

Theatre Projects Manitoba
proudly presents the world premiere of

NONE OF THIS IS HAPPENING

by ELLEN PETERSON

November 10 — 20, 2022
Rachel Browne Theatre, 211 Bannatyne Ave

*An apocalyptic fable about
garbage, longing, and Niagara Falls*

For more information please visit our website: theatreprojectsmanitoba.ca



Light it Up!

OUR HOLIDAY PARTY & FUNDRAISER

December 7th, 7:00pm - LATE
Times Change(d) High and
Lonesome Club

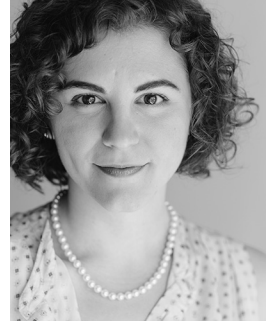
A Salon style evening with live
performances, a dance party, and a big
bake sale to set you up for the night or
for the season!



Welcome to Theatre Projects Manitoba!

Welcome to TPM's 32nd season—what we all hope will be a triumphal return to a full slate of live performances for full audiences!

Theatre is a relational art-form that builds capacity in both creators and audience to fully consider their humanity and the humanity of others. Theatre artists literally build worlds where no world existed and then invite others to come inhabit them. It is generous and generative work that makes us more alive to meaning, possibility, and the interconnectedness of all things. This has always been a radical thing, and never more so than in our increasingly isolated and polarized world.



This season *NONE OF THIS IS HAPPENING* and *THIS IS THE STORY OF THE CHILD RULED BY FEAR* call us to be present together and remind us how urgently we need each other. Though very different in style, these two contemporary fables each shamelessly wear their theatrical liveness on their sleeves while staring down the barrel of what it means to be alive on Earth in our undeniably troubled times.

I'm so grateful you are joining us in the great work of building and witnessing the imaginative (and maybe even a little bit hopeful?) worlds these plays conjure. We need you to keep us honest and keep us inspired!

I hope you'll see some aspect of yourself reflected on our stages this season, that you'll come and play along with us, that these experiences will stick with you and charge lively conversation for days, and that you'll be delighted with moments of beauty, surprise, emotional truth, and artistic precision in every single performance.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your steadfast support and enthusiasm for Theatre Projects Manitoba. It's a joy to be creatively exploring our world with you all!

Suzie Martin
Artistic Director

We are grateful to the knowledge keepers, storytellers, artists and makers from all first peoples of this land including the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene and the Métis Nation, for their ongoing relationship with and caretaking of these lands and waters that support and sustain life on these plains, forests, and tundra.

The land on which we gather tonight is part of Treaty One Territory. We acknowledge settlers have often failed to uphold our part of that treaty of peace and friendship and we at TPM strive to be better neighbours, partners, and co-stewards as we move forward.

UP NEXT...

This is the Story of the Child Ruled by Fear

April 20-30, 2023

www.theatreprojectsmnitoba.ca

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Theatre Projects Manitoba 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.

Playwright's Notes

I was trying to write a different play. It wasn't working. The problem was that the play was set in the "real world." At that time (the spring, summer and fall of 2020) the real world wasn't an easy place. I thought it might be healthier, and more fun, if I wrote something with some magic in it, something set in another realm. The thing about writing is that the more you try to create Oz, the more it starts to look like home, and the more you try to disguise yourself as some kind of mythical creature, the more you find yourself staring at a self-portrait.

My childhood was spent in Niagara Falls. It's been almost 50 years since I left that curious place, but I'm still fascinated by it. Part Eden and part nightmare carnival, it's in my bones. Any world I write about is bound to resemble it, beautiful and tawdry in equal measure.

One thing I saved from the play you're not seeing tonight is the character Maria. Maria Spelterini was a tightrope walker, back in the days when funambulism at the Falls was all the rage. You could look her up. By all reports she was breathtaking to watch. After several stunning feats she disappeared, and no one knows what happened to her after that. Except for me. I know that she has resurfaced in the strange afterlife that is staged fiction, walking the tightrope between the sublime and the ridiculous. Welcome to my world.

Ellen Peterson

Director's Notes

Artists are often asked to prove why their art is viable. What if humanity had to provide the same rationale for our existence?

We believe we have endless freedoms; like they are owed to us, like we had some right. But what about the rights of nature?

"We expect extinction to unfold offstage, in the mists of prehistory, not right in front of our faces, on a specific calendar day." *It may be bleak, but our time together is not permanent.

Like the spinning static at the end of a gramophone disc, I hope this experience urges the listener. What can people do to prove we are worth keeping around?

The decision to act has more to do with whether you believe this is happening or not.

And let me be clear, This is REALLY Happening.

Alissa Watson

* *The Last Two Northern White Rhinos on Earth* by Sam Anderson, The New York Times



Ellen Peterson Playwright

Ellen is thrilled and grateful to be having this Happening at Theatre Projects Manitoba. Many thanks to Suzie Martin, Alissa Watson, the cast, and the entire Theatre Projects team. Other plays produced by Theatre Projects: *The Eight Tiny Reindeer of the Apocalypse* and *Tickle Trunk*. Plays produced elsewhere: *Sense and Sensibility* (RMTC), *The Brink* (PTE), audio play *Stories Houses Tell* (PTE), *Branta Canadensis* (PTAM), *Learning to Drive or the Year of Not Pretending*, and many Fringe shows. Numerous short plays (Carl, Levitt and His Dad, Offside, The Finger), presented at the PTE Festival of New Works and published in anthologies. Audio play "Sorry!" was part of Boca del Lupo's Red Phone Project. As an actor, Ellen has appeared on almost all the stages in Winnipeg and in most of the school gyms in Manitoba. She's also a dramaturg, and teaches at MTYP. Thanks also to Ardith Boxall, my friends and family, and especially to Rob, Carly and Griffin.



Alissa Watson Director

Born on Treaty 1 territory, Alissa is an artist and educator whose passions include physical comedy and clowning around. She is a founding member of the clown duo, *The Red Nose Diaries*, and the bouffon ensemble, *The Talentless Lumps*. Alissa's adaptation of Robert Munsch's *The Paper Bag Princess* premiered at PTE in 2019 and was produced by Geordie Theatre touring Quebec, Ontario, and the Maritimes in 2021–2022. She was awarded the 2015 Reg Skene Award for Emerging Theatre Artist, the Brandon University Distinguished Young Alumni Award in 2020 and was a CBC Manitoba Future 40 nominee this year. Alissa volunteers for Green Kids Inc., working to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders through theatre. In her free time, Alissa sings and plays the washboard with the sweet and cheeky, *Fu Fu Chi Chi Choir*. Much gratitude to TPM and a special thanks to Michelle for trying someone new..



Monique Marcker Kay

Monique is absolutely thrilled to be returning to the stage in Theatre Projects of Manitoba production of *None of This is Happening*. A powerful and incredibly relevant play that has been a privilege to work on with this cast and crew. Some of her other theatre credits include *Liars* (Manitoba Theatre for Young People), *Sight Unseen* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre), *Encore* (Theatre Projects of Manitoba), and *All Fall Down* (Prairie Theatre Exchange).



Simon Miron Leo

Simon Miron is a two-spirited, francophone Métis, multi-disciplinary artist, from Treaty 1 Territory. They have been blessed to have been surrounded by a vibrant and diverse community of artists over the last 20 years whom they love, truly. Loves poetry and song writing, playing board games and spending time with loved ones. They are interested in making weird things that encourage growth and challenge the boundaries of their own theatre practices. Simon is a founder of the Village Conservatory for Music Theatre, a local performing arts education program. www.villageconservatory.com. Thanks to everyone who helped out with the kids while I worked on this wonderful project!



Jane Testar Maria

Jane is a greedy little performer who wants to do it all. A veteran improviser, performing for almost 20 years with the musical improv troupe Outside Joke, Jane is also a member of the Canadian Comedy Award nominated sketch troupe, Hot Thespian Action. She is a loyal member of the Fu Fu Chi Chi Choir, who released their first EP and have performed at multiple music festivals. Theatre-wise she has appeared in productions with Prairie Theatre Exchange (*Little Munsch on the Prairie*, *Munschbusters*), in French with Cercle Molière (*Que Faire d'Albert?*), in Noël Coward's *Private Lives* (RMTC), and in *The Winter's Tale* with Shakespeare in the Ruins. Jane has written sketch comedy for CBC Radio and was also known as a modern etiquette expert with her radio column "Miss Conduct". She is currently the host of the CBC Comedy Factory Podcast, and co-created a radio special about body acceptance called "The Bod Pod".



Joyce Licup Set & Props Design

Joyce is excited to be working with Theatre Projects Manitoba for the first time as the Set Designer. She is a graduate from the University of Winnipeg. Credits include *Bastard* (PTE, Set Designer), *Be More Chill* (Winnipeg Studio Theatre, Costume Designer), *Tiny Plays, Big Ideas* (RMTC, Apprentice Set Designer), *Middletown* (U of W, Set Designer), and *A Midsummers Night Dream* (U of W, Assistant Set Designer). She would like to thank her family and loved ones for always supporting her as well as the cast, staff and crew who helped make this show possible!



Brenda McLean Costume Design

Brenda is a professional theatre designer, creator, and director working on Treaty 1 Territory in Winnipeg. She is thrilled to be creating costumes for this wonderful new play by Ellen and working with TPM and Alissa as a designer. Recent theatre credits are *Bad Parent* (Costume Design, PTE, vAct, and Soulpepper), *Bike and Circuses* (Co-Creator and Co-Designer with Green Kids Inc.); *Love and Information* (Co-Director and Videographer with Company Link). Brenda received an Evie Award for Outstanding Set and Costume Design on *Deserter* with Moving Target Theatre. Upcoming, she is the Set and Costume Designer on *Sick and Twisted* Theatre and AA Battery production of *Antigone*. Always a thank you to Eric and Anaïs for being there for me. And thank you to Claire for building beautiful costumes with me for all these years!



Ksenia Broda-Milian Lighting Design

Ksenia is a set, costume, and lighting designer; arts educator; member of the Associated Designers of Canada; and Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Professional. She loves creating designs incorporating movement, interaction, and transformation. She has studied at University of Alberta, University of Winnipeg, the Pratt Institute, Ghost River Theatre, and the Banff Centre. She recently participated in Triga Creative's Eco-Design Charrette, designing for the 2021 Climate Change Theatre Action plays and exhibiting these concepts and exploring eco-scenography at World Stage Design. Closer to home, you may have seen her work recently in Winnipeg at PTE (*Katharsis*, *Outside Joke*), MTYP (*The Velveteen Rabbit*), SIR (*Much Ado*), TCM (*L'Article 23*), WJT (*Becoming Dr Ruth*) or Rainbow Stage. Ksenia also treasures her teaching experiences in Manitoba and Alberta, and spends her days as the Education and Enrichment Manager at Royal MTC.



Emma Hendrix Sound Design

Emma is a sound and installation artist, sound designer, composer and cultural worker. Through sound Emma builds visceral, expressive environments that explore the narratives of individual experience by revealing and exploring the emotional qualities of sounds through field recordings, found sounds, and digital artifacts. Emma creates installations and performances as Manufacturing Entertainment with Julie Gendron, and composes for theatre, dance, video, film and new media installations and performances. Their work can be explored at: emmahendrix.com + manufacturingentertainment.com



Carol-Ann Bohrn Choreographer & Assistant Director

Carol-Ann Bohrn has been performing, choreographing and teaching dance in Winnipeg since 2011. Career highlights include four seasons with Gearshifting Performance Works, *The Threepenny Opera* with Sick and Twisted Theatre, guest appearances with Outside Joke, and in Prairie Theatre Exchange's *By Grand Central Station*, for which she was jointly nominated for an Evie Award for choreography. She is currently entering her fourth season at Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers. She has sought mentorship at Mentoring Artists for Women's Art, *aceartinc's* Cartae School, and studied Pochinko Clown with John Turner.



Lisa Nelson-Fries Stage Manager

Lisa is grateful to be working on this show with all these generous artists. She has worked in theatre for over 25 years, having worn nearly all the hats at one time or another; including actor, stage manager, and most recently as the General Manager of *Shakespeare in the Ruins (SIR)*. Lisa recently left her job at SIR to pursue a career in film. Though she swore off stage managing years ago, Lisa's friend Alissa persuaded her to come out of retirement for this show. The world reveals itself in mysterious ways, and coming Home to Theatre is exactly where she needs to be right now. For Leyan and Dad.



Teri-Lynn Kosinski Props Coordinator

I've been in theatre for a couple years, and have a foot in the film world as well. I've done props for a number of shows that I can't remember the names of but could tell you exactly what prop went where and how it was used. I love the challenge and the new-ness each play creates, you're always working on something different and I find that exciting.



Danielle Friesen Original Illustrations & Graphics

Danielle Friesen is an interdisciplinary artist recognized for her comprehensive ink drawings and illustrations exploring the human condition. Possessing a diploma in Graphic Design from Red River College, Danielle is now pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Thank you to the creative team of Theatre Projects Manitoba for trusting me with your vision.



Joseph Pilapil Original Signage

Joseph runs a company called The Travelling Sign Painters. He specializes in designing and painting signs for commercial and personal use. Everything from painted panels to full scale murals. As well as painted production pieces for theatre.

Our Gratitude

The Company is thankful for the support of Cari Simpson and Prairie Theatre Exchange, MTYP and WJT, Jackie and Steve Broda-Milian, Kelsey Braun, Video Pool Media Arts Centre, Julie Gendron and Ari Hendrix and our generous volunteers.

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We are so grateful for their support!

* Gifts made between November 10, 2021 – November 4, 2022.

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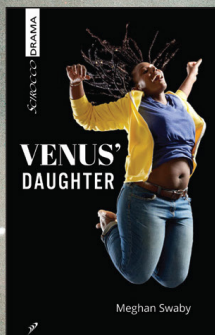
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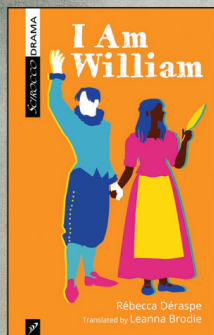
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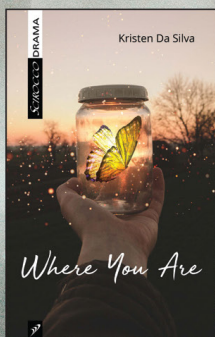
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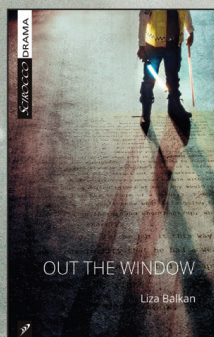
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Rébecca Déraspe,
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Where You Are
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Out the Window
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