

OVATION

ROYAL
MTC
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

VOL 33 • NO 1
OCT/NOV 2025

LIFE OF PI



Based on the novel by Yann Martel
Adapted by Lolita Chakrabarti

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by Ronnie Burkett
Music by John Alcorn

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MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Kelly Thornton

Welcome to MTC's 2025/26 season. It is my pleasure to bring these two remarkable shows to the stage. One marks the return of the brilliant Ronnie Burkett to MTC after a 20-year hiatus, with his newest work *Wonderful Joe*, while our production of *Life of Pi* is the first non-replica production since the play premiered in the UK in 2019. This all-Canadian premiere is even more significant as the story, lovingly adapted for the stage by British playwright Lolita Chakrabarti, was born in the mind of celebrated Canadian author Yann Martel.

Not only are these two shows united by dazzling puppetry, but both Joe and Pi face a sort of forced eviction, Pi's being from a shipwreck, while Joe's is quite literal as he is displaced by a condo development. Likewise, both are accompanied on their journey by significant sidekicks who happen to be animals. Granted the threatening presence of Richard Parker, the Royal Bengal Tiger who is in Pi's lifeboat is a far cry from Mister the dog, Joe's trusted companion who accompanies him on a farewell tour of his neighbourhood. But nonetheless these extraordinary portraits of human resilience and survival are surprisingly aligned as their heroes face epic challenges in their struggle for existence.

Good storytelling should both entertain and enlighten, and these productions deliver in spades. *Wonderful Joe's* commentary on the cost of gentrification, precarity and the power of community is a resounding call. While *Life of Pi* asks us to reflect on faith, trauma, perseverance and the power of story itself. I hope you enjoy these incredible plays.

Thanks for joining us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Kelly'.

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.

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

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Winnipeg, MB R3B 0P8
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Royal MTC is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

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

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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Life of Pi

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MAR 25–APR 18

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APR 29–MAY 23

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Wonderful Joe

OCT 7–26

A Number

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Holland

FEB 4–21

**In the Shadow
Beyond the Pines**

MAR 11–28

Cast of *Life of Pi*.

PHOTO BY NANC PRICE



Director's Notes BY HAYSAM KADRI

Life of Pi is a story of survival, belief, and the extraordinary resilience of the human spirit. At its heart, it is a fable about storytelling itself. How we shape narratives to make sense of the incomprehensible, and how imagination can become both a tool for endurance and a vessel for truth.

What I am most excited about this piece is its rich theatricality. It dares to ask impossible questions and uses bold, visual poetry to answer them. How do you stage the vastness of the Pacific Ocean? A Royal Bengal tiger? A soul in crisis? That is exactly what theatre is made for. To transform the ordinary into the extraordinary through collaboration, design, performance and belief.

Directing this production has been a great privilege. The artistry, ingenuity, and heart that every member of this creative team, cast, and crew has brought to the process is nothing short of inspiring. Together, we have aimed to honour the depth of Yann Martel's novel and the powerful theatrical adaptation by Lolita Chakrabarti while creating something uniquely our own.

A sincere thank you to Kelly Thornton and everyone at Royal MTC for the opportunity to bring this remarkable story to life with you. ●



The Citadel Theatre is proud to present
LIFE OF PI with the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre.

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Daryl Cloran, **Artistic Director**
Jessie van Rijn, **Executive Director**

Life of Pi



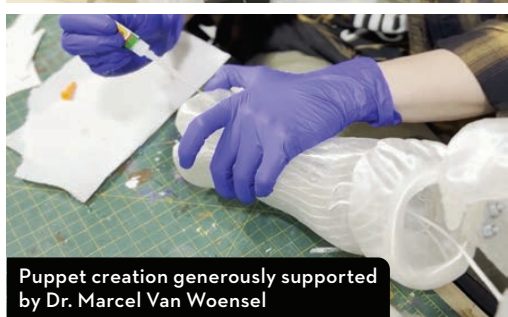
Taylor McCaffrey is proud to be the opening night sponsor of Royal MTC and gratefully acknowledges the rich contribution made by Manitoba's Arts Community to our province.

**TAYLOR
McCAFFREY**
LAWYERS

Behind the Scenes



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Puppet creation generously supported
by Dr. Marcel Van Woensel



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puppets come to life!

SYNOPSIS - When presented with the opportunity to relocate to Canada following civil unrest in their community, Pi and his family gather the animals from their spectacular Pondicherry Zoo. Travelling aboard a cargo ship on the Pacific Ocean, tragedy strikes and a shipwreck strands Pi on a lifeboat alone - save for a small surviving menagerie of animals including a Royal Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. As the company on the lifeboat rapidly dwindles and days turn into weeks, Pi and Richard Parker learn to coexist and fight for survival. Staying alive in a vast and unforgiving ocean is no easy feat, and Pi is forced to confront the limits of faith, resilience and his own perception of the world around him. ●

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Life of Pi

Based on the novel by Yann Martel

Adapted by Lolita Chakrabarti

October 16 – November 8, 2025

PREVIEW October 15

Director Haysam Kadri
Puppetry Director Dayna Tietzen
Puppet Design and Fabrication Puppet Stuff Canada
Set Designer Beyata Hackborn**
Costume Designer Joseph Abetria†
Lighting Designer April Viczko**
Video & Projection Designer Corwin Ferguson**
Composer & Sound Designer Joelysa Pankanea
Fight Director Morgan Yamada
Assistant Director Steven Conde
Assistant Set Designer Amy Dass**
Lighting Design Assistant Charlie Peters
Lighting Design Assistant Victor Snaith Hernandez
Stage Manager Molly Pearson
Assistant Stage Manager Anna Davidson
Apprentice Stage Manager Darlene Dela Cruz†
Apprentice Stage Manager Tia Morann

Life of Pi is presented in arrangement with Theatre Global. www.theatreglobal.com

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

Life of Pi made its North American premiere at the A.R.T in Cambridge, Massachusetts on December 4, 2022 before opening on Broadway at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre on March 30, 2023.

Life of Pi was originally Directed by Max Webster, Set and Costume Design by Tim Hatley, Puppetry and Movement Direction by Finn Caldwell, Puppetry Design by Nick Barnes and Finn Caldwell, Video Design by Andrzej Goulding, Lighting Design by Tim Lutkin and Tim Deiling, Sound Design by Carolyn Downing and Composition by Andrew T. Mackay.

The videotaping of making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author's right and actionable under international copyright law.

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

Production photography by Nanc Price.

**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

Life of Pi

THE CAST

Pi Patel Davinder Malhi
Nurse / Amma / Ensemble Deena Aziz
Mrs. Okamoto / Ship's Captain / Ensemble Andrea Cheung
Lulu Chen / Jai / Ensemble Bailey Chin
Richard Parker Puppeteer 2 / Ensemble Braydon Dowler-Coltman
Richard Parker Puppeteer 1 / Ensemble Troy Feldman
Mrs. Biology Kumar / Zaida Khan / Ensemble N Girgis
Father / Ghost Father / Ensemble Ali Kazmi
Father Martin / Cook /
Voice of Richard Parker / Ensemble Kevin Klassen
Rani / Ghost Rani / Ensemble Anaka Maharaj-Sandhu
Mamaji / Pandit-Ji / Ensemble Azeem Nathoo
Ensemble Kristen Padayas
Russian Sailor / Admiral Jackson / Ensemble Garrett Ross
Ensemble Suchiththa Wickremesooriya

UNDERSTUDIES

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

Mrs. Okamoto / Ship's Captain Bailey Chin
Nurse / Amma N Girgis
Pi Patel Anaka Maharaj-Sandhu
Rani / Ghost Rani,
Mrs. Biology Kumar / Zaida Khan,
Lulu Chen / Jai Kristen Padayas
Richard Parker Puppeteer 1 & 2,
Father Martin / Cook / Voice of Richard Parker Garrett Ross
Father / Ghost Father,
Mamaji / Pandit-Ji,
Russian Sailor / Admiral Jackson Suchiththa Wickremesooriya

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

Life of Pi is performed with one intermission.

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LIFE OF PI



Deena Aziz

Nurse / Amma /
Ensemble

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE *Sakura*, *Thy Woman's Weeds* (Centaur); *Birthday Candles*, *American Fast* (City Theatre); *The Supine Cobbler*, *Behaviour*, *The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble* (GCTC); *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Grand, Arts Club); *Intractable Woman*, *If We Are Birds* (Imago); *The Tempest* (Pittsburgh Public); *Dust* (ATP); *Rice Boy* (CS, Stratford); *Julius Caesar*, *Twelfth Night* (Repercussion Theatre); *The Aeneid* (Talisman Theatre); *Elli Valli Ottla* (Théâtre Urbi et Orbi).

TV *Transplant*, *Diggstown*, *This Life*, *Being Human*.

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



Andrea Cheung

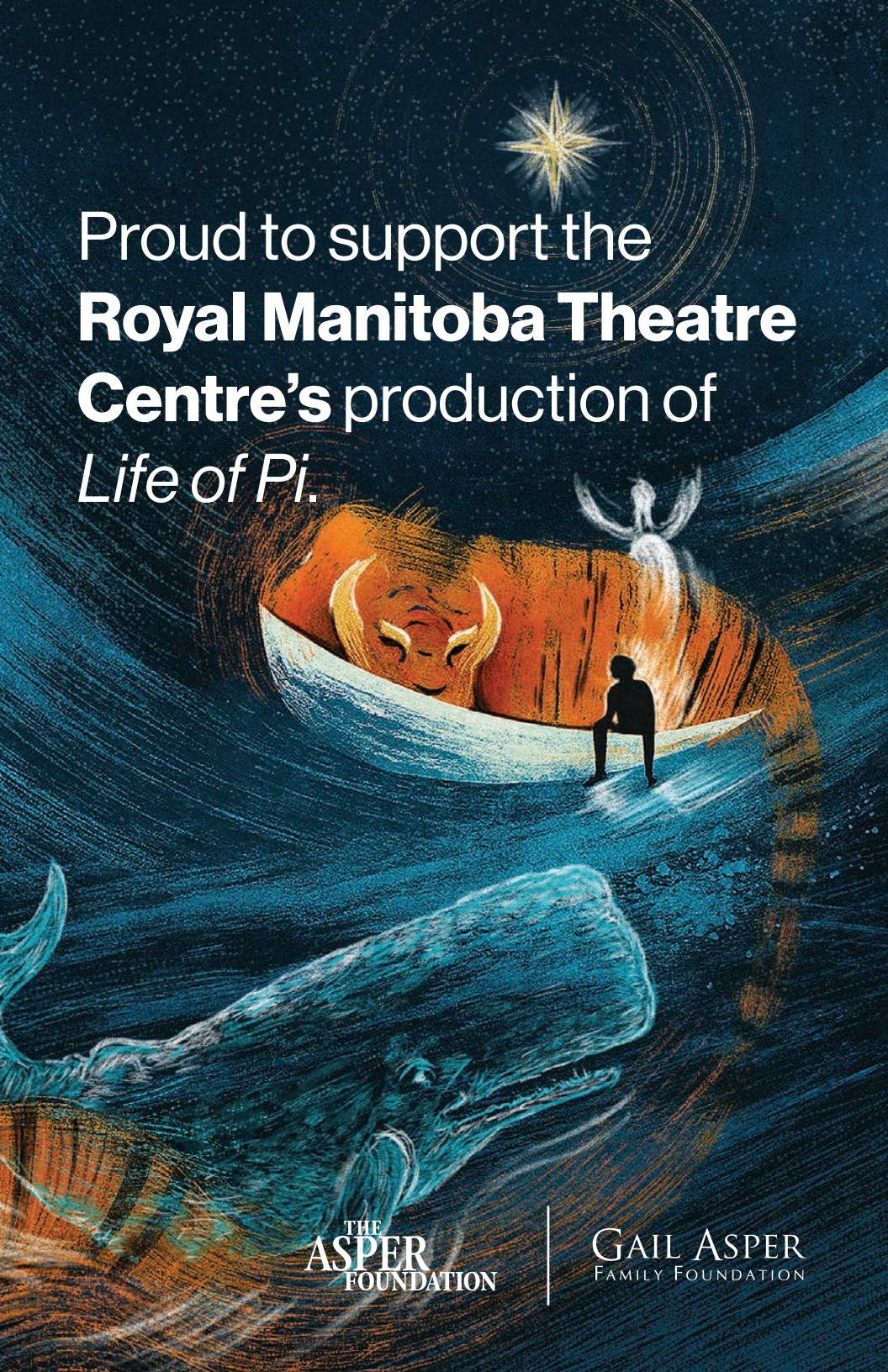
Mrs. Okamoto /
Ship's Captain /
Ensemble

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theatre Prospero); *Urban Tales* (Northern Light Theatre); *The King and I* (Citadel); *Laughing Wild* (Epiphany Theatre); *Springboards New Play Festival* (Workshop West Theatre); *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding* (Theatre Republic).

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

ET CETERA AMPA nomination for Best Performance, Sterling Award nomination for Fringe Performance by an Actress.

A surreal, painterly illustration in a dark blue, textured style. In the center, a boy sits in a small white boat. The boat's hull is painted with a large, orange, smiling tiger's face. Above the boat, a white, winged figure floats. In the foreground, a large, blue, translucent whale swims. The background is a dark blue sky with a bright, multi-pointed star and concentric circular lines around it.

Proud to support the
**Royal Manitoba Theatre
Centre's** production of
Life of Pi.

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Bailey Chin

Lulu Chen / Jai / Ensemble

Understudy: Mrs. Okamoto / Ship's Captain

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

OTHER THEATRE *Feast* (PTE).

TRAINING University of Manitoba – Black Hole Theatre.

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



Braydon Dowler-Coltman

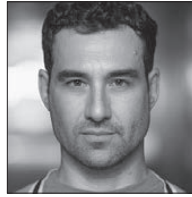
*Richard Parker
Puppeteer 2 / Ensemble*

ROYAL MTC *Network* (with Citadel).

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

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

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



Troy Feldman

*Richard Parker
Puppeteer 1 / Ensemble*

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

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

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

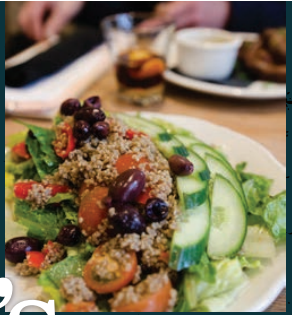
ET CETERA Troy is a Toronto based actor, choreographer, (bboy/house) dancer, puppeteer and parkour artist. As a professional artist he has traveled across the globe performing. Special thanks and love to his AZ fam, Mom and Nadine.



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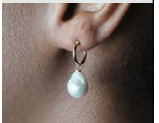


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LIFE OF PI



N Girgis

*Mrs. Biology Kumar /
Zaida Khan /
Ensemble*

*Understudy:
Nurse / Amma*

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

OTHER THEATRE Selected: *Charlotte's Web*, *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon*, *The Drowning Girls - Cross Canada Tour*, *In Wonderland*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Blue Light* (ATP); *One Christmas Carol* (Storybook); *Dark Lady*, *Complete History Abridged*, *Blues in the Night* (Lunchbox Theatre); *The Mousetrap*, *Humble Boy*, *Counsellor-at-Law* (TC); *Dracula: Bloody Truth*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *The Ends of the Earth*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Vertigo); *Steel Magnolias*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Theatre NorthWest); *The Gig* (TA); *The Coyotes*, *Abundance*, *Beggar's Opera* (Caravan); *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Grand); *Titus Andronicus*, *Richard III* (Shakespeare Co.); *What You're Missing* (Chutzpah Festival); *Communion*, *Palace of the End*, *Life Skills* (Network); *Heroine*, *Love* (Northern Light); *Speaking in Tongues* (Shadow); *The Trespassers* (Belfry/VP); *Lion in the Streets* (Sage); *Deathtrap*, *Suite Surrender*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The 39 Steps* (Stage West); *Amadeus*, *Macbeth*, *The Constant Wife* (Atlantic Theatre Festival); *Speak* (Globe).



Ali Kazmi

*Father / Ghost Father
/ Ensemble*

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

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

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

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

ET CETERA Dora nominated for *Behind the Moon* (Tarragon). Multiple awards for film and tv series. The world is full of magic things patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper.

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LIFE OF PI



Kevin Klassen

*Father Martin /
Cook / Voice of
Richard Parker /
Ensemble*

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

OTHER THEATRE Recent and selected: *Rock of Ages* (Rainbow); *The Prom* (Dry Cold); *Othello* (Echo/Beau/Raven); *Mesa* (PTE); *Arcadia* (Citadel); *Antony and Cleopatra* (SIR); *Edward II* (TBTR); *John and Beatrice* (TPM); *Death of a Salesman* (WJT); *Peter Pan* (MTYP).

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

TRAINING 2015 Citadel/Banff Professional Training Program; University of Winnipeg.

ET CETERA Love to Charlene and Phoebe.



Anaka

Maharaj-Sandhu

*Rani / Ghost Rani /
Ensemble*

Understudy: Pi Patel

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE *Mahabharata* (Lincoln Centre, NAC, CS, Barbican Centre, Shaw); *Twelfth Night* (SIR); *Assistance*, *The Last Five Years* (Winnipeg Fringe Festival); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Cabaret*, *Venus* (NTS).

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

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

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

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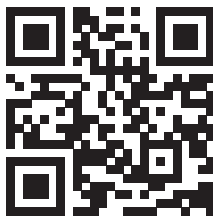
SIGN UP TODAY AT ROYALMTC.CA/UNDER30

STEPHANIE SY, RHEA RODYCH-RASIDESCU AND LAURA OLAFSON IN *WAITRESS*. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT.

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Davinder Malhi
Pi Patel

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

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

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



Azeem Nathoo
Mamaji / Pandit-Ji / Ensemble

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

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

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

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

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



Kristen Padayas
Ensemble

Understudy: Rani / Ghost Rani, Mrs. Biology Kumar / Zaida Khan, Lulu Chen / Jai

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

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

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

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

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Garrett Ross

Russian Sailor / Admiral Jackson / Ensemble

Understudy: R.P. Puppeteer 1 & 2, Father Martin / Cook / Voice of R.P.

ROYAL MTC *The Sound of Music* (with Citadel), *Shakespeare in Love* (with Citadel).

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

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



Suchiththa

Wickremesooriya

Ensemble

Understudy: Father / Ghost Father, Mamaji / Pandit-Ji, Russian Sailor / Admiral Jackson

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

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

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

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

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COMMITMENT**

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The background is a solid black field. It is decorated with several thin, gold-colored lines that intersect to form a complex geometric pattern of triangles and polygons. In the upper left and upper right corners, there are two gold-colored cylinders, each oriented diagonally. Lines extend from the top of these cylinders across the upper portion of the image.

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exhilarating theatre.**

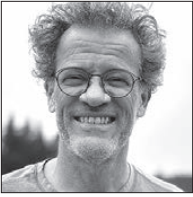
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LIFE OF PI



Yann Martel
Novelist

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



Lolita Chakrabarti
Playwright

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

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

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



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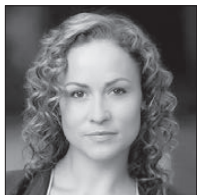
BellMTS

**Haysam Kadri***Director***ROYAL MTC** First engagement.

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

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

ET CETERA Haysam is the Artistic Director of Alberta Theatre Projects.
albertatheatreprojects.com

**Dayna Tietzen***Puppetry Director***ROYAL MTC** Fraulein Kost in *Cabaret*.

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

**Beyata Hackborn***Set Designer*

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

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

ET CETERA Beyata is an award-winning set designer from Western Canada who lives with a lovely household of dogs and friends, enjoys long nights of model-building, good food, has a soft spot for Sondheim and magical, sometimes absurd theatre. On a good day, she can juggle a bit.

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Joseph Abetria
Costume Designer

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

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

TRAINING University of Winnipeg.



April Viczko
Lighting Designer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE Lighting Design: *Skylight* (TC). Costume Design: *Blackbird*, *True Love Lies* (Citadel); *Slime* (The Only Animal/Banff Centre); *Butcher*, *The Circle*, *The Apology*, *Ash Rizin'*, *Thinking of Yu*, *Drama: Pilot Episode* (ATP); *Might As Well Be Dead*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Strangers on a Train*, *The Mousetrap*, *In the Heat of the Night* (Vertigo Theatre). Production Design: *Hello Hello*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Kill Your Television). Set and Costume Design: *As You Like It* (Citadel); *Bea's Niece* (Tarragon).

TRAINING/TEACHING April is the Chair of the Drama Department at the University of Alberta. She is a full member of Associated Designers of Canada/IATSE 659.

ET CETERA aprilviczko.com



Corwin Ferguson
Video & Projection Designer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE *Heist*, *Playing With Fire* (Citadel); *Brigadoon* (Shaw); *Forgiveness*, *Salesman in China*, *Rent* (Stratford); *Homes* (Grand); *Evil Dead the Musical* (Starvox); *Into the Woods Jr*, *Newsies* (Yellow Door Theatre Project); *Mary Poppins, 1984* (Saint John Theatre); *Rinaldo* (Pacific Opera); *Hamlet*, *Julius Caesar*, *Richard III* (Shakespeare Company); *Playing with Fire*, *You Will Remember Me* (ATP).

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

ET CETERA corwinferguson.com



Joelysa Pankanea
Composer & Sound Designer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Little Women* (Citadel); *Behind the Moon* (Touchstone); *The Mousetrap* (TC); *Henry V* (Bard).

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

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



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Morgan Yamada

Fight Director

ROYAL MTC Fight/Movement Director: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (with Citadel).

OTHER THEATRE Recent and selected: Fight/Intimacy Director: *Little Women*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Citadel). Fight Director: *Die Walkure* (Edmonton Opera); *Beauty and the Beast* (WCT). Intimacy Director: *Where You Are*, *After Mourning – Before Van Gogh* (Shadow Theatre). Actor: *The Three Musketeers*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Citadel); *Glory* (Cheminus Theatre Festival/National Tour/Original Cast – WCT, et al.).

ET CETERA For more info on her work, morganyamada.com. Morgan is also one of Azimuth Theatre's Artistic Producers.



Steven Conde

Assistant Director

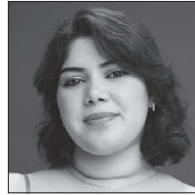
ROYAL MTC First engagement.

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

Barber of Fleet Street, *The Band's Visit*, *Waitress* (Atlantis Theatrical).

TRAINING MFA in Directing (University of Calgary).

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



Amy Dass

Assistant Set Designer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

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

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



Molly Pearson

Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

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



Anna Davidson
Assistant Stage
Manager

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE *The Sound of Music*, *The Fiancée* (Citadel); *Die Walkure*, *Das Reingold*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Bluebeard's Castle*, *Aquarius*, *Orphée+*, *La bohème* (Edmonton Opera); *The Fiancée* (Chemainus Theatre Festival); *Don Giovanni* (NAC/Banff Centre).

TRAINING Theatre Production Program at MacEwan.

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



Darlene Dela Cruz
Apprentice Stage
Manager

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

OTHER THEATRE Stage Management: *The Gallery Wall* (Winnipeg Fringe Festival); *Oh, the Humanity* (U of W). Carpentry: *White Girls in Moccasins*, *Forward*, *The Drowning Girls* (U of W). Other: PAGBUO: A Story Building Workshop (UNIT Productions); *MA-BUHAY! A New Musical!* (Rainbow); Winnipeg Fringe Festival.

TV *The Amazing Race Canada* Season 9.

TRAINING University of Winnipeg Theatre and Film Department.

ET CETERA Jean Murray - Moray Sinclair Apprenticeship recipient. Thank you to my parents for picking me up during late nights and to my sister who dragged me

into theatre in the first place. Thank you to my friends who helped me get here and to my professors and mentors for the guidance and support. Thank you to Royal MTC for giving me this opportunity.



Tia Morann
Apprentice Stage
Manager

ROYAL MTC *Indecent*.

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

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

ET CETERA Special thanks to all the family for their support!

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Israel Asper, O.C., O.M., Q.C., L.L.D. (1932-2003) and Babs Asper (1933-2011) believed that philanthropy is a driving force behind positive change in people's quality of life. For this reason, they formed The Asper Foundation in Winnipeg in 1983 to build upon their and the Asper family's philanthropic objectives. The Foundation develops major projects and provides general support to the Jewish Community while also supporting the broader community in areas of culture, education, community development, and human rights on a local, national and international scale. ●

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***The Cat's Table* by Michael Ondaatje.**

Travel on an ocean liner with a solo 11-year-old in the 1950s from Sri Lanka to England. Michael is placed at the lowly "Cat's Table" during mealtimes where he witnesses eccentric grownups spinning webs of fantastical worlds. The narrator unfolds layered tales of the magical yet often difficult discoveries of childhood that spark a lifelong journey. FICTION ONDAATJE

***The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho.** Follow a young Andalusian shepherd who travels to Egypt after a fortune teller reveals he will discover treasure at the pyramids. Instead, he meets a wise alchemist. From young idealism to mature wisdom, the alchemist teaches the shepherd to realize his true self. Journey towards realizing that home is really where the treasure is. FICTION COELHO

***The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt.** Winner of the Pulitzer Prize. A young boy miraculously survives an accident in New York when it claims his mother's life. Abandoned by his father and trying to make sense of his new life, he is drawn into the art underworld by a painting of his mother's. This modern-day odyssey is one of self-invention and the monumental power of art. FICTION TARTT

EXPLORE MORE ANIMALS & HUMANS

***H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald.**

This is the story of how one woman trained a goshawk. From childhood Helen Macdonald was determined to become a falconer. When drowning in the grief of her father's death she becomes obsessed with training her own. This book is a record of a spiritual

journey, struggle with grief, and how it might be possible to reconcile death with life and love. 598.944 MACD 2015

***Heal the Beasts* by Philipp Schott.**

Local writer and vet Philipp Schott takes readers through 22 stories of different animal healers and vets through time and locales'. Funny, charming, and thoroughly fascinating, readers will come away with an in-depth understanding of the human-animal bond. 636.089 SCHOTT 2025

***A Woman Among Wolves* by Diane K. Boyd.**

In the 1970s Diane Boyd was the only female biologist in the US researching and radio-collaring wolves. Dubbed the Jane Goodall of wolves after 40 years of studying and advocating for these wild dogs, she has faced grizzlies, mountain lions and wolverines. Her stories highlight her resourcefulness, the beauty of this apex predator and her admiration for them. 570.92 BOYD 2024

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 **AIR CANADA**

WONDERFUL JOE



Mister and Joe

PHOTOS BY IAN JACKSON

“Paint gold in the part of me that is broken. Let my faultline shine, these golden precious scars are fine, divine and mine.”

Margaret and Joe



Sunny, Joe and Mister



Mother Nature





Child Joe



Hershe



Teen Joe



Linda and Joe

SYNOPSIS - When Joe and his treasured dog, Mister, are faced with their imminent separation following an eviction from their Toronto apartment, the two seize the day and dive into the community for one final grand adventure. Traversing down the building's five stories and exploring their surrounding neighbourhood, Joe and Mister cross paths with a colourful collection of characters from many walks of life - from the average to the fantastical. Exploring themes of environmental decay, the rising cost of living and gentrification, Joe and Mister bring to light the stories of those we may encounter in our own day to day, and others that may be quietly waiting in corners for a chance meeting. ●

PRESENTS

Wonderful Joe

Created and Performed by Ronnie Burkett

October 9 – 26, 2025

PREVIEWS October 7 & 8

Music Composition and Lyrics John Alcorn
Lighting Design Kevin Humphrey**
Production Manager / Artistic Associate Terri Gillis
Stage Manager / Technical Director Crystal Salverda
Associate Producer John Lambert
Marionette and Costume Design Ronnie Burkett
Costume Builder Kim Crossley
Puppet Studio Alexander Mantia, Aidan Sparks,
 Angela Talbot, Dina Meschkuleit,
 with Martin Herbert, Andy Hayward, Shanna Miller,
 Justin Mezzapelli and Brigitte Sampogna
Shoes Camellia Koo
Marionette Controls Greg Ballora (after Luman Coad)
Marionette Stringing Marcus Jamin
Majordomo Robbie Buttinski
Scenic Construction Shop Dogs, Montreal
Scenic Painting Daniel Barkley
Model and Drafting Aidan Sparks
Music Production, Arrangements, Vocals,
Keyboards and Digital Programming John Alcorn
Featured Vocals Coco Love Alcorn
Mixing and Mastering Jeff Wolpert, Desert Fish Studios

Wonderful Joe is performed without an intermission.

Wonderful Joe was created with the support of The Explore and Create Program of the Canada Council for the Arts.

Wonderful Joe was co-commissioned by Stanford Lively (Stanford CA, USA),
 UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (Los Angeles CA, USA)
 and TO Live (Toronto ON, Canada).

With developmental support from Theatre Network (Edmonton AB, Canada).
 In collaboration with Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes (Toronto ON Canada).

Wonderful Joe is presented with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes is exclusively represented by
 John Lambert & Assoc., Montreal, Canada. www.johnlambert.ca

Production photography by Ian Jackson.

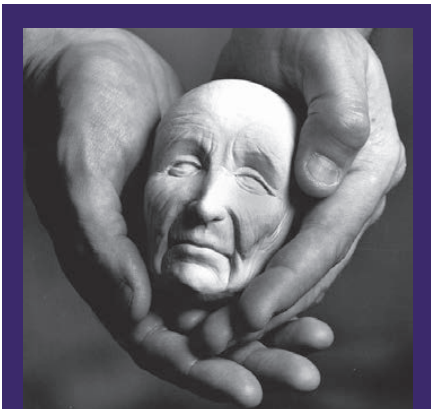
Adult audiences only; children under the age of 16 will not be admitted. Latecomers not admitted.

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



Ronnie Burkett
*Creator and
Performer*

Ronnie Burkett has been captivated by puppetry since the age of seven and began touring his shows around Alberta at the age of 14. Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes was formed in 1986, continuously playing on Canada's major stages, and as a guest company on numerous tours abroad. Ronnie received the 2009 Siminovitch Prize in Theatre, The Herbert Whittaker Drama Bench Award for Outstanding Contribution to Canadian Theatre, a Village Voice OBIE award, and four Citations of Excellence from the American Center of the Union Internationale de la Marionnette. In 2019, Ronnie Burkett was appointed as an Officer of The Order of Canada and in 2024 he was awarded Canada's Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement.



Scan to watch *The Passion and Puppetry of Ronnie Burkett*, or visit johnlambert.ca



John Alcorn
*Music Arrangements
and Production*

John Alcorn is one of Canada's premiere jazz vocalists, delivering his distinctive renditions of jazz standards on the most prestigious bandstands and concert stages across Canada. His list of citations and acknowledgements in music and theatre include both Jazz Report (Male Vocalist of the Year) and Dora (Outstanding Music) awards. As composer, lyricist, musical director, arranger and producer, he has collaborated with numerous significant Canadian theatre artists, including Daniel MacIvor, Deanne Taylor, Sky Gilbert, Theresa Tova, and Tomson Highway, and eight collaborations with Theatre of Marionettes.



Crystal Salverda
*Stage Manager /
Technical Director*

With over 30 years in the entertainment industry, Crystal has been blessed to work both across the country and internationally stage managing some wonderful productions. She has had the pleasure of working with Ronnie for the past 11 years. She has also worked with companies such as Blyth Festival, Kidoons Network, Calgary Stampede, Necessary Angel, Souleppper Theatre, Canadian Stage, Harold Green Jewish Theatre, just to name a few. Other work experience includes Operations for Field of Dreams and Little League Classic (BaAM Productions), Sales Manager (Westsun), Concert Stage Manager (Marquis Entertainment). ●

EXPLORE MORE Wonderful Joe

EXPLORE MORE FRIENDSHIP AND CHARACTERS STARTING AFRESH

***A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman.**

A curmudgeon hides beneath a cranky and short-tempered exterior while clashing with his new neighbours, a boisterous family whose chattiness and habits lead to unexpected friendship.

FICTION BACKMAN

***A Little Hope* by Ethan Joella.** The residents of Wharton, Connecticut learn to cope with everyday fears, desires and loss after illness, betrayals and addiction force them to reconsider happiness in a series of interlinking stories about Freddie and Greg Tyler. FICTION JOELLA

***Comfort & Joy: A Fable* by Kristin Hannah.** Recently divorced and having no family of her own, Joy Candellaro is beginning to dream of a new life with widower Daniel O'Shea and his son, Bobby, until a fateful Christmas Eve forces her to make a painful choice. FICTION ROM HANNAH

***The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules* by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg.** Bored with her dull, drab life in a retirement home, Martha and four of her best friends rebel against the rules imposed on them. This book challenges ageism and the way society treats the elderly. Using a caper-style plot the author shows that age does not define your capabilities. FICTION INGELMAN-SUNDBERG

EXPLORE MORE FACTS AND DOCUMENTARIES

***Neglected No More* by Andre Picard.**

The Coronavirus pandemic opened our eyes to the dismal state of many of the nation's long-term care homes, the conditions for residents, lack of oversight, as well as the overworked and underpaid staff. Esteemed health reporter Andre Picard showcases the eldercare crisis and offers an urgently needed prescription for a broken system. 362.60971 PICARD 2021

***Gentrification Is Inevitable and Other Lies* by Leslie Kern.** This book challenges myths about gentrification, offers resistance strategies and encourages readers to recognize their roles in combating it. The author expertly argues that gentrification continues the colonial settler project but that it's not inevitable. 305.5 KERN 2022

EXPLORE MORE DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT

***Up* produced by Jonas Rivera / story by Pete Docter, Bob Peterson & Tom McCarthy.** 78-year-old balloon salesman Carl Fredricksen finally fulfills his life-long dream of adventure when he ties thousands of balloons to his house and flies away to the wilds of South America. He discovers too late that an 8-year-old Wilderness Explorer named Russell has stowed away. DVD FILM/TV UP ●

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BEHIND THE SCENES

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

LIFE OF PI

Additional staff provided by IATSE Local 63

Meet the 2025/26 Season Ensemble!

Scan the QR Code or visit royalmtc.ca/Artists/SeasonEnsemble to meet our 2025/26 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 175 artists will come together to engage with theatre lovers in the collective act of storytelling.



LIFE OF PI

CITADEL THEATRE ADMINISTRATION & PRODUCTION STAFF

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Peter Locock, Asst. Head of Scenic Carpentry
Garret DeRede, Scenic Carpenter
Jeff Burwash, Scenic Carpenter
Marc Anderson, Head Stage Carpenter
Serge Menard, Asst Head Stage Carpenter
Brendan Nearey, Stage Carpenter
Leanne Townsend, Stage Carpenter
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Megan Paliwoda, Assistant Head of Scenic Paint
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Judith Darough, Cutter
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Hongning Ke, Stitcher
Kelsey McCammon, Stitcher
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Janessa Barron, Asst Head of Ward. Running
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Sarah McPhee, Lead Paint Designer & Fabricator
Reese Scott, 3D Technician & Puppet Fabricator
Leah Carmichael, Puppet Fabricator & Sculptor

2025/26 Royal MTC Board of Trustees





The cast of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. PHOTO BY DAVE SWIECICKI

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 hard-working crew, as well as our many volunteers and committee members. ●

CAST

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

Director Mariam Bernstein*

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Jeff Palamar - Co-Chair
Michelle Falk
Caleigh Glawson
Jamie Jurczak
Peter Kingsley
Joel Lebois
Wendy Martin White
Jim McLandress
Sandi Phillips

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

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See royalmtc.ca/bw for full prize details & raffle rules.

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A person with blonde hair, wearing a red blazer, is holding a glass of beer in the background. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a restaurant or bar setting.

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