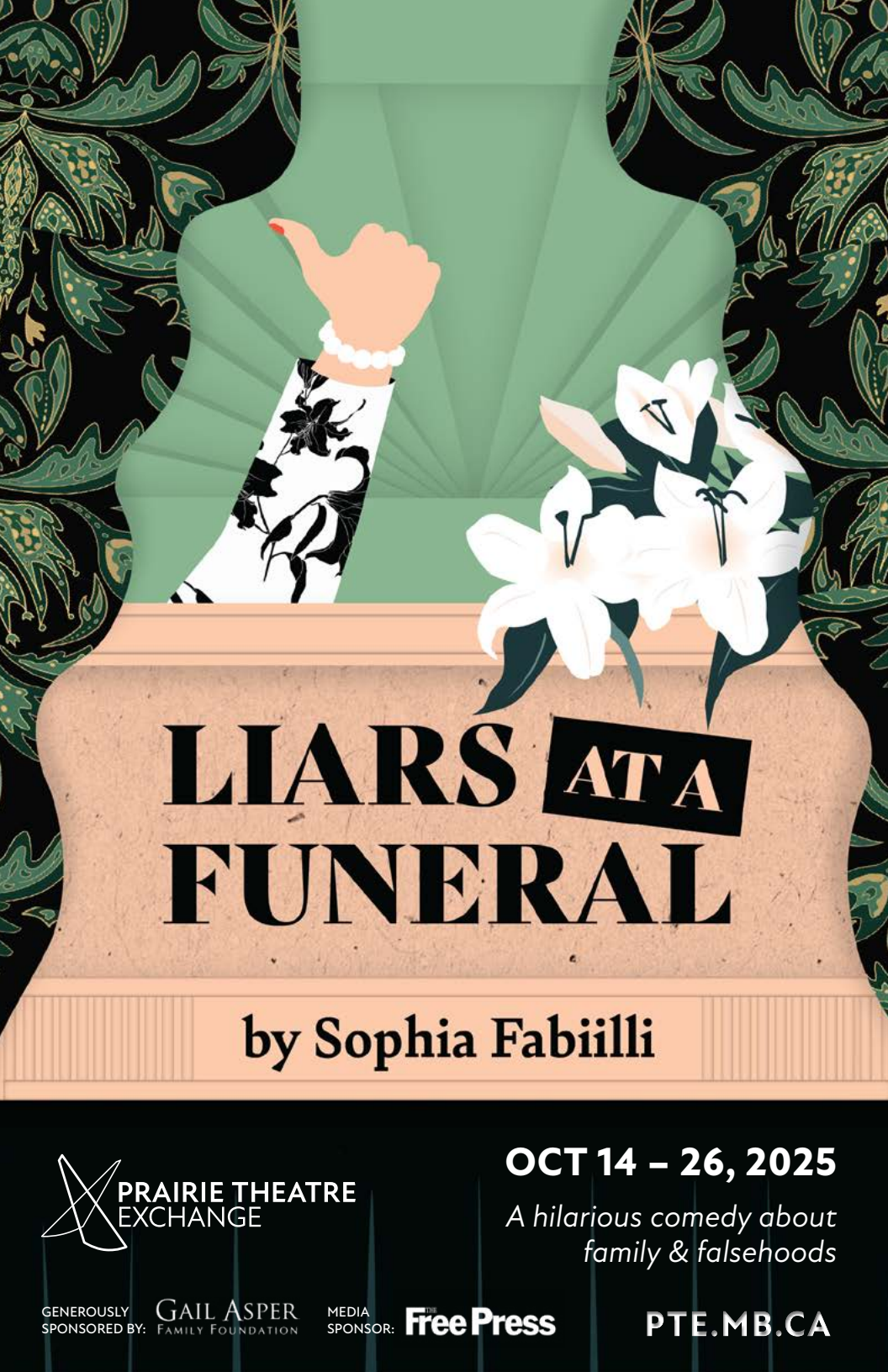




LIARS **ATA** FUNERAL

by Sophia Fabiilli

 **PRAIRIE THEATRE
EXCHANGE**

GENEROUSLY
SPONSORED BY: **GAIL ASPER**
FAMILY FOUNDATION

MEDIA
SPONSOR: **Free Press**

OCT 14 – 26, 2025

*A hilarious comedy about
family & falsehoods*

PTE.MB.CA

welcome

TO THE 2025-2026 SEASON

LOOK AT US. HERE WE ARE.

You've come from work, or home, or school, or dinner with a friend, and navigated traffic, bus schedules, construction, weather. You've encountered dozens of other obstacles that, at any point, could have made you turn around and go home.

Same with us. Actors have gobbled down a meal, kissed their families goodbye, battled traffic, found parking, locked up their bikes, and made their way up the elevator to the 3rd floor of Portage Place too. And, over the last few weeks, production crews have been nailing lumber, painting faux finishes, fitting clothing, composing music.

Why? So we can all gather here, now, together, in a darkened room. To experience a bit of *pretend*.

It's kind of ridiculous, isn't it? Or maybe not.

Maybe, in a few minutes when the lights go down, something will happen that doesn't happen anywhere else in our complex lives. We will dive together into a world of *pretend*, in order to uncover something very *real*.

We will discover — through stories — laughter, ideas, heartbreak, mystery, joy. Real things — through pretend worlds. And we will be sharing this experience with others.

As we start our 2025-26 season, I am so appreciative that you made the choice to come here today to gather in our theatre. I am so proud of the work of the artists and artisans who have created the pretend world you will see today. And I'm so excited that we can gather again and again over the season.

Stories have been shared together since time immemorial. Here we are doing it again. Ridiculous? Or most real moments of our week? Let's find out together.

Thank you for joining us this season. We are so excited to have you here.

Standby: lights out.

Lights up: Go.



Ann Hodges
Artistic Director



PRAIRIE THEATRE EXCHANGE IS PROUD TO PRESENT

LIARS at a FUNERAL

by Sophia Fabiilli

FEATURING:

MARIAM BERNSTEIN	Mavis
SHANNON LOEWEN	DeeDee/Mia
MONIQUE MARCKER	Evelyn/Leorah
CORY WOJCIK	Frank/Wayne
MACKENZIE WOJCIK	Quint/Cam
ANN HODGES	Director
BRIAN PERCHALUK*	Sets & Props Designer
DAINA LEITOLD*	Costume Designer
DEAN COWIESON	Lighting Designer
JOSEPH ARAGON	Composer/Sound Designer
KATIE HOPPA	Stage Manager
JAZZ MARCELINO	Assistant Stage Manager
DASHA PLETT*	Sound Design Mentor

RUNNING TIME: 2 HOURS, 10 MINUTES, WITH ONE INTERMISSION

* Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.

Liars at a Funeral was commissioned and developed by The Blyth Festival, and premiered there in 2023, directed and dramaturged by Krista Jackson.

Liars at a Funeral is produced by permission of the Playwright and Marquis Literary (Colin Rivers) www.MQlit.ca

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.

Canadian Actors'
EQUITY
Association

We create and gather on Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg (Ojibway), Ininewuk (Swampy Cree), Anishininewuk (Oji-cree), Dakota Oyate, and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Metis. As we gather to tell stories today, we so appreciate the original storytellers and stewards of this land.

Director's Notes

There's good reason why Sophia Fabiilli's play *Liars at a Funeral* has had multiple productions across Canada since its 2023 premiere: it's a wickedly smart comedy, jam-packed with quirky characters desperately struggling to keep their lies intact as they navigate a very unusual funeral. Then, once our hearts have cracked open from laughing so hard, Fabiilli deftly guides us into a warm embrace as the characters begin to reveal their truths.

One of the characters says "We can do hard things" — and despite heroic efforts to maintain their lies, the hardest thing for this estranged family is admitting they really care for each other. But Mavis's harebrained scheme to plan "a family reunion everyone would have to go to" forces them all to finally divulge that truth.

We are so excited to have you join us today at this unique family reunion. Instead of mourning a loss, we are celebrating the birth of an exciting new season at PTE. The PTE family consists of performers, production crews, administrative staff, the Board of Directors, and you, the audience. We are so glad you are part of PTE and hope you'll join us at more "family reunions" throughout the season. We love you!

And that's no lie.

Warm regards,

Ann

In memory of Kelvin Berg, a bright light in the theatre community who dimmed way too soon.

Meet the Playwright

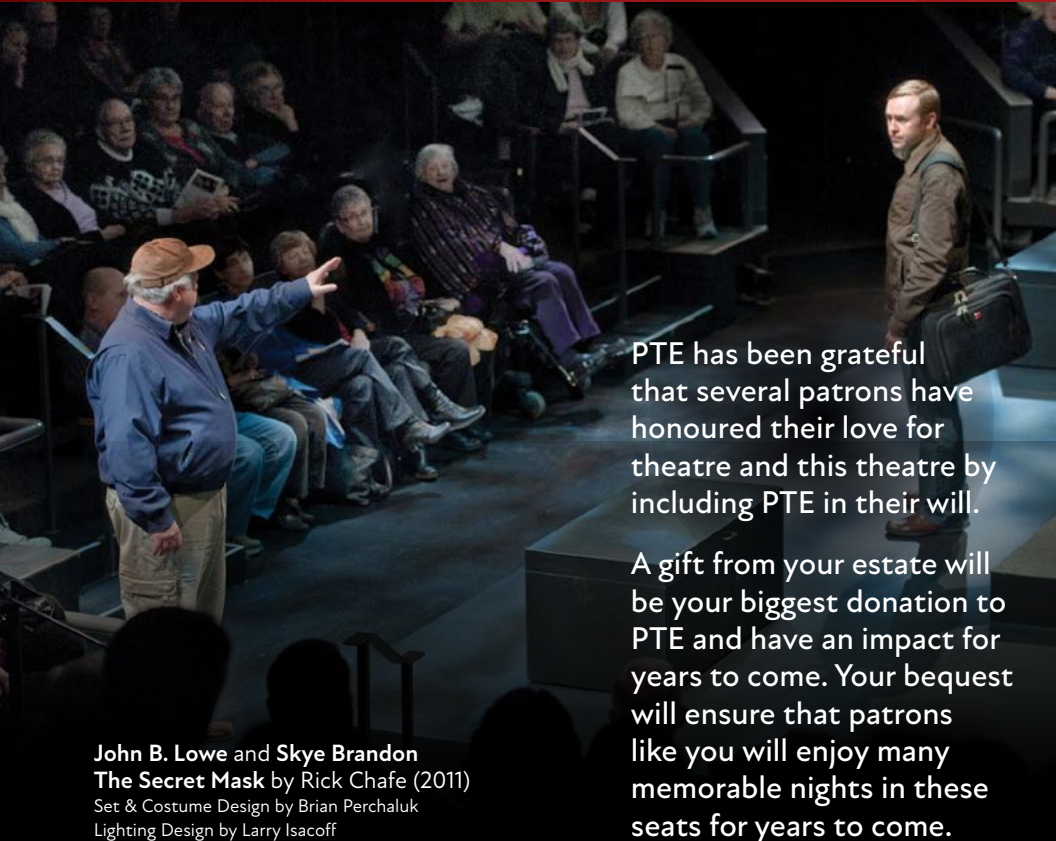


Sophia Fabiilli (she/her) is a playwright, screenwriter, and educator. Her works include: *The Philanderess* (The Second City Award for Best New Comedy), *How to Stand Up* (Ellen Ross Stuart Opening Doors Award), *Liars at a Funeral* (Blyth Festival premiere, Thousand Islands Playhouse, Magnus Theatre, Western Canada Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects, Drayton Entertainment, Port Stanley Festival Theatre), and *Why it's imPossible* (Great Canadian Theatre Company). She is a graduate of the Prime Time TV Writing Program at the Canadian Film Centre and previously served as the Associate Artistic Director of the Thousand Islands Playhouse for three seasons. During the pandemic, Sophia completed her B.Ed at Queen's University and is now a high school drama teacher by day and a playwright by night. Her students call her Ms. Fab and she is eternally trying to live up to that nickname.

Sophia wishes huge congratulations to Ann Hodges and the Prairie Theatre Exchange Team on their all-Canadian season. PTE is creating theatre that is written, directed, designed, produced, and performed by Canadians – and that is an artistic accomplishment to celebrate. Bravo!

DO YOU HAVE A WILL?

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHO TO REMEMBER
BESIDES FAMILY?



John B. Lowe and Skye Brandon
The Secret Mask by Rick Chafe (2011)
Set & Costume Design by Brian Perchaluk
Lighting Design by Larry Isacoff

PTE has been grateful that several patrons have honoured their love for theatre and this theatre by including PTE in their will.

A gift from your estate will be your biggest donation to PTE and have an impact for years to come. Your bequest will ensure that patrons like you will enjoy many memorable nights in these seats for years to come.

FREE SEMINAR

If you'd like to learn more from a lawyer, PTE has secured spots for a free lunchtime talk about wills and estates on Nov 13. There is information in the lobby or email car@m@pte.mb.ca for more details.

Meet the Artists



Mariam Bernstein
Mavis

For PTE - Acting: *The Birds and the Bees, Crackpot, Selkirk Avenue, Village of Idiots, Snowsuits, Birthdays and Giants* (two tours!), *Primrose School District #109*. **Directing:** *A Prairie Boy's Winter, Puppet Munsch*. **Other Acting:** Over 50 productions; favourites include *Becoming Dr. Ruth, Angels in America* (WJT); *Sweeney Todd* (Dry Cold); *Indecent, Alice Through the Looking-Glass, Into the Woods* (RMTC). **Directing:** over 30 productions for MTC, WJT, Dry Cold, Cercle Molière, etc. Acting and text coach for over 30 years. Mariam is thrilled to be a part of this new era at PTE; thank you to Ann and the PTE team!



Shannon Loewen
DeeDee/Mia

A University of Winnipeg Honours grad, Shannon is thrilled to be making her PTE debut! Theatre credits include *Pilgrim's Progress, Treasure Island, See No Evil* (Looking Glass Theatre); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Mango House Productions); *The Taming of the Shrew* (Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre); *The Bake-Off* (Sarasvati FemFest); *Middletown, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Frankenstein, Twelfth Night, Footfalls* (University of Winnipeg); *The Hunting Party* (ChristieFest); and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* (Rainbow Stage). **Film & TV:** *Le Monde de Gabrielle Roy* (iciTou.TV), *Nobody 2* (Eightyseven North). She hopes today's show brings healing laughter into your day. ♥ God bless!



Monique Marcker
Evelyn/Leorah

Monique is thrilled to be back performing in Prairie Theatre Exchange's hilarious and heartwarming production of *Liars at a Funeral*. She is delighted to part of such a wonderful cast and crew. Her other theatre credits include *The Year of Magical Thinking*, Prairie Theatre Exchange; *None of this is Happening*, Theatre Projects Manitoba; *Sight Unseen*, Winnipeg Jewish Theatre; and *Seesaw*, Manitoba Theatre for Young People. Monique is eternally grateful to her family and friends for their endless support, humor and love.

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WE'RE HERE TO HELP TELL IT -
TRUTHFULLY**

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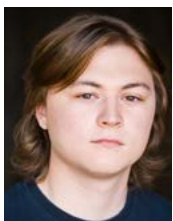


Meet the Artists



Cory Wojcik
Frank/Wayne

Cory Wojcik is proud to return to PTE with his son Mackenzie, who once took acting classes just upstairs. PTE credits include *The Wedding Party*, *Butcher*, and *Munschpalooza*. **Other theatre:** *Mix Tapes from My Mom* (also writer), *The Comeback*, *Beautiful: The Musical* (RMTTC); *Waiting for Godot*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare in the Ruins); *Strike!* (Rainbow Stage). **Film:** *Champions*, *Winner*, *Burden of Proof*, *Run*, *Breakthrough*, *Night Hunter*, *A Dog's Purpose*. A proud Red River Métis citizen, Cory is adapting *A Christmas Carol* through a Métis lens for Rainbow Stage. See him next in *The Last Wife* with RMTTC.



Mackenzie Wojcik
Quint/Cam

Mackenzie Wojcik is an actor and singer-songwriter. He is a graduate of the acting program at The National Theatre School of Canada (2023). Recent theatre credits include: *The Secret Garden of An Sithean* (Festival Antigonish); *Macbeth*, *Waiting for Godot* (Shakespeare In The Ruins); *Tree Boy*, *Tuhkiyawolotipon* (Theatre New Brunswick); *Bad Hats' Peter Pan*, *1939* (YES Theatre); *Appropriate* (Coal Mine Theatre). **Film:** *Channel Zero* (NBCUniversal/Syfy), **Upcoming:** *Altar* (A24). Mackenzie is thrilled to be sharing the stage with his dad once again. You can find his music on all streaming services. Much love to his friends, family, and Fatima.



Ann Hodges
Director

Ann directs theatre, musicals and operas across Canada. Her work has been seen on every professional stage in Winnipeg, and she recently made her international debut in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Ann is also a sought-after dramaturg, guiding new works for The Blyth Festival, Charlottetown Festival, Musical Stage Company, and others. She has instructed at many universities and colleges, including teaching Directing at Sheridan College for 5 years. Ann was appointed Artistic Director of Prairie Theatre Exchange in November 2024. Her history with PTE spans three decades, including serving as Artistic Associate, teacher, marketing assistant and student. She has directed 16 shows for the company. A graduate of the National Theatre School and the University of Winnipeg, Ann proudly calls Winnipeg home.



SERVING ELIZABETH

by MARCIA JOHNSON



PRAIRIE
THEATRE
EXCHANGE



PTE.MB.CA

NOV 11 – 23, 2025

From Kenya in 1952 to England in 2015, in the
script of history, who gets to tell the story?

MUNSCH UPON A TIME

BASED ON THE
STORIES BY
**Robert
Munsch**

ADAPTED BY
**Debbie
Patterson**

DEC 19, 2025 – JAN 3, 2026

Five Munsch stories brought to life.
A beloved PTE tradition returns!

PRAIRIE
THEATRE
EXCHANGE

PTE.MB.CA

Meet the Artists



Brian Perchaluk
Sets & Props Designer

Brian is very happy to be back at PTE designing the set for *Liars at a Funeral*. He has designed over 40 productions for PTE, most recently *Post-Democracy*. Brian's work has been featured on stages across the country as well as in Europe and the US. He is a graduate of the University of Winnipeg and the National Theatre School of Canada, and is a member of Associated Designers of Canada and IATSE local 659. In recognition of his work, Brian has received a Gemini, a Jessie Richardson, a Prix Rideau, and three Evie awards.



Daina Leitold
Costume Designer

Favourite design credits - Costumes: *Waitress* (RMTC); *The Recipe, among men* (Theatre Projects Manitoba & Manitoba Theatre Centre); *Rock of Ages*, *Rent* (Rainbow Stage); *End of The Line* (TPM); *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare in the Ruins); *Narrow Bridge*, *Bar Mitzvah Boy* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre). **Set:** *Raised by Women*, *Year of Magical Thinking* (PTE); *The Dark Lady** (SIR & Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan); *Mix Tapes from My Mom* (MTC). **Set & Costumes:** *Glad to Be Here* and *Edward II* (Theatre by the River); *Hamlet* and *Timon of Athens* (Shakespeare in the Ruins), *Red Earth*** (One Trunk Theatre & TPM).

*SATAward Nomination for Production Excellence

**Evie Award for Outstanding Production Design



Dean Cowieson
Lighting Designer

Dean is happy to be lighting this production of *Liars at a Funeral*. Dean previously lit *Playing with Fire* for Prairie Theatre Exchange. Dean has performed as the resident lighting designer for both Le Cercle Molière and Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers. Dean has designed the lighting for various companies in Winnipeg and across Canada. In addition to his lighting designs, he has also designed sets and costumes for various companies in Winnipeg, including *Head a Tete* for PTE. Dean graduated from the National Theatre School's Lighting Specialization program in 2004, also the University of Victoria in 1995 for Set Design.

Meet the Artists



Joseph Aragon
Composer/Sound Designer

Joseph is a Winnipeg-based multidisciplinary theatre artist, whose music and sound design credits include *Jabber and Danny*, *King of the Basement* (Manitoba Theatre for Young People), *Ordinary Days* (Winnipeg Studio Theatre), and *Ma-Buhay!* (Rainbow Stage). As a composer and playwright, he is the author of the Dora Award-nominated musical *Bloodless: The Trial of Burke and Hare* (Theatre 20/Mirvish), the play *How the Heavens Go* (PTE), and over 20 years' worth of hit musicals at the Winnipeg Fringe. Joseph is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada. Much love to Heather and Keira.



Katie Hoppa
Stage Manager

Raised and trained on Treaty 1 territory, Katie is a queer, neurodivergent stage manager and alum of the University of Winnipeg. Select recent credits include: *Waitress*, *The Mountaintop* (RMTC); *The Year of Magical Thinking*, *Raised by Women* (PTE); *Bad Parent* (PTE & vAct); *Frozen*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Little Mermaid* (Rainbow Stage); and the last 7 seasons of wind, rain and sunshine with Shakespeare in the Ruins. Love to Kristjan, Rupert and Juniper for their support this season. Katie would like to give a special shout on this production: to her grandfather Ray, a Funeral Director for more than 50 years and a Legacy Award in Funeral Services recipient.



Jazz Marcelino
Assistant Stage Manager

Jazz Marcelino is a Filipino-Canadian stage manager based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She has worked with various theatre companies since then. Some of her recent work includes Rainbow Stage's *Rock of Ages*, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's *King James*, Winnipeg Jewish Theatre's *Tuesdays with Morrie*, Rainbow Stage's *Ma-Buhay! The Musical*, Theatre Project Manitoba's *among men*, a co-production with the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. Jazz gives huge thanks to her family, friends and Dan for all the support.

Hair for this production done by Eve Rice

Meet the PTE Team

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Laura Cyre

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Evan Friesen

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Wayne Buss!

Production Manager

Kate George*

Assistant Head of Wardrobe

Elana Honcharuk*

Head of Props

Brenda McLean*

Head of Wardrobe

Sean Neville

Technical Director

Cari Simpson*

Head of Lights & Sound

Steven Vande Vyvere*

Head Carpenter

PRODUCTION CREW

Sauna Jones*

Head Painter

Les Newman*

Assistant Painter

Amelia Carlson*

Wardrobe Stitcher

Carpenters

Amerlyn Budd***Angel Cahigas*****Sam Wilson***

Lighting Crew

Meg Chrest***Willow Isaac*****Rowan Lundy*****Tia Moran*****Tyler Nguyen*****Lovissa Wiens***

* operates under a contract with IATSE
Local 63

SPECIAL THANKS TO CROPO FUNERAL
CHAPEL FOR THE DONATION OF THE
BEAUTIFUL CASKET

IN MEMORY OF

a PTE Pioneer

Kim McCaw put PTE on the map –
locally, nationally, and internationally.

*Kim McCaw with PTE
founder and Executive
Director Colin Jackson,
circa 1986-87*



PTE's Artistic Director from 1983 to 1992, Kim's vision was for a theatre that spoke to the community, had deep roots on the Prairies, and brought contemporary Canadian writers and stories to the stage. Under Kim's leadership, PTE introduced World Premiere works by Wendy Lill, Patrick Friesen, Bruce McManus, and Kelly Rebar, amongst others.

He also had the brilliant idea of adapting the stories of Robert Munsch for the stage – an idea that initially was rejected by the author, but Kim was correct. Stage adaptations of Munsch stories have now appeared all over the world, enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of young theatre-goers in Winnipeg and beyond.

Kim brought warmth, courage, passion, artistry and kindness to everything he did. PTE would not exist without him. He is deeply loved, will be truly missed.

**The following have honoured the memory of Kim McCaw
with a donation to Prairie Theatre Exchange.**

Tom Anniko & Claudette Novak
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The Frecker-Chius
Matt Frehner
Jayne Heyman
Ann Hodges

Krista Jackson
Wendy Lill
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**If you would like to make a donation in his memory, you can donate
online and follow the prompt or call 204-925-5263.**

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The PTE Foundation Trust was established in 1987 to provide ongoing financial support to Prairie Theatre Exchange. The interest from the endowed funds is used each year to support new play development, as well as theatre education and outreach programs.

To donate an endowed gift to the foundation trust, and support the future of PTE, call Carman at 204-925-5263.

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Colin believes in and supports the future of PTE and so can you.

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THEATRE LIKE *LIARS AT A FUNERAL* TO YOU.



Donation deadline is December 31, 2025

All gifts of \$25 or more will be matched up to \$50,000, this year.

Go online or contact us at 204-925-5263 or carm@pte.mb.ca.

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you need us.
No lie.**



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Val Snyder & Bill Rossington
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Ms. Melodie Agbayani
Karin Archibald
& Marcel Carignan
Georgi Aremu
Catherine Auld & Ted McLachlan
Ms. Sharon Bajer
Carlos Betonio
Ms. Diane Bewell
Mrs. Candace Blair
Ms. Lisa Bruce
Karen Buss
Ms. Ruth Campbell
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David & Kathleen Connor
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Stewart & Loretta Hanslip
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Megan Heke
Mrs. Odette Heyn
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Ursula Kelemen
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Kenneth Kuchma
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Ms. Faye Lambert
Jasnith Langhorne
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Carmelle Boily-Le Dorze
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Leslie Hancock
Norm Hiebert
Valerie Holden-Rushworth
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Mr. Carter Trim
& Ms. Brenda Myall
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Ms. Sandra Popham
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Mrs. Arlene Ann van Ruiten
Ms. Catherine Waldie
Gloria & Doug Waldron
Antoinette Wildman
Diane Zack
Ken & Pat Zealand
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Ms. Ingrid A. Bolbecher
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Karen MacHutchon
Ms. Ann McConkey
& Mr. Greg Wilson
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Kevin & Gladys Stewart
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