

## 2015 Homecoming Sponsorship Proposal



Black  
Hole  
theatre  
company  
alumni

present

# LYSISTRATA

A modern musical adaptation of the classic Greek comedy  
by Aristophanes



***You are invited to participate in a memorable fundraising theatrical event in support of the Conklin Theatre, the new, long-awaited performance space for the Black Hole Theatre Company at the University of Manitoba campus.***

*“If you join with me, All may be righted yet.”*

Aristophanes circa 411 B.C.

## **A Fond Farewell to The Black Hole Theatre (to make way for a new beginning)**

**University of Manitoba Homecoming 2015  
September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**

### **How Did the Black Hole Theatre Company Get Here? And where is it going?**

The Black Hole Theatre Company is the resident company of the University of Manitoba Theatre Program. For decades the Company has made its home in the basement of University College on the Fort Garry Campus of the University.

The origins of the Black Hole Theatre Company begin with the formation of the U of M Dramatic Society in 1915 and a first production at the Walker Theatre. By the late 1960s, the Dramatic Society had evolved into the University of Manitoba Theatre Group with financial support from the University of Manitoba Student Union. The company performed in many venues around the campus and city, with its home base being the "Studio Theatre", a former floor hockey room in the basement of University College. By the early 1980's, this location had evolved into the current Black Hole Theatre.

As the Theatre Group continued to evolve its mandate, the group struck out on its own and formed the The Black Hole Theatre Company in the early 80s, shortly after the arrival of Dr. Chris Johnson of the U of M Theatre Program. The Company name was coined with the input of several first year theatre students and Dr. Johnson. The company's mandate was to remain self-sufficient and rely primarily on Box Office revenue for income while at the same time providing both creative and technical training opportunities in theatre for students, staff, alumni and the general population from all over the province. In keeping with this mandate, BHTC auditions are open to the entire university community and the general public.

With the exception of the Theatre Program teaching and support staff, the BHTC is made up of and staffed by roughly 140 students who are currently taking part in Theatre Program courses. The company's executive board is made up of current theatre students and faculty.

Since the early 1970's, the company has produced over 350 one act and full length productions with a number of these being original productions by emerging playwrights.

As the University of Manitoba celebrates Homecoming 2015, the Black Hole Theatre Company looks forward to the completion of its new, dynamic multipurpose performance space, the Conklin Theatre. This new home will be built in Taché Hall's historic auditorium and will include a 150-seat proscenium stage, a full workshop, prop shop and costume area. Professional-quality lighting and sound will open new creative possibilities for the Black Hole Theatre Company's productions

Thanks to a Conklin Family Foundation grant, construction of our new performance space is underway. The Black Hole Theatre Company still needs additional support from the community and individual donors to complete a dynamic arts centre for Manitoba's emerging theatre talent. Please join us as we build our future.

## About the Play and the Production

**LYSISTRATA**, a classic Greek comedic masterpiece staged by Aristophanes in 411 B.C., calls attention to the folly of war between nations, and the battle of the sexes. Set in an era where societies have been fighting each other for decades with reckless abandon and little reason, the playwright delivers a message to audiences throughout the ages that war is an exercise in futile stupidity. Through the strength and efforts of his title character, Aristophanes exhorts his audience to make love, not war. As the story of lovers, warriors, wives, husbands, losers, and winners unravels like a loose thread of clothing caught on a sharp pointed object, theatre-goers throughout the ages find themselves blushing and laughing up until the final chorus.

The production of **LYSISTRATA** staged by Alumni members of the Black Hole Theatre Company, with the assistance of current University of Manitoba Theatre Department staff, will feature modern script adaptations from celebrated Manitoba playwrights, new musical numbers from a Juno award winner, daring and engaging performances from local actors, and a plethora of talent from many of Manitoba's best theatre production specialists. Please note that this production is for presented for adults only.

***ALL NET PROCEEDS FROM THIS ALUMNI SHOW WILL GO TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CONKLIN THEATRE***

## Show Time! It's Show Time!

### Production Reception Sponsorship

\$2500

Reserved Premium seating for 10 attendees on Opening Night (Monday, Sept 28)  
 Reserved Premium seating for 10 attendees on Closing Night (Saturday, Oct 3)  
 Corporate logo placement on lobby sponsor sign  
 Corporate logo placement on all print materials  
 Recognition in program (includes black on white 3" high X 5" program advertisement)  
 Verbal recognition from the stage prior to every performance  
 Acknowledgement on the Black Hole Theatre Company website with link provided  
 Acknowledgement on all other Black Hole Theatre Company social media platforms  
 Acknowledgement on signage at all post-performance receptions  
 V.I.P. passes for 10 attendees at Opening Night post-performance reception (Monday, Sept 28)  
 V.I.P. passes for 10 attendees on Closing Night post-performance reception (Saturday, Oct 3)  
 Personalized Sponsor Gift from the Black Hole Theatre Company alumni

## Front of House Sponsorship

\$2000

Tickets for 12 attendees on Opening Night (Monday, Sept 28)  
 Corporate logo placement on lobby sponsor sign  
 Corporate logo placement on all print materials  
 Recognition in program  
 Acknowledgement on the Black Hole Theatre Company website with link provided  
 Acknowledgement on all other Black Hole Theatre Company social media platforms  
 V.I.P. passes for 12 attendees at Opening Night post-performance reception (Monday, Sept 28)  
 Opportunity to include promotional leaflet/coupons inside programs  
 Recognition on the future Front of House area at the Conklin Theatre

## Media Sponsorship

\$1500

Reserved Premium seating for 10 attendees on Media Night (Tuesday, Sept 29)  
 On-set interview opportunities with members of cast, crew and directors  
 Corporate logo placement on lobby sponsor sign  
 Corporate logo placement on all print materials  
 Recognition in program  
 Acknowledgement on all Black Hole Theatre Company social media platforms  
 V.I.P. passes for 10 attendees at post-performance reception on Media Night (Tuesday, Sept 29)  
 4 tickets (various nights) for on-air/print promotion give-a-way

## Performance Night Sponsorship

\$1000

Reserved Premium seating for 10 attendees on your selected Performance Night  
 Premiere corporate logo placement on lobby sponsor sign  
 Premiere corporate logo placement on all print materials  
 Verbal recognition from the stage prior to the performance on your selected Performance Night  
 Acknowledgement on the Black Hole Theatre Company website with link provided  
 Acknowledgement on all other Black Hole Theatre Company social media platforms  
 Acknowledgement on signage for post-performance receptions  
 V.I.P. passes for 10 attendees at the post-performance reception of your selected performance

## Patron Sponsorship

\$500

Reserved Premium seating for 4 attendees on your choice of Patron Night (Wednesday, September 30 or Thursday, October 1 or Friday, October 2)  
 Corporate logo placement on lobby sponsor sign  
 Recognition in program  
 Corporate advertisement in program – 3.5" wide X 2" high (advertiser to provide artwork)  
 Acknowledgement on all Black Hole Theatre Company social media platforms  
 Acknowledgement on signage for post-performance receptions  
 V.I.P. passes for 4 attendees at the post-performance reception of your selected Patron Night

**NOTE: Poster deadline for corporate logos is Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

## Individual Performance Tickets (rush seating)

\$50

**Charitable Tax Receipts will be issued for a portion of ticket price in compliance with CRA guidelines.**

## Program Advertisements

5" wide X 3" high, black on white (advertiser to provide artwork)	\$250
3.5" wide X 2" high, black on white (advertiser to provide artwork)	\$ 75



## Thank you for helping to build our new home, The Conklin Auditorium

Business or Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Level of Support:

- Reception Sponsor (one only) \$2500
- Front of House Sponsor (one only) \$2000
- Media Sponsor \$1500
- Performance Night Sponsor (six only) \$1000

Check your first choice:

Monday, September 28 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tuesday, September 29 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wednesday, September 30 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Thursday, October 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Friday, October 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturday, October 3 \_\_\_\_\_

(Performance Night Sponsorships awarded on a first-come, first serve basis)

- Patron Night Sponsor \$ 500  
 Check your first choice:  
 Wednesday, September 30 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Thursday, October 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Friday, October 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Individual Tickets \$ 50
- Program Advertisement Purchase \$ 250
- Program Advertisement Purchase \$ 75

*I/we are unable to commit to sponsorship or advertising at this time, but would like to make a donation:*

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Selection:

Credit Card: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card # : \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Security Code (3 digits on the back of your credit card to the right of the signature strip) \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that sponsorship and donation cheques should be made payable to: THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
 For more information contact: Theatre Office, Room 360 University College, 220 Dysart Road, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2M8

Telephone: 204-474-9581 Email: [tickets@bhtc.ca](mailto:tickets@bhtc.ca) Website: [www.bhtc.ca](http://www.bhtc.ca)

## FACTOIDS, TRIVIA AND ANECDOTES



Black  
Hole  
theatre  
company  
alumni

The University of Manitoba has been staging student theatre productions for 100 years.

The Black Hole Theatre Company has produced 353 shows in its 43-year history, including main stage and “Lunch Bhagg” shows, staged readings and special productions.

The first main stage show presented by the Black Hole Theatre Company was a production of Jean-Claude van Itallie’s *The Serpent*, directed by Howard Dallin.

The most produced playwright at the Black Hole Theatre Company is William Shakespeare, with 11 productions. Samuel Beckett and Harold Pinter are tied for second place, with 10 productions each.

*Lysistrata* is the fourteenth play to receive a second production by the Black Hole Theatre Company.

*Who’s Afraid of Virginia Wolff*, by Edward Albee, is the only play to receive three productions at the BHTC, in 1978, 1990 and 2015.

In 1977 respected Backstage and Production Guru, Dennis Smith directed *Act Without Words, Part II* by Samuel Beckett.

In 1979 immediately following a the last curtain call of a performance of Brian Shien’s *Cowboy Island* held in the UMSU building, an actor ran straight through a plate glass door. The performer went on stage without his eyeglasses, and despite severe shredding of the performer’s denim costume, cowboy boots and hair, he emerged with but one small scratch to a finger on his right hand. The performer is happy to be alive and involved in this alumni production, and he always wears corrective eyewear to the theatre.

Who was the “sweet-faced student of clear voice” in a 1979 review of *Volcano Woman*, a myth directed by Ken Kowalsky and Chris Johnson? Answer: The Storyteller played by future international opera star, Tracy Dahl.

Who played Kiki in the 1980 production of Michel Tremblay's *Johnny Mangano and His Astonishing Dogs*? Answer: Bijou the poodle.

During a 1980 performance of *The Miser* by Moliere, a barn door from an overhead light fell to the stage and very nearly struck Mariane (actor Romana Villa) during a tender and poignant scene. Thanks to the quick action of Orysia Kostiuk who was playing one of the Miser's servants, the fallen lighting piece was subtly removed and the show carried on without further disruption or potential injury.

As the lights came up on the second act of one 1980 performance of *The Miser*, only half of the cast made it to the stage. The actor playing Harpagon calmly questioned his servants as to the "whereabouts of the others". Valere, played by John Stinson, volunteered to find the MIA actors. As Harpagon provided a brilliant four minute improvised monologue, the missing actors were soon located in the arcade that was situated near the dressing room at the time. Valere herded the arcade actors back to the stage, and the play resumed with nary a notice by the audience.

Who played the lead role of Harpagon in the 1980 production of *The Miser*? Answer: George Toles.

Did you know that in 1981 the Black Hole Theatre Company presented roving performances of *Babel Rap* by John Lazarus? The campus tour was directed by Jim MacGregor.

This alumni production will mark only the second time the BHTC has presented a play by Aristophanes – the first was also *Lysistrata*, in 1981. Do you know who the director of the 1981 production was? Answer: Chris Johnson

There are 3 alumni members in the cast for this current production of *Lysistrata* who were in the BHTC's original show in 1981. Who are they? Answer: Angela Heck, Jim MacGregor and Jocelyn Thorvaldson Dunstan.

The Music Director for the 1981 production of John Stinson's *That's All Folks* was future Juno Award winner Gerry Atwell. Gerry is also the Music Director for the 2015 Alumni production of *Lysistrata*.

Who played Olga Nemitchuk in the 1981 production of *A Fine Coloured Easter Egg* by Gwen Pharis Ringwood? Answer: Gail Asper.

Who played Billy in *Wheat City* by Ken Mitchell in 1981? Answer: Greg Klymkiw.



In the 1982 production of *The Trojan Women* by Euripides, director Chris Johnson dared to incorporate fire torches throughout the show. On set were pots of oil designated to prepare the torches for lighting, and pots of water designated to extinguish the torch fires. One torch bearer allegedly mixed up the pots while preparing to put out his torch. Fortunately the confused torch bearer eventually put his torch into the proper pot. The director's notes following this particular performance were brightly heated.

The world premiere of *Departures and Arrivals* by Carole Shields was staged at The Black Hole Theatre in 1984.

In the middle of a performance of *A Village Wooing* by George Bernard Shaw at The Irish Club on Erin Street in 1985, two elderly pub patrons followed the wrong exit out from the bar, wandered their way through the backstage area and ended up on the set with actors Bob Selley and Michelle Lessard Brown.

Who directed the 1986 production of *Overruled* which was staged at both the Black Hole Theatre and later that year at The Irish Club? Answer: Victor Cowie

Did you know that two Black Hole Theatre Company backstage alumni have been on tour with Cirque du soleil and The Rolling Stones? Geoff Devenney is currently working with Cirque, and Linda Danchak worked on a filming crew that followed The Rolling Stones during one of the band's concert tours.