

OVATION

ROYAL
MTC
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

VOL 32 • NO 5
MAR/APR 2025

Casey and Diana

by Nick Green



JOHN
HIRSCH
MAINSTAGE

MURDER *for* TWO

Book & Music by
Joe Kinosian

Book & Lyrics by
Kellen Blair



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Wonderful Joe

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A Number

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Holland

FEB 4–21

In the Shadow
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MAR 11–28

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



I am so pleased to welcome you to the theatre for these two wonderful shows.

I first saw *Casey and Diana* at its world premiere at the Stratford Festival in the summer of 2023. It is one of the most extraordinary new Canadian plays I have seen in a long time. Playwright Nick Green's deeply moving play takes us back in time to when the world was reeling from the onset of the AIDs epidemic. Fear was palpable in the face of this horrific disease, but in 1991 an extraordinary act of compassion was witnessed by the world when Princess Diana not only announced she would visit Toronto's Casey House, an AIDS Hospice, but by the compassion she displayed with the patients,

holding their hands and breaking the stigma that had long isolated them.

This play is a celebration of human kindness, not only of Diana's but by all the caregivers who lovingly cared for the residents of Casey House and helped them die with dignity. Foremost it is a celebration of the human spirit, and a memorial to the bright lights that were snuffed out by this unforgiving disease. May their memory be a blessing.

At the Warehouse we finish our season with *Murder for Two*. After a whirlwind tour across Manitoba and Northern Ontario, it is our very great pleasure to bring this wonderful comic murder mystery musical to our stage. At the centre of this production is the incredible talent of its cast and creative team. The musical prowess and comic genius of our team makes this production shine, and we are so pleased to share it with you.

Thank you for supporting great theatre on both our stages this season.

Enjoy the show.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '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, Cree, Anishinew and Dakota people, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. We are thankful for the benefits sharing this land has afforded us, acknowledge the responsibilities of the Treaties, and embrace the opportunity to partner with Indigenous communities in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

THEATRE ABBREVIATION LEGEND

A.C.T. American Conservatory Theater • San Francisco, CA
Arts Club Arts Club Theatre Company • Vancouver, BC
ATF Atlantic Theatre Festival • Wolfville, NS
ATP Alberta Theatre Projects • Calgary, AB
BAM Brooklyn Academy of Music • NYC
Bard on the Beach Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival • Vancouver, BC
Belfry The Belfry Theatre • Victoria, BC
Blyth Blyth Theatre Festival • Blyth, ON
Broadway Theatre district • New York, NY
CBC Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
Centaur Centaur Theatre Company • Montreal, QC
Citadel The Citadel Theatre • Edmonton, AB
COC Canadian Opera Company • Toronto, ON
CS Canadian Stage • Toronto, ON
Dora Dora Mavor Moore Award • Toronto, ON
Drayton Drayton Entertainment • Ontario
Dry Cold Dry Cold Productions • Winnipeg, MB
Factory Factory Theatre • Toronto, ON
GCTC The Great Canadian Theatre Company • Ottawa, ON
Grand The Grand Theatre • London, ON
HGJT Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company • Toronto, ON
Mirvish Mirvish Productions • Toronto, ON
Moving Target Moving Target Theatre Company • Winnipeg, MB
MTYP Manitoba Theatre for Young People • Winnipeg, MB
NAC National Arts Centre • Ottawa, ON
Necessary Angel Necessary Angel Theatre Company • Toronto, ON
Neptune Neptune Theatre • Halifax, NS
NFB National Film Board of Canada
NTS National Theatre School of Canada • Montreal, QC
Persephone Persephone Theatre • Saskatoon, SK
PTAM Popular Theatre Alliance of Manitoba • Winnipeg, MB
PTE Prairie Theatre Exchange • Winnipeg, MB

Rainbow Rainbow Stage • Winnipeg, MB
RNT Royal National Theatre • London, England
Royal Alex The Royal Alexandra Theatre • Toronto, ON
RSC Royal Shakespeare Company • Stratford-upon-Avon, England
RWB Royal Winnipeg Ballet • Winnipeg, MB
Sarasvati Sarasvati Productions • Winnipeg, MB
Segal The Segal Centre for Performing Arts • Montreal, QC
Shaw Shaw Festival • Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
SIR Shakespeare in the Ruins • Winnipeg, MB
Soulpepper Soulpepper Theatre Company • Toronto, ON
Stratford Stratford Festival • Stratford, ON
SummerWorks SummerWorks Theatre Festival • Toronto, ON
TA Theatre Aquarius • Hamilton, ON
Tarragon Tarragon Theatre • Toronto, ON
TBTR Theatre by the River • Winnipeg, MB
TC Theatre Calgary • Calgary, AB
TiFT Talk is Free Theatre • Barrie, ON
TNB Theatre New Brunswick • Fredericton, NB
Toronto Free Toronto Free Theatre • Toronto, ON
TPM Theatre Projects Manitoba • Winnipeg, MB
TSO Toronto Symphony Orchestra
U of M University of Manitoba
U of T University of Toronto
U of W University of Winnipeg
ViC The Village Conservatory for Music Theatre • Winnipeg, MB
VP Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company • Vancouver, BC
West End Theatre district • London, England
WCT Western Canada Theatre • Kamloops, BC
WJT Winnipeg Jewish Theatre
WSO Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
WST Winnipeg Studio Theatre
YPT Young People's Theatre • Toronto, ON
zone41 zone41 theatre • Winnipeg, MB

OVATION

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ROYAL MTC MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

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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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Princess Diana's iconic visit to Casey House on October 25, 1991.



Casey House

Casey House was founded in 1988 by a group of intrepid volunteers led by journalist and activist June Callwood. It was Canada's first stand-alone treatment facility for people living with HIV/AIDS, and Ontario's first free-standing hospice.

At the time, the average life expectancy for people living with AIDS was nine months. Many people were dying alone, cut off from the support of family, friends and the medical community because of stigma. June Callwood's goal was to create a place of medical excellence in HIV/AIDS treatment and a place of love and compassion. The first client was greeted with a hug - it was the first time he'd been touched in months.

The founders believed that everyone deserved to be cared for with dignity and compassion. They played a leading role in both end-of-life care and HIV/AIDS health care, delivered in a welcoming and homelike environment.

Over the years Casey House evolved from a hospice to a specialty hospital, providing care and support for people living with and at risk of HIV. ●

SYNOPSIS - In seven days, Princess Diana will be arriving at the Toronto AIDS hospice Casey House. For patient Thomas, this may be the greatest moment of his life. As the current-longest resident of the home, Thomas is determined to bring a new life into the building in preparation for the royal visit, starting with his prickly new roommate Andre, stoic nurse Vera and busy-body volunteer Marjorie. But when his sister Pauline arrives, looking to repair the damage done to their relationship, Thomas must confront their shared past and heal from what has not only occurred to his body, but his spirit. Time is of the essence, because for Thomas, seven days can be a very long time. ●

Casey and Diana

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MAR 19- APR 12, 2025

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Playwright's Notes

BY NICK GREEN

There are seven things I'd like to say to you before you watch this production of *Casey and Diana*:

- 1 I really, genuinely hope you like the play and that you're glad you came to see it instead of staying home and watching *The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City*, which is super good this season.
- 2 "Great consideration for one another, that's what's going to save the world." - Casey House Founder June Callwood.
- 3 I've been thinking a lot lately about how to behave during times of great division and intolerance. As much as I aspire to be someone who can meet fear and hatred with strength and kindness, I also understand the need at times to run away and hide for a while. I've run away on a few occasions and I probably will again.
- 4 I am very grateful to Kelly Thornton and the ways that she's supported my career. I think she's quite wonderful and also has a fantastic sense of humour. Thank you, Kelly, for having my play in your beautiful theatre in the gorgeous hub of arts and culture that is Winnipeg.
- 5 *Steel Magnolias* is just as good the 10th time you watch it. If you're into that sort of thing.
- 6 In the end, once you've exhaled and you're dead, all that's left of you is the impact you've had on other people. Give wisely, because what you give is immortal.
- 7 The Director of this production and my dear friend Andrew Kushnir has a practice of leading us in putting a hand on our hearts and taking a deep breath at the end of a read-through or run. I like it because it makes me slow down and connect with others in the moment, and as I inhale I feel like I'm pulling in a second in time that is shared and connected to others, and then when I exhale that shared experience is sent out and the world will never really be the same as that second before and it makes me feel very much alive. You know, it might be nice to give it a try at the end of the show you're seeing today. Breathe and connect. Inhale and exhale. Whoosh. ●



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Director's Notes BY ANDREW KUSHNIR

When I think of Nick's beautiful play, the historic moment it depicts, and the ongoing echoes of the early AIDS pandemic (the past is all around us!), I keep thinking about one thing: the transformative power of compassion. Compassion is a good word. It's an even better thing. Compassion means to *suffer with*.

In theatre, we hear a lot about *empathy*. That theatre helps us take a walk in someone else's shoes and thereby, hopefully, better understand them and ourselves. I think this is a good thing. But I also think it can be incomplete. We are, sometimes, at risk of taking a walk in those shoes, returning them, and leaving it at that.

Compassion works differently. It's not about borrowing that someone's shoes, it's about *taking them by the hand*. Metaphorically and literally. It's less about building understanding - because sometimes we can't - and more about simply *being there*. Presence. Or *attunement*. Attunement is where attention and affection meet. This is central to the work Casey House has been doing since 1988. Ever since founder June Callwood rallied the community around the idea of providing people dying of AIDS with what she called a "velvet experience". A soft, warm, home-like space for a far-too hard way to go.

Dying of AIDS in the '80s and early '90s was ugly. Opportunistic infections preying on hollowed-out immune systems was only part of it. People with

AIDS at this time died *social deaths* first. In Toronto AIDS wards, furniture was pushed to the extremes of the room. Food was often left in the hospital hallway because workers were too scared to enter a patient's space without a hazmat suit on. Men and women succumbing to AIDS went unbathed, untouched. What's more, too many people with AIDS found themselves abandoned by the families that raised them.

What the heroic nurses, doctors, care teams and eventually a very famous princess did was bring these dying folks back into community. Frank Weller, an expert on grief, writes about how the hormone oxycontin (the "love hormone") is released when we are touched by someone who cares about us and for whom we care: "Genuine community heals the body and soul." There was no curing AIDS but there was a way to help people die in a better, more compassionate, way.

There are still many folks among us both actively and passively grieving the early AIDS era. It was a traumatic time. As a gay man and artist who came out into the chasm left by AIDS, it means the world to me to work on something that honours and acknowledges the grief of those who lost their lover, their uncle, their child, their sibling, their mentor, their best friend. There's no solving that grief, but I do think there's something to making a space for it. To bringing it into community. That grief - your grief - has a place with us. And because we're all grieving creatures (that's just the human condition!), I hope that we can let our losses speak to one another through this play; speak, and laugh, and cry, and remember, and somehow, together, in the dark, feel that little bit lighter. ●

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by Keith Barker

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HIV in Manitoba

BY MIKE PAYNE AT NINE CIRCLES
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Advances in HIV prevention and treatment allow us to envision a day where HIV can be managed as a chronic health condition. Today, however, high incidence of HIV in Manitoba is being driven by a convergence of homelessness, mental health concerns, substance use and socio-economic issues. The most structurally disadvantaged communities in Manitoba are disproportionately impacted by this crisis including Indigenous people, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, members of the African, Caribbean and Black communities and people who use drugs. Consider that when we create or sustain barriers to accessing health information and resources, we create the environment to harm those most in need.

Nine Circles Community Health Centre provides low barrier, culturally safe prevention services, comprehensive care, treatment, advocacy and education for Manitobans susceptible to, or living with HIV, and works to eliminate stigma and advocates for health equities.

Nine Circles was created through an amalgamation of four AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs), which emerged in the late 1980s to early 1990s. Our founding agencies were:

Village Clinic, which emerged as a gay men's health centre and was at the forefront of the community-based response to HIV testing, primary care and treatment.

Kali Shiva AIDS Services, which prioritized volunteer in-home/community supports, peer involvement and empowerment. Kali Shiva would also emerge as

an early leader in the advancement of harm reduction in Manitoba.

AIDS Shelter Coalition of Manitoba, which emphasized advocacy and support related to the social determinants of health: housing, income security and social justice.

Manitoba Aboriginal AIDS Task Force (MAATF), which led the response to HIV's impact on Indigenous people of Manitoba including the introduction of Indigenous teachings into prevention and care models, cultural safety and social justice. MAATF's Four Doorways Project was a groundbreaking educational tool that continues to influence HIV education to this day.

This model of HIV care shifted from hospital-based care to community led, where holistic service planning can more easily occur. Nine Circles works with a broad range of partners to ensure prevention, care and support services are available throughout Manitoba including Health Sciences Centre, 7th Street Health Access Centre (Brandon), Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre, the Thompson Clinic (Thompson) and a growing number of primary care and community partners.

Your generosity can help Nine Circles create a future where all Manitobans who live with, or are vulnerable to HIV, receive equitable, culturally safe care close to home.

You can donate directly through [CanadaHelps](https://CanadaHelps.org) or contact us through ninecircles.ca to learn more or discuss other ways to support our work. Thank you for your support! ●



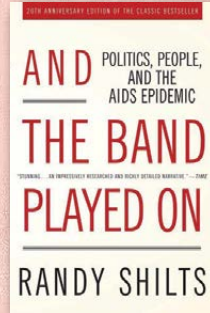
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Recommended Reading

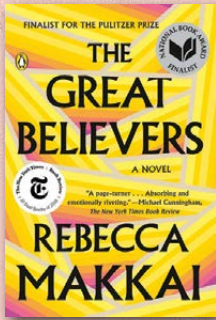
inspired by *Casey and Diana*



**Diana: Her True Story—
in Her Own Words**
by Andrew Morton



**And the Band Played On:
Politics, People, and the
AIDS Epidemic**
by Randy Shilts



The Great Believers
by Rebecca Makkai



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A CO-PRODUCTION WITH THEATRE AQUARIUS

Casey and Diana

By Nick Green

March 20 - April 12, 2025

PREVIEW March 19

DirectorAndrew Kushnir
Set & Costume DesignerJoshua Quinlan**
Lighting DesignerLogan Raju Cracknell**
Composer & Sound DesignerAshley Au**
Fight DirectorGeoff Scovell
Dialect CoachRebecca Cuthbertson
Assistant DirectorTara Rosling
Stage ManagerMichael Hart
Assistant Stage ManagerSamantha Desiree
Apprentice Stage ManagerSamantha Sage

THE CAST (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Marjorie Sharon Bajer†
Andre Noah Beemer
Pauline Alicia Johnston†
Vera Gloria Mampuya
Thomas Gregory Prest
Diana Catherine Wreford†

Casey and Diana is performed with one intermission.

Produced by permission of the Playwright and Marquis Literary (Colin Rivers). www.MQlit.ca

Casey and Diana was originally commissioned by the Stratford Festival, Ontario, Canada.
The premiere production opened on June 1, 2023 at the Stratford Festival Studio Theatre.
Antoni Cimolino, Artistic Director & Anita Gaffney, Executive Director.

Nick Green is a member of the Playwright's Guild of Canada.

Production photography by Dahlia Katz.

**Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC69

*Position funded through the Jean Murray - Moray Sinclair Theatre Apprenticeship Program

†Past Jean Murray - Moray Sinclair apprenticeship or scholarship recipient

CASEY AND DIANA



Sharon Bajer

Marjorie

ROYAL MTC (selected) Actor: *Clue* (with Grand), *The Three Musketeers*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Kill Me Now* (with NAC), *Hand to God*, *Late Company*, *The Seagull*, *A Christmas Story*, *August: Osage County*, *The Penelopiad*, *Top Girls*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Humble Boy*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Angels in America*, *Les Belles-Soeurs*, *Our Country's Good*. Intimacy Director: *The Piano Teacher*, *The Mountaintop*, *Clue* (with Grand), *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*, *Into the Woods*, *New*.

OTHER THEATRE *Afterlight* (The Keep/Walk&Talk/Rainbow); *The Outside Inn* (PTE); *The Wizard of Oz* (Rainbow).

TRAINING Studio 58, Michael Langham Directing Program (Stratford). Certified Intimacy Director (ICC and IDC).

FILM/TV Recent projects include *Little Bird*, *Written in the Stars*, *Dark Harvest*, *Ordinary Angels*, *Acting Good*, *Run*; Intimacy Coordinator for *The Porter*, *SkyMed*, *Wintertide*, *El Toro*, *Alter Boys*, *Little Bird* and *Don't Even*.

ET CETERA Coming up: *AFTERLIGHT* in October!



Noah Beemer

Andre

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE *Wendy and Peter Pan*, *Cymbeline*, *Rent*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Finally There's Sun* (Stratford); *Madam Minister*, *Into the Woods*, *The Judas Kiss*, *Sweeney Todd - Dora* nomination (TiFT); *The Wizard*

of Oz: The Panto (Drayton); *Ride the Cyclone*, *Mamma Mia!* (Tweed and Co.); *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (YPT); *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Eclipse Theatre).

TRAINING Graduate of Sheridan's Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance, along with attending Factory Theatre's Mechanicals Program.

ET CETERA Noah has been in love with this show for a long time and is so grateful to be taking it on with this incredible company. Much love to his friends and family for their unending support.



Alicia Johnston

Pauline

ROYAL MTC *New* (with Necessary Angel), *Outside Mullingar*.

OTHER THEATRE *Post Democracy*, *Happy Place*, *The Flats*, *Butcher* (PTE); *Red Earth* (TPM/One Trunk); *Que Faire d'Albert*, *Le Dieu du Carnage*, *Boing Boing*, *Deux sur la Balançoire* (TCM); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (SIR); *Essay & The Russian Play* (WJT); *The Winter's Tale* (Tom Tom); *Toronto Noir* (SummerWorks); *The Amorous Servant* (Pleiades).

FILM/TV *Champions*, *El Toro*, *Francesca* *Quin: PI*, *Acting Good*, *Padre*, *Edgar*, *Orphan: First Kill*, *The Good Father*, *Tales From the Loop*, *JT Leroy*, *Burden of Truth*, *Less Than Kind*, *Cinderella Man*.

TRAINING Graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada.

ET CETERA For my siblings, with all my love.



Gloria Mampuya

Vera

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE *Intimate Apparel*, *Doubt* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Crawlspace*, *Les Filles du Roi*, *Les Zinspiré.e.s Dix-Jonctés* (Théâtre Français de Toronto); *The First Stone* (New Harlem Production/GCTC); *Pipeline* (Théâtre la Licorne/Black Theatre Workshop).

FILM/TV *Steal Away* (Clement Virgo, Conquering Lion Productions); *After Sunday* (Omolola Ajao Productions); *Paris Paris* (CBC Gem, Rayne Zuckerman).

ET CETERA Gloria is looking forward to sharing this beautiful story of hope, compassion and community.



Gregory Prest

Thomas

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE Actor: *The Bidding War* (Crow's Theatre); *The Inheritance* (CS); Ron Weasley in *Harry Potter and The Cursed Child* (Mirvish); over 45 productions at Soulpepper including *Of Human Bondage* and *Spoon River* at Signature Theatre NYC, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *August: Osage County*, *Bed and Breakfast*, *La Bête*, *Angels in America*. Writer/ Director: *De Profundis: Oscar Wilde in Jail* (Soulpepper); *Bremen Town* (Next Stage). Director: *Rose: A New Musical*, *Hosanna*, *The Heidi Chronicles* (Soulpepper); *Punk Rock* (Howland Company).

FILM/TV Simon in *Pillow Talk* (Crave).

TRAINING National Theatre School.

ET CETERA Recipient of four Dora Awards (21 nominations), two Canadian Screen Award Nominations and a Toronto Theatre Critics' Award.



Catherine Wreford

Diana

ROYAL MTC Actor: *Fun Home*.

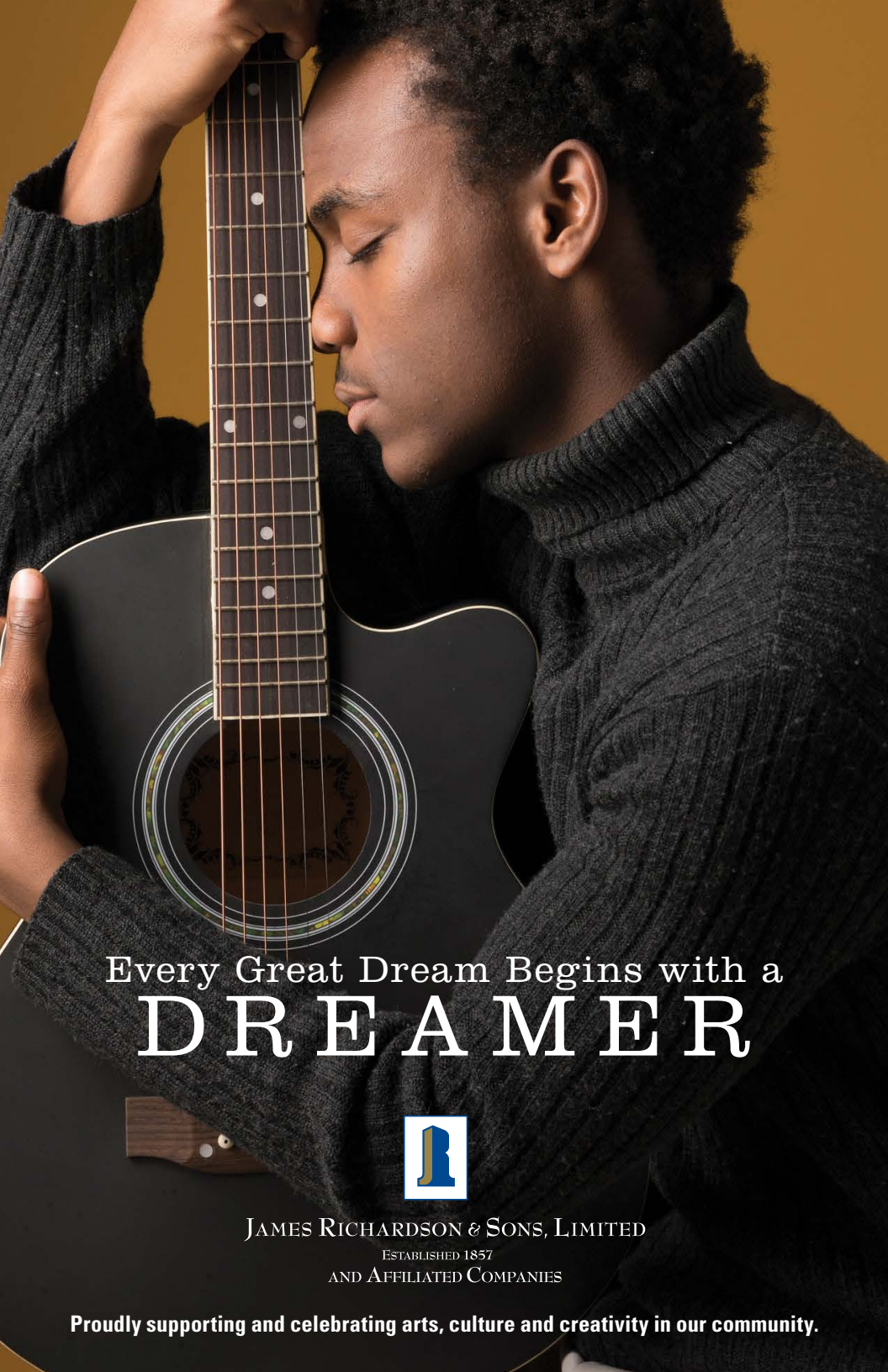
Choreographer for *The Cottage*, *A Doll's House*, *Heisenberg*, *It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play*. Choreographer/Assistant Director for *Million Dollar Quartet*.

OTHER THEATRE Selected: *42nd Street*, *Oklahoma!* (Broadway); *42nd Street*, *Annie Get Your Gun* (Broadway Tour); *West Side Story*, *The Tempest* (Stratford); *The Sound of Music*, *The Music Man*, *Les Misérables*, *Mamma Mia!*, *A Chorus Line*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Little Mermaid* (Rainbow); *Romeo and Juliet* (RWB); *Merrily We Roll Along* (Dry Cold).

FILM/TV Selected: *Clown in a Cornfield*, *SkyMed*, *Stand!*, *The Metrosexual*, *Wrestle Maniac*, *The Harvest*, *Pittsburgh*, *Chloe*.

TEACHING Teaches Musical Theatre at Sarah Daurie Dance Company.

ET CETERA On June 24, 2013 she was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer and was given two to six years to live. Undeterred, Catherine won Season 8 of *The Amazing Race Canada* with her best friend Craig Ramsay and amplified her mission to raise awareness and find a cure for brain cancer. Catherine is a living testament to the indomitable human spirit, an unwavering advocate for life, and an empowering voice that encourages us all to "run your own amazing race." This one is for her truly amazing children Elliot and Quinn.



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CASEY AND DIANA



Nick Green
Playwright

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE Nick Green is a Dora Award-winning playwright in Toronto. Most recently, Nick's play *Casey and Diana* premiered to a sold-out run at the Stratford Festival of Canada before transferring to Soulpepper Theatre. His play *Dinner with the Duchess*, which had a developmental production at Next Stage was part of Here For Now Theatre's 2024 season. Other favourite credits include *In Real Life* (book, Musical Stage Company, Tom Hendry Award Winner); *Dr. Silver* (book, South Coast Repertory's Pacific Playwrights Festival 2022 and 2023); *Happy Birthday Baby J* (Shadow Theatre); *Body Politic* (IlemonTree Creations/ Buddies in Bad Times, Dora Mavor Moore Award Winner, Outstanding New Play); *Fangirl* (book, Musical Stage Company); and *Living the Dream* (book, Canadian Music Theatre Projects).



Andrew Kushnir
Director

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE Director: *Casey and Diana* (Stratford, Soulpepper, Heritage Toronto Award); *Bad Roads* (Crow's Theatre, Dora Award for Outstanding Direction, Toronto Theatre Critics' Award for Best Director); *The Trials* (U of T); *The Division* (TMU/Tarragon); *The Real Poems* (Here for Now); *This Is Something Else* (Arts Club theatre podcast); *Towards Youth* (Project: Humanity/Crow's);

Freedom Singer (Project: Humanity); *Shirley Valentine*, *New Canadian Curling Club* (Thousand Islands Playhouse).

TRAINING University of Alberta.

ET CETERA Andrew is artistic director of the socially engaged theatre company, Project: Humanity in Toronto. He is an alumnus of St. Paul's High School, a Loran Scholar and Senior Fellow at Massey College. In 2022, Andrew founded the We Support LGBTQ Ukraine Fund which to date has raised over \$140,000 for NGOs and activists meeting the needs of LGBTQ+ Ukrainians trapped or internally displaced by war. lgbtukrainesupport.com



Joshua Quinlan
Set & Costume Designer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE *Casey and Diana*, *Every Little Nookie* (Stratford); *Uncle Vanya* (Crow's/Mirvish/TA); *The Master Plan* (Crow's/TA/Soulpepper); *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*, *Rosmersholm*, *Wights* (Crow's Theatre); *Hamlet* (CS); *Hedda Gabler*, *Yerma* (Coal Mine); *Million Dollar Quartet* (Grand); *The Sound of Music*, *The Music Man* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Port Hope); *The Drawer Boy*, *My Hero* (Port Stanley Festival Theatre); *An Enemy of the People*, *Don Giovanni*, *Stupid F*cking Bird* (Ohio State University).

TRAINING MFA Theatre - Design, The Ohio State University; BA Honours Drama, University of Windsor. Off The Wall Production Arts Program.

ET CETERA Siminovitch Protégé Designer, Dora Award Winner, Brian Jackson and Tom Patterson Awards recipient, Ian and Molly Lindsay Design Fellow.

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PHOTO RWB COMPANY IN HIKARIZATTO 2008, BY COOKI LUMSDEN



**Logan Raju
Cracknell**
Lighting Designer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE *Alice in Wonderland* (Bad Hats/Soulpepper); *Alligator Pie* (Soulpepper); *Roberto Zucco* (Buddies in Bad Times); *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Capitol Theatre); *Shirley Valentine* (TA); *Fairview* (CS/Obsidian); *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* (TC); *Dixon Road* (Musical Stage/Obsidian); *Cliff Cardinal's As You Like It* (Crow's); *Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (CS); *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Howland/Crow's); *Enemy Lines* (Aeris Korper); *Agit-Pop!* (Pearle Harbour); *Icemen* (Theatre by the Bay).

TRAINING Graduate of York University's Theatre Production Program.



Ashley Au
*Composer &
Sound Designer*

ROYAL MTC *Little Women*, *The Recipe* (with TPM), *The Lehman Trilogy*, *among men* (with TPM), *Burning Mom*, *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*, *Trouble in Mind*, *Orlando*. 2022/23 National Mentorship Program.

OTHER THEATRE *The Year of Magical Thinking* (PTE); 2024 ThisGen Fellow (Why Not Theatre).

TRAINING B.Mus (Jazz Performance) Brandon University, School of Music.

ET CETERA Ashley Au (she/they) is a Winnipeg-based bassist, composer, sound artist, arranger and queer creative. A multifaceted musician, Ashley specializes in the upright and electric basses

- performing, touring and recording extensively for the last 15 years. Current and past projects include work with Weakerthans frontman John K. Samson; composer/trumpeter Chuck Copenace; and Polaris Prize-nominated hip-hop outfit Super Duty Tough Work. As a composer, Ashley has had work commissioned and performed nationally and internationally. She has most recently had work premiere at the Senate of Canada in Ottawa as well as had work exhibited in London, UK. She is the Artistic Director for Cluster: New Music + Integrated Arts Festival.



Geoff Scovell
Fight Director

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE 12 seasons at the Stratford Festival; *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (Crow's Theatre); *Casey and Diana* (Soulpepper, Stratford); *The Black Drum* (Soulpepper); *Sherlock Holmes...*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Sweet Charity*, *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Shaw); *Don Giovanni*, *War and Peace* (COC).

FILM/TV (selected) Stunts: Over 150 credits but most recently Guillermo del Toro's *Frankenstein*, *The Boys* (five seasons), *See*, *FUBAR*, *Rock Springs*, *The Last Frontier*, *Seeds*, *Jack Reacher*, *What We Do in the Shadows*.

TRAINING Supreme Fight Master Elite Level 3. BFA, Ryerson University.

ET CETERA Awards: SAG nomination, Best Stunt Ensemble for *The Boys* in 2021, 2023 and 2024. Paddy Crean award for excellence. Online: @GeoffScovell



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CASEY AND DIANA



Rebecca Cuthbertson
Dialect Coach

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE Various productions at the Stratford Festival in Ontario, and in England at the Globe Theatre, the Royal National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Donmar, the Young Vic, Shakespeare's Rose Theatre and the Hampstead, etc., and provided voice support for numerous West End productions.

TRAINING MA in Voice Studies at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London.

ET CETERA Rebecca is very happy to be a part of this production and to be making her coaching debut with Royal MTC.



Tara Rosling
Assistant Director

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE Directing: *A Recluse and His Guest, And Then There Was You, Dear Elizabeth, Gnit* (staged reading), *This Property is Condemned* (Shaw).

Assistant Directing: *Romeo & Juliet* (upcoming at Dream in High Park by Canadian Stage, RBC Emerging Artist); *One Man, Two Guvnors, The Orphan of Chao* (Shaw). Acting: Tara has performed on many stages across the country including 12 seasons at Shaw.

FILM/TV Acting: *Star Trek Discovery, Impulse, Happy Place, Beacon 23, The Handmaid's Tale*.

ET CETERA Tara has been nominated for four Dora awards and been the recipient of two. Thank you, Andrew, for allowing me to be privy to your (he)ART and Patrick for allowing me to follow mine.

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CASEY AND DIANA



Michael Hart
Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC *Real Live Girl* (with Buddies), *Mother Courage and her Children* (with NAC).

OTHER THEATRE 28 seasons at the Stratford Festival including *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?*, *Casey and Diana*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Tempest* starring Christopher Plummer, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *The Swanee Trilogy*; *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical* (TA); *Casey and Diana* (Soulpepper); *Angels in America* (That Theatre Co./Buddies); *Fall On Your Knees* (CS/Neptune/NAC/Grand); *Heisenberg*, *Liv Stein* (CS); *Constellations* (Centaur/CS); *Body Politic* (Buddies); *The Death of the King* (Modern Times); *The Winter's Tale* (Groundling); *Bombay Black* (Factory); *Manon*, *Sandra and the Virgin Mary* (Pleiades); *Saint Carmen of The Main* (NAC/CS); *Fully Committed*, *Silence*, *Einstein's Gift* (Grand); *Wit* (Centaur); *Hamlet* (Neptune).

ET CETERA For my Dad, Campbell.



Samantha Desiree
Assistant Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC ASM: *Clue* (with Grand). Apprentice SM: *Yaga*, *Into the Woods*, *Network*, *The Rez Sisters*, *Orlando*.

OTHER THEATRE Upcoming: *Bring it On: The Musical* (The Globe). SM: *Merrily We Roll Along* (Dry Cold); *Hansel & Gretel*, *Castor et Pollux*, *Mansplaining Division* (MUO); *Looking Glass*, Season Launch 22/23 (WCD). ASM: *Narnia* (Bad Hats/

MTYP). Apprentice SM: *The Wizard of Oz* (Rainbow). Apprentice Lighting Designer: *Narrow Bridge* (WJT). Production & Tour Coordinator: *Seven Visions* digital school tour (Sarasvati). Associate Producer/Sound Design: *Othello* (Echo). SM/Production Assistant: *FemFest 2019 & 2020* (Sarasvati). Performer Services Manager with the *Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival*.

TRAINING U of W Bachelor of Arts Honours - Stage Management, Production and Design. Creative Manitoba Mentorship in Stage Management 2020/21. Mentorship funded by Associated Designers of Canada in Lighting Design 2022/23.

ET CETERA As always, couldn't do it without my partner, Matt, and cat, Zella.



Samantha Sage
Apprentice Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC *Mix Tapes From My Mom*, *The Lehman Trilogy*.

OTHER THEATRE *Glad to Be Here* (TBTR); *Space Girl* (PTE); *Antigone* (Sick + Twisted/AA Battery/The Mariachi Ghost); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Iago Speaks*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (SIR); *Ô Canada*, *té qui toi?*, *Cet été qui chantait*, *Inédit* (Théâtre Cercle Molière).

TRAINING Graduate of the University of Winnipeg.

ET CETERA Enjoy the show! ●

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1943-2023**



As Manitoba's first openly gay physician, Dr. J.R.M. (Dick) Smith opened the first clinic in Manitoba (and subsequent health centres) to specialize in the care of the 2SLGBT+ communities.

Throughout the HIV/AIDS epidemic and until his retirement at age 76, despite tremendous prejudice and community ignorance, Dr. Smith devoted his career to the understanding, prevention and care of HIV infection. At the onset of the epidemic, when little was known of the disease and treatment was non-existent, Dr. Smith played a leading role in providing non-judgmental and compassionate care to sick and dying young men.

To learn more about Dr. Smith's journey visit:
hunterfunerals.ca/post/john-richard-dick-m-smith



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Catherine Wreford
and Gregory Prest in
Casey and Diana.

PHOTO BY DAHLIA KATZ



Mental Health Resources

Talking about the show with a trusted friend, family member, Elder or teacher helps. If you or anyone you know needs support, please access some of the following resources for help.

KLINIC Crisis Line: Winnipeg 204 786 8686; toll-free Manitoba 1 888 322 3019 (24/7)

Manitoba Suicide Prevention and Support Line: 1 877 435 7170

Manitoba Farm, Rural and Northern Support Services: 1 866 367 3276 (24/7)

Winnipeg Crisis Stabilization Unit: 204 940 3633 (24/7)

Winnipeg Mobile Crisis Service: 204 940 1781 (24/7)

Winnipeg Youth Mobile Crisis Team: 204 949 4777 or 1 888 383 277

Kids Help Phone: 1 800 668 6868 or text 686868 (24/7)

If you need a moment for reflection or recovery, we have a quiet room available to you on the second floor (balcony level). Please access the room from either the lobby stairs or the elevator. The room will remain open for 30 mins following every performance. ●

ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE!

Do you want to delve deeper into the themes of the play? For every show we release an enrichment guide with help from experts and educators. This guide offers background context, resources to explore and discussion questions to keep the conversation going. Read them at royalmtc.ca/enrichmentguides.

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EXPLORE MORE Casey and Diana

EXPLORE MORE 2SLGBTQ+ HISTORY

***Out North: An Archive of Queer Activism and Kinship Canada* by Craig Jennex and Nisha Eswaran.** Dive into Canada's 2SLGBTQ+ history with the crème de la crème of resources. Filled with stunning archival materials sourced from The ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ2+, the largest independent queer archives in the world, Jennex and Eswaran take you on a journey through intimate and powerful yet often silenced Canadian histories. **323.3264 JENNEX 2020**

***Len and Cub: A Queer History* by Meredith J. Batt and Dusty Green.** Discover one of the oldest photographic records of a same-sex relationship in the rural Maritimes. Leonard "Len" Keith was an amateur photographer, automobile lover, WWI vet, garage and pool hall owner, and Joseph "Cub" Coates, a lover of horses, butcher, contractor and veteran. Len captures their affection and time together in this book that challenges the ideas about love and friendship, sex and gender expression in the early 20th century. **B KEITH 2022**

***Fierce Desires, A New History of Sex and Sexuality in America* by Rebecca L. Davis.** Davis takes readers on a sweeping narrative across 400 years of the dramatic and changing history of sex and sexuality in America. From Two-Spirit Pueblo people in the 17th century to one of Martin Luther King Jr's aids and gay rights activist, Kiyoshi Kuromiya. Throughout Davis highlights gender nonconformity, queer love, abortion, and facts the Right have said are recent phenomena. **306.70973 DAVIS 2024**

***Casa Susanna* directed by Sebastien Lifshitz.** An underground community of transgender women and cross-dressing men find refuge in the Catskills Mountains, New York. This house, known as Casa Susanna, allowed space for true expression while the transphobic world of the 1950-60s raged. The film interviews those who visited and looks at the covert world that offered solace, safety and freedom. **Available through Hoopla and Kanopy.**

EXPLORE MORE 2SLGBTQ+ FICTION

***The House of Impossible Beauties* by Joseph Cassara.** Throwback to Paris is burning and take a trip to New York in the 1980s where the Harlem ball scene is beginning to flourish. Angel is 17 and falls in love with Hector. They decide to form the first-ever all-Latino house in the Harlem circuit - the House of Xtravaganza. Recruiting a myriad of charismatic personalities to the house, the Xtravaganzas navigate their tough life of 1980s NYC at the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. **FICTION CASSARA**

***The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkai.** At height of the AIDS crisis in Chicago, Yale works for an art gallery and is about to acquire a hoard of amazing 1920s paintings. As Yale's friends continue to die, soon the only person left is Fiona. Thirty years later Fiona is tracking down her daughter who joined a cult. Staying with a photographer friend who captured the crisis, she confronts the devastating impact AIDS had on her life with her daughter. Readers journey through the anguish of the 80s to the chaos of today's world as characters try to see the light amidst the darkness. **FICTION MAKKAI**

LIBRARIAN-RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

An Evening with Birdy O'Day by Greg Kearney. Take a dive into this hilarious and moving novel about aging hair-stylist Roland and his now estranged childhood best friend and first love, washed-up pop icon Birdy. Roland shares a contented life with Tony until one day Birdy plays his first hometown concert in decades. Witness Roland and Birdy come to terms with their past in this novel about heartbreak and queer survival, filled with wit and boisterous laughs. **FICTION KEARNEY**

There are 1.4 million books, movies, audiobooks, eBooks, and more at the Winnipeg Public Library, and all you need to borrow them is your library card. There are 20 locations throughout the city, and there's an online catalogue for requesting items for pick-up at your library of convenience. An online e-Library has thousands of eBooks, eAudiobooks and more! All free to use with your library card. Visit us online at winnipeg.ca/library. ●



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Whodunits

When Marcus Moscovicz confirms that Arthur Whitney has been murdered, one of the suspects asks, “Well, then... whodunit?”. Accordingly, *Murder for Two* is a classic—and musical—whodunit. Whodunit is a colloquial term combining “who” and “done it,” and is derived from “Who [has] done it?”. The term is largely attributed to Donald Gordon who used it in a review of Milward Kennedy’s mystery novel *Half-Mast Murder* for *News of Books* in 1930. The subgenre of mystery and detective fiction predates its name but like with the term, there is debate about its origin. One text often credited is Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Murders in the Rue Morgue,” a short story published in 1841. However, cases have been made as far back as Sophocles’ *Oedipus Rex*.

The plot of a whodunit as we know it today revolves around solving a crime, typically a murder. The protagonist whose objective it is to do this, whether they be a professional or amateur detective, is known as the sleuth. A key feature of a whodunit is the double narrative: one narrative is the crime itself that has already been committed, and the other is the investigation of the crime in the present. The crime functions as a puzzle, with the characters and the reader (or audience) solving it simultaneously. Whodunits are often set in remote or isolated locations, as such a setting limits the characters that could be complicit and makes it more difficult for them to come and go—or as we may say with a play, enter and exit! And of course, a whodunit wouldn’t be

MURDER FOR TWO

complete without red herrings. A red herring is a “false clue”: something that distracts the reader from the crime or misleads them into believing it was committed by someone other than the actual culprit. This builds suspense and keeps the reader guessing. But why is it called a red herring? Red herring, an odorous cured kipper with reddish flesh, was used by dog trainers to tempt hunting dogs away from the trail they were supposed to be following—in other words, to mislead them. The term was first used in 1807 by journalist William Cobbett, although the technique itself cannot be dated.

One of the most famous whodunit novelists is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who wrote his first Sherlock Holmes novel, *A Study in Scarlet*, in 1887 and continued to write until around 1927 which was well into what became known as the “Golden Age of Detective Fiction.” It was during that time, between the First and Second World Wars, that whodunits populated bookshelves and bedside tables. It was also during the “Golden Age of Detective Fiction” that the “Queen of Crime” Agatha Christie, began her reign. It was none other than the *And Then There Were None* author who

wrote 66 detective novels, 14 short story collections, and the world’s longest running play, *The Mousetrap*. In 2018, Guinness World Records listed Christie as the best-selling fiction writer of all time; as her website puts it, “outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare.” This is a testament to the enduring intrigue of the whodunit. Whodunits capitalize on insatiable human curiosity and humankind’s relentless desire for justice. Whether it’s playing “Clue” with your family, watching *A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder* on Netflix, or reading one of Agatha Christie’s 66 novels in English class, *Whodunit?* continues to be a question asked over and over again to this day.

PS - if you can’t get enough of the Whodunit, join us for *Murder on the Orient Express* by Queen of Crime Agatha Christie in January 2026! You can book your subscription today at royalmtc.ca. ●

SOURCE: ENRICHMENT GUIDE BY SARAH FARRANT
ROYALMTC.CA/ENRICHMENTGUIDES

SYNOPSIS - When shots ring out at the surprise birthday party for the renowned Great American Novelist Arthur Whitney, Officer Marcus Moscowicz is given the chance of a lifetime to be promoted to Detective. With the writer dead, it is up to him, and his trusty partner Lou, to follow protocol training and piece together each of the stories of the 13 suspects to solve the crime. As the alibis get zany and the clock counts down, it’s up to Marcus to prove his super sleuthing skills and solve the crime... before the actual detective arrives. ●

PRESENTS

Murder for Two

Book and Music by
Joe Kinosian

Book and Lyrics by
Kellen Blair

April 3 - 19, 2025
PREVIEW April 2

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

THE CAST (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Marcus Duncan Cox
The Suspects Melanie Whyte

Projection of Barette's shadow is played by Elizabeth Lamont.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Prelude / Waiting in the Dark | 6. A Lot Woise | 11. Henry Vivaldi |
| 2. Protocol Says | 7. He Needs a Partner | 12. Process of Elimination |
| 3. Protocol Says (Reprise) | 8. So What if I Did? | 13. Steppin' Out of the Shadows |
| 4. A Perfectly Lovely Surprise | 9. A Friend Like You | 14. Finale (I Need a Partner / Protocol Says) |
| 5. It Was Her | 10. A Friend Like You (Reprise) | |

Murder for Two is performed without an intermission.

Murder for Two was originally produced in New York by
Jayson Raitt, Barbara Whitman, Steven Chaikelson and Second Stage Theatre.

Murder for Two World Premiere was presented on May 12, 2011 at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Chicago, IL.;
Barbara Gaines, Artistic Director, Criss Henderson, Executive Director.

Murder for Two was developed for Chicago Shakespeare Theater by Rick Boynton, Creative Producer.

Murder for Two is presented through special arrangement with Murder for Two Musical LLC.

For more information, please visit www.MurderForTwoMusical.com.

For licensing inquiries, please call (212) 354-6510 or email MurderForTwoMusical@gmail.com.

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

†Past Naomi Levin Theatre Scholarship award winner

MURDER FOR TWO



Duncan Cox

Marcus

ROYAL MTC *Waitress, Once (with Grand).*

OTHER THEATRE *Rent, Strike! The Musical, South Pacific (Rainbow); Hamlet: A Modern Players Guide (SIR/Gargoyle Players); Charlie Brown, Narnia (MTYP); Afterlight (with The Keep), End of the Line (with TPM), The Ballad of Johnny Boy, "KING", The Headliners, The Last Garden, Blink (Walk&Talk); Breaking Up With Me (JHG Creative); Pippin (with ViC), Reefer Madness (WST).*

FILM/TV *Alter Boys (CBC Gem); First Person Shooter (Tubi); Oh My Doctor (Flaming Macongo); La Monde De Gabrielle Roy (CBCFrench).*

ET CETERA If you'd like to see more funny musicals that revolve around a piano and see me playing opposite an incredibly talented actress like this one, be sure to check out my vampire musical *Afterlight* this October! Tickets available at rainbowstage.ca.



Melanie Whyte

The Suspects

ROYAL MTC *Little Women, The Comeback, Into the Woods, The Audience (with Mirvish).*

OTHER THEATRE *Selected: Narnia, Spelling 2-5-5 (MTYP); Feast, Fly Me to the Moon (PTE); The Prom, The Light in the Piazza, A Man of No Importance, Into the Woods (Dry Cold); Much Ado About Nothing, Hamlet, Timon of Athens (SIR); Mary Poppins, Cinderella, Sister Act, Annie, The Full Monty (Rainbow); The Game (Sarasvati); Sunday in the Park with George (Gallery Works).*

FILM/TV *Larry Saves the Healthcare*

System (Research MB/Tripwire); Burden of Truth (CBC/Eagle Vision).

ET CETERA Special thanks to our Creative Team and to all at Royal MTC who helped create this show and set up the tour; to Sadie, Larissa, Carter, Josh and Duncan for being great, fun people with amazing skills and talents, to my trusted piano guide Mel Koop; and to Paul, Emma and Andrew and family and friends for their support and love. Cheers to all of you and our audiences too - thanks for the laughs!

Joe Kinosian

Book and Music

Joe Kinosian (Book and Music). Joe is the composer and co-bookwriter (with lyricist Kellen Blair) of *Murder for Two*, which he's also performed in over 700 times. The world premiere at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, received the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Musical and earned Joe a nomination for Best Leading Actor, before going on to an acclaimed off-Broadway run, where it earned Drama Desk, Drama League and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations. A two-year national tour and well-received productions in Japan, China, Korea, England, Chile and Argentina followed. Joe's work with Kellen has been showcased at The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center and on Broadway at the Theatre World Awards, and their new backstage musical/farce is currently in development at Second Stage Theater. In addition, Joe (with Marcus Stevens) adapted the children's book *Dragons Love Tacos* into a successful touring musical. He is the recipient of the ASCAP Foundation Mary Rodgers/Lorenz Hart Award, selected and presented by Stephen Schwartz, and the Harrington Award from the BMI Workshop. Acting credits include *Dear Edwina* (off-Broadway), as well as regional productions of *Dirty Blonde* with Emily Skinner, *An Act of God*, and the title role in *The Nerd*. kinosianandblair.com.

For a complete list of theatre abbreviations, please refer to legend on page 4

MURDER FOR TWO

Kellen Blair

Book and Lyrics

Kellen Blair (Book and Lyrics) is the Drama Desk-nominated co-creator of *Murder for Two*, the murder mystery musical comedy that ran for a year off-Broadway and has been continuously produced across the United States and internationally since 2014. The show earned Kellen (and co-writer Joe Kinosian) the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Musical Work in Chicago and the ASCAP Foundation Mary Rodgers / Lorenz Hart Award for their contribution to musical theatre. Kellen's lyrics have been heard on Broadway stages (at the Theatre World Awards), at the Kennedy Center and in theatres across the country. His other musical works include *Scrooge in Love* (available to license through Tams-Witmark), *Just Between the All of Us* (an immersive musical comedy commissioned by Pittsburgh CLO) and *Diane Steals the Show* (being developed with Second Stage Theatre). In addition to writing for the theater, Kellen enjoys writing fiction and poetry. He teaches film and playwriting in New York City, where he lives with his wife and young son. kinosianandblair.com.



Chase Winnicky
Director

ROYAL MTC Actor: *Waitress, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (with Segal), *Into the Woods*, 2021/22 National Mentorship Program.

OTHER THEATRE Director: *The Prom* (Dry Cold). Assistant Director: *Million Dollar Quartet* (TC). Actor: *Mary Poppins, The Wizard of Oz* (Rainbow); *Narnia* (Bad Hats/MTYP); *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*,

The Addams Family (Dry Cold); *Alice in Wonderland* (Diversified Theatre); *Much Ado about Nothing* (Dauntless); *Andy Warhol Musical* (Mirvish workshop); *The Nutcracker* (National Ballet of Canada); Oceania Cruises.

FILM/TV Actor: *A Carol for Two, Haunted Wedding, A Christmas Cookie Catastrophe, 'Tis the Season to be Merry, Crashing through the Snow, SkyMed, The Porter*.

TRAINING Randolph College for the Performing Arts, Intimacy Directors and Coordinators (IDC).

ET CETERA Thank you for supporting live theatre! chasewinnicky.com



Paul Rodermond
Music Director

ROYAL MTC Assistant Music Director: *The Sound of Music* (with Citadel).

OTHER THEATRE Music Director: *White Christmas* (Drayton); *Tell Me on a Sunday* (Magnus); *Fame, SpongeBob the Musical* (WST); *And I Never Stopped Dancing* (Smile Theatre); *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline, Rock 'n' Fables* (Stephenville Theatre Festival). Assistant MD: *Mary Poppins* (Rainbow). Alternate Conductor: *The Little Mermaid, Rent* (Rainbow). In the pit: *White Christmas, Damn Yankees, A Year with Frog and Toad, 1922* (Shaw); *Into the Woods* (Opera on the Avalon); *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (STF).

TRAINING Shaw Festival music directing internship 2022; M. Mus. University of Manitoba.

ET CETERA Principal Keyboard of the Thunder Bay Symphony.

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MURDER FOR TWO



Rebekah Jones
Movement Director

ROYAL MTC Choreographer: *Urinetown The Musical* (Lawyers Play). Assistant Director / Assistant Choreographer: *Into the Woods*. Assistant Director: *Fun Home*. Actor: Lesley in *Billy Elliot the Musical*.

OTHER THEATRE Actor: *The Wizard of Oz*, *Mamma Mia!* (Rainbow). Choreographer: *The Prom* (Dry Cold). Apprentice / Assistant Director / Choreographer: *A Man of No Importance*, *The Addams Family*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Dry Cold); *Les Misérables*, *Shrek the Musical* (Rainbow); *Heathers*, *Avenue Q* (WST).

TRAINING/TEACHING Completed the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Teacher Training Program (2007) and Rainbow Stage Creative Mentorship Program for Choreography (2016). Currently teaches at Kickit Dance Studio.

ET CETERA Many thanks to my family and the Kickit Directors for their continued support.



Adam Parboosingh
Set Designer

ROYAL MTC *among men* (with TPM), *Yaga*, *Bang Bang* (with Belfry), *Buying the Farm* (tour).

OTHER THEATRE Scenery Design: *Gaslight* (Magnus); Scenery Design: *Ma-Buhay! A New Musical* (Rainbow); Scenery and Lighting Design: *Stupid Fucking Bird* (U of W); Scenery Design: *Pals, or Scenes from a Friendship* (WJT); Scenery Design: *Twelfth Night* (SIR); Scenery Design: *The Prom* (Dry

Cold); Lighting Design: *Narrow Bridge* (WJT); Lighting Design: *Antigone* (Sick + Twisted); Scenery and Lighting Design: *A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder* (Dry Cold); Lighting Design: *Salt Baby*, *Lunenburg* (Magnus).

TEACHING Associate Professor in Theatre Design at University of Winnipeg.

ET CETERA Adam's ongoing support comes from his wife Tamara and three kids (Mackenzie, Keaton and Harrison) and dog Coco. He is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.



Stephanie Maureen Petkau
Costume Designer

ROYAL MTC *The New Canadian Curling Club*.

OTHER THEATRE *Dragonfly*, *Sargent & Victor & Me*, *The Elmwood Visitation* (TPM); *The Merchant of Venice*, *King Lear*, *Richard III*, *Henry IV*, *Romeo and Juliet* (SIR); *Angels in America Part 1 & 2*, *Ivanov* (WJT); *Peter Pan* (MTYP).

FILM/TV *Stand!*, *I Am Somebody's Child: The Regina Louise Story*, *High Life*, *Sunnyside*, *Into Invisible Light*, *Me Estás Matando Susana*, *Silent Night*, *The Mother and the Bear*.

TRAINING B HumEc majoring in clothing design and history from the University of Manitoba.



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MURDER FOR TWO



Larry Isacoff
Lighting Designer

ROYAL MTC *The Comeback, The Sound of Music* (with Citadel), *Burning Mom, The (Post) Mistress, Di and Viv and Rose, 23.5 Hours, Armstrong's War, The Secret Annex, Harvey, Other People's Money, August: Osage County, The Fighting Days, The Shunning, The Seafarer, Looking Back - West, Bleeding Hearts, Rope's End, The Retreat from Moscow, Fully Committed, Mating Dance of the Werewolf, The Miracle Worker, Cloud Nine, Bedroom Farce, How I Got That Story, The Affections of May, Mrs. Klein, The Gin Game, Paper Wheat.*

OTHER THEATRE Cercle Molière, Globe Theatre, 25th Street Theatre, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, PTE, MTYP, Persephone Theatre, Dry Cold Productions.

ET CETERA Evie Award for Outstanding Lighting Design in 2020. Larry divides his time between engaging theatre projects and teaching yoga.



Tom Soares
Voice & Dialect Coach

ROYAL MTC Coaching: *Waitress, Little Women, The Recipe* (with TPM), *among men* (with TPM), *Trouble in Mind, The Rez Sisters, Jane Eyre.* Acting: *Much Ado About Nothing, Richard III.*

OTHER THEATRE Coaching: *The Winter's Tale, Hamlet, Richard III* (SIR); *Iceland, Mary's Wedding* (TPM); *Little Thing, Big Thing* (PTE); *Shrek* (Rainbow). Acting: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, Little Women, Urinetown* (Dry Cold);

Hamlet (Bunchback'd Toads); *Passion* (Red Hen Productions); *Annie* (Rainbow); *The Odyssey* (SIR); *Troilus and Cressida, Measure for Measure* (Tom-Tom Theatre).

FILM/TV Coaching: *The Porter, Esther, Incident in a Ghostland.* Acting: *The Spencer Sisters, Love in the Alps, Burden of Truth, Nobody.*

TRAINING/TEACHING MFA in Acting with a Voice Specialization from York University. Tom regularly teaches courses on voice and performance for the Department of Theatre and Film at the University of Winnipeg.

ET CETERA I'm so glad to be back at Royal MTC supporting another fantastic group of artists!



Anika Binding
Assistant Set Designer

ROYAL MTC Assistant Lighting Designer: *Little Women, The Recipe* (with TPM), *among men* (with TPM). Apprentice Lighting & Video Designer: *The Lehman Trilogy.* Apprentice Lighting Designer: *The Mountaintop.*

OTHER THEATRE Lighting Designer: *Miss Shakespeare* (WST); *From Up Here* (U of W). Costume Designer: *Miss Shakespeare* (WST); *Liars at a Funeral* (Magnus); *Stupid Fucking Bird* (U of W). Stage Management: *Something Rotten!* (MTYP); *Scenes from Love and Information* (U of W). Assistant Lighting & Set Designer: *The Prom* (Dry Cold).

TRAINING BA Hons. in Theatre and Film from the University of Winnipeg, with specializations in Design, Stage Management & Production, and Directing.

ET CETERA Anika would like to thank her friends, family and mentors for their endless support.



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MURDER FOR TWO



Sadie Wannamaker
Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC *Mix Tapes From My Mom* (tour), *Assassinating Thomson* (tour), *The Secret to Good Tea*.

OTHER THEATRE *Kiss Me Kate*, *A Few Good Men*, *Sleeping Beauty: The Panto*, *Rocky: The Musical*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Footloose*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Les Misérables*, *White Christmas*, *Mary Poppins*, *Sleuth*, *Shear Madness*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline*, *Tap Dogs* tour (Drayton); *Tales of An Urban Indian* (TiFT); *British Invasion* (Stage West Mississauga); *Sword and the Stone* (Theatre Orangeville); *The Neverending Story* (Roseneath/YPT/NYU).

TRAINING Graduate of Fanshawe College and Sudbury Regional Hairdressing School.

ET CETERA Sadie is glad to be back at Royal MTC for a third regional tour and she would like to pass on love to her family for all of their support – Alec especially.



Larissa Shabaga
Apprentice Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC *Mix Tapes From My Mom* (tour).

OTHER THEATRE Apprentice Stage Manager: *Mary Poppins* (Rainbow). Stage Manager: *James and the Giant Peach JR* (WST). Production Assistant: *The Little Mermaid*, *RENT*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Hockey Sweater: A Musical* (Rainbow).

TRAINING Graduate of University of Winnipeg with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Film.

ET CETERA Thank you to my family, friends and colleagues for their never-ending support and guidance. ●

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

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***Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone* by Benjamin Stevenson.**

A clever thriller that will make the reader laugh out loud - this book follows the narrator as he attends a family reunion set on a mountain. A body is found in the snow and there are twists and turns to find out who is the killer in a family of murderers. FICTION MYST STEVENSON

***Listen for the Lie* by Amy Tintera.**

A dark comedy following a woman accused of killing her best friend who can't remember anything of that horrible night and a hit true crime podcast host who has decided to investigate the murder several years later. FICTION MYST TINTERA

***The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman.**

A group of four senior citizens in a retirement village meet weekly to discuss unsolved crimes and call themselves "The Thursday Murder Club". This is the first of a series about the unlikely comrades by Osman. FICTION MYST OSMAN

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Dark humour at its finest with cheerful serial killer Serge A. Storms in Dorsey's latest book in the popular series. FICTION MYST DORSEY

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***We Should Not Be Friends: The Story of a Friendship* by Will Schwalbe.**

Follow two unlikely friends through their 40 years alongside one another. Will, bookish and gay, at the beginning of the HIV/AIDS crisis and Maxey, an extroverted jock, meet at university and stay friends through thick and thin. 177.62 SCHWALBE 2023

***Care of Wooden Floors* by Will Wiles.**

An amusing and quirky story about a friendship between two men. When an old friend asks you to take care of his place and his cats what could possibly go wrong? FICTION WILES

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***Bluebird, Bluebird* by Attica Locke.** The first of the Highway 59 series following a black Texas ranger who is looking to solve two murders that have stirred up deep-seeded racial tensions in the small town of Lark. FICTION MYST LOCKE ●



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MURDER *for* TWO



Duncan Cox and Melanie Whyte. PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT.

Officer Marcus Moscovicz is small-town police officer and an aspiring detective. On a dark and stormy night, renowned author Arthur Whitney is murdered moments before his surprise birthday party! With the nearest detective an hour away, Marcus seizes the opportunity to showcase his sleuthing abilities, alongside his silent partner Lou. The question remains: who is the culprit behind this mysterious crime?

A high-energy musical whodunit, *Murder for Two* is a blend of classic musical, comedy and murder mystery, where two actors play a dozen different characters and a piano. This witty homage to old-fashioned murder mysteries was shared with audiences throughout Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario from February 20 to March 18.

Murder For Two marked Royal MTC's 54th Regional Tour. In a short span of 29 days, MTC visited 20 communities, travelled approximately 6,600 kilometres and entertained countless patrons.

Winter often hits hardest as the company is packing their bags, and this year was no different, with -40°C temperatures and extreme cold warnings during rehearsal weeks. However, this would never stop the cast and crew of Duncan Cox, Melanie Whyte, Sadie Wannamaker, Larissa Shabaga, Joshua Gehman and Carter Happy from hitting the road to share this fun play.

The Royal MTC Regional Tour is generously presented by Play Now Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries, sponsored by IG Wealth Management and supported by the Manitoba Arts Council.



Murder for Two cast and creative team at the Regional Tour send-off.

We are honoured to be able to share theatre across the region, and this wouldn't be possible without our partners and regional arts councils who bring the show to their communities. We are also deeply grateful to everyone who attended the show, volunteered and offered a helping hand or warm welcome on the road.

Thank you for making it possible to share great theatre in the following communities:

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Melanie Whyte.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT.



Duncan Cox.
PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT.

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We look forward to recognizing and celebrating your generosity, foresight, and commitment to Royal MTC's future starting today.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Contact Brendan at 204 954 6412 or bmckeen@royalmtc.ca



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