

## **ROYAL MTC ANNOUNCES AUDREY DWYER AS NEW ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

**WINNIPEG, March 12, 2019** – Royal MTC is thrilled to announce the appointment of award-winning multi-disciplinary artist Audrey Dwyer as the theatre’s new Associate Artistic Director.

Audrey Dwyer will officially join Royal MTC in August 2019 and takes over from Krista Jackson. During her three-season term, Krista shepherded new works to premiere on our stages with playwrights Ellen Peterson, Jake MacDonald and Frances Koncan. She also directed four celebrated productions on the John Hirsch Mainstage, including the current co-production of *A Doll’s House Part 2* with Mirvish Productions. Krista has deepened the theatre’s relationships with artists and audiences by representing Royal MTC nationally and locally, both onstage and off. Royal MTC is proud of Krista’s work in formalizing a program that mentors emerging artists. She returns to Royal MTC in the fall to direct *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*.

*“My time as Associate Artistic Director has been an amazing journey working alongside great artists and staff. I have grown both as an artist and collaborator and am very grateful to have learned from Steven Schipper’s leadership. While I’m excited to resume a blessedly busy freelance career, Royal MTC will always feel like home. I’m looking forward to returning next season as a director as well as continuing to develop new plays with Kelly and her team.”* – Krista Jackson

*“Krista has been most welcoming and generous throughout the Artistic Director transition, and I so look forward to working alongside her as a director and artistic leader in the community. Krista’s national career as an exemplary director, dramaturg and collaborator is an exciting tribute to Winnipeg, and I know we will be lucky enough to feature her work on Royal MTC stages in future seasons, as she helms several exciting projects on the horizon.”* – Kelly Thornton

Incoming Associate Artistic Director Audrey Dwyer has more than 20 years of experience working as an actor, director, playwright, teacher, facilitator and mentor. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Audrey studied theatre at the University of Manitoba. She is currently the Assistant Artistic Director of Tarragon Theatre and was formerly the Associate Artistic Director of Nightwood Theatre. She received the Jean Murray–Moray Sinclair Theatre Scholarship while studying at the National Theatre Centre. From 2016 to 2017, she was the Artistic Director of Cow Over Moon Children’s Theatre. Audrey has most recently performed at Royal MTC in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and *Good People*, and will direct *Women of the Fur Trade* in 2020.

*“I am absolutely overjoyed by this appointment. To collaborate with Kelly, Camilla Holland, Executive Director and the excellent Royal MTC team is an honour. Royal MTC is a theatre home that I love and care about, deeply. To return to my hometown and work at the theatre where I took my first professional steps brings me immense joy. I look forward to serving Royal MTC’s vast and varied community of artists and audience members.”* – Audrey Dwyer

*“I am thrilled to welcome Audrey Dwyer as the new Associate Artistic Director of Royal MTC and am honoured to work alongside her. It is wonderful to have Audrey return to her hometown and to bring her many talents back to the local community. Her artistic acumen is undeniable – her intelligence as an actor, her keen insight as a director and dramaturg, and her bold voice as a playwright make her a vital new addition to the artistic department at Royal MTC. I couldn’t be more pleased that she has accepted this appointment.”* – Kelly Thornton

## About Audrey Dwyer

Audrey Dwyer has over 20 years of experience working as an actor, director, playwright, teacher, artistic director, facilitator and mentor.

In 2018, Audrey wrote and directed *Calpurnia*, which was produced by Nightwood Theatre and Sulong Theatre. The box office hit was shown to sold-out audiences at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. *Calpurnia* was selected to be on a list of 49 Groundbreaking Plays written by Women of Color, called "The 49". This list was presented by fu-GEN Theatre at the Walk the Walk: National Festival of Asian Canadian Women in June 2016.

In 2015, she directed a street opera for new and established opera singers in *Paint and Song* by Nicholas Nanos (An Unexpectedly Opera Production). In 2011, she directed and dramaturged *The Apology* by Darrah Teitel, which was presented at the Next Stage Festival. That year, she was nominated for Outstanding Direction, her team was nominated for Outstanding Ensemble and the play was nominated for Outstanding New Play (Independent Division – Dora Mavor Moore Awards). She has been working in New Play Development for over 15 years and has been mentoring artists for over 10 years.

Audrey was a mentor for the SummerWorks Leadership Intensive Program. She co-facilitated the program for two years in 2012 and 2013. She was the Assistant Coordinator and Educator for Nightwood Theatre's Write from the Hip program from 2008 to 2010. Over the past 10 years, she has worked with companies such as TIFF, The Amy Project, Nia Centre for the Arts, Black Women Film, and VisualEyes as a Guest Teacher and Mentor. She was a guest facilitator for Humber's Community Week. She was also a Resident Arts Educator at Young People's Theatre for two years.

In 2008, she was the Associate Artistic Director of Nightwood Theatre. In 2015, she won the Cayle Chernin Award for Theatre. From 2016 to 2017, she was the Artistic Director of Cow Over Moon Children's Theatre. She is the Urjo Kareda Artist in Residence at Tarragon Theatre (2018/19) and is also the Assistant Artistic Director. She graduated from the National Theatre School.

As an actor, her theatre work includes: Tarragon Theatre's *Theory*, Young People's Theatre's *One Thing Leads to Another* (Dora Awards - Outstanding New Play and Outstanding Ensemble), Royal MTC and Mirvish Productions' *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, Royal MTC's *Good People* and *The Crucible*, *thirsty* at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Mirvish/Studio 180's *Clybourne Park* and *The Overwhelming*, Canadian Stage's *Dream in High Park - The Tempest*, Obsidian Theatre's *Black Medea*, Mirvish/Royal MTC's *Medea*, and Young People's Theatre's *Blue Planet*. She was also a member of The Second City Touring Company.

Her television and film credits include: *Da Kink in My Hair*, *The Ron James Show*, *The State Within*, *Man of the Year* with Robin Williams, Atom Egoyan's *Where The Truth Lies* and *The Baroness Von Sketch Show*.

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