

Royal MTC Announces 2024/25 Season

Winnipeg, February 9, 2024 – Artistic Director Kelly Thornton is thrilled to announce Royal MTC’s 2024/25 season. With 10 exceptional productions, audiences can expect to embark on a journey through remarkable storytelling filled with laughter, tears, and a renewed sense of hope and inspiration.

With a hysterical comedy to kick off the season, a beloved classic for the holidays and a smash hit musical by Sara Bareilles, this season promises a joyous array of great theatre. We have another world premiere from Pimootayowin Creators Circle, a tremendously moving story of an iconic visit from “the People’s Princess”, and an explosive true story of theatre history, along with two exciting Manitoban works at the Tom Hendry Warehouse. This season is sure to delight diehard theatre lovers and welcome enthusiastic new audiences to our beloved theatres.

"Our legacy and ongoing responsibility is to tell stories. Whether we do that through farce, as we celebrate the ridiculous, or through classical adaptations of our favourite novels; whether it's a Broadway musical or a contemporary Canadian play, we gather to celebrate the power of story, to share discourse, and connection with our community. I'm honoured to present this new season of remarkable plays." - Kelly Thornton

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE

The Play That Goes Wrong

By Henry Lewis, Henry Shields & Jonathan Sayer

Directed by Dennis Garnhum

A co-production with Citadel Theatre & Theatre Calgary

Oct 17 – Nov 9, 2024 (preview Oct 16)

Despite their spotty track record, the Cornley Drama Society has high hopes for their new production. *The Murder at Haversham Manor* should be a real crowd pleaser. Who doesn't love a murder mystery set in a grand manor – during a fancy engagement party, no less? Sadly, if you believe this show will go off without a hitch, you'd be dead wrong. Thwarted by missing props, a

malfunctioning set and some questionable acting choices, this ill-fated production unravels at an alarming rate. By the end of the show, solving a murder is the least of everyone's worries.

Called "a riotous explosion of comedy" (The Daily Beast) and "a gut-busting hit" (New York Times), *The Play That Goes Wrong* is the right choice if you're looking for a hilarious night at the theatre.

Little Women

Based on the novels *Little Women* & *Good Wives* by Louisa May Alcott

Adapted for the stage by Jordi Mand

Directed by Katie German

Nov 21 – Dec 14, 2024 (preview Nov 20)

In 1860s Massachusetts, Jo March and her sisters struggle to make ends meet while their father is away serving in the Civil War. With societal pressures to get married, ideally to a rich suitor no less, Jo tries to go against the current and forge her way as a young writer with bigger dreams. While Marmee bestows the virtue of self-sacrifice on her daughters, Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy must learn to navigate the complicated and exciting world of adulthood.

Filled with adventure, heartbreak and a deep sense of hope, the struggle of these "Little Women" has inspired generations of independent young women to trust their voice in a world trying to shape them. With buoyant and memorable characters, this timeless classic is a perfect tale for the holiday season.

Waitress

Book by Jessie Nelson | Music & Lyrics by Sara Bareilles

Based upon the motion picture written by Adrienne Shelly

Directed by Ann Hodges

Jan 9 – Feb 1, 2025 (previews Jan 7 & 8)

At Joe's Pie Diner, Jenna is a small-town waitress who puts her passion into incredible pie-baking. When she finds herself pregnant in a dead-end relationship with her no-good husband and falling fast for her quirky new OB/GYN, she realizes she must address her life, and find her true self in a world that has been passing her by.

When a pie-making contest is announced in a nearby county, she sees the opportunity for a fresh start. But forging a path isn't as simple as mixing the ingredients for one of her signature pies. With the support of her fellow waitresses, and one curmudgeonly regular, Jenna finds the

strength to pursue a long-abandoned dream. Hilarious and heartfelt, with gorgeous original music and lyrics by Grammy Award-winning Sara Bareilles, this Broadway hit musical serves up more than delicious pie.

Indecent

By Paula Vogel

Directed by Kelly Thornton

Feb 13 – Mar 8, 2025 (preview Feb 12)

From Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel comes a stunning play about one of the most shocking events in theatre history. *Indecent* tells the true story of the rise and explosive demise of the 1923 Broadway debut of Sholem Asch's *The God of Vengeance*, where its producer and entire cast were arrested on the grounds of obscenity.

Asch's play originated in Poland in 1907, and while criticized by his peers, it wowed audiences across Europe and in the Yiddish theatre scene of downtown New York City. But when an English translation opens on Broadway, the play's inclusion of the first same-sex kiss on an American stage proves too scandalous for the public. Told through music, song, dance and comedy, *Indecent* is an arresting play about forbidden love, artistic censorship and the enduring power of theatre.

Casey and Diana

By Nick Green

Directed by Andrew Kushnir

A co-production with Theatre Aquarius

Mar 20 – Apr 12, 2025 (preview Mar 19)

Thomas wasn't planning to be at Casey House much longer but an upcoming visit from Princess Diana gives him a reason to stick around. Soon he's rallying the other residents to hang on for seven more days. But in a hospice for people living with AIDS, a week is a long time. As they wait impatiently for the big day, Thomas entertains everyone with his gallows humour, his roommate frets about unfinished business and they both struggle with family relationships.

Inspired by Princess Diana's historic visit to Toronto's Casey House in 1991, *Casey and Diana* is a tremendously moving and surprisingly funny portrait of the men at the heart of the AIDS crisis, their devoted caregivers, and the 'People's Princess' who had the spirit to touch their hearts and the compassion to hold their hands when no one else would.

ELEVATE: Manaajii ' idiwin

By David McLeod

Directed by Herbie Barnes

Apr 24 – May 17, 2025 (preview Apr 23)

What happens when your elevator gets stuck on the way to a high-profile meeting, Jonesie and Tallahassee are about to find out! As tempers rise, the shrinking space becomes a pressure cooker, as the men struggle to get it back up and running. Told with hilarious hijinks, the two attempt a series of adventurous escapes, and through these mishaps, a brutal and biting funny conversation about power emerges. Will the elevator become unstuck?

Developed in the Pimootayowin Creators Circle, *ELEVATE: Manaajii ' idiwin* is a fast-paced exploration of reconciliation and what it means to see the humanity of another person.

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE

The Recipe

By Armin Wiebe

Directed by Ardith Boxall

A co-production with Theatre Projects Manitoba

Nov 7 – 23, 2024 (preview Nov 6)

After a whirlwind romance, Oata sets her sights – and her heart – on life with Yasch, until he reveals his obsession with skinny Sadie Nickel. Tired of being overlooked and busy running her family's farm, Oata wants nothing to do with either of them. But when Sadie arrives at her door, distraught and in desperate need of help, Oata must confront her insecurities and wrestle with the power of choice.

Funny, poignant and subversive, *The Recipe* is a heartwarming Prairie Gothic from a singular Manitoban voice featuring a cast of misfit characters from Armin Wiebe's Gutenthal series.

Mix Tapes From My Mom

Written & performed by Cory Wojcik

Featuring a live band

Directed by Trish Cooper

Jan 30 – Feb 15, 2025 (preview Jan 29)

It was the best, worst day of his life. Winnipeg theatre veteran Cory Wojcik, backed by a band of incredible musicians, shares a deeply personal story of the day he travelled back and forth between two hospitals, for two very different reasons. Be prepared for Cory to break every rule of theatre (in the best way). Pairing a soundtrack of songs you know and love with a story so unbelievable it could only be true, *Mix Tapes From My Mom* is a testament to the love of family, and the ways we are able to share it.

King James

By Rajiv Joseph

Directed by Ray Strachan

Mar 6 – 22, 2025 (preview Mar 5)

Matt is in a tight spot financially and is forced to sell his Cleveland Cavaliers season tickets. He's been going to games since he was six and this is like giving a piece of his heart away. To add insult to injury, the Cavs are showing promise with LeBron 'King' James now holding court. So, here's Matt unloading his season tickets to a guy he's never met. But Matt has some un-Cleveland-like luck when he and Shawn become fast friends and start going to games together. As the team's fortunes rise and fall, they go through their own highs and lows.

A story told in four quarters over 12 years, *King James* is an exploration of a deep friendship, filtered through the emotional roller coaster of fandom.

Murder for Two

Book & Music by Joe Kinosian | Book & Lyrics by Kellen Blair

Directed by Chase Winnicky

Apr 3 – 19, 2025 (preview Apr 2)

Officer Marcus Moskowicz is small-town police officer and an aspiring detective. On a dark and stormy night moments before the surprise birthday party for renowned author Arthur Whitney, shots are fired, and the writer is murdered! As the nearest detective is an hour away, Marcus seizes the opportunity to showcase his sleuthing abilities, with the assistance of his silent partner Lou. Now, the question remains: Who is the culprit behind this mysterious crime?

A high-energy musical whodunit, *Murder for Two* is a blend of a classic musical, a comedy and a murder mystery, where two actors play a dozen different characters and a piano. Settle in for this witty homage to old-fashioned murder mysteries, which will also entertain audiences across Manitoba as our Regional Tour (dates below).

REGIONAL TOUR

Murder for Two

Feb 20 – Mar 19, 2025

SUBSCRIBERS GET THE BEST SEATS AT THE BEST PRICE

Subscription packages for the 2024/25 season start at \$177.50 (Mainstage) and \$90 (Warehouse). Current Royal MTC subscribers can renew now by calling the Box Office at 204 942 6537 (toll-free at 1 877 446 4500), or by visiting royalmtc.ca.

Subscription benefits include substantial savings over single ticket prices, an easy monthly installment plan, as well as dining and retail discounts.

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