



ROYAL MTC ANNOUNCES 2020/21 SEASON

WINNIPEG, January 31, 2020 - Kelly Thornton is thrilled to announce her inaugural season as Artistic Director of Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. Her season combines beloved classics, works from the contemporary canon, two world premieres, and features a total of six Canadian plays.

From the electrifying stage adaptation of *Network*, making its Canadian premiere, to one of the most iconic musicals of all time, *The Sound of Music*, it is an eclectic playbill that will challenge and delight. We're also thrilled to announce a new initiative, *The Bridge: A Festival of Ideas*, with its centerpiece production of Corey Payette's *Children of God*, a breathtaking musical. In addition, the season includes two plays penned by Winnipeg-born playwrights, Audrey Dwyer and Pamela Sinha.

Thornton says, "These are stories for today, relevant and diverse stories that will resonate, entertain and ignite a conversation with our audience. Whether comedy, drama or musical, this season packs a punch, and sets an exciting course for our theatre. I'm delighted to share it with you."

JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE

Canadian Premiere

NETWORK

Adapted for the Stage by Lee Hall

Based on the Paddy Chayefsky film

Directed by Daryl Cloran

In partnership with the Arts Club Theatre Company and the Citadel Theatre

October 15 – November 7, 2020 (Preview October 14)

It's big news when anchor Howard Beale goes off-script and rouses the American people during a live broadcast. In the TV business, such an insanely defiant act can only mean one thing: ratings. So instead of losing his job, Howard is hailed as the 'prophet of the airwaves'. As Howard taps into the anger and anxiety of contemporary society, his voice is joined by thousands. But is he a prophet or a puppet? Adapted from the visionary 1970s film, *Network* dazzles with big ideas, complex characters and brilliant stage innovation. Do not adjust your set.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse

Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp

Directed by Kelly Thornton

In association with the Citadel Theatre

November 26 – December 19, 2020 (Previews November 24 & 25)

As we head into the holiday season, the prairies will be alive with the sound of music. One of the most beloved musicals of all time, *The Sound of Music* spoils us with favourite things: songs we know by heart, the unsolvable Maria, her singing Sisters, the spunky von Trapp children and the imperious Captain who resists the rise of nationalism but not his growing affection for the sweet-hearted governess. With infectious spirit and boundless joy, Maria brings music and laughter into the lives of the von Trapp family. Showcasing signature songs like *Do-Re-Mi*, *My Favorite Things*, *So Long*, *Farewell* and *Climb Ev'ry Mountain*, this cherished musical will do the same for you.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

Adapted by Catherine Bush from the novel by Alexandre Dumas

Directed by Christopher Brauer

January 7 – 30, 2021 (Previews January 5 & 6)

Adventure meets romance in this cheeky and classic story of friendship and valour. D'Artagnan has arrived in Paris dreaming of joining the King's Musketeers. He meets the famous trio: Athos, Porthos and Aramis, but will he prove himself worthy to join their ranks and fight to defend the King's honour? D'Artagnan's heroism is put to the test when he discovers a secret plot devised by the manipulative Cardinal Richelieu. An exciting and hilarious adventure, complete with swashbuckling sword fights, political intrigue and well-plumed hats, this action-packed tale will be one for all, and all for one.

CHILDREN OF GOD

A Musical by Corey Payette

Directed by Corey Payette

February 18 – March 13, 2021 (Previews February 16 & 17)

In this powerful, profound musical, the children of an Oji-Cree family are taken away to a residential school in Northern Ontario and their world is turned upside down. A moving story of redemption for a mother who was never let past the school's gate, and her kids, who never knew she came; *Children of God* offers a thrilling blend of ancient traditions and contemporary realities, celebrating resilience and the power of the Indigenous cultural spirit. Winner of three Ovation! Awards for its world premiere production, and nominated for Jessie Richardson Awards, Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Awards and Capital Critics' Circle Awards.

CALPURNIA

By Audrey Dwyer

Directed by Sarah Garton Stanley

A co-production with Canada's National Arts Centre

March 25 – April 17, 2021 (Preview March 24)

A hilarious and provocative look at class, race and family dynamics in a wealthy Jamaican-Canadian home. While Julie, a screenwriter, seeks to redress *To Kill a Mockingbird* through the perspective of Calpurnia – the Finch family maid – her father is consumed by plans for an important dinner, where he hopes to land his son in a prestigious law firm. As Precy, their long-time Filipina housekeeper, busily prepares for the occasion, ideas and opinions collide and are met with outrageous results. A brave, insightful play about privilege with lots of laughs along the way.

World Premiere

BURNING MOM

By Mieko Ouchi

Directed by Mieko Ouchi

April 29 – May 22, 2021 (Preview April 28)

It wasn't supposed to be like this. At 63, Dorothy expected to jump into the RV and take off with her husband at the wheel. Now facing life without her co-pilot, she makes a terrifying decision. She's going to Burning Man. In the RV she's never driven. To join thousands of revellers in the Nevada desert at the world's largest art festival. Based on the playwright's mother, *Burning Mom* follows one woman's exploits as she sheds the pain and grief of the past so she may fully embrace the future. Told with bittersweet humour and hard-won courage, Dorothy's story will have you rooting for her all the way. Burning Man or bust. Who's coming along for the ride?

TOM HENDRY WAREHOUSE

World Premiere

NEW

By Pamela Mala Sinha

Directed by Alan Dilworth

In association with Necessary Angel Theatre Company

November 5 – 21, 2020 (Preview November 4)

An inspiring story of risking it all and finding yourself, *New* tells the coming-of-age story of a group of immigrants from India in Winnipeg, 1970. In torpedo bras and skinny ties, and set against a backdrop of social upheaval, a doctor, a dancer, a professor, two students and a bride are all in search of freedom. But what they find is much greater than what they had expected. Written by Winnipeg-born playwright Pamela Mala Sinha, *New* grapples with the complexity of love, marriage and belonging, and shows us that it's never too late to begin again.

THE WOLVES

By Sarah DeLappe

Directed by Krista Jackson

December 3 – 19, 2020 (Preview December 2)

A Pulitzer Prize finalist, *The Wolves* takes us to the pitch for a teenage soccer team's weekly warm-up. During pre-game rituals, we eavesdrop. Their preoccupations cover a mind-boggling range of topics: boys/girls, scholarships, Cambodian dictators, social hierarchies and, of course, kicking their next opponent. Label them at your peril – they're tough to pin down. They want to fit in but need to stand out. They're feral and fierce but soft at the core. Featuring fast-paced dialogue and fancy footwork, *The Wolves* is a refreshingly candid look at one of society's most dismissed groups: teenage girls. They have a voice. They will only get stronger. They are *The Wolves*.

YAGA

By Kat Sandler

Directed by Ann Hodges

January 28 – February 13, 2021 (Preview January 27)

A cocky private investigator teams up with a small-town detective to find a missing person. The victim – if he's missing at all – was a bad dog who left a trail of conquests in his wake. Top on the list is Kath, an older professor with a reputation for bedding students. Is she a woman scorned? Is she a suspect? Or is she something more sinister? As the case unravels, predator and prey become indistinguishable and no one is safe. In this murder mystery-revenge comedy, inspired by Baba Yaga folklore, Kat Sandler (*Bang Bang*) conjures a twisted fairy tale for a new age. Beware the wicked witch – her secrets are best left unearthened.

THE RUNNER

By Christopher Morris

Directed by Daniel Brooks

A Human Cargo Production

April 8 – 24, 2021 (Preview April 7)

"That's all that matters. Kindness. An act of kindness." When Jacob, a ZAKA volunteer in Israel, makes a split-second decision to save the life of a Palestinian suicide bomber, instead of the soldier they may have killed, his world is changed forever. Based on a real-life rescue and recovery ZAKA member, the play urges us to consider the value of human connection in a world so profoundly divided. A powerful thriller from Toronto's Human Cargo and winner of the 2019 Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Production, Outstanding Direction and Outstanding New Play.

THE BRIDGE

The Bridge – A Festival of Ideas

March 8 – 14, 2021

The Bridge is a new series allowing the audience to go deeper, to engage in the pertinent issues of our time. Through plays, panels, concerts and communal gatherings, *The Bridge* will bring the community together to inspire dialogue. The centrepiece of *The Bridge* will be a Mainstage show, along with ancillary events and programming, and is planned as an annual event for our community.

2021: Art and Reconciliation

In March 2021, *The Bridge* will focus on our relationship as Indigenous Peoples and settlers and look at how art is moving the conversation forward around reconciliation. With *Children of God* by Corey Payette on our Mainstage and a National Presentation Series at the Warehouse, *The Bridge* will balance great theatre with dialogue and insight.

The Bridge will be curated by Kim Wheeler, an Anishinabe/Mohawk writer and award-winning producer who lives in Winnipeg. Her work on *Unreserved*, *ReVision Quest*, and *Indian Summer* has garnered her New York Festival awards; a Gabriel Award special mention; as well as being shortlisted for a Prix Italia. She also has won two ImagineNative awards. She has been bringing positive Indigenous stories to the mainstream media since 1993.

REGIONAL TOUR

PADRE X

By Marc Moir

February 9 – March 14, 2021

A story of bravery and beauty, this Fringe hit by Winnipeg writer Marc Moir brings to life the journey of John Weir Foote. As the only Canadian chaplain to win the Victoria Cross during the Second World War, Foote's heroism shines as he chooses to stay behind with his unit during the Dieppe raid.

Padre X has received awards from Fringe Festivals across Canada including Best of Fest and Outstanding Drama. Critics have called it "a pure triumph" and "a beautiful performance".

SUBSCRIBERS GET THE BEST SEATS AT THE BEST PRICE

Subscription packages for the 2020/21 season start at \$168.50 (Mainstage) and \$84 (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 174 Market Avenue or 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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