

DIGITAL SERIES

A **FREE** AUDIO PERFORMANCE

PONDEROSA PINE

BY ANDRAEA SARTISON



*Family history woven
through stories both
haunting & beautiful*

October 6 – 16 / 2022
STREAM FOR **FREE**

PTE.mb.ca



**PRAIRIE THEATRE
EXCHANGE**

2022-2023 SEASON

PRAIRIE THEATRE EXCHANGE IS PROUD TO PRESENT

PONDEROSA PINE

BY ANDRAEA SARTISON

Thomas Morgan Jones

Director

MJ Dandeneau

Sound Designer & Audio Engineer

Featuring:

Alissa Watson

Guest Musicians:

Adelene Sartison

Telmor Sartison

Garth Sartison

RUNTIME: 75 MINUTES

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.

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 PLAYWRIGHT



ANDRAEA SARTISON

Andraea Sartison is a theatre artist and event producer in Winnipeg, MB. She is the co-owner of event production and arts consultation company Fête Jockey (with Jennie O), responsible for curating some of the province's largest public events and festivals. She is the (founding) Co-Artistic Producer (with Gwendolyn Collins) of One Trunk Theatre, who has produced and created more than 30 new productions over 12 years in Winnipeg. She is known for boldly creative performance concepts, interdisciplinary collaboration, devised theatre and integrating technology into live performance. Andraea is a proud member of PTE's Playwrights Unit. *Ponderosa Pine* is her first play she has written as a solo writer. She is grateful to her long-time artistic collaborators and her family for giving her the support, tools and inspiration to pull this off.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

Four years ago, when this play seeded itself in my imagination, I had just had my first son - Hawksley. At the time, my Morfar (maternal grandfather) was beginning his journey towards end of life. I was overcome with the poignant reality of life and death - and deeply inspired by legacy. What are the stories we inherit? What are the stories we choose to pass on? And why? The idea that the retelling of these stories made them somehow legendary or mythic was powerful to me. The trunk of *Ponderosa Pine* are the stories I have received. Reimagining these stories playing out in the town of Valhalla with my ancestors and living relatives (the townspeople) is my way of processing them. The sharing of the story is my legacy for my sons and my family. Every bit is true, and yet completely imagined. **I am them, and they are me.**

I am grateful for the opportunity PTE granted me to take this time to reflect and find my voice. I am thrilled to collaborate with my favourite artists: my family — carpenters, pastors, gardeners, storytellers — who are featured as the musicians in this recording, who are reflected in the characters, and whose voices whispered in my ear as I wrote *Ponderosa Pine*.

MEET THE ARTISTS



Alissa Watson Narrator

Born and raised on Treaty 1 territory, Alissa is a desired collaborator, artist, and educator. She was awarded the 2015 Reg Skene Award for Emerging Theatre Artist and the Brandon University Distinguished Young Alumni Award in 2020. She holds two degrees from Brandon University (B Mus/B Ed) and has studied theatre at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama in England, The Manitoulin Conservatory for Creation and Performance, as well as many workshops throughout North America. She is a founding member of the clown duo, The Red Nose Diaries, and the all-female bouffon ensemble,

The Talentless Lumps. In 2019, Alissa was commissioned to adapt and direct Robert Munsch's beloved story *The Paper Bag Princess* for PTE's holiday show and school tour. *The Paper Bag Princess* was also produced by Georgie Theatre in 2021-2022 as part of their 2Play tour, touring Quebec, Ontario, and the Maritimes. This fall, Alissa is directing the world premiere of Ellen Peterson's *None of This is Happening*, for Theatre Projects Manitoba. Alissa spends her free time singing and playing the washboard with the sweet and cheeky, Fu Fu Chi Chi Choir.



Thomas Morgan Jones Director

Thomas's work has been seen on stages across Canada and internationally. This is his fifth season as Artistic Director at PTE. He most recently directed *The War Being Waged* by Darla Contois. Other PTE directing credits include: Yvette Nolan's *Katharsis*, Hannah Moscovitch's *Post-Democracy* and Ismaila Alfa's *VOICE* (with Cherissa Richards), *Happy Place* by Pamela Mala Sinha, *Ghost Light* by Shawn Wright, *Finding Wolastoq Voice* by Natalie Sappier, *The Third Colour* by Ian Ross and *By Grand Central Station* (A Heavy Bell production).



MJ Dandeneau Sound Designer & Audio Engineer

MJ Dandeneau is a French Métis and Anishinaabe kwe woman from the Red River Nation. Her mother's side comes from the Métis Red River Valley (île-à-la-Crosse) and her father's side comes from Penetanguishene, Treaty 61. She is an accomplished bassist, director, sound designer, composer and producer. She has worked and toured with various artists worldwide for the past 16 years. You can see MJ's work in RMTC's production premiere of *Bitter Girls*, MTYP's *Charlie Brown's Double Bill*, *Torn Through Time*, *Tiny Treasure*,

Frozen River, the PTE productions of *Katharsis*, *The War Being Waged*, Sarasvati's production of *Songidemwin* and Théâtre Cercle Molière premiere production of *La Liste*. Dandeneau is very excited and honoured to be part of this production, under the talented direction of Thomas Morgan Jones. Chi Miigwech, Maarsii.

COME HOME TO LIVE THEATRE AT PRAIRIE THEATRE EXCHANGE!



*Parenthood is messy...
especially with an audience*

BAD PARENT by Ins Choi

Rolling World Premiere

November 2 - 20, 2022

*A co-production with Vancouver Asian
Canadian Theatre & Soulpepper Theatre*

*The best thing to happen to
A Christmas Carol since the Muppets*

OUTSIDE JOKE'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL: BIG DICKENS ENERGY

An Outside Joke production

World Premiere

December 13 - 23, 2022

*Pandora opened a box and unleashed
the weasels. She's really sorry.*

PANDORA

by Jessica B. Hill | World Premiere

January 25 - February 12, 2023

*A co-production with
Shakespeare in the Ruins*

*Beyond the headlines & the hashtags
of the BLM movement*

OUR FATHERS, SONS, LOVERS AND LITTLE BROTHERS

by Makambe K. Simamba

Directed by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard

February 1 - 19, 2023

*A Tarragon Theatre & Black Theatre
Workshop co-production based on the
world premiere production by b current*

*Sometimes you have to leave
the planet to find yourself...*

SPACE GIRL

by Frances Koncan | World Premiere

March 15 - April 2, 2023

*A family drama about
healing what is broken*

VOLARE

by Elio Zarrillo | World Premiere

April 26 - May 14, 2023

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50
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