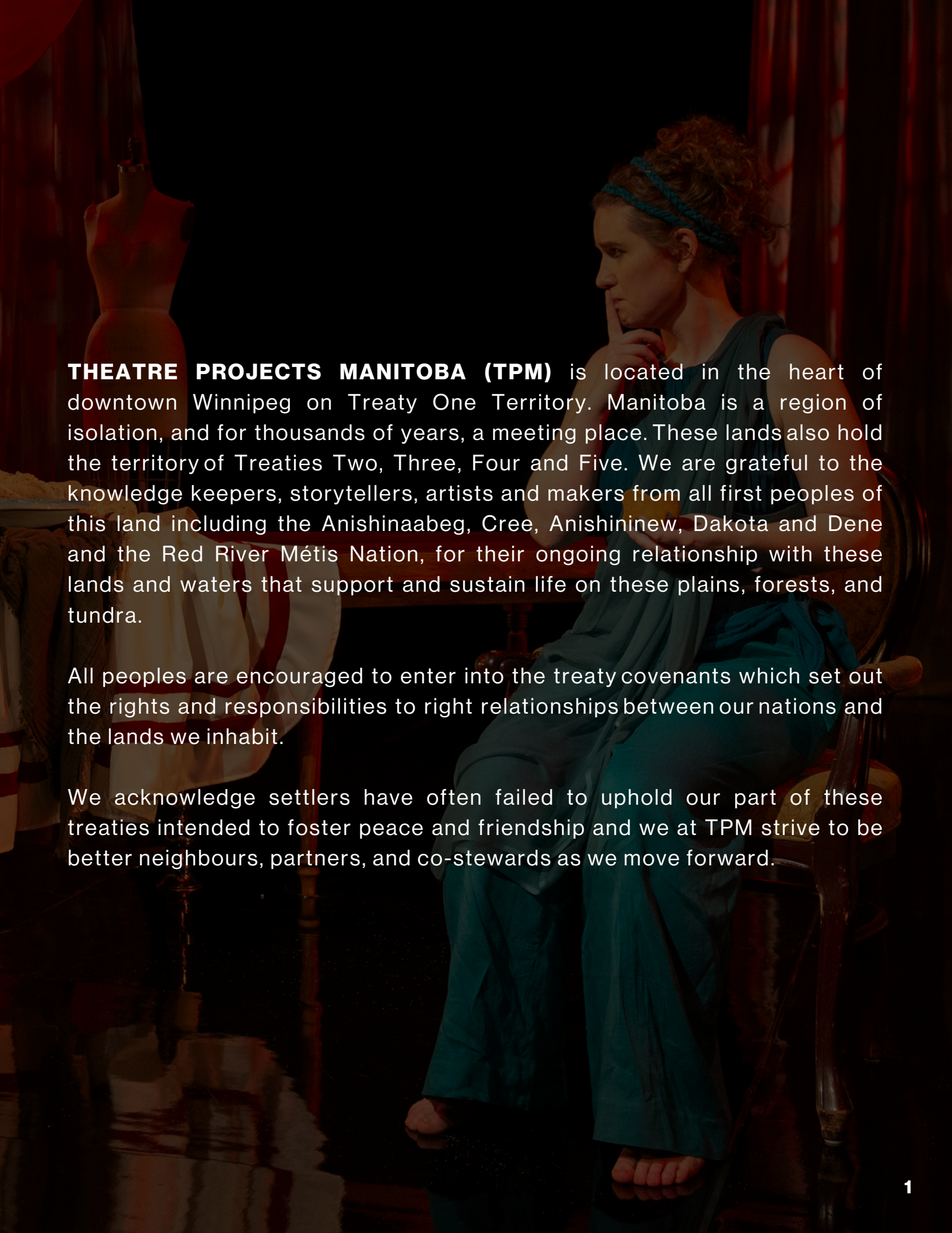


THEATRE PROJECTS MANITOBA

ANNUAL REPORT

24.25



A woman with curly hair, wearing a teal headband and a teal dress, is sitting in a wooden chair. She is looking to her left with a thoughtful expression, her hand near her chin. The background is dark and moody, featuring a mannequin in a red dress on the left and draped fabric on the right. The overall lighting is low, creating a contemplative atmosphere.

THEATRE PROJECTS MANITOBA (TPM) is located in the heart of downtown Winnipeg on Treaty One Territory. Manitoba is a region of isolation, and for thousands of years, a meeting place. These lands also hold the territory of Treaties Two, Three, Four and Five. We are grateful to the knowledge keepers, storytellers, artists and makers from all first peoples of this land including the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Anishinew, Dakota and Dene and the Red River Métis Nation, for their ongoing relationship with these lands and waters that support and sustain life on these plains, forests, and tundra.

All peoples are encouraged to enter into the treaty covenants which set out the rights and responsibilities to right relationships between our nations and the lands we inhabit.

We acknowledge settlers have often failed to uphold our part of these treaties intended to foster peace and friendship and we at TPM strive to be better neighbours, partners, and co-stewards as we move forward.

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WHO WE ARE

Artistically ambitious, joyfully creative, and fiercely community focused, Theatre Projects Manitoba is a professional theatre company with an indie heart.

Theatre Projects Manitoba is a registered not for profit charitable organization located in the heart of downtown Winnipeg on Treaty One Territory, ancestral home to many Indigenous peoples and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation. Manitoba also holds the territory of Treaties Two, Three, Four and Five. In this land of intersecting and interrelated peoples, we strive to be a place where art and community meet, generating theatrical experiences and artistic happenings that view the world through a passionate, fearless lens.

OUR MANDATE

Theatre Projects Manitoba develops, produces, and presents intimate, provocative, and artistically-driven theatre projects of local origin or local relevance that offer Manitobans opportunities to experience high-quality professional theatre.

We develop and promote Manitoba writers, directors, actors, designers, technicians, and craftspeople.

We promote public interest in the performance and appreciation of live theatre, and actively participate in the growth and health of the greater Canadian theatre industry through collaboration and consultation with our colleagues across the country.

OUR VALUES

Our core values are part of our strategic foundation, and guide the conduct, activities, and goals of Theatre Project Manitoba. They reflect why we do what we do and what we stand for.

DIVERSITY

All Manitobans deserve a voice. We will strive to represent the diverse social fabric of this province and the communities within it by providing a platform for theatre artists to express themselves and tell their stories their way.

OPPORTUNITY

In the process of creating opportunities for theatre artists to practice their craft, we are guided by the intention to reduce existing barriers so that the field for creation is equal, and open to all. To realize our intention, we will make extra effort to listen to our audiences and artistic community, particularly those from underserved communities.

RELATIONSHIPS

Strong relationships based in respect, trust and collaboration can create beauty. We prioritize people first and approach the artists, audiences, partners, supporters, and the communities in which we work with respect, trust, and open minds.

INNOVATION

We believe that creative risk is an essential ingredient in creative innovation. We strive to create spaces and processes that promote innovation by safeguarding an artist's right to take risks and inviting audiences to meet us in a spirit of adventure and celebration.

TRANSFORMATION

We acknowledge the need to adapt and transform our work to reach beyond existing traditional boundaries which are oftentimes invisible. The best way to accomplish this is to respond to the ideas and needs of our artists and the communities we serve in a flexible, open, and nimble fashion. We strive to challenge the status quo and embrace positive change in both our organizational and creative practices.

This season
saw the
HIGHEST
attendance

of **ANY** TPM
Season,

including a
SOLD OUT
Student Night!

—

2

Playwrights

31

Performances

4

Workshops

and

Over

40

ARTISTS!





**"ONE OF THE MOST ASTUTE, DYNAMIC
AND AFFECTING PRODUCTIONS ON A
WINNIPEG STAGE IN RECENT MEMORY"**

**The
Free Press**



**"AMONG THE BEST COMEDIC PLAYS
WINNIPEG HAS PRODUCED IN YEARS"**

**The
Free Press**



MESSAGE FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



TPM was founded to answer a need for local creators to see their work produced in their home community. We have always been a home for artists to express themselves on their own terms and a place for Winnipeggers to experience live theatre that reflects their communities and lived experiences.

For 35 years, we have lived our commitment to creating a space where Winnipeggers of all kinds can feel they belong. We do this through our programming, outreach, accessible ticket prices, artistic mentorship and development opportunities, and our ongoing relationships with artists.

We have deep roots in this community and thrive by intentionally reaching out to assemble a truly diverse roster of artists, connect communities, pool resources, and expand our collective capacity. In short, we are embedded in the cultural life of Winnipeg because we believe that we are all better, stronger, richer, and more interesting together.

Our 2024-25 Season felt like peak **TPM** values in action: we produced a world premiere of a brand new play as well as the premiere of a newly re-developed play that allowed the playwright to hone her vision and keep the work feeling urgent and relevant in today's world.

We travelled out to Neuberghal and Morden to support the evolution of a new play commissioned by **TPM** and created by **One Trunk Theatre**, in partnership with community members and multi-disciplinary artists across the Southern Manitoba (SoMa) region. As the creative collaborators moved towards a production ready draft of their new play ***The Martian and the Mound***, we saw our dreams for the **Live Art Trade Route** come to life.

We supported a Manitoba playwright in bringing their work in progress to OutFest in Halifax where it received additional development and won the Jury's choice award for the workshop presentation.

Regardless of the audience sizes (some our biggest yet and some extremely intimate) our shows earned rave reviews from audiences and critics alike (***The Recipe*** 4.5 stars and ***Prophecy***, the only show in the Winnipeg theatre season to get 5 stars!). Thus proving our theory that homegrown shows featuring local voices and talent can lead the pack for excellence and find their way into the hearts and minds of our communities in meaningful ways.

I'm so proud of the work we did and so grateful to the **TPM** team and all the artists, crew, craftspeople, volunteers, supporters and audiences who joined us this season to make it happen!

Let's do it again next year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzie Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Suzie Martin, *Artistic Director*

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our 2024-25 season capitalized on the valuable experience and knowledge we gained from our 2023-24 season. In doing so we created a theatrical legacy we can look back upon with pride.

For our first major production this season we partnered again with the **Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre**. In November 2024 we gave life to ***The Recipe***, which was described in **The Winnipeg Free Press** by theatre critic Conrad Sweatman as being among the best comedic plays Winnipeg has produced in years. The script for this work was created by Armin Wiebe, a celebrated Mennonite writer, and based loosely on his 1984 novel, ***The Salvation of Yasch Siemens***. Ardith Boxall, **TPM's** former Artistic Director, brought this four and one-half star production to life, once again demonstrating her skills that initially placed **TPM** on Winnipeg's theatre map.

Our second major work, ***Prophecy*** by local playwright Jessy Ardern, and described by theatre critic Ben Waldman as a "Classical Victory played to audiences from the more intimate setting at **The Rachel Browne Theatre**." The five-star review it received in the **Winnipeg Free Press** described our own Suzie Martin's direction as being executed with a flawless sense of gravity. Watching with the audience on opening night left me filled with awe and wonder, and when I turned around in my seat at the end of the production, I saw tears in the eyes of the woman seated behind me. That said it all.

This season we welcomed two new board members who have diverse backgrounds. Stef Meeroff works as a Senior Counsellor at the Bruce Oake Recovery Centre. Cheryl Tereck comes to us with varied experience in finance and business.

The staff of **TPM**, including Key Caguioa, Christine Leslie, and Ian Hodges continued their behind-the-scenes dedication and work to support our creative output. This season both Key and Christine gave presentations to the Board regarding their roles and duties; this was extremely informative and very much appreciated by Board members.

I believe I can speak for the entire Board of Directors when I say we feel blessed to have Suzie Martin continuing as our Artistic Director. With Suzie at the artistic helm creativity knows no bounds.

Many and heartfelt thanks to all of you in the community who have supported **TPM** by attending our productions, through generous financial donations, and by spreading the word.

We couldn't do it without you.



Anne Bolton, *Board Chair*

The Recipe Workshop

Spring of 2024



Over the course of 3 days Theatre Projects Manitoba's **The Recipe** creative team, playwright and 5 local artists got together to discuss the script, throw it on its feet and do some final adjustments before the play entered its pre-rehearsal stage.

The workshop featured artists Amanda Shymko, Rhea Rodych-Rasidescu, Aaron Pridham, Toby Hughes and Tracey Penner; and *The Recipe* creative team: Director Ardith Boxall, Set Designer Brian Perchaluk, Lighting Designer Hugh Conacher, Costume Designer Daina Leitold and Dramaturg Brian Drader.

TALKING ROOTS

Summer of 2024



At the intersection of community outreach, the **LIVE ART TRADE ROUTE** has continued from summer 2024 through our partnership with **One Trunk Theatre** and their **TALKING ROOTS** project.

Building on the model of creation they piloted with the **Pinawa Players** last year, **One Trunk** has collaborated with students, musicians, visual artists and theatre companies in the communities of Neuberghthal, Altona and Morden to create a show about (and for) their communities, set to premiere in the fall.

Prophecy Workshop

August 2024



In August, we held a 4-day workshop for *Prophecy* in order to maximize its script development ahead of rehearsals. This show has been in development for almost a decade; Suzie's first encounter with *Prophecy* dates back to its first workshop production in 2016 — nearly a decade ago! The world has changed since then, and so those 4 days of workshopping and revising the script were important for its success, resulting in a show that was, in many ways, new!

PEACHES Workshop

September 2024



We partnered with the **Manitoba Association of Playwrights** in September to workshop *PEACHES* by Elio Zarillo, continuing the work they began in the National Queer Trans Playwriting Unit in 2023 and leading toward a production at TPM in the coming seasons. We helped fund *PEACHES*' development that allowed Elio to produce a live reading workshop of the play, as part of **Page 1 Theatre's** *Outfest* in Halifax, April 2025, where it won the Jury's Choice Award!

PROPHECY WORKSHOP.



TALKING ROOTS WORKSHOP.





On October 22, 2024, **Theatre Projects Manitoba** and **Plume Winnipeg** brought a night of Mennonite voices and culture to Downtown Winnipeg in anticipation of Armin Wiebe's world premiere of *The Recipe*!

A night of music and literature intended to cross-pollinate the theatre, literary and music communities in our province, this event celebrated the unique cultural expression of Mennos creating work out of and in response to their rural roots.

Featuring writers **Andrew Unger, Angeline Schellenberg, Armin Wiebe, Di Brandt, Mitchell Toews,** and **Sarah Klassen.** Music performances by **Paul Bergman.**



ANDREW UNGER



DI BRANDT



ANGELINE SCHELLENBERG



SARAH KLASSEN



MITCHELL TOEWS



PAUL BERGMAN



ARMIN WIEBE

The Recipe

By Armin Wiebe

A co-production with the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre

After a whirlwind romance, Oata sets her sights – and her heart – on life with Yasch, until he reveals his obsession with skinny Sadie Nickel.

Tired of being overlooked and busy running her family's farm, Oata wants nothing to do with either of them. But when Sadie arrives at her door, distraught and in desperate need of help, Oata must confront her insecurities and wrestle with the power of choice.

Funny, poignant and subversive, *The Recipe* is a heartwarming Prairie Gothic from a singular Manitoban voice featuring a cast of misfit characters from Armin Wiebe's *Gutenthal* series.



CREATIVE

Director: Ardith Boxall

Apprentice Director: Alan Fehr

Set Design: Brian Perchaluk

Lighting Design: Hugh Conacher

Assistant Lighting Designer: Anika Binding

Costume Design: Daina Leitold

Sound Design: Ashely Au

Fight Director: Jacquie Loewen

Intimacy Director: Aria Evans

Voice and Dialect Coach: Tom Soares

Assistant Production Dramaturg: Jasmine Hopfe

Stage Manager: Zahra Larche

Apprentice Stage Manager: Devon Helm

CAST

Amanda Shymko

Toby Hughes

Rhea Rodych-Rasidescu

Aaron Pridham



THE MYTHS THAT SHAPE US



February 24th, 2025 | Room 201 at The Forks

The Myths That Shape Us was an evening of live art creation and music collaboration inspired by our final mainstage of the season, ***Prophecy*** by Jessy Ardern.

In collaboration with *Prophecy*'s sound designer **Natanielle Felicitas** and local Indigenous artist **Jackie Traverse**, this event invited guests to collectively create a painting in tandem with each other and Natanielle and Jackie.

Through a non-verbal conversation about culture, worldviews, and how our ideals leave an impact on the world, the event sought to remind audiences that there are other ways to be human.

With support from



JEWISH FOUNDATION
OF MANITOBA

and their **Women's Endowment Fund**





PROPHECY

By Jessy Ardern

Cassandra has been blessed with the ability to see the future, but her curse is that no one will ever believe her.

In a story that slides between the mythic past and the looming future, she witnesses the events of a war that will overcome her homeland and destroy her family. Channeling the singular voices of the Trojan women—her mother and sisters—Cassandra takes us from the past and into the present as old visions of love, rage, and revenge collide with new ideals of safety, righteousness, and comfort, sending ripples across time and space.



CREATIVE

Director: Suzie Martin

Sound Design: Natanielle Felicitas

Stage Manager: Michael Duggan (Feb 4 -
March 1) + Margaret Brooke (March 1 - 30)

Costume Designer: Joseph Abetria

Set Designer: Kate George

Lighting Designer: Anika Binding

Assistant Director: Daphne Finlayson

Apprentice Director: Jodi Kristjanson

CAST

Jessy Ardern



Saying Goodbye to Sam McLean

In August, with sincere gratitude for his enthusiastic and dedicated service to the company over the last two years, **TPM** said goodbye to our Managing Director, Sam McLean.

Sam accepted a new position where he will continue to serve Winnipeg's creative community. We will miss him, but we congratulate him on this next exciting chapter in his career!

Sam started with the company in September 2023 and in his brief time as Managing Director has made a large impact. In twenty months, he has:

- Worked with Suzie and the Board of Directors to complete a **Strategic Plan** that carries the company to 2027
- Lead the completion of a **Digital Strategy Project** to streamline operations, increase security, and improve patron stewardship
- Helped stabilize the organization through new channels of public and private funding
- Has worked tirelessly to build back private sector support in a difficult climate for philanthropy



"The Board of Directors of TPM are sad to see Sam McLean leave us for other employment, but pleased that he has found a new challenge for his many and varied skills. Sam was always willingly available to assist the BOD when needed."

His commitment to producing an environment where artistic skills could flourish was ever present. We wish Sam well and hope that his new position will give him further challenges and opportunities for development."

TPM Board of Directors

"Sam has been such a supportive co-leader and positive force here at TPM. I am proud of everything we have accomplished together in this short time and am deeply appreciative of the way he jumped in with both feet and effortlessly took care of the day-to-day operations."

Suzie Martin, Artistic Director

"I would like to thank TPM for all of the professional opportunities it has provided me over the past two years. Working for TPM has been a wonderful experience and I am happy to be leaving the company in solid financial and operational footing. I wish the Board of Directors, Suzie and the whole team at TPM all the best."

Sam McLean, outgoing Managing Director

THEATRE PROJECTS MANITOBA

Staff

Suzie Martin, **Artistic Director**

Sam McLean, **Managing Director***

Key Caguioa, **Associate Producer**

Zanifa Rasool, **Communications Associate**

Ian Hodges, **Bookkeeper**



Board of Directors

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Gloria Goossen, **Treasurer**

Denby Perez, **Secretary**

Liz Parsons, **Director**

Keith Bellamy, **Director**

Adam Charbonneau, **Director**

Connor Joseph, **Director**

Rhea Rodych-Rasidescu, **Director**

Cheryl Tereck, **Director**

Stef Meeroff, **Director**

* Ending

OUR DONORS

THEATRE PROJECTS MANITOBA CANNOT PRODUCE SHOWS WITHOUT THE HELP OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS—WE THANK THEM MIGHTILY FOR THEIR SUPPORT!

DONATIONS RECEIVED JULY 01, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

Assets	2025	2024
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 196,108	\$ 173,823
Guaranteed investment certificate	9,114	8,705
Accounts receivable (Note 7)	3,310	5,894
Prepaid expenses	2,342	6,807
	\$ 210,874	\$ 195,229
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 9,082	\$ 19,228
Deferred revenue	1,210	1,300
Deferred contributions	91,564	69,151
	101,856	89,679
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	109,018	105,550
	\$ 210,874	\$ 195,229

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR END JUNE 30, 2025

	2025	2024
Total Revenue	\$ 415,521	\$ 474,666
Total Expenses	\$ 412,053	\$ 507,282
Difference between revenue and expenses	(3,468)	(32,616)
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year	105,550	138,166
Unrestricted net assets, end of year	\$ 109,018	\$ 105,550

PHOTO CREDITS

FRONT COVER

Dylan Hewlett, Prophecy

Pictured: Jessy Ardern

PG 1

Dylan Hewlett, Prophecy

Pictured: Jessy Ardern

PG 2

Dylan Hewlett, The Recipe

Pictured: Amanda Shymko

PG 3

Dylan Hewlett, Prophecy

Pictured: Jessy Ardern

PG 4-5

Dylan Hewlett, The Recipe

Pictured, Toby Hughes, Amanda Shymko, Rhea Rodych-Rasidescu

PG 6

Top: Dylan Hewlett, Prophecy

Pictured: Jessy Ardern

Bottom: Dylan Hewlett, The Recipe

Pictured: Amanda Shymko and Aaron Pridham

PG 10

Top: Christine Leslie, Prophecy Workshop

Pictured (left to right): Suzie Martin, Jessy Ardern, Carmen Osahor, Kate George, Anika Binding

Bottom: Sam McLean, Talking Roots Workshop (Morden)

Pictured: Workshop participants, Gwen Collins, Richard Klassen, Tanner Manson

PG 11-12

Christine Leslie, Plotting Our Roots

Pictured (page 11): Andrew Unger

Pictured (page 12, left to right): Di Brandt, Angeline Schellenberg, Sarah Klassen, Mitchell Toews, Paul Bergman, Armin Wiebe

PG 13-14

Dylan Hewlett, The Recipe

Pictured: Amanda Shymko, Aaron Pridham, Toby Hughes

PG 15-16

Christine Leslie, The Myths That Shape Us

Pictured: Natanielle Felicitas, Jackie Traverse

PG 17-18

Dylan Hewlett, Prophecy

Pictured: Jessy Ardern

BACK COVER

Dylan Hewlett, Prophecy

Pictured: Jessy Ardern

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THEATRE PROJECTS
MANITOBA

24.25