique circumstances, the co-chair model proved to be highly effective. Sharing responsibilities allowed for continuity and stability, while ensuring a unified voice in stewarding the organization through change.

August 2024 marked the arrival of Evan Klassen as our new Executive Director. From his first day, Evan brought integrity, curiosity and a strong sense of purpose. His return to Winnipeg and deep commitment to the local arts community have already left a lasting impact. Kelly Thornton once again led with creativity and conviction and her ongoing dedication to local talent development and mentorship has become central to Royal MTC's identity and future. Kelly's bold artistic vision, combined with Evan's strategic mindset, ensured that the theatre not only thrived but continued to evolve.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our senior leadership team and their staff for their dedication, adaptability, and passion, all of which were vital in building a cohesive and forward-looking organization. We are equally grateful to our subscribers, funders, sponsors, donors and volunteers for their dedication and unwavering support. Your efforts supported Royal MTC's strategic goals: cultivating talent, deepening community connections, engaging audiences and maintaining organizational health.

The Mainstage and Warehouse were alive with activity throughout the year: new works; beloved classics; the Lawyers Play; the Fringe Festival;

Drama Clubs; student matinees; and donor receptions, to name just a few. Each of these reflecting our commitment to community engagement, diverse audiences and artistic excellence. To our audiences who supported and celebrated with us throughout the season, we are extremely grateful. Audience satisfaction remains high, subscriptions continue to recover and casual ticket sales hit record numbers.

The Black and White Ball – this year themed A Night in Technicolour – was a resounding success, and we extend deep appreciation to the committee and volunteers who made it happen.

Finally, thank you to the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee and all our committee members for your vision, dedication and commitment to thoughtful governance. Your leadership helps ensure Royal MTC continues to tell important stories and respond to a changing world.

As we look to the future, we are excited for the amazing season ahead. With Kelly and Evan at the helm, we are confident Royal MTC will continue to dream big, innovate boldly and welcome more Manitobans into the magic of our theatres.

It has been our honour to serve as Co-Chairs,

JOHN GUTTORMSON & LAURIE SPEERS
CO-CHAIRS, BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
ROYAL MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As I write this – exactly one year after beginning my tenure as Executive Director of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre – I am filled with gratitude and admiration. This role marks my return to the theatre after a long career that began 27 years ago in MTC's box office, continued as a stage manager on both our stages, and has now brought me full circle to lead this extraordinary organization. To return in this capacity is both humbling and deeply meaningful.

Reflecting on my first season offers both clarity and gratitude: clarity about the exceptional work on and off our stages, and gratitude for everyone who makes MTC what it is. From my first day, I was enthusiastically welcomed by artists, staff, volunteers, audiences and supporters. That generosity of spirit is the heartbeat of Royal MTC and what makes it such an integral part of our city and province.

The first MTC event I attended was Pimootayowin in September 2024, where new Indigenous writers share their first plays aloud. Pimootayowin means “journey” in Anishinaabemowin, and it reflects MTC's own journey toward reconciliation. Beginning my tenure with this program set a powerful tone for the year – rooted in truth, artistry, and community connection.

I owe deep thanks to Kelly Thornton, our Artistic Director, whose leadership, collaboration, and care made this season a true partnership. I'm also grateful to our Board of Trustees, especially co-chairs Laurie Speers and John Guttormson, for their confidence and steady guidance. Our senior staff team deserves special recognition for embracing change with creativity and passion, shaping ideas that will resonate for years to come.

I also want to acknowledge my predecessor, Camilla Holland, who left MTC in an extraordinary position as one of Manitoba's leading arts organizations. In her final year, her tireless efforts helped secure a significant federal investment through PrairiesCan, strengthening our ability to deliver programs and expand our reach.

This season brought remarkable stories to our stages – sparking conversation, laughter and reflection. We championed local and national voices, welcomed bold new work, and reimaged classics. Offstage, our education and community engagement programs deepened connections, inviting new generations to discover the magic of live theatre.

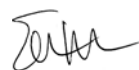
None of this would be possible without our staff and volunteers, whose dedication, generosity, and talent are woven into the fabric of MTC – whether welcoming patrons, building sets, managing ticketing, maintaining our facilities, supporting artists, or guiding outreach and administration.

We are grateful to our public funders – municipal, provincial, and federal – for their essential support, with special thanks for the new investment from PrairiesCan. To our donors, sponsors and audiences: your belief in MTC keeps our work vibrant and accessible.

My first season came full circle with Dave McLeod's, *Elevate: Manaajidiwin*, as we ended the 2024/25 season with the world premiere production, first spoken aloud in a previous season's Pimootayowin. This poignant production spoke volumes about reconciliation, and serves as an example of our intent: to build Indigenous, Manitoban and Canadian playwrights and champion their stories on our stages.

Theatre has always been a place where we gather to explore who we are, wrestle with big questions, imagine new possibilities, and do it together. As we look ahead, I'm excited to build on the strong foundation we share, ensuring Royal MTC remains a place where everyone feels they belong.

Thank you for making my first season unforgettable. I look forward to many more nights in the theatre with all of you.



EVAN KLASSEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ROYAL MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



I think Heraclitus said it best when he said, “the only constant is change.” Sometimes it is a slow-moving ripple that gently reshapes the shoreline, other times a storm rocks the landscape and reorders its topography entirely. Regardless of scale, we are in a constant state of evolution. The real strength of an organization is its ability to embrace change and harness its powerful impact for growth. Royal MTC’s performance in 2024/25 is a prime example of this measure.

This past year, MTC experienced a period of significant transformation. We bid farewell to several longstanding members of our team and greeted many new faces who brought passion and energy. For me personally, a bold new partnership was formed with Evan Klassen, MTC’s new Executive Director, and together we charted a course for the future that is driven by ambition, innovation and a deep sense of service to our community. The 2024/25 season was by all accounts a real success, and we are honoured to be bringing such exhilarating theatre to Manitobans.

Playwright Paula Vogel (*Indecent*) said “I think the power of art is the power to wound our memory. I think the power of art is a way for us to change our world view. I think art is our spiritual bread that we break together.” This quote evokes the profound nature of theatre, and the unspeakable bond that unites us as we experience live art together.

Still relatively new to my role as Artistic Director, I remain enormously grateful to be making art in a community that values and consumes theatre with such passion and emotional investment. One should never take for granted how the vitality of this city and province is driven by its remarkable engagement with arts and culture. We have all heard, and may have even uttered ourselves, how Winnipeg punches above its weight, but I know firsthand, having escaped the larger city of Toronto, that we benefit from our scale. We share a profound sense of responsibility to our community, and together carry the hopes and dreams of its future in our hearts.

The art and artists we put on our stage this past season brought a joyous audience into our theatres. The season offered an array of experiences from ridiculous farces, classical adaptations, gorgeous Broadway musicals, to new Canadian plays, that were both deeply moving and fiercely funny.

My sincere gratitude goes to the audiences that came in droves to our theatre, both subscribers and single ticket buyers alike. Thank you for supporting our theatre and we look forward to sharing many more stories with you in the future.

Huge thanks goes to our artists who brought the work to life and shared their immense talent with us. To our actors, directors, musicians, designers, craftspeople and technicians, your dedication to the work is inspiring. Thank you to our staff, Board and volunteers who made this all possible with their tireless investment and deep sense of commitment to MTC’s success.

I remain humbled by the opportunity to share the power of story with you all.

Yours,

KELLY THORNTON
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ROYAL MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

Thank you for helping create exceptional, engaging and exciting theatre!



Nurturing Local Talent

The 2024/25 season showcased exceptional talent on and off stage with **215 ARTISTS** including actors, directors, designers and stage managers! A total of **155** of these artists call Manitoba home.

MTC presented **33 SCHOLARSHIPS, 9 APPRENTICESHIPS** and **8 ASSISTANTSHIPS** to Manitoba artists to foster their career development. These valuable opportunities are directly supported by the generosity of donors through the Jean Murray – Moray Sinclair Scholarship Fund.

The Tom Hendry Warehouse opened its season with the world premiere of *The Recipe*, written by local playwright Armin Wiebe, and the John Hirsch Mainstage closed the season with the world premiere of *ELEVATE: Manaqji'idiwin* by local playwright David McLeod. David's work is the second play developed from the Pimootayowin Creators Circle to have it's premiere on the MTC Mainstage.

"Heartfelt and beautiful" – PATRON



Toby Hughes and Amanda Shymko in *The Recipe*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

215

ARTISTS
155 local

33

SCHOLARSHIPS

9

APPRENTICESHIPS

8

ASSISTANTSHIPS

2

WORLD PREMIERES

"Excellent! Entire production was 'elevated' with top-notch script, engaging actors, unique touches of AI, rap dancing, actual elevator and most importantly the message interwoven throughout with witty, comical, truthful and reflective dialogue! Highly recommend!"

– PATRON

Nolan Moberly and Kevin Klassen in
ELEVATE: Manaqji'idiwin. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT





Theatre For All Manitobans

The six plays on the John Hirsch Mainstage and four plays at the Tom Hendry Warehouse create the core programming of MTC. However, there is much more that is produced, shared, offered and presented by MTC, including our Regional Tour and the Winnipeg Fringe Festival, so that all Manitobans have the opportunity to experience theatre.

20

COMMUNITIES
VISITED

350+

PEOPLE ATTENDED
FACILITY TOURS

140+

INDEPENDENT
THEATRE
PRODUCTIONS

7,272

STUDENTS
ATTENDED PLAYS

Murder for Two, this year's Regional Tour, visited **20 COMMUNITIES** in Manitoba and Ontario, delighting **3,228 AUDIENCE MEMBERS**.

Every year, the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival presents independent theatre by hosting **MORE THAN 140 PRODUCTIONS** at accessible prices over **12 DAYS**.

Facility tours to **OVER 150 PEOPLE** during Culture Days on September 28 and **MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE** from 15 schools, community groups and businesses throughout the season. These tours provide a deeper dive into how theatre is created on the Mainstage by the many talented theatre artists and technicians employed by MTC.

The Theatre for Young Audience program welcomed **7,272 STUDENTS** from schools around Manitoba to enjoy plays on both stages this season.

Young people aged 18-29 have access to world-class theatre thanks to the Theatre Under 30 program, which offered **2,317 TICKETS** for just \$20 a seat this season.

Everyone who attends MTC can enhance their theatre experience with pre-show chats, post-show talkbacks and enrichment guides.

MTC continues to offer performances with reduced barriers. This past season shows were offered with open captions, ASL interpretation, live audio descriptions and relaxed performance environments.

High Calibre Productions



Duncan Cox and Melanie Whyte
in *Murder for Two*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

On more than **200 DAYS EVERY YEAR**, MTC presents extraordinary theatre that aims to inspire, illuminate and ignite critical conversation. The plays offered by MTC provide a balance of stories, ensuring that voices within our community and across many generations are heard. This past season, audiences were treated to fun outings at the theatre with *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *Murder for Two*, exposed to heartwarming narratives with *Mix Tapes From My Mom*, *The Recipe* and *Waitress*, and reminded of profound historic events in *Indecent* and *Casey and Diana*.

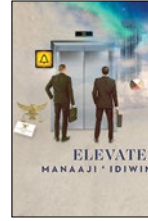
This magic of storytelling is made possible not only thanks to the actors and artistic teams, but also because of the hands of many talented craftspeople, designers and technicians who create incredibly complex sets, sew beautiful garments that reflect the 1800s to modern day and construct pies that look delicious enough to eat.

"Absolutely wonderful!!! The whole production was an absolute class act. Thank you for the opportunity to see this musical!!!!" – PATRON



Cast of *Waitress*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS



The Play That Goes Wrong

By Henry Lewis, Henry Shields & Jonathan Sayer

October 17 – November 9, 2024
PREVIEW • October 16

Director: Dennis Garnhum
Set & Props Designer: Beyata Hackborn**
Costume Designer: Joseph Abetria†
Lighting Designer: Kimberly Purtell**
Associate Lighting Designer: Christian Horoszczak
Sound Designer: Dave Pierce
Sound Associate / Composer: Donovan Seidle
Fight & Movement Director: Morgan Yamada
Assistant Director: Daniel Fong
Stage Manager: Michael Duggan**
Assistant Stage Manager: Lore Green
Apprentice Stage Manager: Sarah Lamoureux
Cast: Alexander Ariate, Vanessa Leticia Jetté, Andrew MacDonald-Smith, Emily Meadows†, Bernardo Pacheco, Honey Pham†, Joel Schaefer, Ray Strachan†, John Ulyatt, Daniela Vlskalic

In partnership with the Citadel Theatre and Theatre Calgary

17,104 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES

Little Women

Based on the novels *Little Women* and *Good Wives* by Louisa May Alcott
Adapted for the stage by Jordi Mand

November 21 – December 14, 2024
PREVIEW • November 20

Director: Katie German
Set Designer: Jawon Kang**
Costume Designer: Joseph Abetria†
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher**
Sound Designer: Ashley Au**
Choreographer: Rachael McLaren
Intimacy Director: Aria Evans
Fight Director: Shannon Guile
Dialect Consultant: Tom Soares†
Assistant Director: Rayna Masterton
Assistant Lighting Designer: Anika Binding†
Apprentice Director: Rochelle Kives*
Apprentice Costume Designer: Sarah Struthers*
Stage Manager: Karyn Kumhyr
Assistant Stage Manager: Ridge Romanishen
Apprentice Stage Manager: Carolin Schroeder†
Cast: Calla Adubofour-Poku, Rodrigo Beilfuss†, Bailey Chin, Ava Darrach-Gagnon, Julia Davis, Matthew Fletcher†, Megan Fry, Tom Keenan, Melissa Langdon, Simon Miron†, Tracey Nepinak, Alex Poch Goldin, Jan Skene, Melanie Whyte

16,102 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES

Waitress

Book by Jessie Nelson
Music and Lyrics by Sara Bareilles

Based upon the motion picture
written by Adrienne Shelly

Orchestrations by Sara Bareilles
& The Waitress Band

Music by Arrangement with
Sony/ATV Music Publishing

January 9 – February 1, 2025
PREVIEWS • January 7 & 8

Director: Ann Hodges
Music Director: Floyd Ricketts
Choreographer: Janie Pinard
Set Designer: Brian Perchaluk***
Costume Designer: Daina Leitold
Lighting Designer: Bonnie Beecher
Sound Designer: Chris Coyne
Intimacy Director: Sam Hutchings†
Fight Director: Jacquie Loewen
Dialect Consultant: Tom Soares†
Assistant Director: Matthew Paris-Irvine†
Assistant Music Director: Kelly Robinson
Apprentice Director: Honey Pham**
Stage Manager: Dustyn Wales
Assistant Stage Manager: Tori Popp†
Assistant Stage Manager: Katie Hoppa
Apprentice Stage Manager: Devon Helm
Child Supervisor: Bailey Chin

Cast: Jeremy Carver-James, Kira Chisholm, Duncan Cox, Julia Davis, Victoria Exconde, Aaron Hutton, Jessica Jones, Omar Alex Khan, Julia Kroft, Jeff Lillico, Elledyn Lount, Laura Olafson, Jeff Rivet, Rhea Rodych-Rasidescu†, Steve Ross, Justin Stadnyk†, Stephanie Sy, Chase Winnicky†

Musicians: Floyd Ricketts, Kelly Robinson, Steve Broadhurst, Julian Bradford, Larry Roy, Ryan Guth, Patricia Vanuci, Dave Lawton

19,461 ATTENDED 29 PERFORMANCES

Indecent

By Paula Vogel

Original Broadway Production Conceived
and Directed by Rebecca Taichman
Score and Original Music by Lisa Gutkin
and Aaron Halva

February 13 – March 8, 2025
PREVIEW • February 12

Director: Kelly Thornton
Vocal Director & Music Liaison: Grace Hrabí
Choreographer: Rachel Cooper
Set Designer: Scott Penner**
Costume Designer: Joseph Abetria†
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher**
Sound Designer: Justin Stadnyk†
Intimacy Director: Carly Rackal
Fight Director: Jacquie Loewen
Yiddish Cultural Consultant: Itay Zutra
Accent Coach: Alex Poch Goldin
Assistant Director: Cora Matheson
Apprentice Costume Designer: Amelia Carlson*
Stage Manager: Zahra Larche
Assistant Stage Manager: Angela Marshall
Apprentice Stage Manager: Tia Morann
Cast: Josh Bellan, Mariam Bernstein†, Andrew Cecon, Amy Lee†, Katherine Matlashewski, Dov Mickelson, Alex Poch Goldin
Musicians: Shiloh Hiebert, Myron Schultz, Orit Shimoni

SPONSORED BY THE ASPER FOUNDATION AND
GAIL ASPER FAMILY FOUNDATION

11,219 ATTENDED 26 PERFORMANCES



Cast of *Little Women*.
PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

Casey and Diana

By Nick Green

March 20 – April 12, 2025

PREVIEW • March 19

Director: Andrew Kushnir
Set & Costume Designer: Joshua Quinlan**
Lighting Designer: Logan Raju Cracknell**
Composer & Sound Designer: Ashley Au**
Fight Director: Geoff Scovell
Dialect Coach: Rebecca Cuthbertson
Assistant Director: Tara Rosling
Stage Manager: Michael Hart
Assistant Stage Manager: Samantha Desiree
Apprentice Stage Manager: Samantha Sage

Cast: Sharon Bajer†, Noah Beemer,
Alicia Johnston†, Gloria Mampuya,
Gregory Prest, Catherine Wreford†

A co-production with Theatre Aquarius

11,370 ATTENDED 27 PERFORMANCES

Gregory Prest in *Casey and Diana*.
PHOTO BY DAHLIA KATZ



ELEVATE: Manaaji'idiwin

By David McLeod

April 24 – May 17, 2025

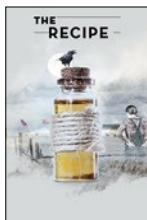
PREVIEW • April 23

Director / Dramaturg: Herbie Barnes
Set Designer: William Layton
Costume Designer: Amy McPherson
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson**
Sound Designer & Composer: Jason Burnstick
Fight Director: Rick Skene
Mural Designer: Peatr Thomas
Assistant Director: Cali Sproule
Assistant Dramaturg: Melissa Langdon
Assistant Lighting Designer: Monique Gauthier
Stage Manager: Ridge Romanishen
Assistant Stage Manager: Katie Schmidt†
Apprentice Stage Manager: Chance Sabados
Cast: Kevin Klassen, Melissa Langdon,
Nolan Moberly

11,027 ATTENDED 25 PERFORMANCES

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE PRODUCTIONS

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE SEASON SPONSOR: **BMO FINANCIAL GROUP**



The Recipe

By Armin Wiebe

November 7 – 23, 2024

PREVIEW • November 6

Director: Ardith Boxall†
Set Designer: Brian Perchaluk***
Costume Designer: Daina Leitold
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher**
Sound Designer: Ashley Au**
Fight Director: Jacquie Loewen
Intimacy Director: Aria Evans
Voice & Dialect Coach: Tom Soares
Assistant Lighting Designer: Anika Binding†
Apprentice Director: Alan Fehr*
Stage Manager: Zahra Larche
Apprentice Stage Manager: Devon Helm

Cast: Toby Hughes, Aaron Pridham,
Rhea Rodych-Rasidescu†, Amanda Shymko

A co-production with Theatre Projects Manitoba

3,855 ATTENDED 18 PERFORMANCES

Mix Tapes From My Mom

Written & Performed by Cory Wojcik

January 30 – February 15, 2025

PREVIEW • January 29

Director: Trish Cooper
Music Director: Rusty Robot
Set Designer: Daina Leitold
Lighting Designer: Scott Henderson**
Stage Manager: Margaret Brook
Apprentice Stage Manager: Samantha Sage
Cast: Rusty Robot, Christy Taronno, Cory Wojcik

4,090 ATTENDED 18 PERFORMANCES

King James

By Rajiv Joseph

March 6 – 22, 2025

PREVIEW • March 5

Director: Ray Strachan†
Set Designer: Shauna Jones**
Costume Designer: Ksenia Broda-Milian****
Lighting Designer: Hugh Conacher**
Sound Designer: Kevin Ramberran
Apprentice Director: Key Caguioa*
Stage Manager: Ridge Romanishen
Assistant Stage Manager: Jazz Marcelino†

Cast: Justin Fry, Eric Miracle

SPONSORED BY **THE ASPER FOUNDATION**

2,764 ATTENDED 18 PERFORMANCES

Murder for Two

Book and Music by Joe Kinosian
Book and Lyrics by Kellen Blair

April 3 – 19, 2025

PREVIEW • April 2

Director: Chase Winnicky†
Music Director: Paul Rodermond
Movement Director: Rebekah Jones
Set Designer: Adam Parboosingh**
Costume Designer: Stephanie Maureen Petkau
Lighting Designer: Larry Isacoff†
Voice & Dialect Coach: Tom Soares†
Assistant Set Designer: Anika Binding†
Stage Manager: Sadie Wannamaker
Apprentice Stage Manager: Larissa Shabaga

Cast: Duncan Cox, Melanie Whyte

4,286 ATTENDED 19 PERFORMANCES

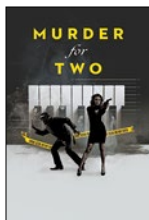


Eric Miracle and Justin Fry in
King James. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

**Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.

*Position funded through the Jean Murray – Moray Sinclair Theatre Apprenticeship Program †Past Jean Murray – Moray Sinclair Scholarship award winner ‡Past Naomi Levin Theatre Scholarship award winner

REGIONAL TOUR



Royal MTC and PlayNow.com were pleased to present our Regional Tour of *Murder for Two*.

Murder for Two

Book and Music by Joe Kinosian
Book and Lyrics by Kellen Blair

February 20 - March 18, 2025

Director: Chase Winnicky†
Music Director: Paul Rodermond
Movement Director: Rebekah Jones
Set Designer: Adam Parboosingh**
Costume Designer: Stephanie Maureen Petkau
Lighting Designer: Larry Isacoff†
Voice & Dialect Coach: Tom Soares†
Assistant Set Designer: Anika Binding†
Stage Manager: Sadie Wannamaker
Apprentice Stage Manager: Larissa Shabaga
Tour Technical Director: Josh Gehman
Tour Technician: Carter Happy

Cast: Duncan Cox, Melanie Whyte

3,228 ATTENDED 20 PERFORMANCES

FEB 20 | Morden • Southern Manitoba Concerts
FEB 21 | Portage la Prairie • Prairie Fusion Arts & Entertainment
FEB 22 | Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village
FEB 23 | Lac du Bonnet • Winnipeg River Arts Council
FEB 26 | Atikokan • Atikokan Entertainment Series
FEB 27 | Sioux Lookout • Sioux Hudson Entertainment Series
FEB 28 | Dryden • Dryden Entertainment Series
MAR 1 | Red Lake • Wilderness Entertainment Series
MAR 3 | Kenora • Lake of the Woods Concert Group
MAR 4 | Steinbach • Steinbach Arts Council
MAR 6 | Snow Lake • Aurora Borealis Arts Council
MAR 7 | Flin Flon • Flin Flon Arts Council
MAR 9 | Strathclair • Strathclair & District Theatre Committee, Ltd.
MAR 11 | Minnedosa • Minnedosa Performing Arts Committee
MAR 12 | Deloraine • Southwest Showcase Inc.
MAR 13 | Souris • Souris District Arts Council
MAR 14 | Carman • Golden Prairie Arts Council
MAR 15 | Crystal City • Parklane Theatre Committee
MAR 17 | MacGregor • Heartland Recreation Commission
MAR 18 | Gimli • Kiwanis Club of Gimli and District

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FESTIVALS



Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival

The Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival ended its 37th festival on a high note, literally, with a Broadway singalong at Old Market Square. The Fringe hosted performing companies from near and far, bringing Winnipeg together to enjoy indie theatre in a city-wide celebration.

The festival featured 148 indoor companies and 1,230 performances, including 126 sell-outs. Total indoor attendance was 81,224, a 13% increase over last year. This year's Fringe returned \$811,206 in box office revenue to the performing companies.

The Manitoba Association of Playwrights (MAP) presented the 2024 Harry S. Rintoul Award for Best New Manitoba Play to *A Taste of Blood in the Mouth* by Kinsey Donald. The honourable mention went to *The Mailroom* by JHG Creative (Cuinn Joseph, Connor Joseph, Monique Gauthier & Ian Ingram).

SUPPORTED BY **MANITOBA LIQUOR MARTS**

2024 WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL STATISTICS

TICKETED ATTENDANCE • 81,224
OUTDOOR ATTENDANCE • 40-50,000 (APPROX.)
KIDS FRINGE ATTENDANCE • 2,522
KIDS VENUE TICKETED ATTENDANCE • 3,317
BOX OFFICE REVENUE • \$811,206
NUMBER OF PERFORMING COMPANIES • 148
NUMBER OF INDOOR PERFORMANCES • 1,230
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS • 789

Pimootayowin: A Festival of New Work

Pimootayowin: A Festival of New Work held its 4th year of free public play readings at the Tom Hendry Warehouse. The five-day festival, which ran from September 23-27, 2024, was the culmination of months of hard work from this year's Pimootayowin Creators Circle cohort. Led by Governor General Award-winning playwright Ian Ross, the Pimootayowin Creators Circle supports the creation and development of new plays by Manitoba-based Indigenous artists.

The presented works included *The Buffalo in the Room* by Erin McGregor, *Anyway* by Gabriel Daniels, *Pieces* by Mark Head, *Love Louis* by Victoria Perrie, *In the Shadows Beyond the Pines* by Rhonda Apetagon and *Big Wind: Is That an Indian Agent I Smell?* by Jordan McPeck. Rhonda Apetagon will continue to refine her piece, which will be featured in our 2025/26 season at the Tom Hendry Warehouse.

This year, the Pimootayowin Creators Circle celebrated the world premiere of *ELEVATE: Manaaji'idiwin* by David McLeod. Developed in 2020, *ELEVATE* is the second play from the Pimootayowin Creators Circle to be produced at the John Hirsch Mainstage.

The next Pimootayowin: A Festival of New Work will be presented from September 22-27, 2025.

SPONSORED BY **TD READY COMMITMENT**



Literary Development

Royal MTC is proud to continue its commitment to the creation and development of new work by local and national artists. Since 2020 the Pimootayowin Creators Circle has brought together six storytellers under the leadership of Governor General Award-winning playwright Ian Ross to develop playwriting skills, culminating in public presentations of works in development. The 2024/25 cohort consisted of Andrea Friesen, Dannielle Morrisseau, Donnie Osler, Julia Ross, Kirby Fults and Martha Troian. The Pimootayowin Creators Circle was generously sponsored by **TD Ready Commitment**.

Royal MTC provided additional funding and workshops to three plays, *The Buffalo in the Room* by Erin McGregor, *Big Wind: Is there an Indian Agent in the Room?* by Jordan McPeck, and *In the Shadow Beyond the Pines* by Rhonda Apetagon which will receive its world premiere in the 2025/26 Tom Hendry Warehouse season.

In preparation for the 2024/25 season, Royal MTC provided development funding and dramaturgy for *Little Women* by Jordi Mand and *ELEVATE: Manaqi'idiwin* by David McLeod. We continued support for *Intrepid* by Alex Poch Goldin and provided new seed funding to Christopher Morris for the development of *Katya & Marichka*, a new play in development by Human Cargo Theatre. To support additional national projects, Royal MTC contributed to The Musical Stage Company's new incubation initiative which provided a post-premiere developmental workshop for *Kelly v. Kelly*, with book by Sara Farb and music and lyrics by Britta Johnson.

We are thrilled to have continued the development of *Rizal*, a new musical by Joseph Aragon, with a 10-day workshop in November 2024. Led by director and dramaturg Nina Lee Aquino, this workshop focused on ongoing dramaturgy and the addition of new musical numbers.



Rizal workshop company in November 2024



Free public reading of Rizal in November 2024

National Mentorship Program

Since 2020, Royal MTC has been dedicated to the development of local Manitoban theatre artists by providing networking support on a national scale. Designed to overcome the geographic isolation of the prairies and to build a web of connections and opportunities, the National Mentorship Program celebrated its fifth year of nurturing the brightest emerging local talent. Following the selection of ten mentees, and pairing them with mentors across Canada, one-on-one meetings took place between January and June of 2025.

2024/25 NATIONAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

MENTEES	MENTORS
Alba Ignis.....	Michelle Bohn
Ava Darrach-Gagnon.....	Eda Holmes
Devin Lowry.....	Stafford Perry
Hera Nalam.....	Marie Beath Badian
Joshua Pinette.....	Ron Pederson
Julia Davis.....	Deantha Edmunds
Lee Banaga.....	Genny Sermonia
Monique Gauthier.....	Victor Pokinko
Paul DeGurse.....	Bob Foster
Victoria Exconde.....	Julio Fuentes



Kevin Klassen and Nolan Moberly in *ELEVATE: Manaqi'idiwin*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

Pre-Show Chats

This informal lecture series is free to attend for ticket-holders to 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. Over the course of the season, **211 PATRONS** joined us to enjoy the following:

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG • Fight Director extraordinaire Jacquie Loewen spoke about her role and gave some bonus information about working on *The Recipe*.

LITTLE WOMEN • Director Katie German talked about the design collaboration process and script workshops, and gave the audience some “Easter eggs” to look out for.

WAITRESS • Kelly Robinson, Assistant Music Director, covered the audition and rehearsal process, contributions of a music director, some tidbits about playing in the band, and some musical phrases to listen for.

INDECENT • Itay Zutra gave insight from his perspective as Yiddish consultant about the language, history, and culture.

CASEY AND DIANA • After a mini-tour of MTC’s workshops, activist Jim Kane shared his journey with HIV/AIDS and the history of organizations in Manitoba.

ELEVATE • MTC’s Technical Director Donnie Osler revealed incidences of stage magic from throughout the season and introduced audience members to his important but often mis-understood role.

Talkbacks

Post-show, actors returned to the stage for a question-and-answer session with the audience. Talkbacks were hosted after the first Tuesday evening performance and second Wednesday matinee at the Mainstage, and after the first Tuesday evening performance and Thursday matinee at the Warehouse. At a total of 21 public Talkbacks, over **1,000 PATRONS** are estimated to have participated.

Our Talkback Facilitator volunteers were Aaron Penner, Brandon Christopher, Christopher Brauer, Jack Fraser, Jeff Hirsch and Katrina Dunn.

Low Vision Friendly Performance (New!)

For the first time, Royal MTC designated a production as “low vision friendly.” These are shows that can be well-understood, at least 90%, by dialogue alone. Written and audio pre-show and intermission introductions outline set and costume design, give examples of the actors’ voices, and pre-emptively explain any sight gags so that all audience members are in on the joke. These can be listened to on our website in advance and via QR code at the venue. The introduction to LVF shows was available by the Tuesday after opening, which means that no matter which performance you attend after that point, you can access this accessibility feature. This year Education and Enrichment Manager Ksenia Broda-Milian created this material for *King James*.

Relaxed Performance

Royal MTC offered a relaxed performance of *Little Women* at the Mainstage December 6, 2024. This is the sixth season Royal MTC has engaged in this accessibility initiative, which is designed to welcome audience members who would benefit from a more relaxed environment, including those on the autism spectrum. A detailed pre-show announcement prepares audience members for content and 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.

Open Caption Performance

Royal MTC’s Open Caption Performance of *The Play That Goes Wrong* was offered on October 18, 2024. An electronic text display was positioned at the in the balcony to show that section of the audience what the actors were saying or singing and describe sound effects on stage. This benefits not only those patrons who are Deaf or hard of hearing, but also enhances the performance for the hearing audience as a whole who may have missed a word, phrase, joke or lyric.



ASL-Interpreted Performances

Royal MTC offered American Sign Language Interpreted performances of *Little Women* on December 8, 2024 and *Casey and Diana* on April 10, 2025. ASL users and members of the Deaf community sit in seats with clear sightlines to take in the interpreter and the action onstage.

Audio Described Performance

Royal MTC offered Audio Described performances of *The Recipe* on November 21, 2024 (in partnership with Theatre Projects Manitoba), *Waitress* on January 29, 2025 and *Murder for Two* on April 16, 2025. During audio described performances, audience members who are blind or have low vision use a receiver and earpiece to hear about the physical action and visual elements of the production. These descriptions are voiced live, in real time, by a trained describer from Vocal Image Ensemble Winnipeg (VIEW).

★★★★★ 1/2

“An estimate of one laugh per minute would be too low”

– FREE PRESS



Andrew MacDonald-Smith and Joel Schaefer
in *The Play That Goes Wrong*. PHOTO BY MANC PRICE

Scholarships and Apprenticeships

Royal MTC's 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 are looking for opportunities to gain experience in professional theatre.

Royal MTC awarded a total of **\$32,800** for the 2024/2025 academic year/theatre season. Our generous patrons donated **\$47,917** online and at “pass-the-hat” performances of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, with \$5,000 matched by the Zita and Mark Bernstein Foundation.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Victoria Alexander	Veronica Ford	Lauren Minaker
Aurora Andrews	Zoe Gagnon	Brent Mowat
Julia Armstrong	Cyan Gargol	Yasmine Ravandi
Eliza Binding	William Green	Andrew Riley Singh
Victoria Brimble	Taylor Izon	Danika Robb
Kirstin Caguioa	Keira Jordan	Sarah Rossen
Josh Calabio	Alora Kempthorne	Carolyn Schroeder
Samantha Campbell	Josephine Long	Natalie Stefanson
Saraya Clayton	Artie Lorraine	Erin Teodoro
Mad Delaat	Anyetta	Alissa Watson
Chael Donald	Macdonald-Christensen	Elio Zarrillo
Kinsey Donald	Rowan Macrae	

APPRENTICESHIP RECIPIENTS

Key Caguioa – Apprentice Director for *King James*
 Amelia Carlson – Apprentice Costume Designer for *Indecent*
 Alan Fehr – Apprentice Director for *The Recipe*
 Jojo Garton – Apprentice Costume Designer for *The Recipe*
 Rochelle Kives – Apprentice Director for *Little Women*
 Honey Pham – Apprentice Director for *Waitress*
 Adriana Rodas-Narvaez – Props Apprentice
 Adele Rawluk – Props Apprentice
 Sarah Struthers – Apprentice Costume Designer for *Little Women*

Many past recipients of scholarships and apprenticeships were involved in the season. 27 worked as actors, crew and creative team members on productions, while 7 past recipients are on MTC staff.

Assistant Roles

Royal MTC is committed to the cultivation of local talent by providing opportunities for early career artists to refine and strengthen their craft. Assistants work with established theatre artists to broaden their skills and obtain professional experience.

Anika Binding – Assistant Lighting Designer for *The Recipe* and *Little Women*
 Anika Binding – Assistant Set Designer for *Murder for Two*
 Matthew Paris-Irvine – Assistant Director for *Waitress*
 Kelly Robinson – Assistant Music Director for *Waitress*
 Rayna Masterton – Assistant Director for *Little Women*
 Cora Matheson – Assistant Director for *Indecent*
 Monique Gauthier – Assistant Lighting Designer for *ELEVATE: Manaqi'idiwin*
 Cali Sproule – Assistant Director for *ELEVATE: Manaqi'idiwin*

Student Shadow Days (New!)

This program allows a student in grade 10-12 to spend a day at MTC where they receive a private tour, time with representatives of the Artistic and Production departments to ask their questions and learn how things operate in a large theatre, and a special experience relevant to their interests, such as attending a readthrough on the first day of rehearsal, seeing a matinee while listening to the stage manager on headset, or going on workshop visits with the set designer. Seven students from different schools had this experience:

Alex Schaeffer	Ava Michaluk	Larissa Lagasse	Tanya Chopra
Annika Wirth	Claire Ward	Parker Taylor	

Student Placement

In 2024/25, Royal MTC hosted a student from Seven Oaks Met School for a weekly placement from October – April. Grade 11 student Ehrian worked with Front of House Management, Communications, Education and Enrichment, and Development to help with administrative tasks, research, ushering shows and sourcing media contacts.

Enrichment Guides

Enrichment guides were compiled for all 10 shows of the Mainstage and Warehouse seasons and the Regional Tour. These guides were posted online for educators, students and all other patrons to provide extra insight into our productions. They included plot synopses, playwright biographies, contextual background, glossaries, suggested classroom activities for educators and/or discussion prompts, and links to other resources including books, articles, videos, and podcasts. Creators and contributors included Ksenia Broda-Milian, Tala Gammon, Patrick Derksen, Lori Tully, Elliot Lazar and Sarah Farrant.

Play on Words

The Winnipeg Public Library's talented Librarians provide amazing **Explore More** reading lists of resources that help you better connect with the play. In 2024/25, librarian-recommended reading lists were created for *Little Women*, *Waitress*, *Indecent*, *Casey and Diana* and *Elevate: Manaqi'idiwin*. These lists may be accessed on MTC's website for anyone who wants to dive deeper.

Facility Tours

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre John Hirsch Mainstage is a National Historic site recognized for its contribution to Canadian theatre and for its unique Brutalist architecture. Facility tours provide a look behind the scenes at Royal MTC to gain a unique perspective on how we produce plays. Tours may visit the carpentry shop, wardrobe, props department, and more! As a special event during Culture Days, MTC welcomed over **170 PEOPLE** for mini-tours on September 28, 2024. During the season, we gave tours to approximately **135 PEOPLE** from 7 school and community groups.



“A slice of life with a dollop of sugar and a heavy wallop of emotional truth, *Waitress* fills a tall order”

– FREE PRESS



Stephanie Sy, Elledyn Lount
and the cast of *Waitress*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

NextGen Fringers

NextGen Fringers brought together **29 YOUTH** aged 16-23 who love the Fringe, or had never been and wanted to see what it's all about! Each got a pass for up to 6 free tickets to Fringe plays, opportunities to win prizes, and joined gatherings to connect with their theatre-going peers. The NextGen Fringers posted on social media to spread the word about the Fringe to other young people, contributed to a sticky-note wall at MTC with their discoveries and tips about the festival, and sent in their Fringe Faves to be shared by MTC. This year's cohort included 7 first-time Fringers.

PARTICIPANTS

Al Gilbert	Jessica Grosshans	Phil Genest
Alora Kempthorne	Katelyn Mestito-Dao	Quinn McMullan
Amandeep Saini	Keira Jordan	Rodrigo Cordova
Avalon Fenwick	Kevin Mannness	Romi Haims
Emily Adam	Lauryn Mestito-Dao	Sam Campbell
Emily Cortez	Mad Delaat	Semira Abolore
Gabriella Shim	Marc Fontaine	Simon Hathout Willard
Hannah Schaeffer	Marcus Bellec	Victoria Tarasiuk
Hope Eagles	Menal Kashalo	William Green
Indie Dufour	Mikaël Beaudry	

WHAT NEXTGEN FRINGERS HAD TO SAY

"I had an amazing time this year going to shows on my own AND with friends. Getting the 6-show pass was exactly what I needed to go out and see shows I might not have considered seeing otherwise. I hope to see this program continue to thrive."

"This year's Fringe has truly been such a special and memorable experience and I've made connections with so many wonderful people. Theatre is such a beautiful thing and I just love that the Winnipeg Fringe Festival creates the opportunity for people to immerse themselves in accessible quality theater. It is so incredible and heart-warming to witness the growing diversity of stories that the Fringe is putting onstage."

"I had a great time at the Fringe this year! The NextGen Fringe program allowed me to see a wider variety of shows than I would usually see and helped me develop a sense of what kinds of shows I should look for in the future."

"I got to connect with other young theatre lovers like myself, which helped me feel super welcomed and involved in the theatre community! I've felt immersed in the mutual love for theatre that all us Fringers share. It's just overall been incredible and enlightening, especially for my first Fringe!"



Fringe outdoor stage.
PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN



NextGen Fringers. PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN



NextGen Fringers. PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

Pathways to the Fringe (New!)

We are halfway through this program that bridges our seasons. Pathways aims to give participants the tools to be confident in presenting a show at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival. A dedicated group of adults from different backgrounds meet one Saturday each month from January to October for a workshop on a different skill; we hope they'll enter the lottery in November to try for a spot in the 2026 Fringe! This program is facilitated by Fringe Festival Manager Tori Popp and Education and Enrichment Manager Ksenia Broda-Milian, and the inaugural cohort are:

Quinn McMullan	Conrad Padilla	David White
Deborah Baschuk	Heather Innis	Cecil Dion
Evan Martin	Brynn Wiens	Cyan Gargol
Chloe Crockford	Richard Campbell	Romi Haims
Phenix Rock	Bennette Villones	

Guests in winter/spring 2025 were:

Ellen Peterson on playwriting
Gwen Collins on non-script-based creation
Ksenia Broda-Milian on design
Theresa Thomson, Jessy Arden and Kevin Ramberran on producing

Upcoming topics will include marketing, venues and technical skills.



Backstage Pass

This season-long program gave Grade 11 and 12 students an in-depth look at theatre. Students attended six theatre workshops led by members of Manitoba's professional theatre community followed by a matinee performance of the current Mainstage production. Students were selected based on their application and teacher recommendations. **16 PARTICIPATED** from 14 schools.

PARTICIPANTS

Eli Kanhai	Kai Hildebrand	Sophie Moore
Finn Deck	Krissadie Armstrong	Tayla Appler
Gabrielle Landry	Lava Wong	Tessa Klassen
Haley Garroni	Marley Passante	Vishwa Mistry
Isaac Cotter	Mia Smart	Xenia Tambakis
Joshua Brown	Nathan Perkins	

BACKSTAGE PASS WORKSHOPS

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG • Brendan McKeen and Donnie Osler took the participants through Royal MTC's hidden spaces to meet our talented craftspeople followed by Education and Enrichment Manager and designer Ksenia Broda-Milian guiding students in set design discussion and creation.

LITTLE WOMEN • Fight director and performer Jacquie Loewen helped students see the importance of crafting fight scenes that drive the play's action forward and taught them some impressive moves.

WAITRESS • Secrets of theatre magic were revealed by Kari Hagness who shared stories from her time as the MTC Head of Props, and encouraged participants in creating faux food like you'd find at Joe's Pie Diner from unconventional materials.

INDECENT • In a theatre career rotation, the teens experienced mock auditions with feedback from Artistic Associate Melissa Langdon, played "stage management Olympics" with SM Katie Robinson Hoppa, and devised campaigns for next season's production of *Elf* under the guidance of Sue Caughlin and Rachelle Blatta from our Marketing and Communications team.

CASEY AND DIANA • Education Programs Assistant and actor Honey Pham took the students through a vocal technique class and introduced the connection between the voice and the body in conveying emotion.

ELEVATE: MANAAJI'IDIWIN • The participants dove into the creative process of writing for the stage with the guidance of playwright Elio Zarillo in "playwriting boot camp."

FEEDBACK FROM THE STUDENTS

"The BSP program overall has been a true privilege to be a part of. Every month it enriched my love and passion for theatre and meeting so many professionals really showed how far that love can take you."

"I absolutely loved this program. The chance to learn about all different sides of theatre and where we can go has been really interesting and fun."

"Overall I've learned so many amazing things during this season and I'm so grateful for all my teachers and peers that have brought me so much knowledge, joy, and theatre creativity."

"I was already planning on being a playwright, but this even more cemented it."

"I'm very grateful to have been able to be part of this program. It has been very inspiring to be able to consume so many pieces and forms of art."

"I have met so many amazing people through this program and it has helped me confirm that theatre is something I want to stick with for the rest of my life."

"I learned so much about what goes on behind the scenes in theatre. It has been awesome!"

"I really enjoyed being able to see everyone's talent and hard work."

"I loved the amount of creative freedom we had."

"This program is very fun and I particularly appreciate the options and the inclusive atmosphere. I love that everyone is made to feel equally welcome."

"Our instructor was amazing and provided so much great knowledge. I can't wait to continue to grow."

"The tour really put into perspective how much goes into a show that isn't the acting. I've also never been so sure of what I want to do with my life."

"Theatre people are so nice."



Students making faux food props. PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

Young Expressions Program

Royal MTC's Young Expressions Program (YEP) students were amongst the first to see our Mainstage shows. They were invited to broaden their minds, sharpen their critical eyes, converse with theatre reviewers and artists, challenge their preconceptions, and express their opinions. Students also had the opportunity to bring a guest to see *Murder for Two* and were able to experience the production with their friends and family. The season culminated with them creating a zine together.

16 PARTICIPANTS were chosen based on their application and teacher recommendations. They came from 11 schools.

PARTICIPANTS

Anderson Green	Kali Ann Kosolowsky	Phillipe Genest
Angelica Hjordleifson	Kira de Castro	Sam Elkin
Ehrian Fedaris	Lauren Green	Sylvia Press
Emma Grosshans	Luisa Read	Tatiana Tuazon
Gray Ward	Menal Kashalo	
Isabel Haderer	Natalie Paterson	

2024/25 Young Expressions special guests:

- Melissa Langdon, Actor and MTC's Artistic Associate
- Ben Waldman, Winnipeg Free Press Theatre Reviewer
- Dr Jessica Riley, theatre historian, analyst, and dramaturge
- Brian Drader and Daniel Thau-Eleff, leadership of Manitoba Association of Playwrights



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 2024/25 season, **883 MEMBERS PURCHASED A TOTAL OF 2,317 TICKETS** throughout the year, an increase of over 800 tickets from the previous year.

Theatre for Young Audiences

Royal MTC schedules student-only matinee performances for selected productions. This year, MTC offered student-only matinees for six productions: *The Play that Goes Wrong* (2 performances), *Little Women* (2 performances), *Waitress*, *Indecent*, *Casey and Diana* and *Murder for Two*. A total of 3,805 students attended student-only matinee performances and 3,661 students attended regular performances with their school, along with 197 students using promo codes specific to their university classes, for a total of **7,272 STUDENTS** at shows this season. Many students and teachers stayed for a talkback with actors after attending a performance. **SPONSORED BY CANADA LIFE**

TESTIMONIALS FROM TEACHERS

"Everyone was very helpful and we enjoyed the experience. Some students checked out booking opportunities for other performances because they enjoyed themselves so much."

"I have been bringing students for over 20 years now and love to witness how much the students love the performances."

"I was grateful to bring some students to their first ever professional show/live musical. The cost was incredibly reasonable and these opportunities are so important. Kudos to MTC, Ksenia & the team who make this happen, as well as the cast and crew of the incredible show."

"Everything about the evening was mesmerizing, from the helpful, friendly staff and volunteers, to the pre-show, to the set and performances. It was a delight!"

"I really appreciated how applicable some of the activities [in the Enrichment Guide] were to the real world for my students. They sparked great discussion around why the play is still relevant today."

"I am incredibly grateful to be able to expose my students to such extraordinary theatre."

"Not only do the performances provide entertainment, but they also challenge young minds to consider questions outside of the curricular connections of storytelling, expression, and performance itself. In some cases, it plants seeds for a future outside our school walls. That's something very special to witness."

"We LOVE coming to Royal MTC every year. Thank you for making this experience relatively affordable and so welcoming to students."

"Theatre and literature are the great champion of humanity. The Arts provoke ideas and inspire action - that is power. Long live theatre!"





Royal MTC at the Pride Parade in June 2024

Connecting with our Community

This past season, Royal MTC renewed efforts to deepen connections with the larger community.

In June 2024, Royal MTC participated in its first Pride Parade with staff, volunteers, actors and more. Despite several delays and extreme temperatures, spirits were high and the community was excited to see Royal MTC in the parade.

Royal MTC was honoured to participate in Fleur de Villes ARTISTE collaboration at The Leaf in January 2025 that celebrated Manitoba's vibrant art scene. This floral display captured an iconic scene from *Indecent* featuring two women sharing an intimate moment. Special thanks and congratulations to Silver Heights Florists Christine Lyons and Brian Cantlon for their inspired design and winning Best in Show!

In February 2025, Put a Yid on It - Festival of Yiddish Culture, presented by Rady JCC featured the cast from *Indecent* performing songs from the production.

Royal MTC held a Fireside Chat for staff and board members hosted Mitch Bourbonniere, the Community Outreach Liaison for the Downtown Community Safety Partnership, also a founding member of Bear Clan Patrol, who talked about safety and how our neighbourhood exists around us.

In February 2025, a new role was created: Director of Community Engagement and Audience Development. Colleen Hrabí stepped into this position to help reach and engage community groups and people who are not often represented in our audiences.

The production of *Casey and Diana* was about more than just the show itself and sparked important conversations and real connections. By working alongside groups like Nine Circles, the Rainbow Resource Centre, Klinik and others, Royal MTC became a place for both reflection and support. A quiet room was set up for patrons to reflect and showcased community quilts; on display was a memorial in honor of Dr. Dick Smith, Manitoba's first AIDS doctor plus a banner of red ribbons in the lobby - a symbol of our ongoing support. Royal MTC made sure the experience was open to as many people as possible, with accessible ticket pricing, a special reception, learning resources, and a partnership with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) to truly honour the legacy and lived experiences of those affected by HIV/AIDS.

ELEVATE: Manaajidiwin was another highlight. Royal MTC was honoured to welcome Indigenous community leaders on opening night, and worked together to create an Indigenous medicine wheel, which stayed at the theatre during the run and was then planted in front of the John Hirsch Mainstage as a lasting symbol. We also implemented Indigenous Ticket Pricing - offering deeply-discounted tickets for anyone who identifies as Indigenous or Metis. A dinner-and-show deal with Feast Bistro and Café featured delicious Indigenous dishes, and guests enjoyed Fête's sweetgrass ice cream at the show. Royal MTC also continued a partnership with Manito Ahbee Festival, including special promotions and a personal tour for festival performers.

For the run of *King James* at the Warehouse, Royal MTC teamed up with the Winnipeg Sea Bears to promote the show during basketball season, and partnered with St. James Burger to create and promote the first theatre-themed burger.

In the spring a crew of staff and board members participated in community wide clean up with the Exchange Biz District.

Royal MTC took pride in showcasing local businesses at the bar, serving up only 🍁 Canadian brands - including popular local mainstays like Fête Ice Cream, Empty Cup, Cranked Energy Bars, Little Brown Jug and Torque Brewing to name a few.

All in all, it's been an exciting year full of new partnerships, fresh faces in the audience, and many reasons to celebrate our growing community.



Stephanie Sy with the Fête cookie sold for the run of *Waitress*



The Clan Mothers at *ELEVATE: Manaajidiwin* with Playwright David McLeod, Elder Barb Nepinak and Artistic Director Kelly Thornton



Fleur de Villes ARTISTE collaboration of *Indecent* at The Leaf.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Black and White Ball

A NIGHT IN TECHNICOLOUR...

On Saturday, November 16, more than 400 guests attended the Black & White - and technicolour - Ball in support of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. Held for the first time at the Manitoba Museum's Alloway Hall, guests were welcomed by Royal MTC artists and emcees Justin Stadnyk and Rochelle Kives into a room awash with bright, beautiful colour. Guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal, a rollicking live auction and dancing into the early hours of the morning.

On behalf of the artists supported by this fundraising event, we are deeply grateful to all the guests, sponsors, corporate table purchasers, donors and volunteers for creating another unforgettable evening.

Royal MTC invites audiences to the theatre to share in the act of imagining. Thank you for making this season possible.

Congratulations to Eddy Morin, winner of the **Fillmore Riley** Vacation Prize!



Members of the 2024 Black & White Ball Committee

L TO R: Dana Plett, Antonio Buccini, Victoria Taylor, Karen Duha, Brad McCabe, Kathryn Gompf, Samantha Duha, Ryan Leech, Rachel Nedelec, Colleen Kroeker, Elsebeth Hansen-Kriening & Jenny-Lou Ryan.

NOT PRESENT: Eden Jamieson, Andrea Mancini, Rhonda Plett & Shelly Smith-Hines



2024 Black & White Ball Volunteers

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

Big City All Star Band
The Manitoba Museum
Our incredibly hardworking volunteers
and Royal MTC staff

ATTENDANCE • 433

NET PROCEEDS • \$101,183.50

SPECIAL EVENTS

Royal MTC/MBA Lawyers Play



THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

The 2025 cast certainly had folks questioning their guest lists at our 32nd Lawyers Play, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Bringing their extraordinary skills to the Tom Hendry Warehouse, the cast had audiences in stitches during the May 7 - 10 run. Their brilliant wit and laugh-out-loud physical comedy brought audiences to their feet.

Cast entirely with Manitoba Bar Association members, the Lawyers Play is one of Royal MTC's largest fundraisers. Since its inception, this gala event has raised over \$1.1 million to support MTC and the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival.

Our deepest gratitude to our patrons, donors, advertisers and sponsors for supporting our efforts. We'd also like to extend sincere thanks to the talented cast and hardworking crew, as well as our many volunteers and committee members.

The Man Who Came to Dinner

By Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman

May 7-10, 2025

Director: Mariam Bernstein*
Set Designer: Shauna Jones
Wardrobe Coordinators: Thora Lamont, Heather Thorleifson & Jackie Van Winkle
Wigs Coordinator: Nico Pielou
Lighting Designer: Adam Parboosingh
Assistant Lighting Designer: Darlene Dela Cruz
Audio: Tim Clark
Electrician: Evan King
Stage Manager: Chuck McEwen
Assistant Stage Manager: Devon Helm
Assistant Producer: Tori Popp

Cast: Gail Asper, Clair Cerilli, Paula Ethans, Nancy Fazenda, Reid Girard, Caleigh Glawson, Cynthia Hiebert-Simkin, Joan Holmstrom, Peter Kingsley, David Kroft, Jerritt Lipski, Hayley Main, Jim McLandress, Jeff Palamar, Jodi Plenert, Brad Regehr, Jaime Rosin, Mike Segstro, Boris Senchuk, Heather Wadsworth

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Sandi Phillips

ATTENDANCE • 1,071

NET PROCEEDS • \$12,910

PHOTOS BY DAVE SWIECICKI



The cast of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*



Artistic Director Kelly Thornton and Manitoba Bar Association Secretary Treasurer Bryton Moen



Clair Cerilli and Brad Regehr in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*



Jeff Palamar, Heather Wadsworth and Mike Segstro in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*

*The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance-Opera-Theatre Policy.

★★★★½

“A welcome dose of comedy gold”

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Many thanks to our generous donors who made a difference with a gift during our 2024/25 season!

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“Both actors are in top form”

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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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Yude Henteleff, Advisory Council Member, former member of MTC Board of Trustees

Ryan Kraemer, Fringe volunteer

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PHOTO BY DAVE SWIECICKI

*Denotes past employee

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§Fondly Remembered

FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position AS AT MAY 31, 2025

	OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND	STABILIZATION FUND	SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
ASSETS							
CURRENT							
Cash and cash equivalents	3,938,261	—	—	—	122,205	4,060,466	3,622,881
Accounts and grants receivable	1,299,745	—	—	—	—	1,299,745	1,398,842
Due from MTC Foundation	54,134	—	—	—	—	54,134	—
Prepaid expenses	461,130	—	—	—	—	461,130	563,364
Due to/(from) funds	(1,896,087)	332,233	110,269	1,476,385	(22,800)	—	—
	3,857,183	332,233	110,269	1,476,385	99,405	5,875,475	5,585,086
CAPITAL ASSETS							
	—	1,892,917	—	—	—	1,892,917	1,752,530
	3,857,183	2,225,150	110,269	1,476,385	99,405	7,768,392	7,337,616
LIABILITIES							
CURRENT							
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	597,137	—	—	—	—	597,137	516,628
Deferred revenue	3,260,046	—	—	—	—	3,260,046	3,073,460
	3,857,183	—	—	—	—	3,857,183	3,590,088
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS							
	—	2,076,847	—	—	—	2,076,847	1,923,969
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS							
	—	—	—	—	99,405	99,405	81,599
	3,857,183	2,076,847	—	—	99,405	6,033,435	5,595,656
NET ASSETS							
Internally restricted	—	—	110,269	—	—	110,269	131,939
Invested in capital assets	—	148,303	—	—	—	148,303	173,400
Unrestricted	—	—	—	1,476,385	—	1,476,385	1,436,621
	—	148,303	110,269	1,476,385	—	1,734,957	1,741,960
	3,857,183	2,225,150	110,269	1,476,385	99,405	7,768,392	7,337,616

Statement of Operations & Changes in Net Assets AS AT MAY 31, 2025

	OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND	STABILIZATION FUND	SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
Revenue	11,234,340	233,028	—	—	32,800	11,500,168	12,256,693
Expenses	11,124,576	258,123	91,670	—	32,800	11,507,169	12,284,872
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	109,764	(25,095)	(91,670)	—	—	(7,001)	(28,179)
Net assets, beginning of year	—	173,398	131,939	1,436,621	—	1,741,958	1,770,137
Interfund transfers	(109,764)	—	70,000	39,764	—	—	—
Net assets, end of year	—	148,303	110,269	1,476,385	—	1,734,957	1,741,958

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Catherine Wreford and Gregory Prest
in *Casey and Diana*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT



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Katherine Matlashewski
and Amy Lee in *Indecent*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT