



ROYAL MTC ANNOUNCES 2021/22 SEASON

A time to return. A place for everyone.

WINNIPEG, May 14, 2021 . Artistic Director Kelly Thornton is thrilled to announce Royal MTC's eagerly anticipated return to live performance. The 2021/22 season showcases six plays that each contribute to the conversation that asks the most essential question: what does it mean to be alive?

"The playbill this season captures some of the most critical conversations of our time – from identity to truth; race, class and gender to climate change; and the importance of love and community. And while these plays have potent subject matter, many of them are also daringly funny because laughter is what truly connects us to each other," said Thornton.

We are diligently and confidently planning a safe return to live performance. Our season will begin in November and will feature four shows at the Mainstage and two at the Warehouse. Some familiar names return from the 20/21 playbill . *Calpurnia* and *The Runner* . while exciting new titles have been added to the list.

We are also pleased to announce THE BRIDGE: OUR ONLY EARTH, which shines the spotlight on climate change. THE BRIDGE, along with Curator Kim Wheeler, returns after a tremendously successful inaugural festival. The Warehouse play *Sea Sick* will be one of the many must-see presentations at this springtime event.

MAINSTAGE

ORLANDO

From the novel by Virginia Woolf

Adapted by Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Kelly Thornton

November 25 . December 18, 2021 (preview November 24)

"Wildly charming, full of passion, play and wit" . MOONEY ON THEATRE

We welcome audiences back to the theatre with a magical journey that transcends time and gender. Based on the Virginia Woolf novel described as *the longest and most charming love letter in literature*, this clever adaptation is bursting with wit, whimsy and wonder. Who is Orlando? Blessed with shapely legs and the soul of a poet, he . or she . travels nearly four centuries in pursuit of the essential self. Orlando is something different to everyone, but always remains true. Sparkling with inventive theatricality and beguiling characters, *Orlando* shines as a modern take on love, art and identity.

THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT

By Jeremy Kareken & David Murrell and Gordon Farrell

Based on the book by John D'Agata and Jim Fingal

Directed by Audrey Dwyer

February 10 . March 5, 2022 (preview February 9)

"I'm not interested in accuracy; I'm interested in truth." . JOHN D'AGATA

Magazine editor Emily Penrose has cleared space for an essay by renowned writer John D'Agata. The piece is brilliant and offers a rare chance in the magazine world to drive meaningful conversation and possibly make a difference. D'Agata is a gifted writer but is known to take little liberties+so a quick fact check is in order. Enter intern Jim Fingal, whose task is simple: check the facts, meet the deadline, end of story. But Jim's zealous defence of the facts soon pits him against the famous writer, who's more interested in the essence of truth. Based on a true seven-year battle between an innovative essayist and a tenacious fact checker, *The Lifespan of a Fact* is a sharp, thought-provoking and often hilarious search for truth.

CALPURNIA

By Audrey Dwyer

A co-production with Canada's National Arts Centre

Directed by Sarah Garton Stanley

March 24 . April 16, 2022 (preview March 23)

"You didn't create racism. So why do you have to solve it?" . MARK

Julie, a Jamaican-Canadian screenwriter, is battling writer's block and innumerable distractions as her family prepares for an important dinner. More accurately, Precy, their beloved housekeeper is preparing; they're mostly getting in the way and arguing about Julie's movie. Passionate and daring, Julie is taking aim at *To Kill A Mockingbird* for its treatment of Calpurnia, the Finch family maid. The project has its detractors . including her brother Mark who loves the book *and* the movie. When he wonders aloud whether Julie can even write this story from her place of privilege, she goes to dramatic lengths to prove him wrong. Race, class and gender collide in this explosive comedy that's sure to provoke conversation in all the best ways.

THE REZ SISTERS

By Tomson Highway

Directed by Tracey Nepinak

May 5 . 28, 2022 (preview May 4)

"One of the most touching, exuberant, cleverly crafted and utterly entrancing plays" . TORONTO STAR

Life is in a holding pattern on the Wasaychigan Hill Indian Reserve. The roads still aren't paved, work is scarce and the only real action is at Big Joey's house. Pelajia isn't one of his conquests; she's dreaming of a life beyond the reserve. But that seems out of reach until . can it be true? . The Biggest Bingo in the World is coming to Toronto! Which means one thing; the mother of all road trips. So Pelajia and her high-spirited rez sisters pile into a borrowed van in search of a big payout. Even the mysterious Nanabush hitches a ride. Buckle up for this funny, sassy and life-affirming play by Canadian favourite Tomson Highway!

WAREHOUSE

SEA SICK

Written and Performed by Alanna Mitchell

Directed by Franco Boni, with Ravi Jain

Produced by The Theatre Centre

March 3 . 19, 2022 (preview March 2)

★★★★★ *"A remarkable feat of storytelling"* . THE LIST

The ocean contains the switch of life. Not land, not the atmosphere. The ocean. And that switch can be turned off.

Alanna Mitchell is a prairie girl who's afraid of water, so she might not be the most obvious person to talk about the ocean. But she's also an award-winning journalist and like all good reporters, she follows her curiosity. Her journey takes us around the world, face to face with some of the brightest minds on the planet, and into a watery abyss. Using hard science and delicate wit, Alanna takes us on her journey to the bottom of the ocean, the demons she discovers there, and her ultimate hope for the future. Inspired by the international bestselling book, this extraordinary production will be a cornerstone of this year's edition of THE BRIDGE: A FESTIVAL OF IDEAS.

THE RUNNER

By Christopher Morris

A Human Cargo Production

Directed by Daniel Brooks

March 31 . April 16, 2022 (preview March 3)

★★★★★ *"THE RUNNER will make your heart soar and leave you breathless"* . GLOBE AND MAIL

What'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 suspected attacker 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: A FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

Mar 3 . 6, 2022

Building on the collaboration, conversation and community that made the inaugural festival a resounding success, we now focus on our planet in peril. Through plays, panels and gatherings, this year's festival of ideas will explore the fascinating and urgent issue of climate change. Anchored by Alanna Mitchell's award-winning play *Sea Sick*, and buoyed by the transformative power of art, **THE BRIDGE: OUR ONLY EARTH** invites us to rise to the challenge and find hope for the planet we call home.

Kim Wheeler, an Anishinabe/Mohawk writer and award-winning producer, will return as festival curator. After guiding THE BRIDGE: ART AND (RE)CONCILIATION with a deft hand, Kim will use her strengths as a journalist and her community connections to bring together bright minds and fresh voices to this important topic.

SUBSCRIBERS ARE FIRST IN LINE

We're taking a safe, flexible approach to the 21/22 season and we're asking our patrons to do the same. This season will look different but subscribers will have options. 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 royalmtc.ca.

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