

OVATION

ROYAL
MTC
MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

VOL 33 • NO 5
MAR/APR 2026



the last wife

BY KATE HENNIG

JOHN
HIRSCH
MAINSTAGE

DIRECT FROM
LONDON'S WEST END!

RIDE

The Musical

April 16 - May 2, 2026
The Berney Theatre

Book, Music & Lyrics by
Freya Catrin Smith and
Jack Williams

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who dared to travel the world by bike!*

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Kelly Thornton

Welcome to *The Last Wife* by Kate Hennig. It is fitting that this offering opens on the John Hirsch Mainstage in March, with it being International Women's Month. This provocative play wrestles with women, power and the patriarchy, and does so through a refreshingly contemporary lens that resonates through time.

History has always been fascinated with the legacy of Henry VIII, in particular the fate of his six wives. In his obsessive pursuit to provide a male heir, the trail of women left in Henry's wake were simply the collateral damage of upholding the patriarchy. With gruesome beheadings, a dramatic break

from the Catholic Church to obtain divorces, and the ironic death in childbirth that finally produced a male heir, it is Katherine Parr alone, the steadfast survivor, the last wife, who met this tyrant on her own terms. Brought forth to raise young Eddie, the motherless son, it was her passion to educate and recognize his daughters, Elizabeth and Mary, that truly changed the course of history.

The Last Wife, with its rich language and fierce wit, is as dangerous as it is delicious. Peering back into history, while screaming for a future that sees women for their true worth, and undeniable power, this play is as entertaining as it is insightful.

Thank you so much for joining us. I hope you enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre is proud to call Manitoba home. Royal MTC is located in Winnipeg on Treaty 1, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Inninewak, Anishinewak, Dakota Oyate and Denesuline, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. We are thankful for the benefits sharing this land has afforded us, acknowledge the responsibilities of the Treaties, and embrace the opportunity to partner with Indigenous communities in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

THEATRE ABBREVIATION LEGEND

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

OVIATION

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Canadian Actors' EQUITY Association

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

Scenery, Carpentry and 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.

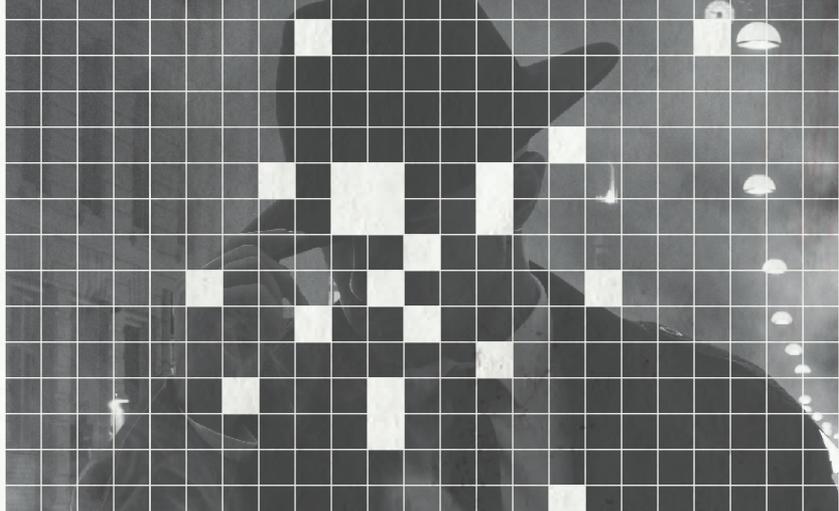
COURTESY TO OTHERS • Talking, candy wrappers and coughing are distracting to fellow patrons and actors. We ask each patron to please keep noise to a minimum during a performance. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.



26

DECLASSIFIED

27

SEASON

MAINSTAGE

■ **Cyrano de Bergerac**

Oct 7-31 . 2026

■ **Anne of Green Gables -
The Musical™**

Nov 25-Dec 19 . 2026

■ **Intrepid**

Jan 13-Feb 6 . 2027

■ **My Name is
Lucy Barton**

Feb 17-Mar 13 . 2027

■ **Waiting for Godot**

Mar 24-Apr 17 . 2027

■ **fareWel**

May 5-29 . 2027

WAREHOUSE

■ **Goblin:Macbeth**

Oct 21-Nov 7 . 2026

■ **Comfort Food**

Nov 18-Dec 5 . 2026

■ **Misery**

Jan 27-Feb 13 . 2027

■ **Fifteen Dogs**

Mar 3-20 . 2027



Playwright's Notes

BY KATE HENNIG

This is an imagining of history. Oh yes, it is based on actual people and events, and though portions of it are deliciously accurate, some may offend the historically concise among you, while still others are completely and utterly fabricated. My priority in choosing must always favour the dramatic.

What I am deeply interested in is the humanity of these iconic historical characters. I want to imagine what made them do what they did, just as I want to imagine what made Margaret Thatcher, George Bush Jr. and Bashar al-Assad do what they did. They are human after all. They have mothers, fathers, siblings and children. One expects that they play tennis, they watch television, they read books; they laugh, they worry, they drink too much coffee from time to time. It fascinates me to create these personal possibilities, and then imagine how they might lead to some of the major decisions that history records. It calls our political self-righteousness into question.

Katherine Parr was an accomplished woman who we should all know more about. I hope this play encourages you to pick up a book about her, and explore this chapter in our feminist past. Then imagine your own version of her story. It's really all any of us can do.

“There’s something deeply, mercilessly wrong in the way the world treats women. Gender equality is the single most important struggle on the planet. Patriarchy is a crime against humanity.” – STEPHEN LEWIS, STRATFORD FESTIVAL FORUM AUG 17, 2013 ●

SYNOPSIS – Shining a contemporary light on a period overshadowed by death, Katherine Parr’s world is drastically altered when King Henry VIII determines that she will be his next queen. Knowing that to refuse is impossible, Kate must skillfully navigate a life where spies, rivalries, religious tensions, and her existing love for Thomas Seymour leave her with a target on her back. When Henry demands that she raise his son Eddie to be the future King of England, Kate agrees – under the condition that his daughters Mary and Bess are also brought back into the family fold. Examining the power of women in a patriarchal society, Kate must use all resources available to empower the future English monarch all while outwitting her enemies before they can destroy her. ●



The Last Wife

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.

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Henry VIII



Katherine Parr

Who's Who of The Last Wife

BY KSENIA BRODA-MILIAN

Henry VIII, a second son, was raised studying theology. He was “the classic Renaissance prince” as a chivalrous, educated patron of artists and scholars but when his older brother Arthur died, Henry took the throne. In order to divorce his first wife, Henry broke England’s ties to the Catholic Church in 1533. As Supreme Head of the Church of England, he held both spiritual and secular power over his subjects.

While this play is literally about Henry VIII’s sixth and last wife, those who came before her give context, starting with the Spanish Princess Katherine of Aragon. She had been married to Arthur, but swore it had never been consummated, so the Pope allowed Henry’s marriage to take place (preserving the alliance of England and Spain). Of multiple pregnancies, **Mary I** was their only child to survive. Henry needed a male heir and so sought a divorce on the grounds that Katherine’s first marriage was consummated after all. After a six-year legal battle, during which Mary

was not allowed to communicate with her mother, the Pope still refused to grant divorce, which spurred Henry to sever ties with Catholicism. Katherine was stripped of her title and banished from court, as was Mary.

Henry’s motivation for divorce was also due to his desire for lady-in-waiting Anne Boleyn; her interest in the Protestant Reformation may have even influenced his religious path. However, she also only had one living daughter, **Elizabeth I**. After false charges of adultery and incest, Henry had an act of Parliament declare that their marriage was never valid, making Elizabeth illegitimate. Anne was beheaded, and 11 days later, Henry married Jane Seymour, who is mentioned often in this play. Jane gave birth to **Edward VI** but died of complications. Despite this, as the mother of the heir, she is always shown in family portraits.

Meanwhile, daughter Mary was made to serve as a maid to her half-sister Elizabeth, brought up in a separate household. Mary was fiercely loyal to her mother and continued to practice Catholicism. Elizabeth joined Henry on ceremonial occasions, and spent some time with half-brother Edward, but was not much acknowledged.

THE LAST WIFE

Marriages to Anne of Cleves (divorced) and Catherine Howard (beheaded for adultery) followed, before Henry married widowed **Katherine Parr**, which is where we join the story.

Known as Katherine, Kate or Parr in this script, she promoted closer ties between the king and all three of his children. Her parents and siblings served in the Tudor court. Katherine was first married when she was 16, widowed and then remarried Neville Latimer at around age 22. As supporters of the Reformation, she was imprisoned in their home and her husband captured by rebels, which is referenced in the play. When Latimer died, Parr caught the attention of the king. She outlived Henry, and remarried before dying in childbirth. Beyond her husbands, she was a humanist, educated, had a strong faith, was the first woman

to publish a book in English under her own name, *Prayers or Meditations* (1545), supported Protestant reform, and loved fine clothing. Her motto: To be useful in all I do.

The final character in *The Last Wife* is **Thomas Seymour**, or Thom. Brother to Henry's third wife Jane, Seymour was a naval officer employed at court and on diplomatic missions. Katherine Parr probably met him through her family connections, and judging by letters she wrote, she was in love. Seymour was ambitious and politically involved – but like all the characters in this play, while his actions are historical record, his emotions and motivations are inferred by the playwright. ●

SOURCES: ENRICHMENT GUIDE BY TALA GAMMON, BRITANNICA.COM, THE TUDORS: A WHO'S WHO BY THOMAS WU, FINE ARTS MUSEUM OF SAN FRANCISCO - FAMSF.ORG.

— STAY CONNECTED —

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Cast of *Murder on the Orient Express* in rehearsals



Life of Pi puppet creation



Elf - The Musical sleigh creation

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PRESENTS

The Last Wife

By Kate Hennig

March 26 – April 18, 2026

PREVIEW March 25

<i>Director</i>	Cherissa Richards†
<i>Set Designer</i>	Brian Perchaluk**†
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Joseph Abetria†
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Hugh Conacher**
<i>Sound Designer & Composer</i>	Torquil Campbell
<i>Intimacy Director</i>	Aria Evans
<i>Fight Director</i>	Jacque Loewen
<i>Assistant Director</i>	Alissa Watson†
<i>Apprentice Director</i>	Montana Lehmann**†
<i>Apprentice Costume Designer</i>	Raphael Estillore*
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Karyn Kumhyr
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Jazz Marcelino†
<i>Apprentice Stage Manager</i>	Keira Jordan†
<i>Child Supervisor</i>	Bailey Chin
<i>Research Dramaturg</i>	Emma Welham†

THE CAST (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

<i>Eddie</i>	Blake Beachell
<i>Thom</i>	Sébastien Heins
<i>Mary</i>	Julie Lumsden
<i>Kate</i>	Amelia Sargisson
<i>Bess</i>	Katie Welham†
<i>Henry</i>	Cory Wojcik

The Last Wife is performed with one intermission.

The Last Wife is staged by arrangement with Emma Laird, GGA, www.ggagency.ca.

The Last Wife was originally produced by the Stratford Festival of Stratford, Ontario, and premiered there on August 14, 2015. Antoni Cimolino, Artistic Director and Anita Gaffney, Executive Director.

Kate Hennig is a member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada.

Production photography by Dylan Hewlett.

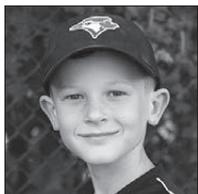


**Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659

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

†Past Jean Murray - Moray Sinclair apprenticeship or scholarship recipient

THE LAST WIFE



Blake Beachell

Eddie

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE Rosser and Grosse Isle School Christmas concerts; member of Mark Morriseau and the Prairie Fiddlers; Sven in the musical *Frozen* (Prairie Vision Arts Council and Antler River Recreation Commission); Rosser United Church Christmas Eve Productions.

FILM Short film *Wheels of Rage* by Sam Vint (Sick + Twisted Theatre).

ET CETERA Blake is very excited to be in his first show and would like to thank his family, friends and teachers along the way for the love and support.



Sébastien Heins

Thom

ROYAL MTC *Bang Bang* (with Belfry).

OTHER THEATRE *Slave Play*, *Topdog/Underdog* (CS); *Measure for Measure* (Crow's); *The 39 Steps* (Guild); *No Save Points* (Outside the March); *The Tempest*, *The School for Scandal* (Stratford); *Brotherhood: The Hip Hopera* (b Current); *The Lion King* (Mirvish).

FILM/TV *Law & Order Toronto*; *Ghosts of Christmas Past* (Lifetime); Stratford production of *The Tempest*, seen on CTV.

TRAINING NTS, Steppenwolf.

ET CETERA Sébastien created and performs *No Save Points*, a one-man show blending video games and memoir, winner of Columbia University's Digital Dozen Award and now being developed into a

video game. He's thrilled to join the team of *The Last Wife*, and he dedicates this production to the memory of Danny Klass.



Julie Lumsden

Mary

ROYAL MTC *Sarah Ballenden*, *Sense and Sensibility*.

OTHER THEATRE *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Art of War*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Cymbeline*, *The Diviners* (Stratford); *Gypsy*, *On the Razzle*, *Gaslight*, *Everybody, Brigadoon*, *Flush*, *The Horse and His Boy*, *A Christmas Carol* (Shaw); *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Edmonton Opera); *Li Keur* (Manitoba Opera); *Peter Pan: The Panto* (Neptune); *Charlie Brown*, *James and the Giant Peach* (MTYP).

TRAINING Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice Performance from the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba.

ET CETERA Julie is thrilled to be back on the Royal MTC stage for the first time since 2018!

Concessions are Going Cashless

NEW! Concessions are going cashless at the Mainstage and Warehouse. The Royal MTC Box Office and the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival will still accept cash.

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

THE LAST WIFE



Amelia Sargisson

Kate

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

OTHER THEATRE *Casey and Diana* (WCT); *Stag & Doe* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Paradise Lost*, *Hamlet 911*, *Othello*, *The Front Page*, *The Comedy of Errors* (Stratford); *The Wolves* (META Recipient), *If We Were Birds* (META nomination), *Down From Heaven* (Cartes Premières Best Actress) (Imago); *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *King Lear* (CS); *La Bête*, *Amadeus* (TiFT); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Citadel); *Red Velvet* (Dora nomination), *The Watershed*, *Seeds* (Crow's); *All I Want for Christmas*, *Paradise Lost* (META nomination), *The 39 Steps* (META nomination) (Centaur).

VIDEO GAMES/TV Nora (VO and MOCAP) in *Lost Records: Bloom & Rage* (New York Game Awards nomination for Best Acting in a Game) (Don't Nod); *The Boys*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *See*.

TEACHING Mentoring Artist at NTS.

ET CETERA Narration and direction of multiple audiobooks for Penguin Random House Canada and ECW Press. For the survivors.



Katie Welham

Bess

ROYAL MTC *Billy Elliot the Musical*. 2025/26 National Mentorship Program.

OTHER THEATRE *A Chorus Line*, *Guys and Dolls* (WSO/Rainbow); *The Secret in the Wings*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *Oh the Humanity* (U of W); *A Taste of Blood in the*

Mouth, *CliqYou*, *Women* (Winnipeg Fringe Festival).

TRAINING Graduate of the University of Winnipeg with a Bachelor of Arts Honours; Intensive Training Program (RWB).

ET CETERA Thank you to my friends and family for their endless love and support. I would like to dedicate this performance to my grandmothers Huguette and Helen. Thank you for teaching me great strength.



Cory Wojcik

Henry

ROYAL MTC Actor/Playwright: *Mix Tapes From My Mom* (Regional Tour/Warehouse). Actor: *The Comeback*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (with Segal), *The Three Musketeers*, *All is Bright*, *The Cottage*, *A Doll's House*, *Once* (with Grand), *Kill Me Now* (with NAC), *Black Coffee*, *Hand to God*, *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Late Company*, *Harvey*, *Miracle on South Division Street*, *August: Osage County*. Assistant Director: *Morning After Grace*.

OTHER THEATRE Actor: *Much Ado About Nothing* (SIR); *The Wedding Party*, *Butcher* (PTE); *Strike! The Musical*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Producers* (Rainbow); *The Jungle Book*, *Jabber*, *The Big League* (MTYP); *Another Way Home* (WJT); *A Man of No Importance* (Dry Cold).

FILM/TV Actor: *Acting Good*, *Champions*, *Dark Harvest*, *Breakthrough*, *A Dog's Purpose*.

TRAINING U of W Department of Theatre and Film; U of M Faculty of Education, B.Ed.

ET CETERA This summer Cory returns to the Winnipeg Fringe Festival to present a Métis adaptation of Ryan Gladstone's *The 7 Lives of Louis Riel*. Hope to see you there!



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THE LAST WIFE



Kate Hennig
Playwright

Born in England, and raised in Alberta, Kate is a multi-award-winning theatre artist, with over 40 years of professional experience as a performer, director, playwright and educator. Kate's Queenmaker plays, *The Last Wife*, *The Virgin Trial* and *Mother's Daughter*, are a contemporary feminist re-vision of the Tudor queens Katherine Parr, Mary I and Elizabeth I. Kate's other playwrighting includes her adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac* (2019/21) and *Wilde Tales*, an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's stories for children (2017), both commissioned and premiered by the Shaw Festival. *The Last Wife* was short-listed for the Carol Bolt Award (2015). *The Virgin Trial* won the Carol Bolt Award and was short-listed for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama-English (2017). Kate's current writing projects include: *Sex in the '80s*, a provocative comedy about how sexual ethics change with time; *The Ducking Chair*, an interactive solo show where the audience decides whether to save or drown a witch; *The Woman in White*, an adaptation of the sensational 19th century novel by Wilkie Collins; and *The Salon*, an imagined gathering of the mistresses of Charles II on the evening of his death. Kate lives and writes in Stratford, Ontario. katehennig.com



Cherissa Richards
Director

ROYAL MTC Director: *Trouble in Mind*. Assistant Director: *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. Actor: *The Mountaintop*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Di and Viv and Rose*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (with Citadel), *Mrs. Warren's Profession*.

OTHER THEATRE Director: *Primary Trust* (Grand/Crow's); *The Lightning Thief*, *The Power of Harriet T* (MTYP); *Serving Elizabeth*, *VOICE* (PTE); *Stag and Doe* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Shedding a Skin* (Nightwood/Buddies in Bad Times); *Controlled Damage* (Neptune/NAC); *Rapunzel: A Holiday Panto* (Capitol Theatre); *Sleuth* (Vertigo); *Middletown* (Dalhousie University); *Julius Caesar* (Bard on the Beach); *Red Velvet* - Globe & Mail Critic's Pick (Crow's); *Backstage at Carnegie Hall* (Centaur); *Meet Me at Dawn* (TBTR); *Subjection of Kezia*, *Poof* (Shaw). Associate/Assistant Director: *Fall on Your Knees* (CS/Neptune/NAC/Grand).

TRAINING M.F.A. Acting - York University, B.A.H. Theatre - University of Winnipeg, Independent Study: Directing - NTS, Neil Munroe Directing Internship - Shaw Festival.

ET CETERA Crow's Theatre RBC Rising Star Emerging Director Prize 2021 and 2023 Dora Award winner for Outstanding Direction. cherissarichards.com



Check it out!

Scan to watch Cygnet Theatre's *The Last Wife* interview from 2018 with playwright Kate Hennig, or visit [youtube.com/watch?v=PrN_qrh7Rt8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrN_qrh7Rt8)



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Recommended Reading

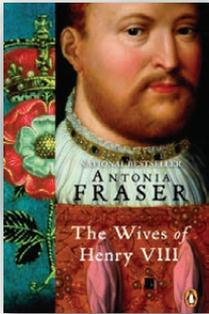
inspired by *The Last Wife*



Katherine Parr, The Sixth Wife
by Alison Weir



The Waiting Game
by Nicola Clark



The Wives of Henry VIII
by Antonia Fraser

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THE LAST WIFE



Brian Perchaluk

Set Designer

ROYAL MTC Recent and favourites: *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Waitress*, *The Recipe* (with TPM), *The Comeback*, *The Mountaintop*, *Clue* (with Grand), *Burning Mom*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Color Purple* (with Citadel), *The Cottage*, *Sarah Ballenden*, *Black Coffee*, *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Harvey*, *August: Osage County*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (with NAC), *M. Butterfly* (with NAC).

OTHER THEATRE Brian's work has been featured at theatres across the country, including two seasons each at the Shaw and Stratford festivals. Selected recent credits include: *La Cantatrice chauve* et *La Leçon* (Théâtre Cercle Molière); *The Hockey Sweater* and *The Little Mermaid* (Rainbow); *Liars at a Funeral* (PTE).

TRAINING Graduate of U of W and NTS.

ET CETERA Recipient of Gemini, Jessie Richardson, Prix Rideau and Evie Awards.



Joseph Abetria

Costume Designer

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

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.



Hugh Conacher

Lighting Designer

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

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

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

25
26
SEASON

APRIL 30 – MAY 3, 2026
CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL

RWB



RWB COMPANY: PHOTO BY VINCE PAKHALA (2014)

The Four Seasons

with *šegatəm*
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Torquill Campbell

Sound Designer &
Composer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE As an actor: *Henry V* and *Pericles* (Public Theatre, New York); *A Fair Country* (Lincoln Centre, New York); *Shopping and Fucking* (New York Theatre Workshop); two seasons at Stratford Festival; dozens of plays all over North America including a country-wide tour of my one-man show *True Crime*, which ran at Prairie Theatre Exchange in 2018. As a designer: three Jessie awards for sound design in Vancouver for *Angels in America Parts 1 and 2*, and *Hamlet*; design for Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, Centaur Theatre in Montréal, and United Players, Bard on the Beach, Arts Club Theatre and Western Gold Theatre in Vancouver.

FILM/TV Soundtracks for films, winner of Canadian Screen Award 2025 for best original song in a feature.

TRAINING Circle in the Square Theatre (New York).

ET CETERA Member of the band Stars with over 600,000 albums sold worldwide and two Juno nominations and a gold record. This machine kills fascists.



Aria Evans

Intimacy Director

ROYAL MTC *Little Women*, *The Recipe* (with TPM).

OTHER THEATRE Choreographer & Intimacy Director: *The Effect* (Coal Mine); *Every Little Nookie* (Stratford). Intimacy Director: *Richard II* (Stratford). Assistant Director & Intimacy Director: *Queen Goneril* (Soulpepper).

FILM/TV Intimacy Coordinator: *When Stars Align* (Lifetime); *We Three Queens* (OutTV); *Really Happy Someday* (Spindle Films); *Sworn Justice: Taken Before Christmas* (Black Entertainment Television).

TEACHING Assistant Professor in the Theatre and Film department at the University of Winnipeg.

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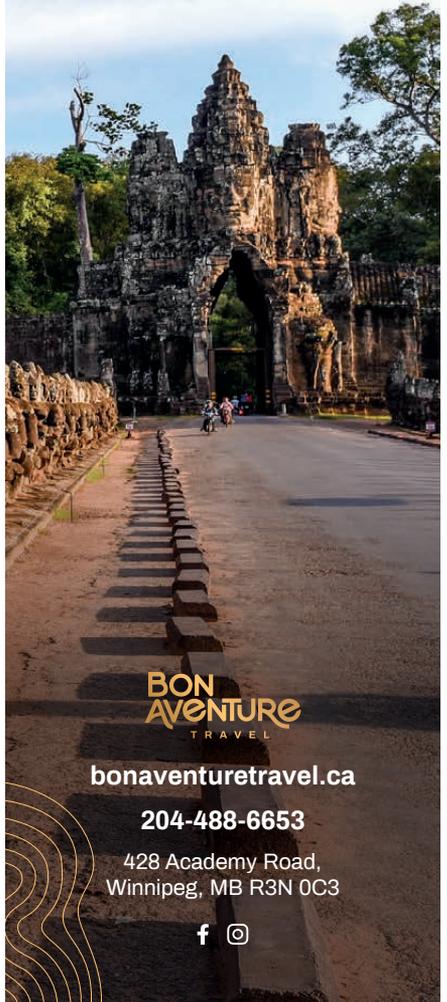
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THE LAST WIFE



Jacquie Loewen
Fight Director

ROYAL MTC Fight Director (selected): *Holland* (with TPM), *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Indecent*, *Waitress*, *The Recipe* (with TPM), *The Mountaintop*, *Clue* (with Grand), *Yaga*, *Into the Woods*, *The Rez Sisters*, *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* (with Arts Club/Citadel), *Vietgone* (with fu-GEN/Hope and Hell), *Hand to God*, *Private Lives*, *Gone With the Wind*, *August: Osage County*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Seafarer*. Actor: *The Three Musketeers*, *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*, *Top Girls*.

OTHER THEATRE Fight Director (selected): *Macbeth* (Bard on the Beach); Indigenous Playwrights New Works Workshop (PTC - Vancouver); *Beauty and the Beast* (Rainbow); *The Flood Thereafter* (CS); *Don Giovanni* (Manitoba Opera); *Macbeth*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (SIR); *Prairie Nurse* (PTE).

TEACHING U of Winnipeg, U of Manitoba, Trinity Western, Simon Fraser University, Kansas State University.

ET CETERA Jacqueline was a founding member of the Canadian Comedy Award-nominated sketch group Hot Thespian Action.



Alissa Watson
Assistant Director

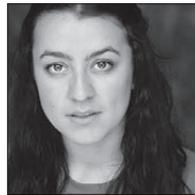
ROYAL MTC Actor: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Harvey*.

OTHER THEATRE Director: *Munsch Upon a Time*, *The Paper Bag Princess* (PTE); *Rocking Horse Winner*, *The Mansplaining Division* (Manitoba Underground Opera);

None of This Is Happening (TPM); *The Moors*, *Witch*, *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl* (University of Alberta). Actor: *Narrow Bridge* (WJT); *Small Things*, *Mission Munschpossible*, *Magical Mystery Munsch* (PTE); *Torn Through Time*, *Dib and Dob* and *the Journey Home*, *Night Light* (MTYP).

TRAINING MFA in Directing from the University of Alberta; Manitoba Conservatory for Creation and Performance; Guildhall School of Music and Drama (England); Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education from Brandon University.

ET CETERA It is a great privilege to make art; endless gratitude to Cherissa and Royal MTC for the opportunity.



Montana Lehmann
Apprentice Director

ROYAL MTC Actor: *A Christmas Story*.

OTHER THEATRE *End of the Line* (Walk&Talk Theatre Co.); *True Colors* (WJT/StratFest@Home); *Am I Not King?* (zone41); *A Little Night Music* (Dry Cold).

TV *Burden of Truth* (CBC).

TRAINING University of Winnipeg (2016); Studio 58 (2022).

ET CETERA Montana would like to thank her beloved roommates for their hours of living room audition prep and encouragement to take this leap.

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lives here.



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Raphael Estillore
Apprentice Costume
Designer

ROYAL MTC First engagement. 2025/26 National Mentorship Program.

OTHER THEATRE Set Designer for *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* for Junior Musical Theatre Company at the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film. Student Costume Designer for *FORWARD* during 2024/25 academic year at the University of Winnipeg Asper Centre for Theatre and Film.

TRAINING University of Winnipeg: Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Film.

ET CETERA Raphael has been awarded the 2024-25 University of Winnipeg Gold Medal Achievement in a Major (3-Year) Theatre and Film and University of Winnipeg Dean's Honour List: Student of Highest Distinction (2021 - 2024).



Karyn Kumhyr
Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC Selected: *Little Women*, *The Secret to Good Tea*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Rez Sisters*, *The Cottage*, *Heisenberg*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Sarah Ballenden*, *Chimerica* (with CS), *A Christmas Story*, *Next to Normal*, *The Shunning*, *Steel Magnolias*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Bleeding Hearts*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Our Town*, *The Tempest*.

OTHER THEATRE Selected: *Frozen* (Disney); *Romeo & Juliet* (RWB); *End of the Line* (TPM/Walk & Talk); *Ma-Buhay!*, *Rent*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Rainbow); *The Devil's Disciple*, *Desire Under the Elms* (Shaw); *Feast*, *The War Being Waged*, *The Third Colour* (PTE); *Pandora* (SIR/PTE); *Pippin* (ViC/WST); *Betty's Song* (Charlottetown Festival); *Spelling Bee* (Grand); *James and the Giant Peach* (MTYP); *The Rick Hansen Story* (MTYP/2010 Olympics/Citadel); *Molière*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (ATP).

FILM/TV *Bring It On: Cheer or Die* (Universal); *Winnipeg Comedy Fest* (Frantic Films); *Burden of Truth* (CBC TV series).



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THE LAST WIFE



Jazz Marcelino
Assistant Stage
Manager

ROYAL MTC Assistant Stage Manager: *King James*. Apprentice Stage Manager: *among men* (with TPM), *Clue* (with Grand), *Burning Mom*, *Assassinating Thomson* (tour).

OTHER THEATRE (selected): *The Lightning Thief* (MTYP); *Liars at a Funeral* (PTE); *Blue Beads and Blueberries* (MTYP Tour); *Tuesdays with Morrie* (WJT); *Ma-Buhay! A New Musical* (Rainbow); *Othello* (Beau/Raven/Echo); *Agency* (Sarasvati); *Stephen Hopwood Is Not Dead* (Penguin Production); *True Blue* (Cagey Productions). Stage Management Apprenticeships (selected): *RENT*, *The Hockey Sweater: A Musical* (Rainbow); *La Cenerentola* (MB Opera).

FILM Second Wardrobe Assistant: *Alter Boys* (Farpoint Films).

TRAINING Graduate of University of Winnipeg - Bachelor of Arts in Production and Stage Management in Theatre and Film Production.

ET CETERA Hope you enjoy the show! 😊



Keira Jordan
Apprentice Stage
Manager

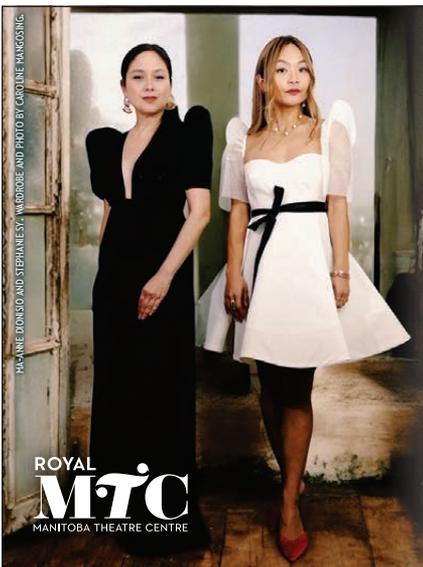
ROYAL MTC First engagement.

OTHER THEATRE Stage Manager: *The Weight of Ants*, *White Girls in Moccasins* (U of W); *Chicago* (All-Dentist Musical); *CliqYou*, *Between Gigs* (Winnipeg Fringe). Assistant Stage Manager: *The Secret in the Wings* (U of W); *Bloodsuckers! The Musical* (Winnipeg Fringe). Production Assistant: *Rock of Ages*, *Frozen* (Rainbow). Assistant Lighting Designer: *Ponderosa Pine* (PTE); *A Bright Room Called Day* (U of W).

FILM/TV BG Casting Assistant: *Bad Romance*, *The Holiday Shift*. Covid Testing Coordinator: *Little Bird*, *Time Cut*.

TRAINING BA (Hons) in Stage Management from the University of Winnipeg.

ET CETERA Love to my family and friends for all their encouragement and support! 🍀



MA-ANNE DIONISIO AND STEPHANIE SY: WARDROBE AND PHOTO BY CAROLINE KINKOSING.

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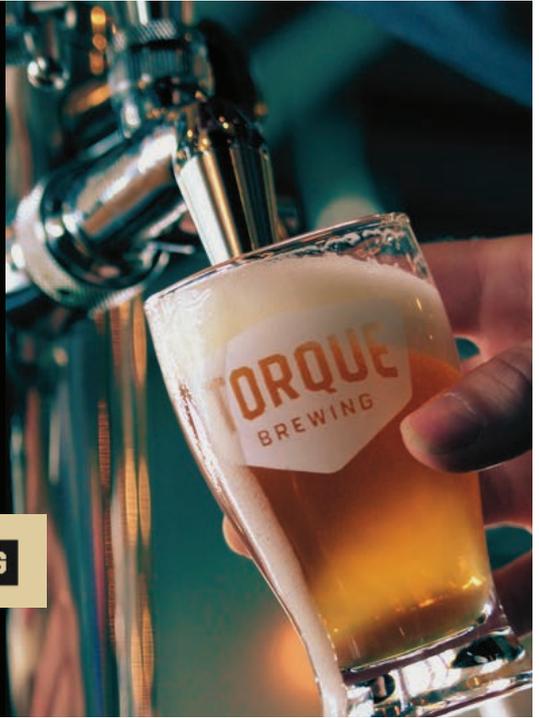
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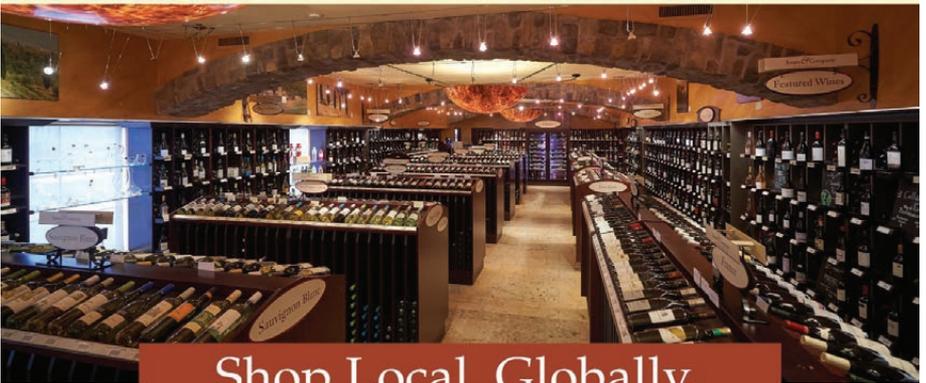
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www.clanmothers.ca

CLAN MOTHERS HEALING VILLAGE
50/50 RAFFLE

LGCA 8347-RF-50538

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

REGIONAL TOUR



Gwendolyn Collins and Devin Lowry in *Hockey Mom Hockey Dad*. PHOTO BY LEIF NORMAN

.. HOCKEY MOM HOCKEY DAD ..

TAKING THEATRE ON THE ROAD

While audiences gather at the Mainstage and Warehouse theatres in Winnipeg, another MTC tradition unfolds far beyond the city's perimeter. Annually, the MTC Regional Tour travels thousands of kilometres to bring professional theatre to communities across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario and this year, the tour featured the heartfelt comedy *Hockey Mom, Hockey Dad*.

If you've ever spent long hours in a rink, juggled schedules or bonded with strangers over bad coffee and early morning games, this play feels instantly familiar. *Hockey Mom, Hockey Dad* celebrates the parents behind the players. It's funny, tender and unmistakably Canadian.

But this tour is about more than a great night of theatre.

The Regional Tour is a vital part of MTC's programming. It strengthens relationships across the province and introduces new

audiences to the power of live theatre. *Hockey Mom, Hockey Dad* may be set in the bleachers of an arena, but its story of commitment, community and showing up reflects the lives of many Manitobans.

Within one month, the 2026 tour travelled thousands of kilometres, transforming schools, community halls and local theatres into places of shared storytelling in 19 communities. Touring in winter brings long drives and unpredictable weather, but also powerful moments of connection: full houses, lively post-show conversations and the sense that theatre has a home everywhere in Manitoba.

We are honoured to be able to share theatre across the region, but this wouldn't be possible without funding from the Manitoba Arts Council, Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries and IG Private Wealth Management.

Thank you to the regional arts councils and community volunteers for making it possible to share great theatre in the following locations:

Arborg, MB	Kenora, MB
Atikokan, ON	MacGregor, MB
Brandon, ON	Minnedosa, MB
Crystal City, MB	Portage la Prairie, MB
Dauphin, MB	Sioux Lookout, ON
Deloraine, MB	Snow Lake, MB
Dryden, ON	Souris, MB
Flin Flon, MB	Steinbach, MB
Gimli, MB	Strathclair, MB ●
Great Falls, MB	



NEXT AT THE JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE

APR 29 — MAY 23

RUBABOO

A MÉTIS CABARET

By Andrea Menard

Music by Andrea Menard & Robert Walsh

In partnership with Persephone Theatre

PHOTOS BY DAHLIA KATZ

Artwork by
Leah Marie Dorion



KAREN SHEPHERD



ROBERT WALSH, ANDREA MENARD AND NATHEN ASWELL



ANDREA MENARD

RoyalMTC.ca 204 942 6537

A person is visible in the background, holding a drink. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a restaurant or bar setting.

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