

ROYAL MTC ANNOUNCES DIRECTORS FOR 2019/20 SEASON

WINNIPEG, March 5, 2019 – Royal MTC is excited to announce the directors for the 2019/20 season.

Making their directing debut at Royal MTC will be Artistic Director Designate Kelly Thornton (*Bang, Bang*), Kimberley Rampersad (*The Color Purple*), Haysam Kadri (*A Thousand Splendid Suns*) and Audrey Dwyer (*Women of the Fur Trade*).

John Hirsch Mainstage

Kimberley Rampersad (*The Color Purple*)

Kimberley Rampersad has more than 20 years of experience as an actor, with an extensive background in choreography and direction. Her credits include directing *Routes* (MTYP) and *Intimate Apparel* (WJT), and choreographing *Bittergirl: The Musical* and *Matilda The Musical* at Royal MTC. She has also had a Neil Munro Directing Internship at the Shaw Festival, and received the 2017 Gina Wilkinson Prize for Female Directors.

Krista Jackson (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*)

Krista Jackson is Royal MTC's Associate Artistic Director and founding Artistic Director of zone41 theatre in Winnipeg. She holds the 2015 Stratford Festival's Jean Gascon Award and the 2013 Gina Wilkinson Prize for Female Directors. She most recently directed *Sense and Sensibility* and *A Doll's House, Part 2* at Royal MTC.

Daryl Cloran (*As You Like It*)

Daryl Cloran is the Artistic Director of the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton. Daryl is a nationally recognized director of productions across the country, including the Arts Club, Theatre Calgary, National Arts Centre, Shaw Festival, Canadian Stage and Neptune Theatre. Royal MTC audiences have most recently seen his work in *Shakespeare in Love*, *Matilda The Musical* and *Made in Italy*.

Miles Potter (*The New Canadian Curling Club*)

Miles Potter has more than 35 years of experience as an actor and director. He was Artistic Director of the Belfry Theatre and has directed at Royal MTC, the Blyth Festival, National Theatre School of Canada, Centaur Theatre, Theatre Calgary, Bastion Theatre and Alberta Theatre Projects. He directed *Long Day's Journey Into Night* last year for Stratford, while his most recent Royal MTC credits include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *God of Carnage*.

Haysam Kadri (*A Thousand Splendid Suns*)

Haysam Kadri is an actor, director, fight choreographer, and has been Artistic Producer of The Shakespeare Company (Calgary) since 2012. A graduate of the Birmingham Conservatory for classical training at the Stratford Festival, Haysam spent six seasons as a company member with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival of Canada. He has worked extensively as a Theatre Arts instructor with Red Deer College, Mount Royal University, and the University of Calgary.

Robb Paterson (*The Legend of Georgia McBride*)

Robb Paterson has been an actor and director in Canada for over 36 years. He started his career as a member of Royal MTC's acting company in 1981 and since then has worked in every theatre company in his hometown of Winnipeg. He has worked in over 175 productions across the country. Robb has directed *My Fair Lady* and *White Christmas* at Royal MTC.

Tom Hendry Warehouse

Kelly Thornton (*Bang Bang*)

Kelly Thornton is an award-winning director, dramaturg, and the Artistic Director Designate at Royal MTC. Kelly has been the Artistic Director of Nightwood Theatre since 2001 where her work has received wide acclaim and toured nationally and internationally. Directing credits at Nightwood include *Free Outgoing*, *The Penelopiad*, *Between the Sheets*, *The Happy Woman*; as well as *The List*, *That Face*, *Wild Dogs* (all produced in association with Canadian Stage); *The Danish Play* (Aveny-Teatret, Copenhagen; Magnetic North Theatre Festival; National Arts Centre), *Bear With Me* (Magnetic North), *Mathilde*, and *China Doll*.

Sarah Garton Stanley (*Fun Home*)

Sarah Garton Stanley is the Associate Artistic Director of English Theatre at the National Arts Centre. A creative catalyst for SpiderWebShow, she is also a former Artistic Director of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. Recent directing credits include *Kill Me Now* (Royal MTC production in collaboration with NAC English Theatre); *Bunny* (Stratford Festival); *Helen Lawrence* (Canadian Stage, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Munich Kammerspiele and elsewhere) and *We Keep Coming Back* (Jewish Culture Fest, Krakow, Poland and Ashkenaz Festival, Toronto). Sarah received the 2016 Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas' Elliot Hayes Award for her focus on the Indigenous body of performance work in Canada.

Steven Schipper (*Every Brilliant Thing*)

As Artistic Director for almost 30 years, Steven Schipper has directed many productions for Royal MTC, including most recently *It's A Wonderful Life: The Radio Play* and the world premieres of Maureen Hunter's *Atlantis* and Sarah Ballenden, Niki Landau's adaptation of Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind*, Bruce McManus' adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Olaf Pyttlik's musical adaptation of Ron Jones' short story *The Wave*, Mark Stein's *Mating Dance of the Werewolf* and its American premiere at the Rubicon Theatre in Ventura, California, as well as the Canadian premiere of Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. He was recently appointed Executive Artistic Director of The Rose Theatre in Brampton.

Audrey Dwyer (*Women of the Fur Trade*)

Audrey Dwyer is a multi-disciplinary artist with over 20 years of experience working as an actor, director, playwright, teacher, facilitator and mentor. She is currently the Associate Artistic Director of Tarragon Theatre and was formerly the Associate Artistic Director of Nightwood Theatre. In 2015, she won the Cayle Chernin Award for Theatre. From 2016 – 2017, she was the Artistic Director of Cow Over Moon Children's Theatre. She recently wrote and directed *Calpurnia* for Nightwood Theatre and Sulong Theatre. She performed at Royal MTC most recently in *Good People* and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*.

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