

## ROYAL MTC ANNOUNCES 2019/20 SEASON WITH LOVE

**WINNIPEG, February 1, 2019** – From the unforgettable tale of hope told through song in *The Color Purple* and the feel-good story of *As You Like It*; to the riveting memoir musical of *Fun Home*, Royal MTC is thrilled to present an incredible 2019/20 season filled with inspiring stories of change.

This will mark the final season of Royal MTC's longest-serving Artistic Director Steven Schipper. His 30 years of leadership, passion and unwavering commitment to the theatre community are reflected in these 10 change-affirming plays. Four co-productions, a Manitoba premiere and a world premiere round out this season of transformation and transition with hope and heart.

### JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE

#### **THE COLOR PURPLE**

**Based upon the novel written by Alice Walker and the Warner Bros./Amblin Entertainment Motion Picture Book by Marsha Norman; Music and Lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray**

**A co-production with the Citadel Theatre**

**Sponsored by The Asper Foundation and the Gail Asper Family Foundation**

October 24 – November 16, 2019 (Preview October 23)

*"Exquisite! A joyous celebration of storytelling."* – NEW YORK TIMES

Experience the joy of humanity in the musical adaptation of this enduring tale of the American South. Told she was worthless, Celie discovers her strength and rises above indignity with grace. With quiet resolve, this unlikely heroine lifts up others – even those who tried to take everything from her. Journey with Celie as she forges improbable friendships, dares to love and inspires those around her with humility and compassion. Soaring on the notes of a soul-raising Grammy-winning score of jazz, gospel, ragtime and blues, *The Color Purple* will leave you breathless.

#### **MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY**

**By Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon**

November 28 – December 21, 2019 (Preview November 27)

*"Miss Bennet, if you'll excuse a spontaneous observation, I find you quite matured this visit. You are a young lady of wit and wisdom."* – MR. DARCY

This charming Christmas story, and imagined sequel to *Pride and Prejudice*, centres around Mary the bookish middle child of the Bennets. Though she has the company of her beloved books and piano, she longs for more, and dreams of embarking on her own adventure. A chance meeting over the holidays with Mr. Darcy's cousin, Arthur, sparks an attraction. Join Mary in her quest to uncover a new path with plenty of laughs along the way.

An enchanting holiday favourite filled with wit and humour, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* is sure to delight new audiences and Jane Austen fans alike.

#### **AS YOU LIKE IT**

**By William Shakespeare**

**Adapted and directed by Daryl Cloran**

## **Conceived by Daryl Cloran and Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival**

**A co-production with the Citadel Theatre**

**Part of ShakespereFest**

January 9 – February 1, 2020 (Preview January 8)

*“All you need is love.”* – THE BEATLES (seconded by Shakespeare)

Brace yourself for “Bardlemania”! The Bard and the Beatles sweetly marry in this sparkling production of *As You Like It*. Set in the heart of 1960s Vancouver counterculture and the Okanagan forest, this lively reimagining of the classic play broke every possible attendance record at Bard on the Beach. *As You Like It* cleverly blends Shakespeare’s gift with language and 25 Beatles songs performed live, including *She Loves You*, *I Want to Hold Your Hand*, *Let It Be* and *Here Comes the Sun*. Will you love it? Yeah, yeah, yeah.

## **THE NEW CANADIAN CURLING CLUB**

**By Mark Crawford**

February 13 – March 7, 2020 (Preview February 12)

*“Every idiot knows you don’t talk when curling’s on TV.”* – STUART

The town is so small it only has one Tim Hortons. But community-minded Marlene is determined to “diversify” the curling club. She enlists four newcomers to learn the game but when she breaks her hip, it’s up to her politically incorrect ex-husband Stuart to step in. Things start off badly and get worse. Stuart doesn’t think the new Canadians can hack it and they have bigger worries than mastering this bizarre sport. With team unity on the rocks, time is running out. Will they be able to sweep aside their problems to compete in the Highland Cup? Hurry hard to the theatre to find out!

## **A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS**

**By Ursula Rani Sarma**

**Based on the book by Khaled Hosseini**

**A co-production with the Arts Club Theatre Company**

March 19 – April 11, 2020 (Preview March 18)

*“Poetic”* – LOS ANGELES TIMES

Based on the bestselling novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, this breathtaking story tells the tale of two remarkable women brought together by heart-wrenching oppression. During one of the toughest times in Afghanistan’s history, Laila forms an unbreakable bond with her husband’s first wife, Mariam. Together they summon the strength to challenge a tyrannical society and to find hope for a better future.

Written by Khaled Hosseini, award-winning author of *The Kite Runner*, this harrowing and beautiful story of redemption shows us how love and friendship can sustain the human spirit.

## **THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE**

**By Matthew Lopez**

April 23 – May 16, 2020 (Preview April 22)

*“Lip-sync or swim, baby.”* – MISS TRACY

Casey has the King’s moves down cold, but the bar isn’t doing so hot. Even so, he’s all shook up when the club owner replaces his Elvis act with a drag show. With a baby on the way, Casey hangs up the white jumpsuit and tends bar until a drag queen on a bender leaves the staff high and dry. With big stilettos to fill, Casey reluctantly – and hilariously – undergoes a transformation that will change his life. Soon the adoring crowds are calling for Georgia McBride but his loved ones remain in the dark. Will Casey lose everything before he

discovers the man he wants to be? Showcasing dazzling performances, killer outfits and epic drag show anthems, *The Legend of Georgia McBride* proves that life is a drag – and isn't it fabulous!

## **THE TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE**

### **BANG BANG**

**By Kat Sandler**

**A co-production with Belfry Theatre**

October 3 – 19, 2019 (Preview October 2)

*"...dramatically charged, timely and wickedly funny"* – NOW TORONTO

When a black female police officer shoots an unarmed young black man, a white playwright uses this event as inspiration for his hit play soon to be adapted into a movie. But will he stay true to the facts? As Hollywood comes knocking, he decides to make a surprise visit to the officer to avoid media backlash. Filled with tension and suspense, Kat Sandler's thought-provoking take on race and culture will have you questioning the meaning behind the phrase "based on a true story."

*Bang Bang* is a fresh contemporary drama riddled with dark humour.

### **FUN HOME**

**Music by Jeanine Tesori**

**Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron**

**Based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel**

**Sponsored by The Asper Foundation**

November 14 – 30, 2019 (Previews November 12 & 13)

*"New! Fresh! Original!"* - VARIETY

Based on Alison Bechdel's best-selling graphic memoir, *Fun Home* is a riveting and refreshing musical take on seeing your childhood through an adult perspective. Alison, a 43-year-old lesbian cartoonist, journeys through three stages of her life as she unpacks her complex relationship with her father. As she dissects her childhood memories, she finds out they had more in common than she thought.

Winner of 5 Tony® Awards, including 'Best Musical', *Fun Home* is a must-see dramedy filled with hope and heart, making its Manitoba premiere on our stage. *Fun Home* has received international acclaim for its extraordinary story and brilliant musical score.

### **EVERY BRILLIANT THING**

**By Duncan Macmillan**

**with Jonny Donahoe**

**In association with Talk is Free Theatre**

January 23 – February 8, 2020 (Preview January 22)

*"She never mentioned it to me, but I knew she'd read it because she'd corrected my spelling."*

*Ice cream. Hugging. Friendly cats.* A seven-year-old boy starts a list of wonderful things in the world to cheer up his mom. As he matures and faces his own challenges, the growing list inspires him to find meaning in everyday life. *Dreams of flying. Skinny dipping. Old people holding hands.* Told with the help of the audience, this charming show is a joyful act of collective storytelling that reveals how the connections we make are what keep us strong. Funny, poignant and full of hope, *Every Brilliant Thing* might just change the way you see the world.

## **WOMEN OF THE FUR TRADE**

**By Frances Koncan**

February 27 – March 14, 2020 (Preview February 26)

*“...Where does a women’s true power lie?” – MARIE- ANGELOU*

The world premiere of local playwright Frances Koncan’s award-winning comedy explores the cultural inheritance of three 19<sup>th</sup> century women as they navigate the rapidly changing world of the Canadian fur trade. Using 21<sup>st</sup> century slang, these women share their views on life, love and Louis Riel along with period heartthrobs like the dreamy Thomas Scott. Koncan mixes humour and history, shifting perspective on women’s power in the past and present.

Winner of the Toronto Fringe’s Best New Play Contest 2018, Royal MTC premieres the new full-length version.

## **SUBSCRIBERS GET THE BEST SEATS AT THE BEST PRICE**

Subscription packages for the 2019/20 season start at \$162, and current Royal MTC subscribers can renew now by calling the Box Office at 204 942 6537 (toll-free at 1 877 446 4500), or visiting 174 Market Avenue or our website [royalmtc.ca](http://royalmtc.ca)

Subscription benefits include a substantial savings over single ticket prices, easy monthly installment plans as well as dining and retail discounts in the theatre district.

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