

PTE

2021/2022

a  **U'NI
TOGETHER** production

Places we GO

by Hazel Venzon & David Oro

PRAIRIE THEATRE EXCHANGE

ONLINE PERFORMANCE

March 1 - March 31 / 2022

SPONSORED BY

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MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Places We Go is an astonishing piece of theatre. What is so inspiring about this production is that the creators have made it specifically as a digital production, using and exploring the medium of film to share their story. What further fills me with inspiration is the voice of the young person, the character Grace, at the centre of it all. Her passion, intelligence, ingenuity, will and humanity have taught me so many things. About hope. About family.

Hazel Venzon and David Oro, the creators, set out to create a modern-day fairy tale. And like all great fairy tales, their wonderful writing (married to the extraordinary visuals) offers all of us deep lessons about the world we live in and how we can affect change at a time when so much is changing in the world.

All of us at Prairie Theatre Exchange are grateful to the team at U 'N I TOGETHER Productions for sharing this production with us and allowing us the opportunity to share it with you. Sharing digital works, made here in Manitoba, means that audiences here at home and around the country can encounter this story from the comfort of their homes (or phones!).

Our physical theatre at PTE may be closed until May, but our company has never been more open, alive, and adaptable. We're thrilled to share this work with you, and look forward to seeing you all back at the theatre in May for *Outside Joke*!

Until then, we wish you and your loved ones happiness and health. Take good care and we'll see you soon.

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "THOM". The letters are stylized and connected, with a long horizontal stroke above the "T".

THOMAS MORGAN JONES,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

PRAIRIE THEATRE EXCHANGE IS PROUD TO PRESENT



Places we GO

by **Hazel Venzon
& David Oro**

CO-DIRECTED AND CO-EDITED BY **David Oro & Hazel Venzon**

ILLUSTRATIONS AND ANIMATION BY **David Oro**

GRACE PERFORMED BY **Hazel Venzon**

*VOICES OF BIRD (AND WHISTLE), NANAY, LOLA, FOOD STALL OWNER,
SARI SARI OWNER, FRUIT STAND OWNER AND FRIENDS PERFORMED BY*
Hazel Venzon

ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY **Edgardo Esteban & Hazel Venzon**

SOUND DESIGNER & POST-PRODUCTION SOUND EDITOR **RP Singh**

PRODUCED BY **U 'N I Together (UNIT) Productions**

RUNTIME: 30 MINUTES

Versions of *Places We Go* (formerly *The Places We Go* and *Grace*) were made possible by the generous support of the Yukon Literacy Coalition, Culture Days Yukon, Manitoba Arts Council, Winnipeg Arts Council, Leyte University - Tacloban, Philippines.

We invite you to join us in recognizing that we are on Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Dakota and Métis nations, and the home of many other Indigenous nations and peoples. As a part of our journey to reconciliation, PTE promises to bring Indigenous stories and voices to the PTE stage every season.

FROM THE CREATORS

Places We Go has been in development since 2013, first as an oral story that Hazel wrote and read to audiences at the Yukon Literacy Coalition and Culture Days (Whitehorse). She was asked to retell a Filipino folktale of which she knew none. In the hopes of bringing voice to the contemporary reality of many children in the Philippines, she created what was originally called *Grace*.

Inspired to create a visual backdrop to *Grace*, in 2017, she renamed the show *The Places We Go* and Hazel partnered with illustrator David to independently produce what they described to be as a Live-Graphic Novel, (live action puppetry with overhead projection illustrations) for the Winnipeg Fringe Festival. One year later, they were asked to tour the 30-minute production to Tacloban, Leyte in the Philippines as part of Bugsay ConFest and received international acclaim from festivals artists, scholars and educators.

Newly named, *Places We Go* is facing a fresh and invigorating stage in production. Originally viewed as a live-action 2-D performance, David and Hazel explore its new form as a live-action animation. For this iteration, the creators have deepened the themes and enhanced the artwork, using green screen technology resulting in brand new scenes; to be viewed as nine separate episodes or as a 30-minute short film.

Hazel and David welcome you into the world of *Grace*, a young girl who longs to bring her mother home, and who has a grand adventure in the process of trying to make her dream come true.

Prairie Theatre Exchange is a not-for-profit theatre and an active member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT), and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.





MEET THE ARTISTS



David Oro

David Oro lives on Treaty 1 Territory, born and raised in Metro Manila, Philippines. Migration has, undoubtedly, played a massive role in Oro's work, impacting both his life and his art. *Places We Go* creates a chance to retell parts of his childhood when he lived apart from his father (Saudi Arabia) for eight years. The illustrations are aspects of his memories growing up in Metro Manila. It gives Oro great joy to share his talent and long history of digital design work as a graphic artist, storyboard artist, painter, illustrator and animator - through this modern tale.



Hazel Venzon


Hazel Venzon is a multi-faceted theatre artist: producer, director, writer, dramaturg and actress born and living on Treaty 1 Territory. Her artwork is influenced by relational-art aesthetics and community performance as a vehicle to conduct immersive, intercultural experiences in theatre (*Your Nanny Hates You, For Hire, EMBRACE, Everything Has Disappeared [ongoing]*). Hazel has spent the last dozen years investigating Canadian identity, particularly the ubiquitous case of Filipino migrant labour, making this research a parallel to Hazel's personal journey of recognizing her heritage.

Hazel and David are the co-founders of **U 'N I Together (UNIT) Productions** that supports the evolution of Filipino-Canadian stories.



RP Singh

RP Singh was part of the team behind the original presentation of *The Places We Go* at the 30th annual Winnipeg Fringe Festival, as well as when it toured the Philippines in 2018. As a voice actor also accomplished in stage and screen, his experience with storytelling and recording audio have made him an ideal fit to bring the sound element to Grace's story. The perspectives offered by his multicultural and multi-linguistic background were a nice little bonus, too.



Donating our time is
the most rewarding way
we can spend it.

pay it forward.

Volunteerism. That's how we pay it forward.

Volunteerism is just one of the ways we pay it forward
and fulfill our purpose of ***Doing Right by People.***

Doing right by people.

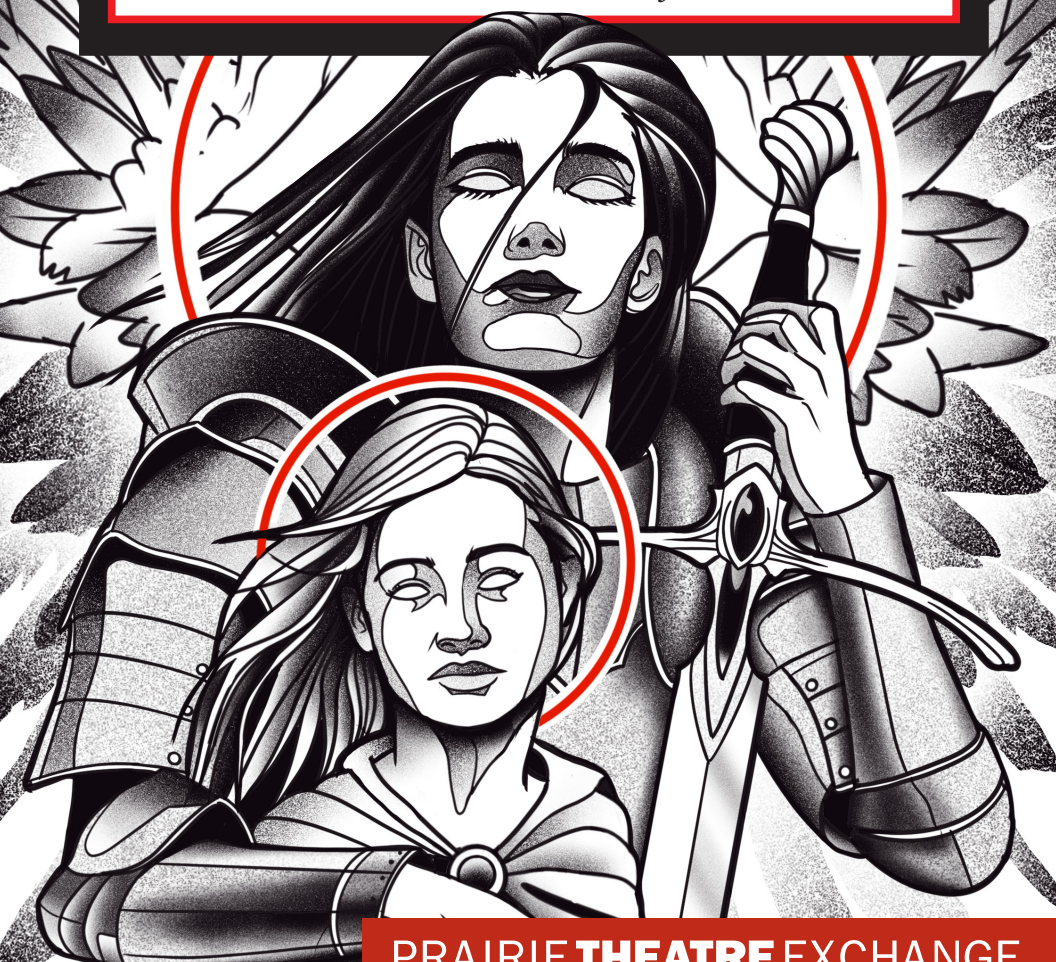
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A DANCE TO THE END OF THE WORLD

— BY THOMAS MORGAN JONES —



PRAIRIE **THEATRE** EXCHANGE

ONLINE PERFORMANCE

March 14 - April 10 / 2022

PTE.mb.ca

Does PTE have a special place in your heart?

It did for Ellen Hirst. She attended this theatre for years. And she chose to remember PTE in her will.

Her final donation, a bequest, was added to our endowment fund. Now every year the interest generated will go towards all the things that make PTE special. It will help:

- fund new play commissions like *The War Being Waged*.
- bring new, Canadian stories to life like *Places We Go*.
- bring magic to this stage through the amazing work of our artists in shows like *How the Heavens Go*.

Ellen's gift is a gift for everyone enjoying the stories PTE tells. We thank her for her generous spirit. We thank her for having a special place in her heart for PTE.

Debbie Patterson as *Mary*
in *How the Heavens Go*
by Joseph Aragon.

Photo by Leif Norman

If you have named PTE in your will or would like to learn how to do so, please contact Carman at 204-925-5263 or development@pte.mb.ca

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$261.8 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country.

Nous remercions le Conseil des arts du Canada de son soutien. L'an dernier, le Conseil a investi 261.8 millions de dollars pour mettre de l'art dans la vie des Canadiennes et des Canadiens de tout le pays.

Prairie Theatre Exchange gratefully acknowledges
the ongoing and generous support of:



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