



CELEBRATING 56 YEARS OF INNOVATIVE AND BOUNDARY-BREAKING THEATRE, THEATRE PASSE MURAILLE UNVEILS THE FALL PROGRAMMING OF ITS 2024 / 2025 SEASON OF CAPTIVATING AND UNIQUE CANADIAN VOICES, WITH A FOCUS ON MAKING THEATRE MORE INCLUSIVE FOR EVERYONE.

INCLUDING THE RUTAS FESTIVAL, FLIN FLON COWBOY, THE ANNUAL PXR CONFERENCE, AND ERASED

TORONTO (June 27, 2024): With over five decades of celebrating Canadian voices, **Theatre Passe Muraille**'s upcoming Fall 2024 season is a testament to its dedication to accessibility and inclusion. It features wide-ranging new works and collaborations, each with a unique perspective that is sure to captivate and intrigue. The first phase of **Passe Muraille**'s powerful new season kicks off this September 2024, continuing its goal of fostering a diversified hub for theatre enthusiasts.

*"We are thrilled to announce the Fall Season at Theatre Passe Muraille, featuring an exhilarating and interdisciplinary line-up of shows and festivals. This season includes the international perspectives of the RUTAS Festival (in partnership with **Aluna Theatre** and **Factory Theatre**), the captivating and personal work of Manitoba-born artist **Ken Harrower**, the fantastical future envisioned by **Coleen Shirin MacPherson**, and the innovative technological performances of **PXR**. Our focus remains steadfast on collaboration, innovation, accessibility, and community as we develop and curate the most intriguing and provocative theatrical experiences for you. Join us as we challenge, engage, and inspire for a fall of wonder!"*

- **Marjorie Chan, Indrit Kasapi, Michelle Knight** (TPM Leadership Team)

The season begins with the **SIXTH** edition of the **RUTAS INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL**, bringing art from across the Americas to Toronto. The theme for this year's festival is Personal Cartographies. In these inspiring performances, national and international artists chart their paths through themes of family, displacement, privilege, women's labour, and the body as a map of resistance. Dreaming of a better world we can build together is the driving force behind the works presented at **RUTAS**. In their thought-provoking work, artists from Mexico, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Colombia, and Turtle Island ask us: What is the cost behind what we consume? What do we gain, and what do we lose in our journey to achieve freedom? How do we mark the world that shapes us, and what will happen to our footprints when we are gone? The **RUTAS FESTIVAL**, an **Aluna Theatre** production in partnership with **Theatre Passe Muraille** and **Factory Theatre**, runs from September 26 to October 6, 2024.

Following the festival is **THE FLIN FLON COWBOY**, an original autobiographical musical about disability, love, and sex. Co-created by **Ken Harrower**, **Erin Brandenburg**, and **Johnny Spence** and the **Flin Flon Collective**, it tells the extraordinary story of Disabled performer and

country singer **Ken Harrower**'s life as he recounts his journey from being abandoned at birth in Manitoba to today as a Disabled and LGBTQ+ performer and advocate, and backed by a live country-western band made up of some of Canada's most inventive indie musicians in a show that combines elements of documentary, confessional, and breathtaking musical numbers. All performances of **Flin Flon Cowboy** will be fully captioned. The show, a **Flin Flon Cowboy Collective** and **TPM** co-production presented in association with **Why Not Theatre**, runs from October 19 to November 2, 2024.

TPM will again serve as one of the venue partners for **Single Thread Theatre's** most significant Extended Reality (Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality) conferences exploring innovative digital theatre. The first and only conference of its kind in Canada, **THE PERFORMANCE AND XR (PXR) CONFERENCE** will bring together over 400 artists, technologists, game creators, and academics of diverse backgrounds from across the globe to discuss digital art creation and innovation. The conference will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, and interactive workshops, providing a unique opportunity to learn and network in digital theatre. **Theatre Passe Muraille** will be the in-person hub of the conference from November 8 - 10 and November 15 - 17, 2024.

After four years of development in **TPM's** *Buzz* program, we are excited to finally share the world premiere of *Erased*, a new work written and led by **Coleen Shirin MacPherson**. This absurdist, movement-based theatre piece brings us into the uncanny world of a greeting card factory, where workers negotiate their relationship to a system of power only to learn that people are being "disappeared". Set in a post-climate collapse landscape, it is an ambitious play that brings 11 performers to the stage and explores how the kindling of revolution turns to flame, igniting the spirit of resistance that keeps it alive. A dystopian parable that is poetic, violent, darkly humorous and imagistic: an awakening for us all to look deeply into ourselves and the state of our planet. This **Open Heart Surgery Theatre** and **Theatre Passe Muraille** co-production performs November 20 - 30, 2024.

Accessibility offerings are designed uniquely for each piece of programming and will include Sensory-Sensitive Performances, captions, and select masked mandatory performances. **TPM** is proud to continue from last season as a [Relaxed Environment](#) for all performances and experiences, ensuring people with various accessibility needs feel welcomed and valued.

Continuing the history of works in development at **Theatre Passe Muraille**, the *Buzz In-Development Series* will host a dozen artists in various stages of development. This season will include artists doing text-based explorations, translation, and digital explorations in VR and AR. **TPM** is also pleased to announce its continued partnership with **Diaspora Dialogues**, supporting workshops for **Donovan Hayden** and **Ajahnis Charley**.



In addition, TPM's community programming will continue with community meals, panels, and workshops inspired by our season productions, which are always free to attend.

TPM continues to support wide-ranging work that addresses current provocations and conversations that are collaborative, community-based, accessible, and innovative. At the heart of how **TPM** sees its impact 'beyond the walls,' the 24.25 includes community engagement and ongoing enhancements to accessibility offerings.

Passe Muraille will announce its second winter/spring 2025 programming phase in December 2024.

-30 -

ABOUT THEATRE PASSE MURAILLE:

Established in 1968, TPM is Canada's original alternative theatre company, developing and producing new Canadian plays. TPM strives to articulate a distinctly Canadian voice reflecting our intercultural society's complexity. TPM believes our theatre should have a more diverse representation of artists, audience members, and stories. TPM aspires to be a local, national, and international leader in establishing, promoting, and embracing collaborative and inclusive theatre practices. We do this to support and ignite the voices of unique artists, communities, and audiences.

Theatre Passe Muraille gratefully acknowledges the original caretakers of this land, the Anishinabek, Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. We embrace collaborative and collective values exemplified by Indigenous cultures, and we aspire to live up to those values. We are also particularly inspired by the Dish With One Spoon Treaty. This agreement binds people on this land to share peacefully with their neighbours so that we may all have enough.

There is one dish, one spoon, and no knife. In that spirit, we honour all who came before us, our own ancestors, as well as all the Indigenous caretakers, named and unnamed, recorded and unrecorded. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work, play, and create here in this community and on this territory.

24.25 SEASON SPONSORS:

Government Support



Theatre Passe Muraille thanks its ongoing government investments through the Government of Canada, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Art Council, Province of Ontario, Ontario Trillium Foundation, and Toronto Arts Council.

Corporate Support

TD Ready Community: Season Sponsor

Foundation Support

Metcalf Foundation

Wuchien Michael Than Foundation

Ontario Arts Foundation

The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation

Rita & Jeff Rayman

Ken and Debbie Rubin Public Interest Advocacy Fund

More Info

Please visit passemuraille.ca to learn more about Theatre Passe Muraille's accessibility initiatives this season, including ticket prices and availability, and to buy tickets.

#TPM2425

www.passemuraille.ca | Instagram @beyondwallsTPM

MEDIA CONTACT:

Ashley Belmer

B-Rebel Communications

ashley@b-rebelcommunications.com

About our Partners

The artistic mission of [Aluna Theatre](#) is to embrace the myriad of voices, cultures, and stories of our population, which are transforming the landscape of Canadian theatre. In our plays, works in translation, and international co-creations, people are complex individuals who exist beyond the restrictions of cultural labels. We encourage new hybrids of theatre evolved from a rich collaboration of experiences, performance traditions and media by engaging both emerging and established theatre professionals.

Our work reaches out to diverse audiences in Canada and abroad. We build liaisons that promote art as a way to empower, and a way to share with each other and the world the idea of living in harmony.



We welcome into our circle of support and celebration the TransAmerican artists living and working here, who represent the breadth of cultures and languages from across the Americas.

The [Flin Flon Collective](#) includes Performer/Creator Ken Harrower (Access Me, Hole), Director/Co-writer Erin Brandenburg (Kitchenband, Soulpepper, TOTB), Musical Director/Composer Johnny Spence (Weather Station, Queer Songbook Orchestra), Performer Stephen Jackman Torkoff (Stratford Festival, Canadian Stage, Crows), Set/Costume Designer Shannon Lea Doyle (Soulpepper Theatre, Tarragon, Factory Theatre), Lighting Designer Echo Zhou (TPM, Buddies in Bad Times, Theatre Centre), Dramaturg Debbie Patterson (Sick&Twisted Theatre, Shakespeare In The Ruins) and Producer Brian Postalain (Access Me/Boys In Chairs, Re:Current Theatre).

[Why Not Theatre](#)

Our vision is a world with limitless possibilities for all.

Our mission is to make things better through art. To reinvent how stories are told to inspire new ways of thinking about creativity and civic engagement.

We push. Never settle. Question everything. Rethink how stories are told. And who gets to tell them. We believe in art. It's how we make change. It's how we create the world we want to see.

We bring it. We dream, share, and take risks. To create a world where art plays an essential role in the lives of all people. Where everyone is welcome. Everyone has a voice. Everyone can realize their full potential.

We make things, better.

[Single Thread Theatre Company](#) creates immersive theatre experiences in Canada and internationally that seek to advance the art of immersive storytelling through innovation and the presentation of new works.

For the past two decades, Single Thread has played a role in shaping enthusiasm and best practices for 'site-specific' and 'immersive' theatre in Canada and worked with hundreds of emerging and established theatre artists.

Looking forward, Single Thread is developing immersive storytelling techniques as a teaching tool in Canadian schools through the Single Thread Education program. The company is also exploring the emerging medium of XR (augmented, virtual and mixed reality) as a means of telling stories to a broader audience through Single Thread XR.