

OVATION

ROYAL
MTC
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

VOL 34 • NO 1
OCT/NOV 2026

Cyrano de Bergerac

By Edmond Rostand
Adapted by Jessy Ardern



Stephanie Sy.
Photo by Nanc Price.

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HIRSCH
MAINSTAGE

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MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to the 2026/27 season here at Royal MTC. We are thrilled you have joined us. To kick off our season, we invite you to experience bold theatrical reinvention with two extraordinary productions that take iconic, timeless stories and completely turn them on their heads.

On our John Hirsch Mainstage, we are thrilled to present Jessy Ardern's brilliant adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Ardern infuses Edmond Rostand's classic romance with sharp wit, contemporary energy, and a profound understanding of what it means to feel unseen. While keeping the sweeping romanticism and legendary wordplay alive, this new Canadian version breathes fresh,

modern oxygen into Cyrano's heartbreak, reminding us that the struggle to align our inner beauty with our outer truth is as urgent today as it was in 17th-century France.

Meanwhile, just down the road in our intimate Warehouse Theatre, we invite you into a wildly different, anarchic world with *Goblin:Macbeth*. Shakespeare's dark tragedy is hijacked by a trio of unpredictable, strangely charismatic goblins who have discovered the text and decided to perform it themselves. It is a theatrical experiment that is equal parts terrifying, hilarious and brilliant. By stripping away centuries of formal tradition, these "goblins" uncover the raw, visceral and bloody heart of the play in a way you have never seen before.

At their core, both of these productions celebrate the transformative, shape-shifting power of live theatre. They challenge us to look at familiar stories through an entirely new lens.

Thank you for being here, for supporting new theatrical visions, and for sharing these unforgettable nights with us. Enjoy the performances.

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 the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

THEATRE ABBREVIATION LEGEND

A.C.T. American Conservatory Theater • San Francisco, CA	Rainbow Rainbow Stage • Winnipeg, MB
Arts Club Arts Club Theatre Company • Vancouver, BC	RNT Royal National Theatre • London, England
ATF Atlantic Theatre Festival • Wolfville, NS	Royal Alex The Royal Alexandra Theatre • Toronto, ON
ATP Alberta Theatre Projects • Calgary, AB	RSC Royal Shakespeare Company • Stratford-upon-Avon, England
BAM Brooklyn Academy of Music • NYC	RWB Royal Winnipeg Ballet • Winnipeg, MB
Bard on the Beach Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival • Vancouver, BC	Sarasvati Sarasvati Productions • Winnipeg, MB
Belfry The Belfry Theatre • Victoria, BC	Segal The Segal Centre for Performing Arts • Montreal, QC
Blyth Blyth Theatre Festival • Blyth, ON	Shaw Shaw Festival • Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
Broadway Theatre district • New York, NY	SIR Shakespeare in the Ruins • Winnipeg, MB
CBC Canadian Broadcasting Corporation	Soulpepper Soulpepper Theatre Company • Toronto, ON
Centaur Centaur Theatre Company • Montreal, QC	Stratford Stratford Festival • Stratford, ON
Citadel The Citadel Theatre • Edmonton, AB	SummerWorks SummerWorks Theatre Festival • Toronto, ON
COC Canadian Opera Company • Toronto, ON	TA Theatre Aquarius • Hamilton, ON
CS Canadian Stage • Toronto, ON	Tarragon Tarragon Theatre • Toronto, ON
Dora Dora Mavor Moore Award • Toronto, ON	TBTR Theatre by the River • Winnipeg, MB
Drayton Drayton Entertainment • Ontario	TC Theatre Calgary • Calgary, AB
Dry Cold Dry Cold Productions • Winnipeg, MB	TiFT Talk is Free Theatre • Barrie, ON
Factory Factory Theatre • Toronto, ON	TNB Theatre New Brunswick • Fredericton, NB
GCTC The Great Canadian Theatre Company • Ottawa, ON	Toronto Free Toronto Free Theatre • Toronto, ON
Grand The Grand Theatre • London, ON	TPM Theatre Projects Manitoba • Winnipeg, MB
HGJT Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company • Toronto, ON	TSO Toronto Symphony Orchestra
Mirvish Mirvish Productions • Toronto, ON	U of M University of Manitoba
Moving Target Moving Target Theatre Company • Winnipeg, MB	U of T University of Toronto
MTYP Manitoba Theatre for Young People • Winnipeg, MB	U of W University of Winnipeg
NAC National Arts Centre • Ottawa, ON	ViC The Village Conservatory for Music Theatre • Winnipeg, MB
Necessary Angel Necessary Angel Theatre Company • Toronto, ON	VP Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company • Vancouver, BC
Neptune Neptune Theatre • Halifax, NS	West End Theatre district • London, England
NFB National Film Board of Canada	WCT Western Canada Theatre • Kamloops, BC
NTS National Theatre School of Canada • Montreal, QC	WJT Winnipeg Jewish Theatre
Persephone Persephone Theatre • Saskatoon, SK	WSO Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
PTAM Popular Theatre Alliance of Manitoba • Winnipeg, MB	WST Winnipeg Studio Theatre
PTE Prairie Theatre Exchange • Winnipeg, MB	YPT Young People's Theatre • Toronto, ON
	zone41 zone41 theatre • Winnipeg, MB

Ovation

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

Running Crew, Scenic Carpentry and Properties Construction Employees of Royal MTC are represented by Local 63 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

USHERS • Royal MTC's loyal volunteer ushers are available at every performance to assist patrons.

LATECOMERS • Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager.

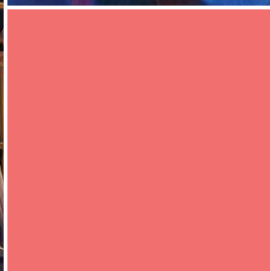
COURTESY TO OTHERS • Talking, candy wrappers and coughing are distracting to fellow patrons and actors. We ask each patron to please keep noise to a minimum during a performance. Thank you for your cooperation.

SCENTS AND ALLERGIES • A number of Royal MTC patrons have expressed concerns regarding 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.

WARNINGS • On occasion, Royal MTC's productions may contain script-specific smoking of non-tobacco products, special effects and language/content warnings. For more information on specific productions, please visit royalmtc.ca.



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Playwright's Notes

BY JESSY ARDERN

I thought I knew who Cyrano de Bergerac was.

After all, I had grown up with Steve Martin in *Roxanne*, and then I had Gérard Depardieu and José Ferrer and Kevin Kline. Like many of you, I could easily describe the man we all know Cyrano to be: he has a long nose, sure, but he's also dashing and unruffled under pressure, ruthless with a comeback but always unshakeably cool.

Then I read Rostand's play – the uncut, five-hour play – and I fell in love with a character I had never met before.

I met a ferociously funny, terrifyingly self-destructive man who was younger than I had ever imagined (21 for the bulk of the story), whose defining characteristic is a consuming, unshakeable rage: at hypocrisy, at classism, at the barest hint of moral compromise. As characters in Rostand's play repeatedly cautioned Cyrano to cool his jets, it occurred to me that his jets should probably be a little less cool than is usually depicted.

That is not to suggest that the adaptation I've crafted is "truer" than others. I've kept the rhymes but nixed the couplets, and I'll cheerfully confess that most of the female characters are my own (I have lots of respect for Rostand, but very little patience for his women). I owe many thanks to the translators and adaptors whose shoulders I clambered on: Gladys Thomas, Mary F. Guillemand, Brian Hooker and Anthony Burgess,



among others. I also owe a tip of the hat to Martin Crimp who, I was annoyed to discover, thought to incorporate the real-life Cyrano's writing into the play before I did.

Speaking of debts: a thousand thanks to Amanda Goldberg for bringing her generous heart to this process. Thanks also to everyone who contributed to the creation and programming of this show. It's a rare privilege to be gifted with a commission at a regional theatre. It is even rarer to be granted enough trust to contradict the popular image of Cyrano and bring this fanciful, furious stranger to the stage.

I hope you fall in love with him just as I did. ●

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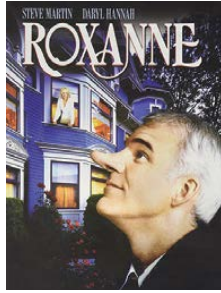
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CYRANO DE BERGERAC



Notable Adaptations

Edmond Rostand's play *Cyrano de Bergerac* has inspired numerous stage, film and modern adaptations. These are some of the notable mentions:

ORIGINAL WORK

***Cyrano de Bergerac* (1897)**, play by French author Edmond Rostand which takes place in the 1600s. The most widely used English-language translation is the work of Anthony Burgess.

FILM

***Cyrano de Bergerac* (1950)**, American film starring José Ferrer.

***Cyrano & D'Artagnan* (1964)**, crossover with *The Three Musketeers* starring José Ferrer once again.

***Roxanne* (1987)**, American film starring Steve Martin. Moves the story to the '80s in the USA.

***Cyrano de Bergerac* (1990)**, French film starring Gérard Depardieu and Vincent Perez.

***#Roxy* (2018)**, Canadian film starring Jake Short. Moves the story to the '10s, where the main cast has been age lifted and are now highschoolers.

***Edmond* (2019)**, French film adapting the Alexis Michalik play. Fictionalized retelling of how Edmond Rostand wrote the play, lifting many plot elements and tropes from it.

***It Takes Three* (2021)**, American film that moves the story to a modern American high school, social media and all.

***Cyrano* (2021)**, American-British film starring Peter Dinklage, based on the Erica Schmidt musical. Cyrano's big nose angst is changed to height angst due to dwarfism.

TELEVISION

***Cyrano de Bergerac* (1960)**, French made-for-TV movie starring Daniel Sorano.

***Cyrano de Bergerac* (1962)**, American made-for-TV movie starring Christopher Plummer.

"Cyranose" (1995), an episode of PBS's *Wishbone*.

***Cyrano de Bergerac* (2008)**, a made-for-TV live theatre production starring Kevin Kline and Jennifer Garner.

***Dating Agency: Cyrano* (2010)**, setting takes place in the 21st century in South Korea.

***Let it Shine* (2012)**, a Disney Channel original movie gives the main characters similar names (Cyrano=Cyrus; Christian=Chris; Roxane=Roxie, whose full name is actually Roxanne).

CYRANO DE BERGERAC

THEATRE

Cyrano (1973), musical with lyrics by Anthony Burgess and music by Michael J. Lewis.

Cyrano: The Musical (1992), musical with lyrics by Koen van Dijk (Dutch) and Peter Reeves (English) and music by Ad van Dijk.

Edmond (2016), stage play by Alexis Michalik. Fictionalized tale of how Rostand wrote the play.

Cyrano (2018), musical by Erica Schmidt and The National.

Cyrano de Bergerac (2019), stage play by Martin Crimp.

Cyrano de Bergerac (2026), stage play by Jessy Ardern.

WESTERN ANIMATION

Molierissimo (1989). Cyrano is a supporting character.

Cyrano 2022 (2001), French animated series. Setting update to the future. ●

SOURCE: TVTROPES.ORG



PHOTO BY GERRY KOPELOW

Len Cariou and Roland Hewgill in MTC's 1975 production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Anthony Burgess.

SYNOPSIS – Arriving in the city of Paris, the handsome Christian, set on joining the French army, is captivated by a mysterious woman while traversing the streets – Roxane. Admired (and desired) by powerful men, Roxane is also secretly loved by the brilliant poet, fearless swordsman, and large nose-possessing Cyrano de Bergerac, to whom Roxane confesses her adoration for Christian. Cyrano, dedicated to his love, agrees to protect Christian. The two become an unlikely pair as he also promises to help Christian woo Roxane. Writing letters on Christian's behalf, Cyrano provides him with the words to speak, and as Roxane falls deeper in love, the line between Christian's beauty and Cyrano's soul begins to disappear. With war on the horizon, the two men must fight side by side as the letters containing secrets make the truth harder to hold onto. ●

PRESENTS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITADEL THEATRE AND THE GRAND THEATRE

Cyrano de Bergerac

Written by Edmond Rostand

Adapted by Jessy Ardern

October 8 – November 1, 2026

PREVIEW October 7

Director Amanda Goldberg
 Set Designer Beyata Hackborn**
 Costume Designer Deanna Finnman
 Lighting Designer Hugh Conacher**
 Sound Designer & Composer Maddie Bautista**
 Associate Sound Designer Jason Shindle
 Fight Director Daniel Levinson
 Movement Director Anna Kuman
 Intimacy Director Morgan Yamada
 Assistant Director Mara Teare
 Assistant Designer Payal Jotania
 Stage Manager Zahra Larche
 Assistant Stage Manager Caitlin Mears
 Apprentice Stage Manager Carolin Schroeder†

Cyrano de Bergerac is performed with one intermission.

Cyrano de Bergerac was originally commissioned by the Citadel Theatre (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada).

The premiere production opened on May 7, 2026 at the Citadel's Shochor Theatre.

Daryl Cloran, Artistic Director and Jessie van Rijn, Executive Director.

Jessy Ardern is a member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada.

Special thanks: Art Lab, U of A Studio Theatre Wardrobe Department,
 Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity Wardrobe Department, JP Fournier,
 Edmonton Opera Wardrobe Department, Theatre Calgary Wardrobe Department
 and the generous support of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

Production photography 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 apprenticeship or scholarship recipient

Cyrano de Bergerac

THE CAST

<i>Ragueneau / Cadet / Medic</i>	Lara Arabian
<i>Le Bret</i>	Alexander Ariate
<i>Valvert / Cadet / Priest</i>	Andrew Cecon
<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i>	Jack Davidson
<i>Lignière / Montfleury / Carbon</i>	Braydon Dowler-Coltman
<i>Ensemble</i>	Alex Furber
<i>De Guiche</i>	Brian Hamman
<i>Christian</i>	Darren Martens
<i>Marie / Theatre Manager</i>	Megan McArton
<i>Ensemble</i>	Siobhan Richardson
<i>Roxane</i>	Stephanie Sy
<i>Kate / Orange Seller / Cadet</i>	Sydney Williams

UNDERSTUDIES

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

<i>Marie / Theatre Manager</i>	Lara Arabian
<i>De Guiche</i>	Andrew Cecon
<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i>	Braydon Dowler-Coltman
<i>Christian; Le Bret; Lignière / Montfleury / Carbon</i>	Alex Furber
<i>Ragueneau / Cadet / Medic;</i> <i>Valvert / Cadet / Priest;</i> <i>Kate / Orange Seller / Cadet</i>	Siobhan Richardson
<i>Roxane</i>	Sydney Williams

Those of you who aced English Poetry 101 might recognize direct nods to Percy Bysshe Shelley, Emily Dickinson and Alfred Lord Tennyson in the dialogue of the play. In this fictional world, Cyrano has written every famous piece of poetry you've ever heard. In the real world, the graffiti you see is drawn from:

Act 2: "Go To the Limits of Your Longing" by Rainer Maria Rilke, translated by Joanna Macy and Anita Barrows (adapted and used with permission).

Act 3: "A Case of You" by Joni Mitchell (used with permission).

Act 4: "Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night" by Dylan Thomas.

Act 5: "Heavy" by Mary Oliver (used by the permission of The Charlotte Sheedy Literary Agency as agent for the author. Copyright © 2006 by Mary Oliver with permission of Bill Reichblum).

CYRANO DE BERGERAC



Lara Arabian

*Ragueneau / Cadet /
Medic*

*Understudy: Marie /
Theatre Manager*

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE Lara has worked with companies across Canada including: Citadel Theatre, Modern Times, Outside the March, Aluna Theatre, Neptune Theatre, Canadian Stage, Theatre Passe Muraille, Théâtre français de Toronto, Studio 180, Pleaides Theatre, Cahoots, Pandemic Theatre, Nightswimming.

FILM/TV *Saint-Pierre, The Handmaid's Tale, Foreign Tongue, 11h11, Kim's Convenience, Assassin's Creed, Jazz Ramsey: A K-9 Mystery, Improtéine, Rabbit Hole, Paris Paris, Ghostwriter, Murdoch Mysteries, Taken, Dark Matter.*

TRAINING/TEACHING Training: U of T, Banff Conservatory. Teaching: Sheridan College, George Brown College.

ET CETERA Lara has been nominated for a Dora award as both a writer and actor and is the inaugural recipient of the Joel Beddows Playwrighting Prize. She will be touring her one-woman show *Siranoush* to Vancouver next spring. Love to R & S.



Alexander Ariate

Le Bret

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

OTHER THEATRE *Horseplay* (Workshop West Theatre); *The Odd Couple* (Teatro Live!); *Death of a Salesman, The Three Musketeers, Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (Citadel/Arts Club); *HEIST* (Vertigo/Citadel); *Murder on the Orient Express* (Vertigo); *The Wizard of Oz, The Importance of Being Earnest, CLUE* (Citadel).

TV *Fortunate Son* (CBC Gem).

TRAINING 2018 Graduate of the University of Alberta's BFA Acting Program.

ET CETERA Alex would like to thank his family, friends and Andrea for their constant love and support.



Andrew Cecon

*Valvert / Cadet /
Priest*

Understudy: De Guiche

ROYAL MTC *Indecent, The Three Musketeers, Black Coffee, Million Dollar Quartet, The Secret Annex, The Seagull, Ed's Garage, A Few Good Men* (with Citadel), *Romeo and Juliet, Our Town.*

OTHER THEATRE *As You Like It, King Lear, Romeo & Juliet, Richard III, Antony & Cleopatra, Julius Caesar* (SIR); *Shiksa* (WJT); *Three Sisters, The Miser of Middlegate* (TPM); *Hand to God, Lunenburg, Bang Bang, A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline* (Magnus Theatre).

ET CETERA Love to Katrina, Aviva and Joren.



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CYRANO DE BERGERAC



Jack Davidson
Cyrano de Bergerac

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE *Heratio* (Guild Festival Theatre); *Art* (Elkabong Theatre); *Stiff & Sons* (Bare Theatre Collective); *The Three Musketeers* – now with two actors! (The Lakeside Players); *Eve of St. George*, *A Grimm Night*, *OPHIS* (Transcendence projects); four seasons with CORPUS Dance Projects and 10 productions with the Canadian Opera Company. Fight Direction with Bad Hats Theatre, Shaw Festival, Tarragon, The Salzburg Festival and many others.

TRAINING/TEACHING Training: National Ballet School of Canada, George Brown Theatre School. Teaching: Teacher and Resident Fight Director at George Brown Theatre School.

ET CETERA Jack also directs frequently and is the co-artistic director of a family-friendly theatre company that has toured from coast to coast called The Lakeside Players.



Braydon Dowler-Coltman
Lignière / Montfleury / Carbon
Understudy: Cyrano de Bergerac

ROYAL MTC *Life of Pi* (with Citadel), *Network* (with Citadel).

OTHER THEATRE *The Wizard of Oz*, *Death of a Salesman*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Tempest* (Citadel); *The Three Musketeers*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Citadel/Arts Club); *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It* (Freewill Festival); *Burning Bluebeard* (Edmonton Actor's Theatre); *Bright Lights* (Blarney Productions); *Fortune Falls* (Catalyst Theatre).

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

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

ET CETERA Later this season Braydon can be seen as Peter Pan in *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* at Theatre Calgary.



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KATIE WELHAM AND AMELIA SARGISSON IN *THE LAST WIFE*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT.

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a Mountain**
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MARCH 5-14



Meet the Hatter
APRIL 4-11



Growing Carrots
MAY 7-16

CYRANO DE BERGERAC



Alex Furber

Ensemble

*Understudy: Christian;
Le Bret; Lignière /
Montfleury / Carbon*

ROYAL MTC *Clue* (with Grand), *Cabaret*.

OTHER THEATRE Standby Scar and Pumbaa in *Disney's The Lion King*, Albert Narracott in *War Horse* (Mirvish); *Shrek* (YPT); *The Wars*, *Chariots of Fire* (Grand); *It's a Wonderful Life* (WCT); *A Few Good Men*, *Buying the Farm*, *Marathon of Hope*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *The War Show* (Drayton); *My Night With Reg* (Studio 180/Mirvish); *Jitters* (Soulpepper); *Anne & Gilbert* (NAC).

FILM/TV *Macy Murdoch*, *Most Dangerous Game*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Mayday*, *Reign*, *Flashpoint*.

TRAINING Graduate of The National Theatre School of Canada.



Brian Hamman

De Guiche

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE Two seasons at Stratford Festival, Steppenwolf Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Court Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Ford's Theatre.

TV *Neagley*, *Hudson & Rex*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *The Expanse*, *The Strain*, *Suits*, *Prison Break*, *See*, *Rabbit Hole*.

TRAINING Columbia College, Chicago; Birmingham Conservatory, Stratford Festival.

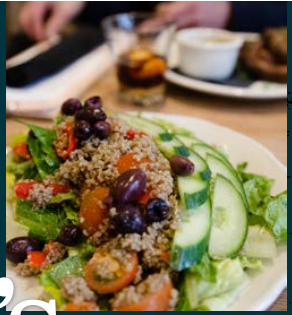
ET CETERA Sending big love to Raquel, Finnegan and Ruari for their undying love and support.

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CYRANO DE BERGERAC



Darren Martens

Christian

ROYAL MTC Actor: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (with Segal), *The Three Musketeers*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*. Fight Director: *Hockey Mom Hockey Dad* (tour), *In the Shadow Beyond the Pines*, *Elf - The Musical*, *The Secret to Good Tea*, *New*. Assistant Fight Director: *The Rez Sisters*.

OTHER THEATRE Actor: *Gaslight* (Capitol/PTE); *Jersey Boys* (Arts Club); *The Three Musketeers* (Arts Club/Citadel); *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night* (SIR); *Cinderella*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Les Misérables* (Rainbow); *Another Way Home* (WJT); *Reefer Madness*, *Avenue Q* (WST); *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* (Keep Theatre); *A Little Night Music* (Dry Cold). Fight Director: *Volare* (PTE).

FILM Actor: *Psycho Killer*, *Polarized*, *Christmas by Starlight*, *Merry and Bright*.

TRAINING Fight Directors Canada Intermediate Level, Bachelor's in Vocal Performance from the U of M, Rainbow Stage Training Intensive.

ET CETERA For my Dad, Gary.
darrenmartens.com



Megan McArton

*Marie /
Theatre Manager*

ROYAL MTC Mainstage: *Burning Mom* (alternate actor), *Unnecessary Farce*, *The Crucible*, *Macbeth*. Warehouse: *Misery*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Transit of Venus* (tour), *Our Country's Good*, *Mr. A's Amazing Maze Plays*, *The Good Sisters*.

OTHER THEATRE *The Brink*, *Harvest*, *The Raft*, *Dog and Crow*, *Fox, Kilt*, *The Stone Angel* (PTE); *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Dr. Faustus* (The Everyman Theatre, Liverpool); *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Travesties* (The Globe Theatre, Regina).

FILM/TV *Normal*, *A Christmas Prayer*, *Christmas in Midnight Clear*.



Siobhan Richardson

Ensemble

Understudy: Ragueneau / Cadet / Medic; Valvert / Cadet / Priest; Kate / Orange Seller / Cadet

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE *Heratio* (Guild Festival); *Boy Boy and the Magic Drum* (Under a Grove Productions); *The 39 Steps* (St. Lawrence); *The Penelopiad* (Grand); *Medea*, *Macbeth* (COC); *A Musical Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (Driftwood Theatre); *Boeing, Boeing* (Upper Canada Playhouse); *And Then The Lights Went Out* (Stage West Calgary).

FILM *Black Ranger*, *You're Never Alone*, *Seven Veils*.

TEACHING Stage Combat and Intimacy Director and instructor.

ET CETERA Resident Fight and Intimacy Director (Canadian Opera Company).
burningmountain.ca / siobhanapproach.com

Cyrano de Bergerac



STEPHANIE SYR PHOTO BY NIKI PRICE

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CYRANO DE BERGERAC



Stephanie Sy

Roxane

ROYAL MTC *Daan: A Journey through Song, Waitress, Romeo and Juliet, The Penelopiad, Vietgone* (with fu-GEN/Hope and Hell).

OTHER THEATRE *Eureka Day* (Coal Mine Theatre); *Time Capsule* (TA); *Next to Normal* (Musical Stage/Mirvish); *Chicago* (Pizza Party Productions); *Beauty and the Beast* (Rainbow); *Post-Democracy, Prairie Nurse* (PTE); *Tribes* (WJT); *The Little Mermaid* (Globe Theatre); *Prom Queen* (Segal); *American Idiot* (WST); *James and the Giant Peach* (MTYP); *Little Women* (Dry Cold); *A History of Breathing* (Persephone); *We Will Rock You* (1st National Tour). Upcoming: *Cinderella* (Canadian Stage).

FILM/TV *Love Hurts, Violent Night* (Universal Studios); *Match, Meet, Murder* (Lifetime); *Hudson & Rex* (CityTV/Amazon Prime); *FUBAR* (Netflix); *The Porter* (CBC/BET); *Ordinary Angels* (Lionsgate); *The Santa Summit* (Hallmark).

ET CETERA Proudly made in Winnipeg. Pancake says hi to everyone. Stay connected, IG: stephaniesy_



Sydney Williams

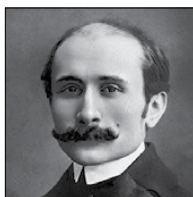
Kate / Orange Seller
/ Cadet
Understudy: Roxane

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE *Botticelli in the Fire* (Downstage/Hit & Myth Productions); *Monstress* (Vertigo Theatre/Northern Light Theatre); *Dance Nation* (SkirtsAfire); *Tiny Beautiful Things, Fresh Hell* (Shadow Theatre).

TRAINING Graduate of Sheridan College's Honours Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance program.

ET CETERA Thank you to my family and my beautiful community of loved ones, near and far.



Edmond Rostand

French Poet &
Dramatist

Edmond Rostand (born Apr 1, 1868, Marseille, France – died Dec 2, 1918, Paris) was a French poet and dramatist of the period just before World War I whose plays provide a final, very belated example of Romantic drama in France.

Edmond Rostand's name is indissolubly linked with that of his most popular and enduring play, *Cyrano de Bergerac*. First performed in Paris in 1897, *Cyrano* made a great impression in France and all over Europe and the United States. The play provided welcome relief from the grim dramas that emerged from the naturalist and Symbolist movements.

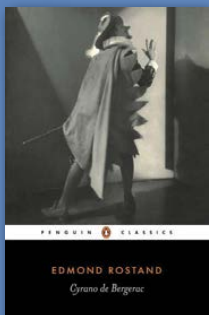
Edmond wrote a good deal for theatre, but the only other play of his that is still remembered is *L'Aiglon* (1900).



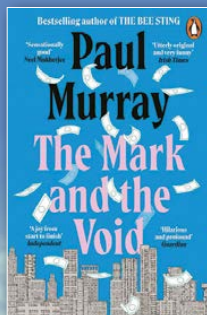
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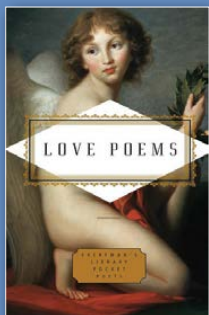
inspired by *Cyrano de Bergerac*



Cyrano de Bergerac
by Edmond Rostand



The Mark and the Void
by Paul Murray



Love Poems
by Everyman's Library Pocket Poets



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CYRANO DE BERGERAC



Jessy Ardern

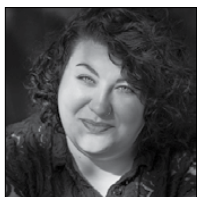
Playwright

ROYAL MTC Actor: *Holland* (with TPM).

OTHER THEATRE Actor: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest* (Freewill Shakespeare Festival); *The Comeback* (NAC, upcoming). Playwright: *R&J: Closing Night* (TPM/The Fox Den Collective); *Prophecy* (Impossible Mongoose, TPM); *Queen Lear is Dead* (TFDC).

TRAINING Graduate of the University of Alberta's BFA Acting Program (2016).

ET CETERA Rostand dedicated his play to a friend who embodied the spirit of Cyrano. Since I've stolen everything else from him, I might as well steal that too... For Dan Augusta: who loved words; who had no patience for fools; who never fought in a duel, but who knew what bravery was (oh, yes).



Amanda Goldberg

Director

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE *Dance Nation* (SkirtsAfire Festival); *Bea* (Shadow Theatre); *Twelfth Night* (Freewill Shakespeare); *Brontë*, *Phaedra's Love*, *Belleville* (University of Alberta).

ET CETERA Amanda is the Artistic Producer of SkirtsAfire, Edmonton's theatre and multidisciplinary arts festival dedicated to amplifying the work of women. She is deeply grateful to the friends and family who have been her constant. Endless thanks to Jessy – for her trust, her collaboration, her friendship and for gifting us these words.



Beyata Hackborn

Set Designer

ROYAL MTC *Life of Pi* (with Citadel), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (with Citadel/TC/Grand).

OTHER THEATRE *Legally Blonde* (Rainbow); *Death of a Salesman*, *Jersey Boys* (Citadel); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Arts Club/Citadel); *Heist* (Grand/Citadel); *Legally Blonde* (TC/Citadel); *The Secret Garden*, *Village Wooing*, *Overruled*, *Bright Lights* (Shaw); *The Tale of the Gifted Prince* (TC); *Metronome*, *Mob*, *Horseplay* (Workshop West); *Freaky Green Eyes* (Fringe/Punctuate!); *Sleight of Mind* (WCT).

ET CETERA Much love to my household of dogs & friends, to shows that embrace the theatrical & absurd and of course, to my embarrassingly fervent love of Sondheim.



Deanna Finnman

Costume Designer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE *The Wizard of Oz*, *Little Women*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream: The '70s Musical*, *Pride and Prejudice – Sterling Award for Outstanding Costume Design* (Citadel); *Li Keur Riel's Heart of the North*, *La Cenerentola* (Manitoba Opera); *La Bohème*, *Rigoletto*, *Così fan tutte*, *Count Ory* (Edmonton Opera); *Rapunzel*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Pinocchio* (Alberta Musical Theatre); *Sunday in the Park with George* (MacEwan University); *The Magic Flute* (Calgary Opera).



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CYRANO DE BERGERAC



Hugh Conacher
Lighting Designer

ROYAL MTC (selected) Lighting & Video Designer: *Elf - The Musical*, *The Lehman Trilogy*, *The Mountaintop*, *Vietgone*, *Venus in Fur*. Video Designer: *Network* (with Citadel). Lighting Designer: *Murder on the Orient Express* (with Citadel), *King James*, *Indecent*, *Little Women*, *The Recipe* (with TPM), *among men* (with TPM), *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (with Segal), *The Secret to Good Tea*, *Into the Woods*, *New, Orlando*, *Women of the Fur Trade*, *Fun Home*, *The Color Purple* (with Citadel), *Kill Me Now* (with NAC), *Seminar* (with Mirvish), *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing* and many other productions since the '80s.

OTHER THEATRE Hugh collaborates with choreographers, visual artists and dance and theatre companies worldwide.

ET CETERA Hugh enjoys working beyond the constraints of traditional lighting design using various forms of interactive media, video and photography. His photographic work resides in private collections and has been published worldwide. Hugh is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada and L'Association des professionnels des arts de la scène du Québec. www.pellucid.me.



Maddie Bautista
Sound Designer & Composer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE *Prophetess*, *Mischief*, *CRAZE*, *Interior Design* (Tarragon); *Murder at Ackerton Manor*, *Stag & Doe*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Kim's Convenience* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Liars at a Funeral*, *Steel Magnolias* (Capitol); *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Globe Theatre); *Botticelli in the Fire* (Downstage/Hit & Myth); *The Surrogate* (Crow's/b current/House + Body); *seven methods of killing kylie jenner* (Crow's/Obsidian); *Table for Two*, *WILDWOMAN* (Soulpepper); *King James* (TA/ATP); *Get that Hope*, *Les Belles-Sœurs*, *I Am William* (Stratford). Up next: *Game of Life* (bluemouth inc; US Tour); *Sex in the '80s* (Canadian Stage); *Are You The One?* (xLq; Canadian Tour).

ET CETERA Recipient of two Dora Mavor Moore Awards and nominated for three more. Nominated for a Betty Mitchell Award, an Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award, and the Pauline McGibbon Award. She dedicates this show to her Winnipeg family: Nanay Lydia, Tatay Ed, Mary Ann, Sam and John. maddiebautista.com

Meet the 2026/27 Season Ensemble!



Scan the QR Code or visit royalmtc.ca/Artists/SeasonEnsemble to meet our 2026/27 Season Ensemble! We celebrate the artists whose work will grace our stage this season. We welcome many familiar faces and applaud those making their MTC debut. Over 200 artists will come together to engage with theatre lovers in the collective act of storytelling.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC

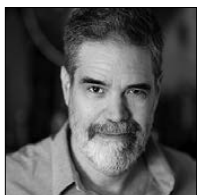


Jason Shindle

*Associate Sound
Designer*

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE Jason Shindle is a Toronto-based sound designer and production audio engineer specializing in musicals, concerts and theatrical productions. Jason is currently employed as a sound technician for Souleppper Theatre Company at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts.



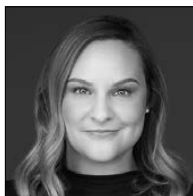
Daniel Levinson

Fight Director

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE Daniel has fight directed for the Stratford Festival, Canadian Stage, *Jesus Christ Superstar* on Broadway and Second City.

ET CETERA Daniel has been performing, directing and teaching stage and screen combat professionally since founding Rapier Wit, Canada's oldest stage combat school and production company, in 1991. Daniel is a Fight Master with Fight Directors Canada and has worked in theatre and film across Canada and has been a guest fight instructor and director in Italy and the United States.



Anna Kuman

Movement Director

ROYAL MTC Assistant Director / Assistant Choreographer: *Matilda the Musical*.

OTHER THEATRE Anna's work has been presented in theatres across Canada including The Banff Centre, The Belfry, Chemainus, Citadel, Firehall Arts Centre, The Grand, Persephone, Prairie Theatre Exchange and Western Canada Theatre. Recently, Anna worked as Choreographer for the pre-match ceremonies for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in Toronto.

TRAINING/TEACHING Training: MFA from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Teaching: Assistant Professor of Music Theatre at MacEwan University in Edmonton.

ET CETERA Many thanks to Amanda, Andy and Enzo. Thank you, dear audience, for supporting live theatre. annakuman.com

CYRANO DE BERGERAC



Morgan Yamada
Intimacy Director

ROYAL MTC Fight Director: *Life of Pi* (with Citadel). Fight/Movement Director: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (with Citadel/TC/Grand).

OTHER THEATRE (recent and selected) Fight/Intimacy Director: *Casey and Diana*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Little Women* (Citadel); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Citadel/TC). Fight Director: *The Wizard of Oz* (Citadel); *Die Walkure* (Edmonton Opera); *Beauty and the Beast* (WCT). Intimacy Director: *Where You Are*, *After Mourning – Before Van Gogh* (Shadow Theatre). Actor: *Death of a Salesman*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Pride and Prejudice* (Citadel); *Glory* (Chemainus/National Tour/Original Cast).

ET CETERA Artistic Producer at Azimuth Theatre. Check out more of her work at morganyamada.com. Love to Mac and Ash!



Mara Teare
Assistant Director

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE Actor: *Twelve Days* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Richard II*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet*, *Done/Undone*, *Cymbeline* (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan); *Mustard* (25th St. Theatre); *Final Notice*, *The Maids* (Whirligig Theatre); *The Jungle Book* (ATP); *Crypthand* (Gale Force Theatre); *Young Ones* (SUM Theatre). Assistant Director: *Native Gardens* (Persephone).

ET CETERA Mara is an Edmonton-based multidisciplinary artist and a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada and Sheridan College.



Payal Jotania
Assistant Designer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE *Wildcat* (Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre); *One Too Many* (Roxy-Jabulani Festival); *Muxe in the Snow* (Fringe Edmonton); *Wildfire* (U of A Studio Theatre); *Scamway*, *Regression* (Cathexis Theatre).

FILM/TV *Indian Police Force*, *Love Hostel*, *Sooryavanshi*, *Mission Mangal*, *Simmba*, *Romeo Akbar Walter* (Indian Cinema).

ET CETERA Payal Jotania is a set, costume, lighting and production designer, and art director from India. She has designed for films, television and in the Indian film industry. When she isn't busy on set, she's likely perfecting her craft as a talented calligrapher (@funinfonts_fif). payaljotaniadesign.com



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CYRANO DE BERGERAC



Zahra Larche
Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC Stage Manager: *Rogers v. Rogers* (replacement SM), *Indecent*, *The Recipe* (with TPM), *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*. Assistant Stage Manager: *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (with Segal), *The Sound of Music* (with Citadel), *Into the Woods*, *Network* (with Citadel), *Calpurnia* (with NAC/BTW), *Bang Bang* (with Belfry). Apprentice Stage Manager: *Buying the Farm* (tour), *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*, *Vietgone* (with fu-GEN/Hope and Hell), *The Humans*. Assistant Production Manager (2017/18, 2020/21, 2021/22 seasons).

OTHER THEATRE Stage Manager: *Legally Blonde*, *Rock of Ages*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Hockey Sweater* (Rainbow); *Serving Elizabeth*, *The Outside Inn* (PTE). ASM: *Volare* (PTE). Various credits with Dry Cold, Hudson Village Theatre, Manitoba Opera, Georgie Productions and A Company of Fools.

TRAINING Graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada – Production Program (2017).

ET CETERA Special thanks to my family, Maddy & Andy, our Edmonton team, Ilana, Jenna, Brooklynne, Liam and Paul!



Caitlin Mears
Assistant Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE *The Full Monty* (Drayton); *Murder at Ackerton Manor* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Something Rotten!*, *Ransacking Troy*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Twelfth*

Night, *London Assurance*, *Rent*, *Les Belles-Sœurs*, *Chicago*, *The Miser*, *Three Tall Women* (Stratford); *The Wind Coming Over the Sea*, *A Huron County Christmas Carol* (Blyth); *Homes: A Refugee Story*, *Home for the Holidays* (Grand); *The Breathing Hole* (NAC); *Cinderella: The Panto* (Capitol); *August: Osage County* (Soulpepper).

FILM *Angel* (Opera Atelier).

TRAINING Graduate of York University.

ET CETERA Caitlin is so excited to be making her debut with Royal MTC. She sends love to her friends and family, and hopes you enjoy the show!



Carolin Schroeder
Apprentice Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC Apprentice Stage Manager: *In the Shadow Beyond the Pines*, *Elf - The Musical*, *Little Women*.

OTHER THEATRE Stage Management: *The Perfect Man* (WST/Gargoyle Theatre Players); *Daredevils*, *Bloodsuckers! The Musical* (Winnipeg Fringe); *Kiyanaan Indigenous Theatre Festival* (Echo Theatre); *On the Edge*, *Concert Hour Ballet*, *Dance Spectrum* (RWB School). Apprentice Stage Management: *Legally Blonde - The Musical*, *The Little Mermaid* (Rainbow); *Merrily We Roll Along* (Dry Cold); *Romeo & Juliet* (RWB).

TRAINING University of Winnipeg Theatre & Film Department.

ET CETERA A huge thank you to everyone at Royal MTC. Thank you to my family, friends and mentors for your love, support and guidance. ●



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50th Anniversary Celebration

Equity is proud to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2026—a milestone marking five decades of advocating for and advancing the working lives of professional artists across Canada's live performance sector.

Manitoba/Nunavut Region Celebration

Monday, October 26

Kilter Brewing Co., 450 Rue Deschambault

Admission free for CAEA Members

Non-members: \$10 donation to AFC at the door

Doors 7:00pm, Entertainment and Awards Presentation 7:30pm

Dance party to follow

Snacks, drinks, mixing and mingling, fun!

EXPLORE MORE Cyrano de Bergerac

EXPLORE MORE CYRANO - THE MAN

***Cyrano: Adventures in Space and Time with the Legendary French Hero* by Ishbel Addyman.**

A biography that explores the true life of Savinien de Cyrano de Bergerac, separating the historical man from the romanticized fictional character. ADULT BIOGRAPHY ADDYMAN

***The Greats Abridged: A Voyage to the Moon* by Cyrano de Bergerac.**

A 17th-century satirical masterpiece narrated by Richard Stibbard, this early science fiction tale follows the bold and eccentric Cyrano as he devises bizarre methods to travel to the Moon. Blending fantastical adventure with social commentary, this audiobook is both entertaining and thought-provoking an imaginative predecessor to modern speculative fiction. HOOPLA AUDIO BOOK

EXPLORE MORE CYRANO DE BERGERAC PERFORMED

***Cyrano* directed by Joe Wright.** A man ahead of his time, Cyrano de Bergerac dazzles whether with ferocious word-play at a verbal joust or with brilliant swordplay in a duet. But, convinced that his appearance renders him unworthy of the love of a devoted friend, the luminous Roxanne, Cyrano has yet to declare his feelings for her, and Roxanne has fallen in love, at first sight, with Christian. DVD FILM/TV CYRANO

***Cyrano* adapted by Geraldine McCaughrean and Cynthia Bishop.**

Working from Edmond Rostand's beloved play, Geraldine McCaughrean has transformed the tale into muscular prose that shimmers with turns of phrase Cyrano himself would have

admired, offering us a thrilling new way to experience the power and passion, the humour and heartbreak, of one of the most beloved stories of all time. This is a full-cast audiobook with multiple voice actors. HOOPLA AUDIO BOOK

EXPLORE MORE HISTORICAL FICTION SET IN FRANCE

***Becoming Josephine* by Heather Webb.**

Follow Rose Tascher as she sails from her Martinique plantation to Paris, eager to enjoy an elegant life at the royal court. Once there, however, Rose's aristocratic soldier-husband dashes her dreams by abandoning her amid the tumult of the French Revolution. After narrowly escaping death, Rose reinvents herself as Josephine, a beautiful socialite wooed by an awkward suitor - Napoleon Bonaparte. FICTION WEBB

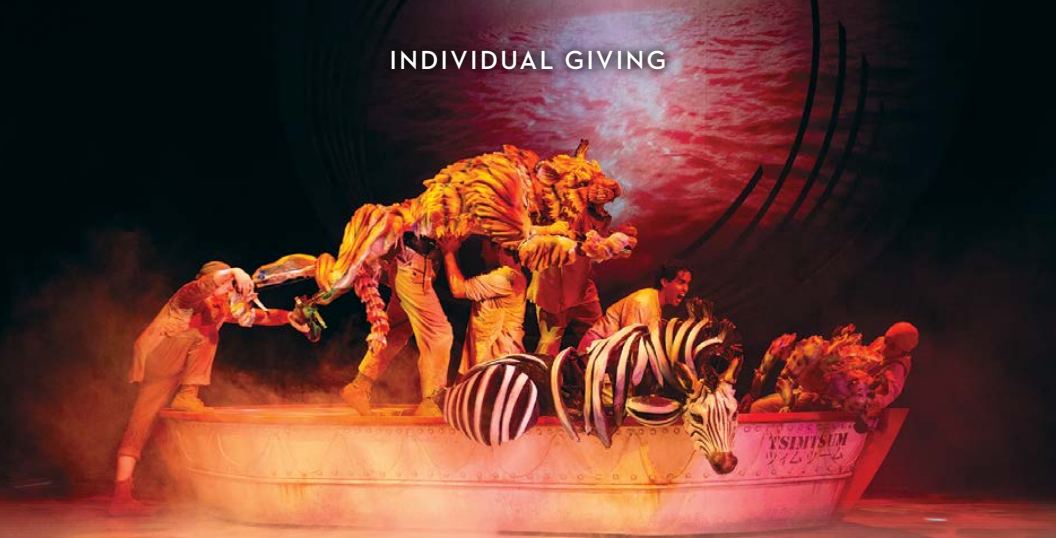
***Thérèse Raquin* by Émile Zola.** This novel caused a scandal when it appeared in 1867 and brought its 27-year-old author a notoriety that followed him throughout his life. It is not only an uninhibited portrayal of adultery, madness and ghostly revenge, but also a devastating exploration of the darkest aspects of human existence. FICTION ZOLA ●

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Cast of *Life of Pi*.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

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Last season, generous donors helped us bring extraordinary stories to life. Stories that transported us across oceans, invited us to laugh with familiar friends, and challenged us to look more closely at the people and worlds around us. These stories aren't possible without you, our donors!

Because of you, we journeyed through impossible storms and discovered wonder in unexpected places. And most importantly, we met characters whose choices, courage and convictions continue to resonate long after the curtain falls. *Hmm... courage and convictions... that sounds like our donors!*

Thank you for helping us celebrate the joy of coming together, while also making space for stories that ask difficult questions about power, identity, justice and whose voices are heard.

Donors like you believe in the power of theatre, and it is that belief that makes these moments possible. It gives artists permission to be bold, audiences the chance to be moved and surprised, and our community a place to gather, reflect, laugh and imagine.

Thank you for being part of last season's journey, and for helping us create the next chapter together. We are deeply grateful. ●

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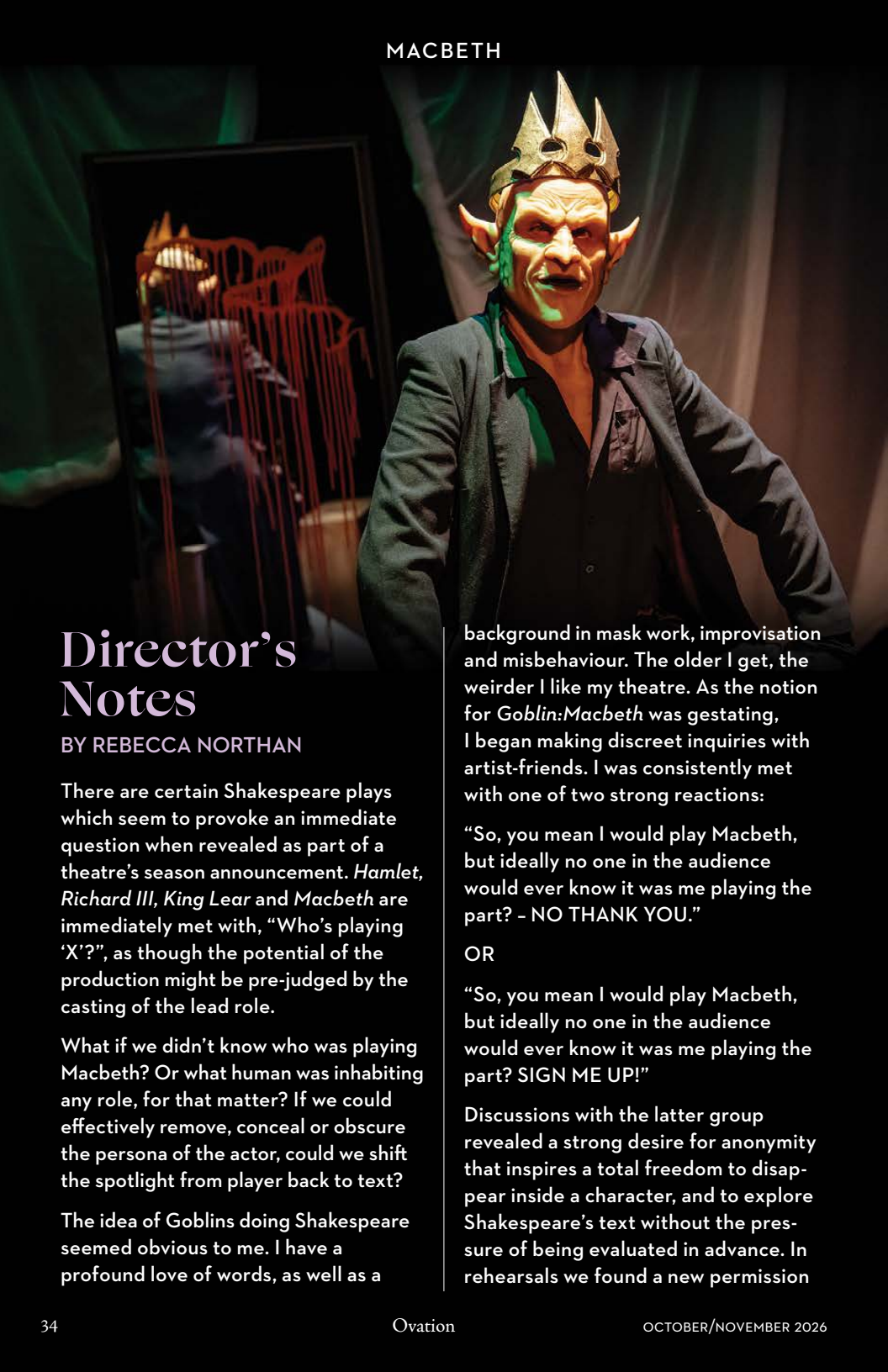


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Director's Notes

BY REBECCA NORTAN

There are certain Shakespeare plays which seem to provoke an immediate question when revealed as part of a theatre's season announcement. *Hamlet*, *Richard III*, *King Lear* and *Macbeth* are immediately met with, "Who's playing 'X'?", as though the potential of the production might be pre-judged by the casting of the lead role.

What if we didn't know who was playing Macbeth? Or what human was inhabiting any role, for that matter? If we could effectively remove, conceal or obscure the persona of the actor, could we shift the spotlight from player back to text?

The idea of Goblins doing Shakespeare seemed obvious to me. I have a profound love of words, as well as a

background in mask work, improvisation and misbehaviour. The older I get, the weirder I like my theatre. As the notion for *Goblin:Macbeth* was gestating, I began making discreet inquiries with artist-friends. I was consistently met with one of two strong reactions:

"So, you mean I would play Macbeth, but ideally no one in the audience would ever know it was me playing the part? - NO THANK YOU."

OR

"So, you mean I would play Macbeth, but ideally no one in the audience would ever know it was me playing the part? SIGN ME UP!"

Discussions with the latter group revealed a strong desire for anonymity that inspires a total freedom to disappear inside a character, and to explore Shakespeare's text without the pressure of being evaluated in advance. In rehearsals we found a new permission

to play, question and explore with a loving irreverence. It gave us a new appreciation for Shakespeare's work.

The Goblins come to the text with curiosity, but no preconceived notions. To them, *Macbeth* is not Shakespeare's most unsettling and cursed play – they already come from a world where fairies, ghosts, witches and magic are pedestrian.

Our Goblins are able to push past all that phantasmagoria to highlight a humour that is so often glossed over in human productions that favour a macabre atmosphere. Our Goblins reveal that to pair tragedy with humour, as Shakespeare intended, is a profoundly human impulse that highlights the horror, while allowing us to bear it.

In closing: I actively discourage you from seeking out the identity of our players, if you don't know already. (Secrets are hard to keep.) Let the Goblins work their magic on you; let the play hit you in new ways. And if it's your first time seeing *Macbeth*, then our apologies – it's all downhill from here. ●

Special Thanks

Ron Soskolne & Howard Cohen, Christopher Oldfield, Haysam Kadri, Joel Cochrane, Hit & Myth Productions, Corey Hallisey, Hanne Loosen, Anton deGroot, Keith Johnstone, Pamela Brook, Bob White, Dennis Cahill, Loose Moose Theatre, Dean Paul Gibson, Claire Sakaki, Christopher Gaze, Bard on the Beach, Julie Miles, Gregory McLaughlin, Meighan Forum, Stratford Festival, Dave Auster, Michael Adams, Antoni Cimolino, Diana LeBlanc, Tim Carol, Lili Beaudoin, Colleen Wheeler, Ijeoma Emesowum, Mark Meer, Composite Effects, Tyler Rive, Albert Howell, Mark Andrada, Myrna Horak, Carl Horak, Marge Northan.

Extra special thanks, and in memoriam of Philip Edwards, our friend, our neighbour, our designer, our mentor in style and grace. The Goblins will see you in the Underworld, in the Up Above, and in between. ●

PHOTOS BY TIM NGUYEN



About Macbeth

BY KSENIA BRODA-MILIAN

Sparknotes calls *The Tragedy of Macbeth* “one of Shakespeare’s darkest and most psychologically intense plays.” It has the highest named body count of any Shakespeare play except *Titus Andronicus*, and a strong supernatural aspect. *Macbeth*’s themes include cruelty, tyranny, ambition, power, and fate versus free will. It is believed to have been written around 1606. In 1603, there was a new monarch on England’s throne: James I (also James VI of Scotland). Anything Scottish was in vogue, and Shakespeare looked at a history of Scotland by Raphael Holinshed for the basis of his next play. James was also widely considered to be paranoid, obsessively concerned that he would be assassinated; he was the closest relative to the recently deceased queen Elizabeth I, but she hadn’t formally named him her heir – and had executed his mother in the past – so he was insecure in his kingship of England. As a result, he was very harsh with anyone suspected of treason.

This script also plays into James’ interest in the supernatural. He was very involved in a series of witch trials in 1590, having women executed for witchcraft – supposedly members of a coven that was trying to attack him. The king published a book called *Daemonologie* in 1597 which covered witchcraft, necromancy, demons, vampires, werewolves and more, which also informed the *Macbeth* script. By spotlighting this content, Shakespeare was telling the king that he was on the same side,

which is a smart thing to do when you’re writing a play for the man who is a patron of your theatre company.

The interests of the king naturally became popular among the people, so *Macbeth* appealed in general. However, it also wrestles with huge questions. The Folger Shakespeare says it asks:

“Why do people do evil knowing that it is evil? Does Macbeth represent someone who murders because fate tempts him? because his wife pushes him into it? because he is overly ambitious? Having killed Duncan, why does Macbeth fall apart, unable to sleep, seeing ghosts, putting spies in everyone’s home, killing his friends and innocent women and children? Why does the success of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth – prophesied by the witches, promising the couple power and riches and ‘peace to all their nights and days to come’ – turn so quickly to ashes, destroying the Macbeths’ relationship, their world, and, finally, both of them?”

As the Utah Shakespeare Festival notes, “the reasons why *Macbeth* was written aren’t nearly as important as the words themselves.” Themes of corruption, good over evil, greed and gender are just as important and relevant today as they were hundreds of years ago. ●

*“Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble”*

— *MACBETH* BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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PRESENTS

Goblin:Macbeth

a Spontaneous Theatre creation

by Rebecca Northan & Bruce Horak, with Ellis Lalonde

October 22 - November 8, 2026

PREVIEW October 21

DirectorRebecca Northan
 Costume Designer Philip Edwards
 Lighting Designer Anton deGroot**
 Sound Designer Ellis Lalonde
 Stage Manager Alice Ferreyra
 Masks Composite Effects
 Associate Producer Christopher Oldfield
 Associate Producer Dustyn Wales

THE CAST

Wug

Kragva

Moog

Goblin:Macbeth is performed without an intermission.

The World Premiere of *Goblin:Macbeth* was produced in 2022 by:
 The Shakespeare Company and Hit and Myth Productions in Calgary, Alberta

The Goblins appear by arrangement with Oldfield Management Inc.

If you really must know the identity of the actors, their names are hidden somewhere in this program.

Production photography by Dylan Hewlett.

MACBETH



Bruce Horak

Co-creator

Bruce Horak is originally from Calgary, Alberta where he trained in Theatre and Improvisation at the prestigious Loose Moose Theatre. He has worked professionally in Canada and abroad for over 25 years. He can be seen onscreen in *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* for Paramount Plus as the Chief Engineer, Hemmer. When not creating new works and performing onstage, Bruce devotes his time to painting, composing and writing. More can be seen at brucehorak.com.



Ellis Lalonde

*Co-creator /
Sound Designer*

The existence of Ellis Lalonde is a subject of keen interest among cryptid enthusiasts. Ellis sightings have been reported across Canada: in Whitehorse, Yukon Territories (*Legend Has It*, Magnetic North Festival), Stratford, Ontario (*An Undiscovered Shakespeare*, Stratford Festival) and in Calgary, Alberta (*Goblin:Macbeth*, The Shakespeare Company). Some claim to have seen him perform as far east as the 2022 National Puppetry Conference (*The Howdy Do Show, Part Duh!*, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center), but most documented evidence places him in or around the Loose Moose Theatre Company in Calgary, Alberta. He has been caught on film most recently as a puppeteer in *Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock* (The Jim Henson Company).



Rebecca Northan

Co-creator / Director

Rebecca Northan is an actor, director, playwright who has worked across Canada, in the US, and abroad. Most recently Rebecca directed a critically acclaimed production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for Bard on the Beach in Vancouver. She was a member of the Shaw Festival ensemble in 2025, where she created and directed *Murder-on-the-Lake*. Her previous creations include the award-winning *Blind Date*, as well as *Undercover*, both of which played the Tarragon Theatre. When not pursuing mainstream theatre, Rebecca also dabbles in the world of improvisation. She is a Canadian Comedy Award winner.



**Philip Edwards
(1950-2024)**

Costume Designer

Following a long career in IT consulting (focused on healthcare and transportation), retirement in the theatre town of Stratford (Ontario) and a series of local courses in theatre arts “something to do” - Philip showed his costume design assignment sketches to Stratford neighbour and theatre maker Rebecca Northan - and was offered his first gig with *Goblin:Macbeth*. Go figure!

MACBETH



Anton deGroot
Lighting Designer

Anton is a set, light and sound designer based in Calgary, and an occasional instructor of all things scenography at the University of Calgary. Select credits include: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Noises Off!* (Theatre Calgary); *Brontë: The World Without*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Treasure Island* (Stratford); *Struck*, *GIANT* (Ghost River); *Heist*, *Misery*, *Nine Dragons*, *Dracula: The Bloody Truth* (Vertigo); *Macbeth*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare Company); *Chapter Two*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Baskerville*, *Jersey Boys*, *Mamma Mia!* (Stage West). When not making plays, you can probably find Anton rolling twenty-sided dice, or walking a little brown dog named Tilly.



Alice Ferreyra
Stage Manager

(Selected credits) Stage Manager: *Forgiveness*, *Get That Hope*, *Women of the Fur Trade*, *R+J* (Stratford); *Groundhog Day: The Musical* (YES Theatre); *Jack: A Beanstalk Panto* (Capitol Theatre); *The Phantom of the Opera - Highschool Project*, *Maggie & Pierre* (Grand); a profoundly affectionate, passionate devotion to someone (-noun) (Tarragon Theatre). Assistant Stage Manager: *The Tao of the World*, *The Hobbit*, *Ransacking Troy*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Monty Python's Spamalat*, *Hamlet*, *Death and the King's Horseman*, *Henry VIII*, *Birds of a Kind*, *Bakkhai* (Stratford); *The Marriage of Figaro* (COC); *The Canadian* (Thousand Island Playhouse).



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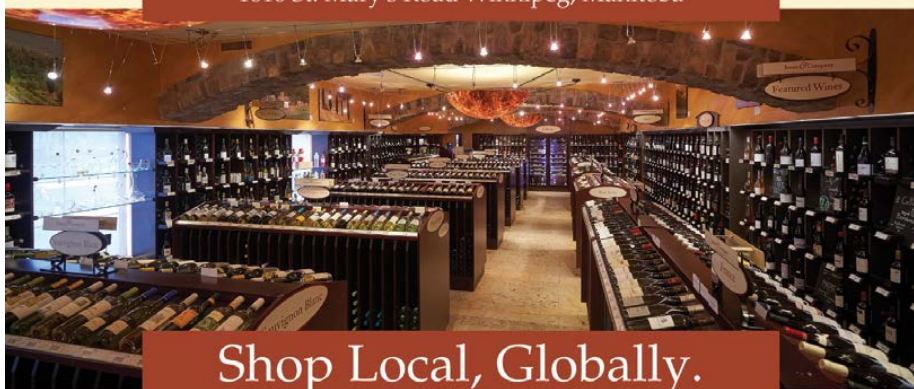
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The cast of *Crazy for You*. PHOTO BY DAVE SWIECICKI

Crazy for You

Everyone was tapping their toes during *Crazy for You*, the 33rd Lawyers Play, which played from May 5 to 9 at the Tom Hendry Warehouse. The Lawyers Play is one of Royal MTC's largest annual fundraisers to support the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival. As of 2026, over \$1.2 million has been raised through this wonderful partnership!

The volunteer cast of Manitoba Bar Association members brought audiences to their feet with their singing and dancing to familiar Gershwin melodies.

Finally, a huge thanks to our patrons, donors, advertisers, sponsors, cast and crew, as well as the volunteers and committee members! ●

CAST

Gail Asper	Meghan Bjorklund	Jamie Jurczak	Sandi Phillips	Steve Scarfone
David Barbour	Tashia Dreger	David Kroft	Jodi Plenert	Mike Segstro
Victor Bargaen	Caleigh Clawson	Joel Lebois	Nadine Plourde	Reed Sitarik
Kathrine Basarab	Benji Greenberg	Hayley Main	Nalini Reddy	
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*The participation of this Artist was arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance • Opera • Theatre Policy (DOT). The identity of the goblin actors in *Goblin:Macbeth*: Nick Dolan, Kevin Kruckkywich and Tyler River.

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Megan Fry. Photo by Jerry Grajewski.

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