

# ***LIFE OF PI***

Based on the novel by Yann Martel

Adapted by Lolita Chakrabarti

Directed by HAYSAM KADRI

## **PRODUCTION DATES:**

Edmonton Rehearsals	<b>August 19, 2025</b>
Edmonton Preview(s)	<b>September 13, 2025</b>
Edmonton Opening	<b>September 18, 2025</b>
Edmonton Closing	<b>October 5, 2025</b>
<i>Unpaid Hiatus</i>	<b>October 6-12, 2025 (TBC)</b>
Winnipeg Rehearsals (TBC)	<b>October 7, 2025 (TBC)</b>
Winnipeg Preview(s)	<b>October 15, 2025</b>
Winnipeg Opening	<b>October 16, 2025</b>
Winnipeg Closing	<b>November 8, 2025</b>

## **IN-PERSON AUDITIONS in WINNIPEG:**

**April 10, 2025**

## **IN-PERSON AUDITIONS in EDMONTON:**

**April 11, 2025**

## **IN-PERSON AUDITIONS in TORONTO:**

**April 12-13, 2025**

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR WINNIPEG AUDITIONS:**

- Please head to our Auditions Portal at [www.royalmtc.ca/Artists/Auditions.aspx](http://www.royalmtc.ca/Artists/Auditions.aspx) to apply. All applications should include both a headshot and resume.
- Royal MTC is currently only considering applications from Winnipeg-based Artists – non-Winnipeg Artists may submit via the Citadel Theatre, instructions below.
- Audition materials will be made available to selected Artists. Scripts are available to read on-site at Royal MTC's John Hirsch Mainstage (174 Market Avenue) during Box Office hours.
- While we thank all those who apply, only those selected to audition will be contacted.
- **THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR WINNIPEG IS TUESDAY APRIL 1, 2025.**

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR EDMONTON/TORONTO AUDITIONS:**

- Submit your interest as follows:
  - To audition in person in Edmonton or Toronto, e-mail [auditions@citadeltheatre.com](mailto:auditions@citadeltheatre.com)
  - All applications should include ONE PDF FILE with both a Headshot and a Resume.
  - Write the applicable location, (i.e. "Life of Pi - Edmonton" or "Life of Pi – Toronto" in the subject line and indicate the role you are interested in in the body of the email. We accept online applications only.
  - Audition materials will be made available to selected Artists.
  - While we thank all those who apply, only those selected to audition will be contacted.
- **THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR EDMONTON/TORONTO IS TUESDAY APRIL 1, 2025.**

**PRODUCTION NOTES:**

*Life of Pi* brings Yann Martel's acclaimed novel to life in a visually stunning and emotionally captivating theatrical experience. The story follows Pi Patel, a young Indian boy who survives a shipwreck and is left stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with only a Royal Bengal tiger named Richard Parker for company. As Pi struggles to survive in the vast, unforgiving ocean, he confronts the limits of his faith, his resilience, and his understanding of the world.

**CASTING NOTES:**

Actors are welcome to submit for any roles of interest. Please Note: We are committed to authentic representation and encourage Artists to submit for roles that align with their personal lived experiences, including but not limited to cultural specificity, disability, LGBTQ+ identities, or religious affiliations.

The pronouns, ethnicities, and ages listed are those of the characters.

**CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:**

**PISCINE MOLITOR PATEL – known as Pi** (*he/him, South Asian, plays 17*)

Pi grew up in Pondicherry, India and is emigrating to Canada with his family and animals from his father's zoo. He is a dedicated Hindu, a clever and curious boy, asking questions of the world around him.

NOTE: A physically demanding role.

**NURSE / AMMA / ORANGE JUICE** (*she/her, South Asian, plays 40s*)

NURSE is a Spanish speaker in Mexico. A firm but empathic mother figure to the traumatized Pi. She is kind, warm and capable.

AMMA is Pi's mother. She is Indian, devoted to her Hinduism and from Pondicherry. She is a loving mother, with children whom she adores but also keeps in check.

ORANGE JUICE is an orangutan puppet operated by 3 actors. Will work with two puppeteers to realize OJ.

**FATHER** (*he/him, South Asian, plays 40s*)

FATHER is from Pondicherry and dreamed of being a circus ringmaster but has happily settled to own a zoo. He is instinctive, passionate and secular. A strong, caring and good father.

**LULU CHEN / MRS BIOLOGY KUMAR** (*she/her, East Asian, plays late 20s-40s*)

LULU is a Canadian official in the embassy in Mexico. She has travelled from Mexico City and is charged with managing the humorless Mr. Okamoto. She is young and ambitious and open to having her opinion changed.

MRS BIOLOGY KUMAR - a warm and independent woman of science. A teacher who loves the natural world. She is married to Mamaji. She is a strong voice with clear political opinions and compares the animal world to the human one.

**MAMAJI / PANDIT-JI / ADMIRAL** (*he/him, South Asian, plays 40s*)

MAMAJI is uncle to Pi. Affectionate, loving, a bit of a joker. He is married to Mrs Biology Kumar. A Hindu who conducts puja, a fantastic swimmer who runs clubs for swimming. He is a loving, solid presence in Pi's life.

PANDIT-JI is a Hindu priest who lives and breathes his vocation. He is trying to persuade Pi to be more Hindu. He does not take kindly to other religions.

ADMIRAL. An American Navy Officer from the 1940's. He is precise, definitive, no nonsense and does not listen. He instructs Pi and says the unthinkable.

**RANI / PI Understudy** (*she/her, South Asian, plays 20s*)

RANI is Pi's sister. She is 19 and very clever, a complete genius at math. She is sharp, funny, witty and keeps her brother in check. She is a fierce young woman who, if she had survived, would have done great things.

NOTE: When playing Pi the character will be female-identifying.

**CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:**

**MRS OKAMOTO / CAPTAIN / ZAIDA KHAN** (*she/her, Japanese, plays 50s*)

MRS OKAMOTO. She is a senior member of a Japanese shipping corporation insurance team come to investigate the sinking of a Japanese ship. Serious and practical.

CAPTAIN. East/Southeast Asian and speaks their native language. They run the Tsimtsum which will sink. They are in charge.

ZAIDA KHAN is a dedicated Muslim. She is clear minded about her own beliefs and judgmental of others.

**RUSSIAN SAILOR** (*he/him, any Ethnicity, plays 40s*)

Speaks Russian only. Befriends Pi on the ship and survives on the lifeboat with a broken leg.

**VOICE OF RICHARD PARKER / COOK / FATHER MARTIN**(*he/him, any Ethnicity, plays 30s-40s*)

COOK - French accent. A looming presence, angry, quick to react against people. He works on the Tsimtsum but believes he is better than that. He is determined to survive the shipwreck and do anything that requires. He is ruthless.

FATHER MARTIN. A Christian priest who is certain of his faith and trying to persuade Pi to join his church. He is benign.

When RICHARD PARKER speaks this actor also manipulates the puppet with two other puppeteer actors. This will be a puppeteering track.

**ENSEMBLE / PUPPETEERS** (*any gender, any Ethnicity, age 18+*)

These performers should have experience with puppetry and will be required to operate large-scale animal puppets.

**PERFORMING UNDERSTUDIES** may be engaged for this production. Please indicate in your application whether you'd like to be considered for an Understudy track.

**ABOUT ROYAL MTC:**

Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre is proud to call Manitoba home, and is located in Winnipeg on Treaty 1, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Anishinew and Dakota people, 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 the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

**INCLUSIVE CASTING:**

Royal MTC recognizes the importance of inclusivity in casting as part of our commitment to a safe, respectful, and inclusive ecology. For roles where identity characteristics are not prescribed, the Director will consider all Artists, without discrimination on any protected grounds.

**CULTURAL INTEGRITY IN CASTING:**

When casting culturally-specific roles, or roles requiring specific lived experience, MTC will make every effort to audition and engage Artists who identify as part of the applicable community.

**ACCESSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES:**

The audition, rehearsal, and performance spaces at the John Hirsch Mainstage are accessible via elevator/freight elevator. While the performance space at the Tom Hendry Warehouse is at ground level, the rehearsal space is accessed only via a flight of stairs.

**SAFE AND RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE POLICY:**

Royal MTC is committed to fostering a safe and respectful workplace, free from any form of hate, discrimination, or harassment, where every individual treats one another with dignity and respect.

**QUESTIONS:**

Please reach out to Leslie Watson, Company Manager, if you have any questions or other access needs.

**ABOUT THE CITADEL THEATRE:**

The Citadel Theatre is in the heart of amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton, AB), and we are proud to call Treaty 6 territory home. As a regional theatre, it is integral that we ensure that the stories we tell, as well as the composition of our artists, board, staff, students, and audience are reflective of the diverse lived experiences in this dynamic city. We encourage submissions from professional artists who self-identify as members of under-represented communities. For more on Citadel Theatre's Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity commitments, please visit: <https://bit.ly/CitadelEDI>.

If there are any potential barriers (language, disability, or any other considerations) preventing you from applying to audition please let us know and we will work with you to overcome them.

Accessibility: Citadel Theatre's rehearsal facilities are accessible. Our building is equipped with elevators and numerous accessible washrooms. The Shoctor Theatre stage and backstage are accessible to artists that have mobility access needs; the backstage area includes elevator access, accessible washrooms (including roll in showers), and an accessible dressing room. Please let us know if you have any questions about the physical layout of our spaces, or other access needs. For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/CitadelAccessibility>.