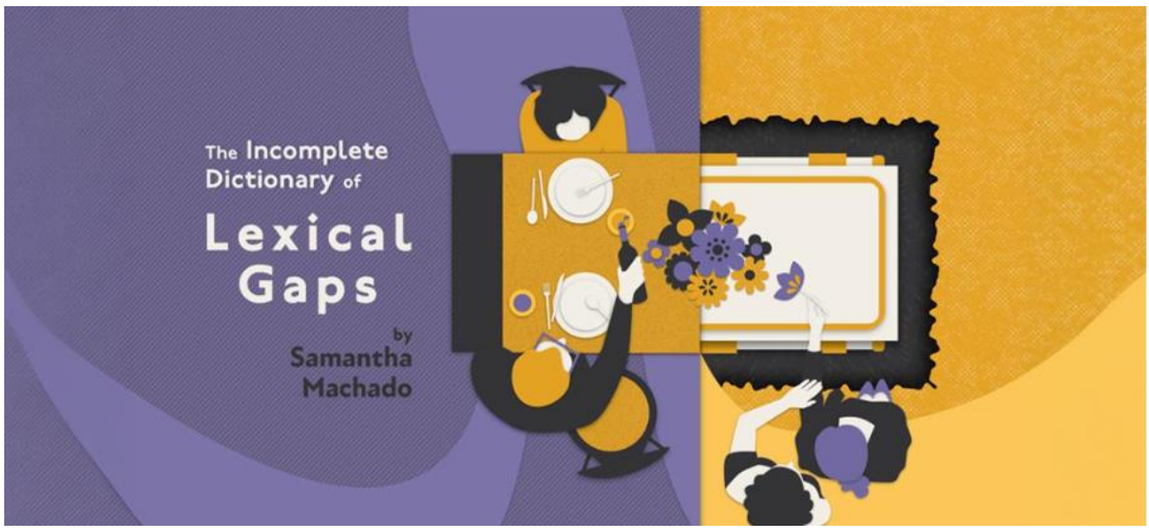
PRAIRIE THEATRE EXCHANGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 2, 2026



Local Playwright Premieres at PTE

The Incomplete Dictionary of Lexical Gaps by Samantha Machado

November 17 – 29, 2026
Preview: November 17 | Opening: November 18

PTE.mb.ca/performances/the-incomplete-dictionary-of-lexical-gaps

WINNIPEG – Prairie Theatre Exchange has started rehearsals for the world premiere production of local playwright Samantha Machado's *The Incomplete Dictionary of Lexical Gaps*, from November 17–29, 2026. The award-winning script is directed by **Ann Hodges**, and features performances from **Shannon Loewen, Arne MacPherson, Marina Stephenson Kerr** and **Alissa Watson.**

Synopsis – Empty-nesters Alice and Robert are getting their affairs in order. Tonight, they host a couple they've never met and know little about, aside from the fact that they purchased adjoining plots in a nearby cemetery, in a hysterically awkward dinner party. Then, with a surprising twist, everything shifts. What began as a simple attempt at connection becomes something far deeper, binding the four of them together into a lexical gap – a situation with no name, and a relationship with no easy definition.

> ***"When I first heard a reading of this play, the hilarious reason behind the quirky dinner party made me crack up, and then the plot twist cracked open my heart. This play examines those hard-to-define places that love and grief can take us – those lexical gaps."*** – Director, Ann Hodges

Playwright **Samantha Machado** has been a familiar face around Prairie Theatre Exchange, as an alumna of the PTE/MAP Playwrights Unit. Machado developed the script for *The Incomplete Dictionary of Lexical Gaps* throughout her years in the Playwrights Unit before submitting the work to Fire Exit Theatre's annual Scripts On Fire New Play Competition, winning the award for 2024.

Winnipeg actor Marina Stephenson Kerr (who plays Alice in *The Incomplete Dictionary of Lexical Gaps*) has a storied history in the Winnipeg theatre community as well as at PTE. She and Ann Hodges recently worked together when Hodges directed Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's 2023 production of *Yaga* by Kat Sandler. Audiences may also recognize Kerr from the Syfy horror anthology series Channel Zero (which was filmed in Manitoba). Shannon Loewen and Arne MacPherson also appeared on PTE's stage just last season, in Sophia Fabiilli' *Liars at a Funeral*

and Nia Vardalos' *Tiny Beautiful Things*, respectively, while Alissa Watson directed Debbie Patterson's *Munsch Upon a Time*.

Ticketing and Performances – *The Incomplete Dictionary of Lexical Gaps* will be presented in PTE's Cherry Karpyshin Mainstage Theatre, on the third floor of Portage Place, from November 17–29, 2026. Adult single tickets start at $40 and are available via PTE's online box office or by contacting a box office representative during office hours: 204-942 5483 or boxoffice@pte.mb.ca.

Accessible Performances – *The Incomplete Dictionary of Lexical Gaps* will be presented in PTE's Cherry Karpyshin Mainstage Theatre on the third floor of Portage Place, from November 17–29, 2026. A relaxed performance with live ASL interpretation will take place on Friday, November 27. Audio description will be available the following evening, Saturday, November 28. For more information about accessibility at PTE, click here.

For cast interviews & inquiries, please contact:
Carman Johnston, Director of Development & External Relations
carm@pte.mb.ca | 204-925-5263

THE INCOMPLETE DICTIONARY OF LEXICAL GAPS
by Samantha Machado

Cast:
Shannon Loewen
Arne MacPherson
Marina Stephenson Kerr
Alissa Watson

Creative Team:
Director & Dramaturg: Ann Hodges
Set Designer: Ben Ogunbodede
Costume Designer: Amy McPherson
Lighting Designer: Dean Cowieson
Sound Designer: Daniel Roy
Apprentice Director: Mitch Krohn
Lighting Design Mentee: Deklan Jocelyn
Stage Manager: Katie Hoppa
Assistant Stage Manager: Carolin Schroeder
Stage Management Intern: Denby Perez

Media Sponsor:

THE Free Press

Deklan Jocelyn's mentorship is made possible through the
University of Manitoba's Department of English, Theatre, Film + Media

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Performance Schedule:

Tuesday, November 17
7:30 PM | Preview

Wednesday, November 18
7:30 PM | Opening Night

Thursday, November 19
7:30 PM

Friday, November 20
7:30 PM

Saturday, November 21
2:00 PM
7:30 PM

Sunday, November 22
2:00 PM

Tuesday, November 24
7:30 PM | Talkback

Wednesday, November 25
7:30 PM | Wine Tasting Wednesday

Thursday, November 26
7:30 PM

Friday, November 27
7:30 PM | Relaxed Performance with ASL interpretation

Saturday, November 28
2:00 PM
7:30 PM | Audio Description

Sunday, November 29
2:00PM | Closing

About Prairie Theatre Exchange – Prairie Theatre Exchange is a 53-year-old professional theatre company with an operating budget of more than $2.4 million, located in downtown Winnipeg on the third floor of Portage Place Shopping Centre. Founded in 1972 with an emphasis on Canadian plays, and presenting work primarily by local artists in an intimate 323-seat thrust theatre, PTE is a nationally recognized company with deep roots in the community. PTE produces five to seven shows each season as part of its mainstage programming. Learn more at PTE.mb.ca.

Prairie Theatre Exchange is supported by Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, Winnipeg Arts Council, and Prairie Theatre Exchange Foundation Trust