

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THEATRE PASSE MURAILLE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OPEN HEART SURGERY THEATRE, PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *ERASED* BY COLEEN SHIRIN MACPHERSON

NOVEMBER 20 TO 30, 2024 IN TORONTO

Toronto, ON — Experience an absurd and poetic physical exploration of resistance, survival, and the human spirit in *Erased*. Theatre Passe Muraille, in partnership with Open Heart Surgery Theatre, proudly presents the world premiere of *Erased*, a bold and imaginative new play by Coleen Shirin MacPherson. *Erased* invites audiences into a surreal post-climate collapse world inside a greeting card factory, where workers are pushed to their limits and forced to meet quotas while creating absurd cards under the control of machinery that defines and erases them.

Running from **November 20 to 30, 2024**, at Theatre Passe Muraille, this visually striking 11-member physical theatre piece blends absurdism, dark comedy, political theatre, and poetry. It highlights our addiction to production in late capitalism and serves as a powerful call to reflect on the state of our planet and the systems that have entrapped us. Through a surreal marriage of genres, *Erased* explores how the spark of a soft revolution can turn into a roaring flame of resistance.

Key Elements of Interest:

- **An Iterative and Evolving Creation:** *Erased* began as a response to capitalism and the culture of consumption, written amidst the forests of France, where inspiration took a unique turn. It premiered in the UK with readings at the Arcola Theatre and Tristan Bates Theatre. It later evolved into a film-play broadcast live through La MaMa Experiments in New York City during the global pandemic. This production represents the latest iteration of a work that continues to grow, shaped by numerous artists and collaborators.
- **International Development and Recognition:** Developed at Tarragon Workspace and as part of Theatre Passe Muraille's Buzz In-Development series over a couple of seasons, *Erased* has captured international attention. It has evolved through contributions from artists in London, New York, Los Angeles, and Toronto. The play's journey from intimate readings to international broadcast highlights its resonance and adaptability.
- **Collaborative Artistic Contributions:** The creation of *Erased* has been supported by a diverse array of talented artists and organizations, including contributions from Susanna Fournier, Mina James, Richard Hansell, Kwaku Okyere, Ericka Leobrera and Theatre Gargantua. The Chorus of the Disappeared was developed in collaboration with York University's Devised Theatre students, making it a truly collaborative effort that brings fresh voices to the stage.

Key Details:

- **Dates:** November 20 - 30, 2024
- **Venue:** Theatre Passe Muraille, 16 Ryerson Ave, Toronto, ON
- **Performances:** The environment is relaxed for the entire run; mask performances are mandatory on Saturday, November 23rd, at 7:30 PM and Wednesday, November 27th, at 7:30 PM.
- **Opening Night:** Friday, November 22, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Special Events: The Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance at York University will lead post-show talk-circles after the matinee performances on November 23rd and 27th. The conversations will feature guest speakers engaging with the play's themes, followed by audience discussions. Food will be provided.

About Theatre Passe Muraille: Theatre Passe Muraille is committed to championing diversity and inclusion in the arts, striving to elevate underrepresented voices through collaborative and innovative theater practices. Their mission is to challenge boundaries and create impactful art that explores the overlooked and the unexpected, reflecting the rich cultural tapestry of Canada. Based in a historic Toronto building, Theatre Passe Muraille focuses on producing and developing unique plays that express a distinctly Canadian narrative.

About Open Heart Surgery Theatre: Founded in 2014, Open Heart Surgery Theatre is an international, female-led theatre ensemble based in Toronto and London, UK. Led by Parsi-Irish Canadian theatre maker Coleen Shirin MacPherson, the company creates new devised work that is physical, poetic, relevant, and experimental, engaging in cross-cultural collaboration that stretches borders and moves boundaries. The ensemble's work has toured internationally, including Egypt, the USA, the UK, France, and Poland. Comprised of a diverse mix of performers, including Lecoq-trained theatre makers, Open Heart Surgery Theatre blends live music, media, and dance to create original theatre that opens the heart and speaks to the urgent stories of our time. Recently the company earned an OFFIE nomination for their multilingual work, This Is Why We Live at VOILA! Europe in the UK.

Creative Team:

- Written and Directed by Coleen Shirin MacPherson
- Producer: Ulla Laidlaw
- Movement Direction: Alix Sideris
- Composition and Musical Direction: Amy Nostbakken
- Sound Design: Richard Feren
- Set and Lighting Design: Nick Blais
- Costume Design: Jung A Im

Cast Highlights:

- Nancy McAlear as Margie
- Sochi Fried as Grace
- Rose Tuong as Oliver

- Kat Khan as René
- It features a cast of new-generation performers who bring *Erased* to life. Zina Ahmed, Dylan Carter, Jenna Geen, Melissa Kiley, Emma Ly, Zoe Magirias and Jobina Sitoh 司徒加恩

Ticket Information:

Tickets are available at Theatre Passe Muraille's Box Office and online. Tickets range from \$15 to \$65, with pay-what-you-can-afford pricing. For questions regarding themes, suggested audience age, or accessibility, contact 416.504.7529 or email info@passemuraille.on.ca.

Where:

16 Ryerson Avenue, Toronto ON, M5T 2P3

Accessibility:

The whole run is Blind Friendly, Captioned, and in a Relaxed Environment.

Website:

<https://www.passemuraille.ca/>

Social Media:

- **Facebook:** @beyondwallsTPM @ohsurgerytheatre
- **Instagram:** @beyondwallsTPM @ohsurgerytheatre
- **X (formerly Twitter):** @beyondwallsTPM
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheatrePasseMuraille>

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