

Kara Joseph Awarded 1st Annual Cherry Prize for Arts Management

March 27, 2023 – In celebration of World Theatre Day, Prairie Theatre Exchange is delighted to announce that Kara Joseph has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the [Cherry Karpyshin Arts Management Prize](#).

The new award, named for PTE's beloved former General Manager, Cherry Karpyshin, will be presented annually to a Manitoban, early-career or aspiring arts manager. The winner, chosen by committee of experienced arts managers from across Canada, will receive \$5,000 to support the advancement of their career, as well as professional support and encouragement to propel them forward on their journey through the arts.

The selected winner of the first annual Cherry Prize is **Kara Joseph**.



Kara (she/her) is a creator and early-career arts manager based in Winnipeg. She is passionate about the collaboration and prioritizes accessibility and inclusion in her work, with a focus on understanding and anticipating the needs of artists and audiences alike. She studied classical voice at the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba, and finds herself equally at home behind the scenes as she is performing on stage as a multidisciplinary artist.

Kara recently created and coordinated the production of One Trunk Theatre's *Knock Knock Ginger Series* (2021/22) and performed in MTYP/Bad Hats Theatre's production of *Alice in Wonderland* (2022). She enjoys teaching, and currently teaches private music lessons through her own studio as well as with various local theatre companies. Alongside her brother, Cuinn, she also collaborates, performs in a comedy duo, and cohosts a podcast with Rainbow Stage called **Rainbow Speaks**.

Today, Kara sits on the Board of Directors with The Village Conservatory for Music Theatre and CARFAC Manitoba, and her roles in the arts only continue to expand. Kara is especially grateful to her friends and mentors, Andraea Sartison and Gwen Collins, and to her family for encouraging her, nurturing her skills and celebrating her creative successes.

"I am very thrilled and honoured to be accepting the Cherry Karpyshin Arts Management Prize. Becoming an arts manager has allowed me to pursue my passions within the arts and create spaces for communities who have been long underserved. This work continues to fuel me and I feel incredibly lucky to have found such passion for my career. I look forward to continuing my journey in the arts and using this prize as next step towards my goals." – Kara Joseph

The Cherry Karpyshin Arts Management Prize was introduced this season in coincidence with Prairie Theatre Exchange's 50th anniversary, and the inaugural prize winnings were made possible by donation from founding Artistic Director, Colin Jackson. Earlier this year, the company also celebrated the naming of the Cherry Karpyshin Mainstage Theatre, similarly inspired by the passion and dedication that Cherry displayed during her 34 years with the company, and 23 years as General Manager.

It is PTE's great honour to award this prize to Kara Joseph, to carry on Cherry's legacy, and to have the opportunity to continue to recognize and inspire a new generation of arts managers.

Congratulations, Kara!