



R+J: Closing Night

Venue and Performance Guide

Thank you for deciding to attend a performance of *R+J: Closing Night!*

We hope this Venue Guide will help you to prepare for your visit. If you have any questions, please call (204) 989-2400 or email boxoffice@theatreprojectsmanitoba.ca. Office hours are Monday- Friday 11:00am – 4:00pm.

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The Structure Of R+J: Closing Night

In the real world, you will be attending a show at a venue called Prairie Theatre Exchange or PTE. There are directions to this venue in this document. However, once you show your ticket and step through the doors, we are all pretending to be in a different theatre called the **Elizabeth Paige Theatre**. You will get an Elizabeth Paige program, and see the logo inside the space, and on merchandise that you can purchase. In our access documents, we will reference the Elizabeth Paige Theatre as part of the story, but will be using Prairie Theatre Exchange for your journey to the venue. Once you arrive, it could be fun to suspend your disbelief, use your imagination, and join in to the world of the play!

R+J: Closing Night has two paths. Everyone will experience both paths, but some may see the “onstage” path first and the “backstage” path after intermission. Others will see the “backstage” path first and the “onstage” path after intermission. No matter which path you take, the first part of the show is about 80 minutes or 1 hour 20 minutes. After intermission, the second part of the show is about 100 minutes, or 1 hour 40 minutes.

The show features some **audience interaction**. You get to decide how involved you would like to be. When you bought your tickets (or when someone bought them for you) you had the opportunity to fill out a form to give your interest in participating.

If you chose **sightseer, or did not fill out the form**, you will be a “regular” audience member. You will see both an onstage and backstage version of the show in a group of many people and have no job except to stay present.

If you chose **cartographer**, you were saying “I’m curious and I like to go down unknown paths. I am willing to miss bits of the main action to witness something unique, but I prefer not to have a task.” This means you might be sent off with a character for a brief time to experience something special and then return to the group.

If you chose **adventurer**, you were saying “I’m daring, and will dive right into the action when called upon. I enjoy having a task or a role to play, and I am willing to be singled out in order to complete a quest.” This means you might help an actor with something backstage or even appear onstage briefly.

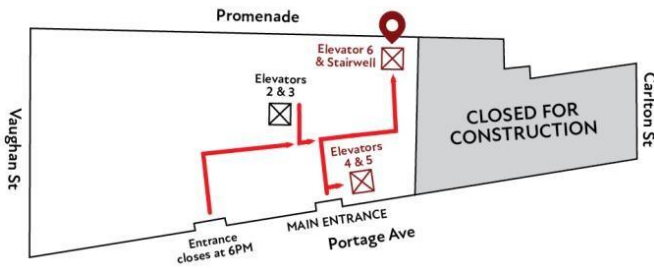
There are a few spots for adventurers and cartographers each show, so if more people sign up then are needed, not everyone will be called on. There is a space on the form to fill in your access needs so that the team can try to give everyone the best experience.

If you haven’t filled out the form, you can at: <https://shorturl.at/zlkzM>

If you filled out the form but changed your mind, you can call 204-989-2400 or email boxoffice@theatreprojectsmnitoba.ca. You can also ask for more details about the tasks.

Service animals – if you are bringing a working dog with you, please let Box Office know when ordering your tickets – there are some seats that may provide more space.

Getting to Prairie Theatre Exchange



PORTAGE PLACE STREET LEVEL

Enter through the main doors on Portage.
Take Elevator 4 or 5 to the 3rd floor and
follow the yellow line to PTE

OR

Walk into the mall to use Elevator 6 or
the stair way next to it.

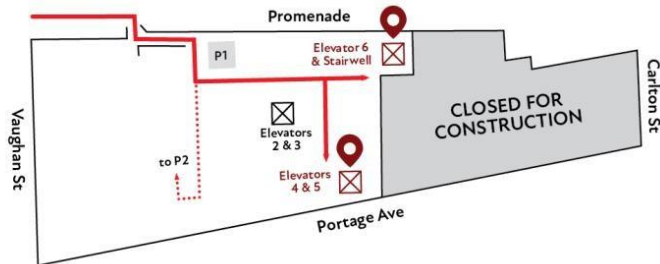
PARKING AT PORTAGE PLACE

On P1 or P2, park in the Blue section near Elevator 6

OR the Yellow section near Elevators 4 & 5

Elevator 6 - exits on the 3rd floor near PTE.

Elevators 4 & 5 - exits on the opposite side from PTE.
But offers access by following the yellow line



Performance location:

PTE, 393 Portage Avenue

Unit 300

3rd Floor, Portage Place Mall

Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6

Prairie Theatre Exchange is in Portage Place on the third (3rd) floor. To get to Portage Place you can walk, bike, drive, take a taxi/Uber, Transit Plus or a bus.

If you drive:

There is heated underground parking available onsite. Access to the parkade is only available through the Vaughan/Promenade Entrance. The parking lot entry clearance is 6'11" high and can be accessed from 6am-12am (midnight). Parking for the evening is usually \$7. On the nights that there are events at Canada Life Centre, the cost of parking is \$15. You must pay before coming upstairs. You'll find the pay machines next to the elevator lobby.

To reach PTE from the parkade, you can take Elevator 6 in the parkade directly to the third (3rd) floor. Elevators 4 and 5 also go to the third (3rd) floor and connect to PTE via a marked path through an office area — just follow the yellow line on the floor and signage to find your way to the theatre. The outside of the Elevator lobbies in the parkade are painted green, with the numbers in white.

If you take a bus:

Most buses will drop you off in front of the mall or across the street. If it is possible, exit on Portage Avenue at Edmonton Street – Westbound stop (in front of Portage Place): #10543 – Eastbound stop (across the street): #10581

The main entrance to Portage Place is located mid-block between Edmonton and Kennedy Streets and has a sign above the doors that says “PORTAGE PLACE OFFICES”. This is the main entrance for PTE and **the only doors that will be open when you come for the show.**

If you get dropped off:

You could take a taxi, Uber/Lyft, TransitPlus, or have a friend or family member drive you to Portage Place. Request the drop-off at the Portage Place Offices doors on Portage Avenue. All other doors to the mall will be locked. You can be picked up at the same spot after the show. If you have trouble getting in, call Security at **204-942-5483** for assistance.

If you bike:

Enter through the Portage Place Offices door. There is a bike rack in the Prairie Theatre Exchange lobby.

Once you're in the mall:

When you enter Portage Place through the Portage Place Offices doors, you'll be in a lobby with Elevators #4 and #5 on your right. These elevators do go to the third (3rd) floor and connect to a path through office corridors that leads to PTE. **Follow the yellow line on the floor** and directional signage on the third (3rd) floor to reach the theatre.

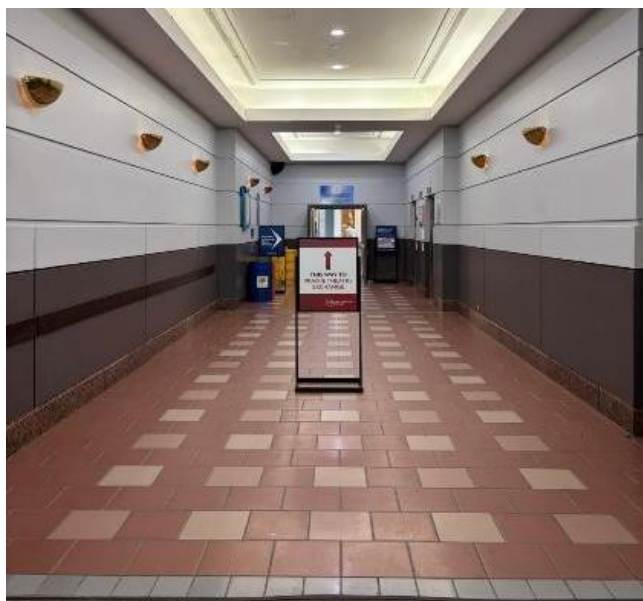


Image Description: A view from inside Portage Place after entering through the Portage Place Offices doors, with Elevators #4 and #5 on the right. A sign in the center of the hallway reads “This Way to Prairie Theatre Exchange” with an arrow pointing forward. This hallway leads into the main mall area.

If you prefer to take the stairs, you can exit the office corridor, turn left and walk forward until you reach a white wall, and then turn left again. You will find Elevator #6 and Stairwell #3 here. PTE is on the third (3rd) floor, up 58 steps.



Image Description: Inside the mall after exiting the office corridor. A blue staircase is on the left with a Prairie Theatre Exchange sign at its base pointing forward to guide guests. A vendor kiosk is positioned in the middle of the hallway, and retail storefronts line the right side. Continue walking straight down this hallway toward the white wall ahead, then turn left.

If you are in the parking lot, you can use Elevator #4, #5, or #6. If you come up in **Elevator 6**, you'll be facing office windows across an open area. There is a wall to your left and a string of lights overhead. A walkway along the wall leads to the office windows, with a railing on the right. If you come up in **Elevator 4 or 5**, you'll find a yellow line on the floor outside the elevator and a sign directing you to follow it through the doors on your left. You'll come out next to the offices and the wall will be on your right.



Once on the third (3rd) floor there is a large Prairie Theatre Exchange sign to help orient and direct you to the theatre.

The third (3rd) floor has a lot of natural light (during the day) that comes in from a large skylight.

Once you arrive

When you approach the theatre, you will first come to the Box Office. If you use a wheelchair, there is an accessible window on the left wall of the Box Office. Please check in at one of these windows, where you will get the ticket that was emailed to you scanned. You may have to wait in line.



Image Description: A photo of the Box Office from the mall. The two wickets are on the right as you approach the theatre. The lights are on and people are inside ready to serve customers.

R+J: Closing Night has two paths. Everyone will experience both paths, but some may see the “onstage” path first and the “backstage” path after intermission. Others will see the “backstage” path first

and the “onstage” path after intermission. The box office staff will tell you which group you are in when you go to check in.

In the Elizabeth Paige world, the “backstage” group are participants in the Backstage Learner Program. When you are a Backstage Learner, you will be given a lanyard to wear or carry.

No matter which audience group you are in, everyone will enter the theatre lobby. At the doors, the floor changes from tile (that is in the rest of Portage Place) to a rubber floor. There is a metal divider where the flooring changes and it slopes a bit upward. Please watch your step. This is where the imaginary transformation into the Elizabeth Paige Theatre begins!



ELIZABETH PAIGE THEATRE

The lobby is long. Access to washrooms, the Lounge, Backstage and the Mainstage are to the right. In the evening, the lighting in the lobby is soft and indirect. At afternoon shows, there may be bright sunlight coming in through the windows. You are officially in the Elizabeth Paige Theatre!



Image Description: A photo of the lobby. It is long like a hallway and access to washrooms, the lounge and both theatres is on the right.

There may be a lot of people in the lobby. They are all waiting to go and see *R+J: Closing Night*. Some people may be in line at the lounge. If you want to buy something, please join the line (if there is one). If you do not want anything, you do not need to join a line. If you find the sound of people talking too loud, please come prepared with sound dampening headphones, ear plugs, or whatever else you may need to feel comfortable.

There are many seating areas in the lobby. Most of the seating is on the left, with a glass wall behind. Anyone can sit here.

On the right side of the lobby is a display area about the Elizabeth Paige "Romeo and Juliet" production. To find out about the people who created *R+J: Closing Night*, the TPM/Fox Den Collective experience, scan the QR code on the back of your program or visit <https://theatreprojectsmanitoba.ca/rj-closing-night/>.



Wayfinding in the Venue

Washrooms



Image Description: A photo of the entrance to the washrooms. A water fountain is between the two doorways. There are no doors, just doorways. The water fountain is in an alcove in the wall between the two entries.

There are two (2) washrooms in the lobby, located to right as soon as you enter the lobby from the mall. The washrooms are not gendered. That means that anyone can use whichever they would like to.

The stalls in both washrooms have walls that extend close to the floor for privacy. There are no urinals. Both washrooms have tile floors.

The entrance/doorway to the washroom on the left is slightly larger than the one on the right. The entrance on the left is 58". The entrance to the washroom on the right is 35".

There is a garbage can located just inside the entrance of the left washroom that makes the entrance area a little narrower. The width goes from 58" at the entrance to 43" between the garbage can and the wall.

Each washroom has an accessible stall. The washroom on the left has room for a mobility device user and a caregiver. It also has a private sink. The accessible stall in the washroom on the right does not have a private sink. The accessible stalls also have a baby changing table in them.

All of the toilets and sinks are automatic. This means that the toilets may flush while you are seated on them – it might be surprising when they flush.

There is a water fountain between the washroom doors.

The Lobby Lounge



If you would like to buy a drink or snack, you can go into the Lounge, which sells both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as some treats.

The Lounge is open to the lobby, but there is a track along the floor for the sliding doors that are often open, so please watch your step.

You can take your drink with you into the theatre when you are in the “onstage” group, but drinks are not allowed when you are in the “backstage” group (in the Backstage Learner Program). Food is only allowed in the lobby.

Across from the lounge is the centre island, tucked up against the glass windows. If you are doing the “backstage” path, you will be called here when the show is about to begin.



Image description: A wooden counter with large windows behind it.

The “Onstage” Path

At the end of the lobby is the entrance to the Mainstage theatre. When you are doing the “onstage” path, you will go to the Mainstage for the start of the show.



Image Description: A photo of the hallway to the Mainstage. There is a café counter on the right, which will be closed during performances. The entrance to the Mainstage theatre is visible in the background.

When you are participating in this path, in the Elizabeth Paige world, you are a regular audience member. You have come to the Elizabeth Paige Theatre to see the last performance in the run of “Romeo and Juliet”, directed by Terry Neymar.



There is a big red arch at the entrance to the Mainstage. At the arch is a television. If you are late, you can watch what is happening onstage on the television until a safe time for an usher to take you to your seat. You must only enter later if you are with an usher.



After you go through the arch, you will turn right and enter a smaller lobby just for the Mainstage. The photo above is what it looks like when the doors are open; edges of some of the stairs to the seating are visible.

When you are in this lobby there will be two (2) sets of stairs on your left and two (2) sets of stairs on your right to get up to the seats. There is also a walkway on either side to the floor seating. Please note there is a metal bar/transition bar on the floor by the walkway.

Once in the theatre there are steps up to the seats. The railing on the steps stops and starts intermittent so that rows of seats can be accessed. Every second step is a platform and is larger than the one before it.

You get to choose your own seat. You can pick anywhere in the centre section, rows A-F. If you are sitting in the front row of seating, your feet will be on the stage. Please keep any bags tucked safely under your seat.

All the theatre seats have upholstered backs and seats, and have arms that are shared between seats.



Image Description: A photo from the back of the seating area looking down towards the stage.

Please do not step on the painted part of the stage, or touch anything on the set. The Relaxed Experience Performance is on September 16. If it is not a Relaxed Experience Performance, please do your best to stay seated in the audience area. If you must get up, leave for the washroom, etcetera, make sure that you choose a time when the actors are not using weapons. Actors will be moving quickly in the hallways around the stage preparing for their entrance, so it is best to go up the stairs to leave if you can. If you need to leave on floor level, get the attention of an usher who will let you know when it is safe to leave.

Food is not allowed in the theatre, but drinks are.

Cell phones must be turned off. The lights and sounds are very distracting for the actors and for the other audience members seated around you.

The performance of “Romeo and Juliet” will conclude, and you will return to the lobby for intermission after about 80 minutes. You will have about 15 minutes until it is time to do the Backstage path. This is a good time to use the washroom, purchase a drink, buy some merchandise, stretch your legs, take a seat, or talk. You will be called over to the wooden counter/island to get your headset. The second part of the show is about 100 minutes.

The “Backstage” Path

When you are participating in this path, in the Elizabeth Paige world, you are a member of the Backstage Learning Program. You have come to the Elizabeth Paige Theatre to experience the last performance in the run of “Romeo and Juliet” by shadowing the production team.

You will be invited to come to the island across from the lounge to meet Zanifa, who will give you an earpiece and receiver. This is how you will be able to hear the stage manager of the show communicating with the crew. You can adjust the volume with the 2 buttons on the front. Push one – if the screen lights up, your receiver is on. If nothing happens, press the button on the top of the receiver to turn it on. You won’t be able to hear anything through the headphones until you get backstage.



Image descriptions: Zanifa, who has long dark wavy hair, medium-toned skin, and glasses, smiles softly. They will be wearing a shirt with the Backstage Learning Program logo, a silhouette of a theatre headset surrounding the program title. Below, an image of the wooden counter or island where you will meet Zanifa and pick up your earpiece and receiver.

All of the Backstage Learners will be led by an usher into the rehearsal hall, through the doors across from the island.



Image description: Across from the island, a short hall between the lounge and a red wall leads towards backstage. Please do not go any further without an usher. Listen to Zanifa's instructions for the receivers and put just one headphone in your ear.

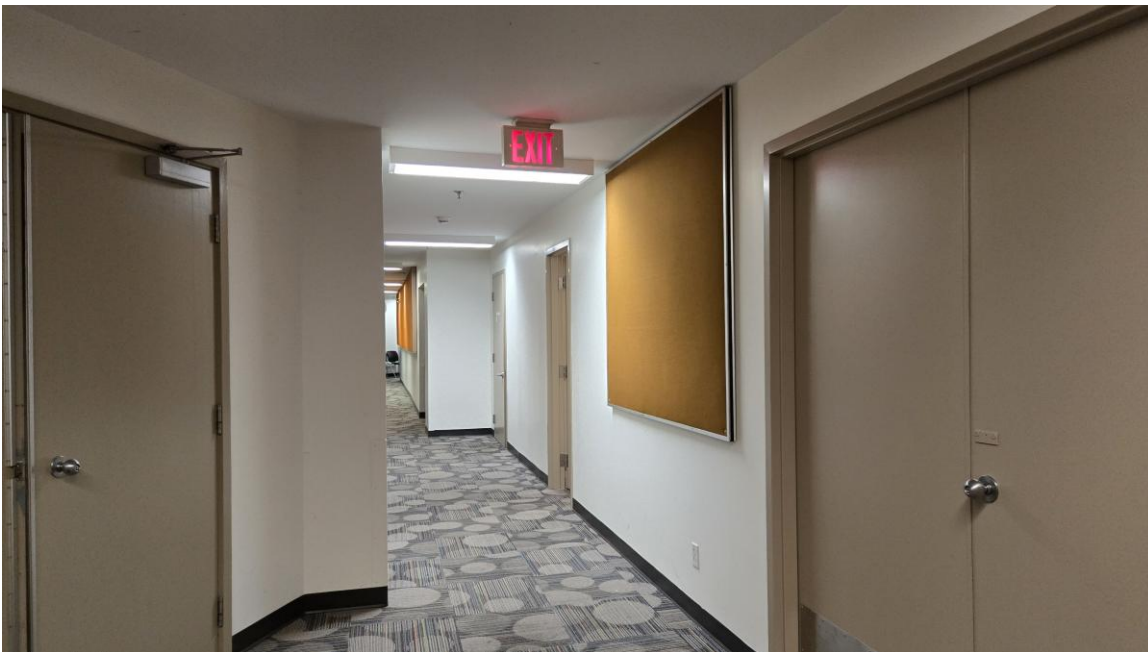
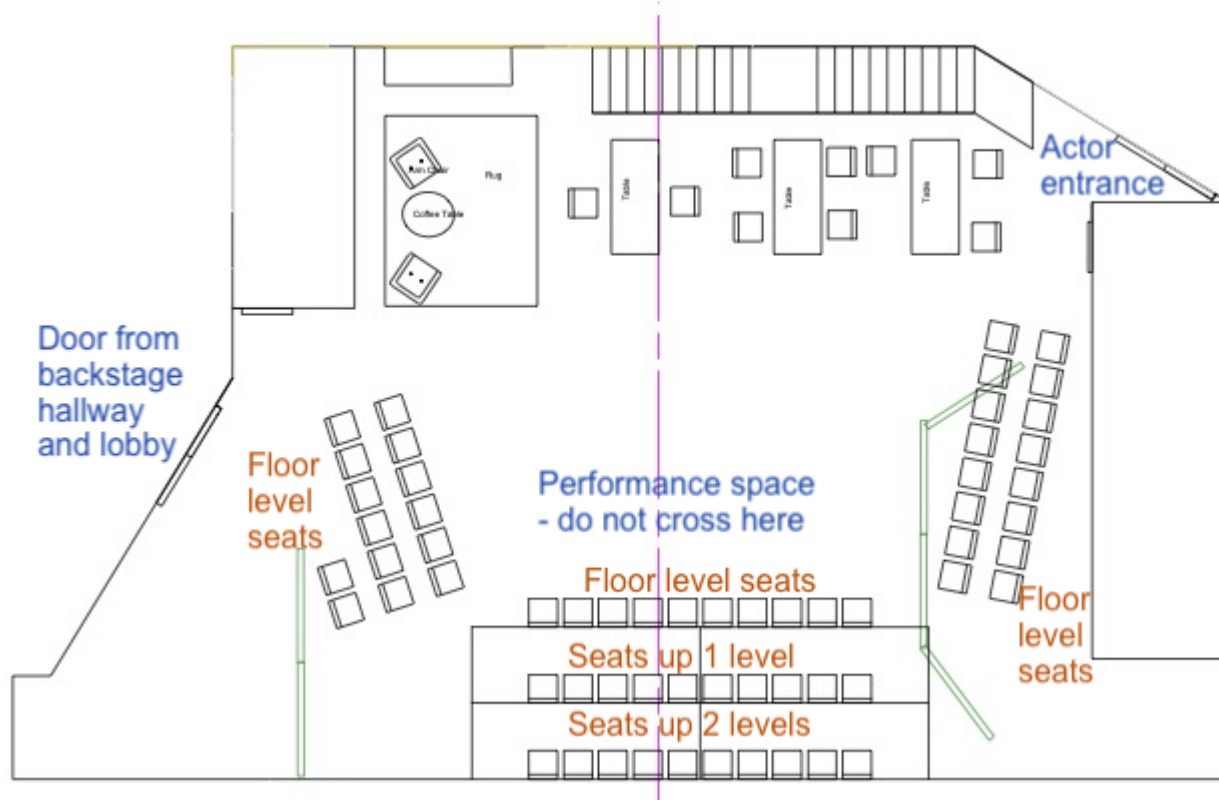


Image description: The backstage hallway leading to the rehearsal hall. The floor has low-pile carpet. There are several beige doors and bulletin boards on either side. Backstage Learners will be led to the left and down another short hallway into the rehearsal hall, the fourth door on the right. Once you are in this hallway, you should be able to hear music or talking through your headphone.

In the rehearsal hall there are three banks of seating. The banks on the left and right, and first row of the centre bank, are on ground level. To reach other rows of the centre bank, you will climb up steps. This is a sketch of the room layout from above.



When you purchased your tickets, you filled out a form about whether you were interested in participating in the show as an Adventurer or Cartographer (more details on page 1 of this guide). If you chose one of these roles, please sit in the front rows of seats or along an aisle so that you can easily reach the actors if they call your name.



There are two types of seating in the rehearsal hall: folding chairs with padded seat and padded narrow backrest, used in the right bank and front row of the centre bank, and framed chairs with a molded seat with thin padding and a fuller backrest, used in the left bank and upper rows of the centre bank. None of these chairs have arms.

The Relaxed Experience Performance is on September 16. If it is not a Relaxed Experience Performance, unless you are called on by the actors, please do your best to stay in your seat.

If you must get up, leave for the washroom, etcetera, make sure that you choose a time when the actors are not using weapons. Get the attention of an usher to go with you, stay close to the seating area, and follow the signs to get back to the lobby. You may not be able to come back into the rehearsal hall.

Cell phones must be turned off. The lights and sounds are very distracting for the actors and for the other audience members seated around you.

As a Backstage Learner, you will see what is going on behind the scenes of the “Romeo and Juliet” performance. “Romeo and Juliet” will end, and you will return to the lobby for a 20-minute intermission. This is a good time to use the washroom, purchase a drink, buy some merchandise, stretch your legs, take a seat, or talk. After the intermission, you will do the Onstage path to see how what happened backstage affected the show. The first part of the show is about 80 minutes. The second part is about 100 minutes.

If you are doing the Backstage path second, there will be a point near the end of the performance where the whole group will be guided by the actors and ushers to move to another space together. Please follow their directions and stay with the group.

End of the Performance

At the end of the performance the cast of actors will come onto stage to bow. Please wait until all the lights overhead come on fully before you exit the theatre. Unlike when you entered the theatre, everyone will be leaving at the same time so please be patient with others as you exit.

Please stay to the edges of the stage and do not touch anything on the set as you leave.

After the show you can still use the washrooms, but the lounge will be closed.

Thank you!

We are excited that you have chosen to experience *R+J: Closing Night*.

If you have questions that are not answered here, please contact Box Office.

General performance information and content warnings

May contain vague spoilers!

If you want to be surprised by absolutely everything, do not read further! If you would like a little more information about themes or potentially startling moments, read on. If you would like very specific information about exact moments and when they happen, please call Theatre Projects Manitoba at 204-989-2400, email boxoffice@theatreprojectsmanitoba.ca, or stay tuned for our detailed Relaxed Experience guide.

Sensory Warnings

The Backstage path is generally chaotic! There are overlapping sounds – you will hear live speech in front of you from actors in the rehearsal hall, sound of the onstage performance coming through a speaker, and the stage management team talking together in your earpiece.

Backstage path: A few scenes take place at the top of a flight of stairs meaning the audience will need to look up.

Backstage path: A table falls with a loud crash.

Both paths: Sounds of swords clanging against each other, scraping each other and being sharpened (metal on metal), or dragging along the floor.

Both paths: Pulsing, flashing, flickering and strobing lights, and sudden blackouts.

Both paths: Staticky sound.

Both paths: Many characters shout, sometimes in anger, sometimes calling over a distance.

Onstage path: occasional loud sound effects/music.

Onstage path: At the end of the show, the cast will bow and audience will applaud. Sometimes people will whoop or shout in appreciation. These curtain calls can become quite loud!

Content Details

Violence – fighting with swords and other period weapons, beating with blunt objects. All fights are choreographed by a fight director and practiced daily. Characters in “Romeo and Juliet” are killed violently.

Use of stage blood.

Discussion of the supernatural/ghosts.

The baby of a character in “Romeo and Juliet” has passed away.

Suicide is a major plot point in Romeo and Juliet, mentioned in the prologue and again closer to the end of the show.

Depiction of intense emotional distress (wailing etcetera) in Romeo and Juliet.

Alcohol is discussed and faux alcohol drunk in both paths. An actor replaces water with alcohol without their co-star realizing. An actor talks about alcoholism.

Actors spit out liquid/do a spit take in both paths.

An actor says they feel like they’re going to throw up (backstage path) and portrays vomiting into a prop, while making realistic sounds (onstage path).

An actor is a widow.

An actor’s daughter died at 19 years old.

An actor's baby has a fever.

An actor is a caregiver for a parent with dementia.

Some sexual innuendo in both paths, generally PG and mostly in Shakespearean terms. An actor mentions having had sex in the stage management office and makes a gesture representing oral sex.

In “Romeo and Juliet,” both characters are teens, Juliet aged just 14. Her parents are expecting her to marry.

Intimacy: two actors kiss awkwardly and later passionately. These are choreographed moments with parameters established with the support of an intimacy director.