



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Celebrate One Family's Triumphs and Tribulations as They Battle "The System" in the World Premiere of *Holland***

**WINNIPEG, January 29, 2026** – Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, in partnership with Theatre Projects Manitoba, is pleased to present *Holland* – a heartfelt comedy about parents caring for a child living with a disability who decide to take matters into their own hands..

“*Holland* begins as a play about one woman taking drastic action out of desperation, but it becomes a play about community support and the proverbial village standing up together in the face of broken systems and seemingly insurmountable obstacles,” explains Suzie Martin, production Director and Artistic Director of Theatre Projects Manitoba.

Adapted for the stage by local playwright Trish Cooper, *Holland* explores the challenges parents Carrie and Paul face in navigating the complex disability system. The family’s adherence to children’s special services for the support of their disabled son is without debate. But Cooper’s play unveils a system that sometimes outweighs the individual as it processes people

“This play was inspired after a series of extremely frustrating moments, writing letters, signing petitions, writing letters, making calls, writing letters, applying for funding and all the things you do as a parent when you have a child with a disability,” says Cooper who was inspired to write *Holland* based on personal experience having a son with a disability. “Like the play, what started out as rage, frustration and a thirst for vengeance turned into gratitude for being in a community that cares.”

*Holland* stars **Jessy Ardern** as Carrie, **Daniel Bogart** as Paul, **Toby Hughes** as Rudy / Jim / Garry / Officer Miller, **Jennifer Lyon** as Alice and **Jane Testar** as Rachel / Ms. Watson / Nurse / Officer Lafleur.

The creative team includes Winnipeg Playwright **Trish Cooper**, Director **Suzie Martin**, Set Designer **Ksenia Broda-Milian**, Costume Designer **Daina Leitold**, Lighting Designer **Anika Binding**, Lighting Design Mentor **Hugh Conacher**, Composer and Sound Designer **Daniel Roy**, Fight Director **Jacquie Loewen**, Production and Accessibility Dramaturg **Debbie Patterson**, Assistant Set Designer **Joyce Licup**, Apprentice Director **Samantha Machado**, Apprentice Sound Designer **Tyler Sneesby**, Stage Manager **Margaret Brook** and Apprentice Stage Manager **Devon Helm**.

Production of *Holland* is supported by the Manitoba Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, Winnipeg Arts Council, Manitoba Association of Playwrights and features art from [Art Beat Studio](#).

Royal MTC and Theatre Projects Manitoba would also like to extend a special thank-you to production sponsor The Asper Foundation. Royal MTC is grateful for the generous support of our Warehouse Season Sponsor, BMO.

*Holland* runs from February 4 – 21, 2026 at the Tom Hendry Warehouse. Showtimes and ticket information are available at by visiting the [Royal MTC website](#) or by calling Royal MTC Box Office at 204-942-6537.

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#### **About Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre**

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre produces 10 plays on two stages, a regional tour, a wide range of youth programming and two festivals: Pimootayowin: A Festival of New Work and North America's second-largest Fringe, the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Kelly Thornton and Executive Director Evan Klassen, Royal MTC remains Manitoba's flagship theatre

#### **Theatre Projects Manitoba**

[Theatre Projects Manitoba](#) (TPM) is a professional, non-for-profit organization focusing on the creation and presentation of theatrical work seeded and harvested in Manitoba. Founded by Harry Rintoul in 1990, TPM has produced more than 50 new Manitoba works expressing the voices of our province and sharing stories that have a connection to the communities of Treaty 1. Watch for our largest and most ambitious production in our company's history this September.

#### **For more information or to set up an interview, please contact:**

Connie Tamoto – Media Relations, Prairie Sky Consulting

P : 204-918-0344

E: connie@prairieskyconsulting.ca