

# THE **U** N I T E R

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## **SPREADING THE SOUND**



**MUSIC AND FESTIVALS GROWING THROUGH THE CRACKS**

# HATEFUL, HORRID HEATHER

THOMAS PASHKO  
MANAGING EDITOR



On Wednesday, Sept. 20, crowds of protesters descended on the Manitoba Legislature and The Forks to rally in support of “parental rights.” “Parental rights” is the anti-2SLGBTQIA+ hate lobby’s newest dog-whistle term used to cloak their fight against basic human rights for transgender people.

The rallies were part of a coordinated day of similar hate rallies in dozens of cities across Canada. It should be troubling to all Winnipeggers that as many as 2,000 people felt emboldened enough to take part in these attacks on queer rights.

But it’s just as troubling that our own provincial government has brought this hate out of the fringes and into the mainstream. Premier Heather Stefanson and the PC Party have made “parental rights” a main part of their campaign messaging. Advertisements on billboards and bus benches across Winnipeg have made the party’s contempt for queer Manitobans clear.

Of course, Stefanson and company can’t openly run on “We hate transgender people!” which is why they’ve deliberately decided not to define what they mean by “parental rights” until after the election. But they don’t have to. We all know what it means.

It’s more than just a sickening bit of hatred from the party, which has enthusiastically followed the rest of the global centre-right in tolerating, if not outright embracing, neo-fascism following the rise of Donald Trump in the United States. It’s also a cynical play to appeal to the bigotry of a certain segment of the voter base, because the PCs simply have nothing else to run on. What else are they going to pitch to voters? Their disastrous record? Please.



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

The University of Winnipeg has a slate of events planned for Truth and Reconciliation Week. Read more on page 12.

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Submissions of articles, letters, graphics and photos are encouraged, however, all new contributors (with the exception of letters to the editor) must attend a 45-minute volunteer orientation workshop to ensure that the volunteer understands all of the publication’s basic guidelines.

**In-person volunteer orientations will be commencing shortly. For more information, please email [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca)**

Deadline for advertisements is noon Friday, six days prior to publication. *The Uniter* reserves the right to refuse to print material submitted by volunteers. *The Uniter* will not print submissions that are homophobic, misogynistic, transphobic, ableist, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.



# WHOSE HOUSE?



PHOTOS BY DANIEL CRUMP

## WHOSE HOUSE? ERICA'S HOUSE

### A living gallery

THANDI VERA | FEATURES REPORTER

Erica Wilson, a Metis/Anishinaabe theatre artist and workshop facilitator, has created a home where every item tells a story. That includes a painting gifted by a friend in Kelowna, a mannequin head discovered in Wilson's first apartment when they were 18, and even the appliances they received as gifts from family members.

Each piece contributes to the story of their life, turning Wilson's home into a gallery of memories.

"All the items, whether found, purchased or received as gifts, represent different elements/chapters of my life," Wilson says.

Nestled in the corner of the room is Wilson's beloved cat, Gunther, a faithful companion for more than seven years.

Among the cherished items, there's a painting Wilson acquired following a three-year engagement with a production called *God's Lake*, inspired by life in God's Lake, Man.

"It's about a person's experience living up north in Manitoba," Wilson says. The production narrates the tragic story of 15-year-old Leah Anderson, who went skating in God's Lake Narrows, Man. and was found severely beaten on a remote trail two days later.

At the heart of Wilson's living space stands an altar. Its centrepiece is a small piece of paper bearing the words "brave," "fun" and "loyal" from one of Wilson's self-esteem and positivity-boosting workshops.

"The way you perceive yourself isn't how people see you. So I get everyone to put that piece of paper on their back. And everyone goes and writes posi-

tive things behind their back," Wilson says.

"This piece of paper represents how people perceive me."

In addition to their workshops, Wilson displays their artistic touch through jewelry.

"I create medicine jewelry right here in my bedroom. For the longest time, people would admire my original piece, and I'd be hesitant to make more," they say.

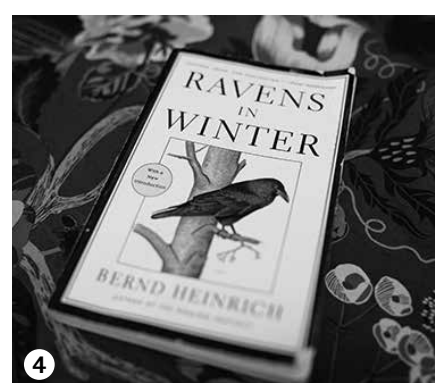
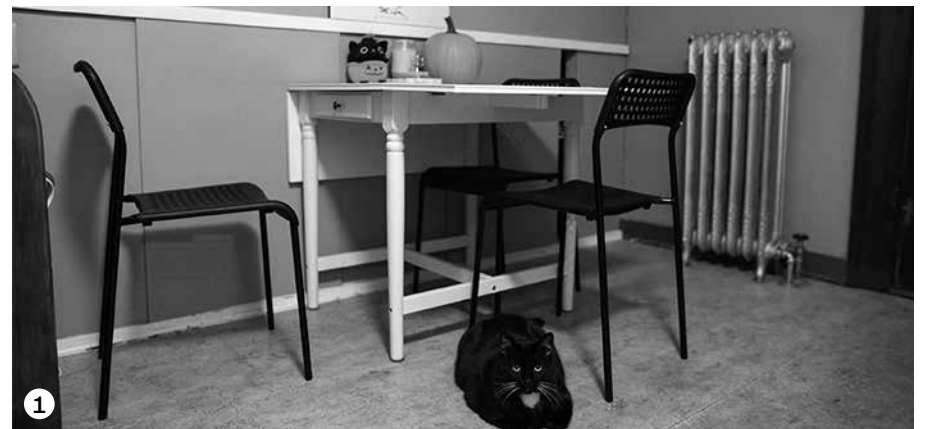
"I thought, 'No, this is mine. I want it.' But after some reflection and advice from others, I realized that if I have something people want, I should share it."

Wilson's medicine jewelry blends meaningful elements from Indigenous traditions: tobacco for prayer, sage for cleansing, cedar for balance, sweetgrass for unity, rose for self-love and a touch of glitter for fun, according to one of their Instagram posts.

Wilson's hobby blossomed into a small business, and two companies have purchased Wilson's creations as graduation gifts for their students. Wilson also markets their jewelry through social media, attracting both friends and strangers interested in the pieces.

Wilson's fridge is a dynamic canvas of their life, adorned with postcards and memories from their travels, work and various life events. It's a colourful glimpse into Wilson's journey, mirroring the connected and meaningful tapestry of their home.

"Some stuff I've had since I was 16 that still kind of poke around here," Wilson says.



#### 1. The kitchen

"I have physically never purchased a table or chairs in my life. So for two years when my roommate moved out, I didn't have tables or chairs here. I was just like, nope, that's just how I live. And then, finally, someone gifted me the table, and someone gifted me the chairs."

#### 2. Old memories

"I actually found (the chess set) when I was 18 going to a rave at Ross Avenue, and I actually refurbished it back to where it is now. I had to take it to my shop class when I was in school and do it together."

#### 3. At the heart of Erica's home

"This is my public altar, and I have one in my bedroom. But these are, again, things I've found or bought or had over the years."

#### 4. Current read

"This is what I'm reading right now. It's a perspective research-based novel on ravens."

#### 5. The bathroom

"I love my bathroom. I have a giant clawfoot bathtub. And seasonally, I work at Lush, so I get like a year's worth of bath bombs for free!"



# REAL RECOGNIZE REEL

## Canada's oldest 2SLGBTQIA+ film festival spotlights queer talent

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | X MATTEKLE

As theatres are inundated with the usual stream of blockbuster fare and self-perpetuating franchises, modern mainstream cinema offerings may seem less and less authentic. But one Winnipeg film festival is keeping it real.

The Reel Pride Film Festival, Canada's oldest exposition of queer filmmaking talent, runs this month from Sept. 26 to 30. Hosted at the Gas Station Arts Centre on River Avenue, the festival has programmed a diverse array of feature films, short films and artist exhibitions.

First established in 1987 by the then-nascent Winnipeg Gay and Lesbian Film Society under the name Counterparts, the festival has maintained a long tradition of celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ content.

"The idea really is just to provide an opportunity for queer people to see themselves represented," Greg Klassen, Reel Pride publicity director, says.

"When I used to go to films back in the late '80s and early '90s, there wasn't really a chance to watch a lot of gay content on Netflix and other streaming services."

As a niche celebration of quality cinema, Reel Pride has long ago made its mark. But Klassen is hoping to bring the wonder of diverse movies to the huddled heteronormative masses.

"Our audience can be a lot larger than we sort of give it credit for. We're mar-

keting it to a community well beyond the queer community at this point. This is about understanding and seeing queer lives and what they feel like in 2023," Klassen says.

Among the programming for this year's festival are a slate of nine feature films and 11 short films competing for a prize, as well as daily art shows with all proceeds going to the respective artists.

"Queer artists can use the Gas Station Arts theatre during that week that we're on to show their work," Klassen says.

Eric Plamondon, a decorated Manitoban short filmmaker, returns to Reel Pride with his newest project, *Arc-en-noir*, influenced by mid-20th-century Americana.

"*Arc-en-noir* was originally birthed for a multimedia project in Montreal that wanted to celebrate 100 years of Jack Kerouac writings," he says.

"My film is inspired by the beatnik era in that stream-of-consciousness poetry that is unapologetically from an era both very personal but very much observing what's around."

Plamondon cites the festival itself as the reason he began making pictures in the first place.

"I was going to the films as an actor, and people kept saying that it was too bad we don't have a lot of local content. Rarely were Manitoba filmmakers submitting



SUPPLIED PHOTO

An image from Trevor Anderson's film *Before I Change My Mind*, which screens at this year's Reel Pride Film Festival

to the programming. They said 'You're in the medium. Why don't you make something?'" Plamondon says.

"When I look at the lineup and this year's programming, and there are tons of Manitobans on it, I think, how amazing is that? Now I can talk about my queer filmmaking peers and how we have a venue in Winnipeg. It feels pretty good now."

And despite the wealth of viewing options afforded in modern times by stream-

ing services and the like, Klassen stresses the importance of the festival's distinct draw.

"The world has changed. A festival like ours has to really figure out how to stay relevant. Honestly, I believe it's by showing as many diverse and talented people as we can," he says.

For more information, visit [reelpride.org](http://reelpride.org).

# THEY SURE PLAY A KIND, WELCOMING PINBALL

## The Manitoba Pinball League keeps flipper fingers active

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | X MATTEKLE

The advent of the affordable television set and the miracle of pizza delivery has kept gamers inside the last few decades, away from the former ritual of congregation at arcades, pizzerias and the like. But David Morris is on a one-man mission to get leisure enthusiasts off the couch and into the community once again.

"One thing that I think that pinball really does is it's something real," Morris says.

"Playing video games at home, it doesn't give you the same thrill that getting out of the house and going to an establishment and playing pinball does."

Morris is the commissioner and founder of the Manitoba Pinball League (MPL), established in 2017. It was a nostalgia trip seven years prior that renewed his passion for the game and launched him into full-fledged flipper fanaticism.

"I'm a big sound and music guy. I didn't play a lot of pinball as a kid, but I went to a lot of places that had pinball machines," he says.

"Around 2010, when I got into it, I started going to friends' places that had games, and I heard these sounds I hadn't heard in 20-something years. All these good memories that I had of being in those establishments watching those older people play pinball started flowing through. It brought a joy and happiness and passion, and I knew I had to have one (machine)."

From there, Morris' personal collection grew, and MPL was born out of a desire

to bring the local pinball community together.

"There was nothing in Manitoba to do if you enjoyed competitive pinball. There were no tournaments. There were no leagues. There was nothing like that," he says. "One thing led to another, and we're doing very well now."

The league, whose yearly player count nears the triple digits and includes players from other provinces like Saskatchewan and Alberta, hosts a variety of gaming events and tournaments each month.

"We have three different leagues: open, women and casual. Open league is for everyone to play in. The women's league is for women, and the casual league is for anybody that is new or curious about competitive pinball. For those just wanting to ease themselves into it, that's what I would recommend them to start with," Morris says.

Many of the MPL contestants have a story similar to Samara May, a former juvenile pinball wizard who experienced a long lapse in her pinball activity.

"I went many years without playing much at all because of a lack of machines in the area I lived and places I spent my time," she says.

"I saw an MPL notice on Instagram regarding the very first women's league event being held at The Good Will back in February of 2018, and the rest is history. Taking home the first-place plaque for



PHOTO BY ISAIAH SANCHEZ

The Manitoba Pinball League is keeping the old arcade staple alive in Winnipeg.

the women's league inaugural season was pretty dang sweet." May says.

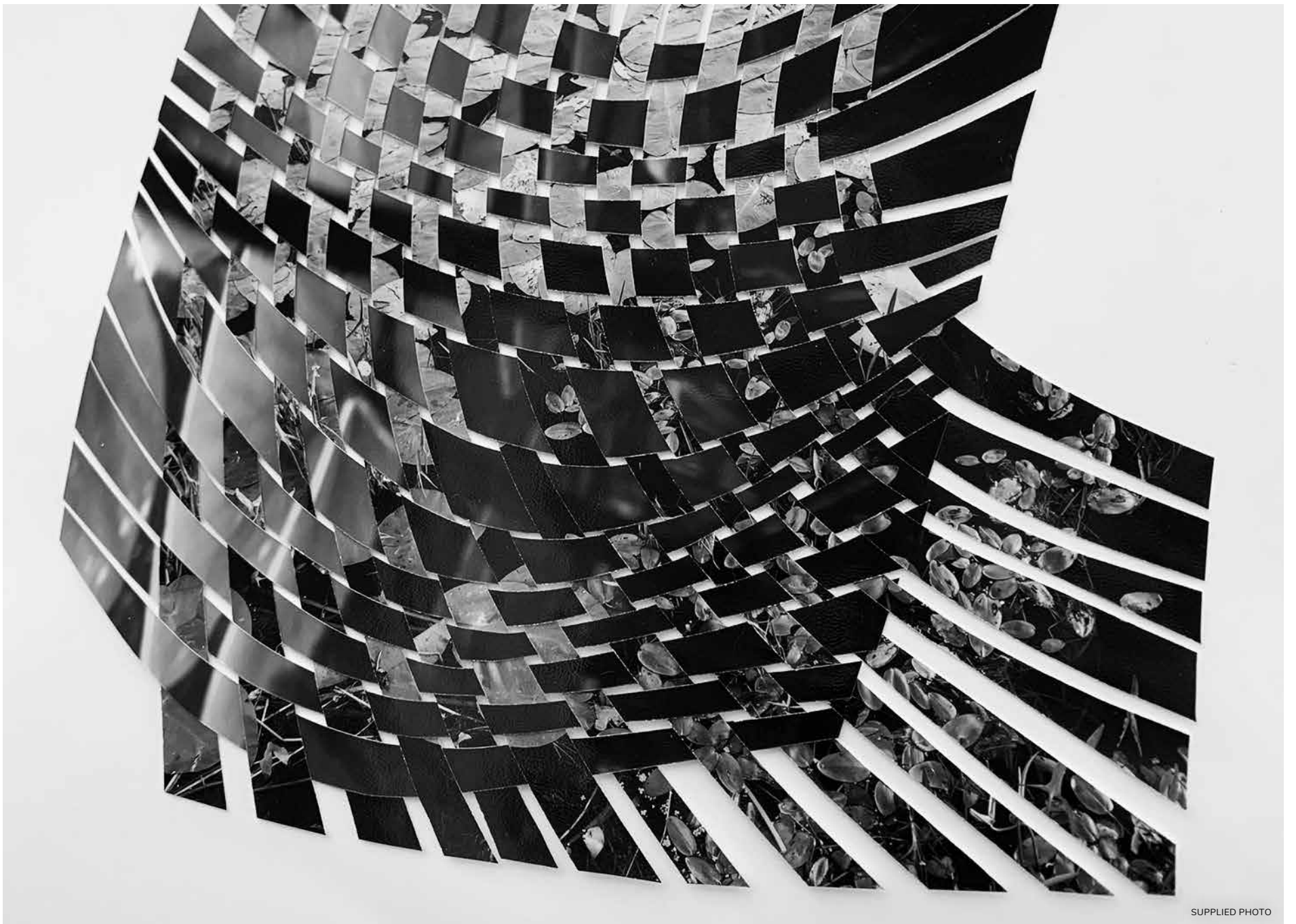
While many of the tournaments take place at Phantom Amusement at The Forks, which Morris co-owns, pinballers can find somewhere to connect and play all over the city and beyond, including Half Pints Brewing Co., Assiniboine Memorial Curling Club, Joe's Pandora Inn and Skinner's in Lockport.

And perhaps the MPL's greatest singular draw, aside from the prospect of beer-fueled, good-natured competition, may be the accessibility inherent to the game.

"My favourite thing about the community is how inclusive and diverse it is. Pinball seems to welcome and inspire folks of all ages, genders, ethnicities, neurological backgrounds and skill levels," May says.

"We try to make it inviting for new people to come out and try it," Morris says.

The next MPL event, the **3 Strike Head-to-Head September Brawl**, takes place on **Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at Phantom Amusement in The Forks. The entry fee is \$10. For more information, visit [manitobapinball.com](http://manitobapinball.com).**



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Cheryl Zubrack's artwork *Morning* is featured in the *Planet Love* exhibition at Gallerie Buhler Gallery.

## A GREENER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

### *Planet Love* mobilizes art for climate action

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | ✕ FICTIONALCIERRA @CIERRABETTENS

From temperature maps displaying a sea of red to line graphs depicting exponential CO2 emissions, most of the visual language surrounding climate change evokes nihilism rather than hope.

Yet, in a new, multidisciplinary exhibition called *Planet Love*, hope is the basis for climate action.

From Sept. 8 to Nov. 19, the Galerie Buhler Gallery in St. Boniface Hospital's atrium will become an artistic forum for climate action. In the little-known gallery, a group of local artists put forth a compelling argument for the role of art in imagining greener futures.

Hannah Godfrey, known by her alias hannah\_g, curated the exhibition with the idea of using art to replace climate nihilism with hope. In her words, "there's still a lot to fight for."

Over the course of a year, Godfrey united 19 local artists across various disciplines under the umbrella of climate action.

"I was finding that I can engage with issues better if it's from a place of inspiration and hope rather than a place of despair and anxiety," she says. "I wanted to create an exhibition that filled people up with inspiration and good feelings. I think that's more of a sustainable way to be able

to deal with a really difficult situation."

In a time of ecological destruction, climate anxiety has become a source of existential dread for many. Godfrey believes the role of the artist is to mobilize anxiety into action, presenting new connections and imagining alternative futures.

Artist Helga Jakobson is doing so by, quite literally, listening to the creatures beneath her feet. In her *Planet Love* piece, Jakobson created a musical score using spider webs.

"It's a 16 x 20 shadow box with a real spider web inside of it. The spider web itself I recorded with a machine that I have built that plays spider webs as music," she says. "It's an array of phototransistors that read the light, so whatever shadows are created from the spider web onto the phototransistor array, that's how it plays."

Relating back to the exhibition's broader themes, Jakobson believes working with organic material has changed her relationship with the creatures from passive to connected.

"I think that one of the best ways of creating some compassion and some movement and re-empowering people to find a way to create a better impact on this Earth is by allowing them to build a closer relationship," she says. "For me, being able to

listen to a spider web changes my relationship to spiders."

In their work, participating artist AO Roberts combines sculpture, sound and text to propagate a discussion around climate action. Keeping accessibility in mind, they strive to incorporate multiple ways of engaging with and experiencing the art.

"All three (mediums) are kind of used in the same way to look at one idea but through different kinds of senses," Roberts says.

The piece is an extension of a larger, futurist project Roberts has been developing called *Plants, Properties, Equipment*.

"That whole project looks at the healing properties of plants as a way to reimagine our medical and medicinal cosmologies," they say. "So, thinking about our relationship to the planet, our relationship to our bodies and how we engage with plants and the planet in ways that can be more healing and more grounded."

The exhibition is taking place in tandem with a program of climate-related events. Free bike tune-ups by the W.R.E.N.C.H, a climate-themed concert series by the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, a native-plant identification walk and several guest talks are all on the menu for the next three months.

In October, Godfrey will host a weekly climate hope circle with St. Boniface Hospital staff and volunteers. In doing so, she hopes to transform climate anxiety into climate action.

"We also get a lot of patients, of course, and staff and volunteers who come to the gallery and have it as a place of recuperation," Godfrey says. "There's been a lot of positive engagement."

For local artists, the climate crisis informs their creative output in both ex-

istential and material ways. Aside from anxieties about planetary destruction, ecological changes directly impact how Jakobson can incorporate elements of the natural world into her work.

"There are all kinds of very large-scale impacts, but, in a very real way, it impacts the work that I make, because I work with living material constantly," she says. "The shift in seasons, the shift in temperatures all impact the work that I create."

Roberts, whose art often meditates on disability justice, forms a connection between how society treats disabled people and the degradation of the planet.

"This very able-bodied, heteronormative worldview looks at the planet in the same way that it does disabled bodies, as either something to be discarded or exploited," they say. "We are disabling the planet."

Outside of research and policy developments surrounding climate change, artists can help others imagine a future in harmony with the natural world, Godfrey says. They can shift the doomsday-esque narratives to ones of hope and solidarity.

"The artists have a way of being able to tell stories and bring perspectives onto things which can be really empowering," she says. "There are a lot of stories that are doomsday stories ... I just totally reject that. There's still a lot of beauty, and there's still a lot of life that can be saved."

"If art and, simply put, love are entangled, life-saving things can happen."

***Planet Love* is on at Gallerie Buhler Gallery (St. Boniface Hospital Atrium, 409 Tache Ave.) from now until Nov. 19. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are preferred. For gallery hours and appointment bookings, visit [galeriebuhlergallery.ca](http://galeriebuhlergallery.ca).**



SUPPLIED PHOTO

# EL CONDE

Streaming now on Netflix

★★★★★

THOMAS PASHKO | MANAGING EDITOR | X THOMASPASHKO

On Sept. 11, 1973, Salvador Allende, the democratically elected socialist leader of Chile, was ousted in a CIA-backed military coup. The country's new dictator, Gen. Augusto Pinochet, ruled for 17 years. Pinochet was a far-right authoritarian who murdered thousands, tortured and imprisoned tens of thousands and embezzled millions of dollars for himself and his family, all while enjoying material and political support from the United States and a close personal friendship with Margaret Thatcher.

In reality, Pinochet died in 2006 after years of evading justice for his crimes. In *El*

*Conde*, the new film from Chilean writer-director Pablo Larraín, Pinochet isn't dead – he's a 250-year-old vampire. This pitch-black satire traces Pinochet's origins to the 18th century, as a loyal soldier of Louis XVI. Following the French Revolution, he leaves Paris and travels the world as a blood-sucking, counter-revolutionary demon.

Jaime Vadell plays Pinochet as a walking contradiction. Exiled to a secret island compound, he lives in a tin shack still adorned with chandeliers, antique books and memorabilia from his role models (Napoleon, Hitler and Darth Vader).

He shuffles around his home as a frail sad-

sack but takes to the skies as a graceful, murdering beast. He is, as all authoritarians are, pathetic, no longer capable of concealing his brittle ego. He shares his island with his collaborator wife (Gloria Münchmeyer) and a thuggish deputy-turned-butler (Alfredo Castro), and his parasitic children descend for a visit to further enlarge their stolen inheritances.

In addition to its satirical bona fides, *El Conde* also functions as a genuine vampire picture, replete with gothic imagery and some genuinely shocking violence. Cinematographer Edward Lachman's stylish digital black-and-white gives a beauty to even the creepiest scenes. When a young Pinochet lovingly licks Marie Antoinette's fresh blood from her guillotine, Lachman and Larraín make sure you can see his breath fogging up the blade.

Larraín's more recent English-language work (2016's *Jackie* and 2021's *Spencer*) have been sorrowful portraits of titanic figures of late-20th-century history. His earlier Spanish-language films (2008's *Tony Manero*, 2010's *Post Mortem*) were absurdist pictures

of life in Pinochet's Chile. *El Conde*, which is in Spanish but features voiceover narration in English (to explain why would spoil the fun), exists in both worlds at once, while also creating something that feels new and noteworthy.

It's also notable that the movie was released on Netflix surprisingly quickly, only 15 days after its Aug. 31 world premiere at the Venice Film Festival. Frustratingly, like with all its foreign-language releases, most Netflix apps will automatically start playing the film with English overdubbing for its Hispanic characters. I can't think of a better illustration of Netflix's essential incompetence: paying to produce a daring piece of cinema, only to screw with it before the viewer hits "play."

They don't know how good they have it. *El Conde* is truly radical. It's incendiary, provocative, and so much more exciting than anything playing the multiplex in 2023. Luis Buñuel and Bahman Gohari were exiled from Spain and Iran for tamer works than this.

## ARTS BRIEFS

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | X FICTIONALCIERRA @CIERRABETTENS

### THIN AIR returns to Winnipeg

The annual THIN AIR programming put on by the Winnipeg International Writers Festival has commenced. From now until Oct. 18, a host of hybrid events and workshops will draw in budding and seasoned writers from all around town. To learn more about the programming, visit [thinairfestival.ca](http://thinairfestival.ca).

### CKUW to host DIY DJ workshop

Aspiring DJs may head to the CKUW 95.5 FM station headquarters (Room 4CM11, University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Ave.) on Sept. 24 for a chance to broadcast a 30-minute show on live airwaves. No prior experience is necessary. To sign up, visit [bit.ly/460PFcS](http://bit.ly/460PFcS).

### Video Pool has a midlife crisis

Winnipeg's premier digital art non-profit is turning 40 – and to celebrate, they're hosting a self-proclaimed midlife crisis party. On Sept. 22 from 7 p.m. onwards, Video Pool will welcome guests to VP40 - Phase 2: Passion (The Early Years) on the second floor of the Artspace Building (100 Arthur St.). DJs, artists and veteran members will be present. The event is free.

### Entangled @ MHC Gallery

The MHC Gallery at the Canadian Mennonite University's forthcoming exhibition *Entangled* constructs a dialogue between artist Miriam Rudolph and members of the Artes Vivas collective. Rudolph's work examines her experiences growing up in Paraguay in the context of colonialism. The Artes Vivas collective brings in works from Indigenous artists based in Paraguay. For gallery hours and more information, visit [bit.ly/3rm0Lu1](http://bit.ly/3rm0Lu1).

### Nuit Blanche 2023

On Saturday, Sept. 23, central Winnipeg will transform into an urban art party. Nuit Blanche will unite arts and culture fiends across the city through installations, workshops, street parties and more. This year's programming focuses on four zones that celebrate the arts in Winnipeg: the Exchange District, The Forks/CMHR, downtown and St. Boniface. For more information, visit [nuitblanchewinnipeg.ca](http://nuitblanchewinnipeg.ca).

### Indigenous theatre spotlighted at Royal MTC

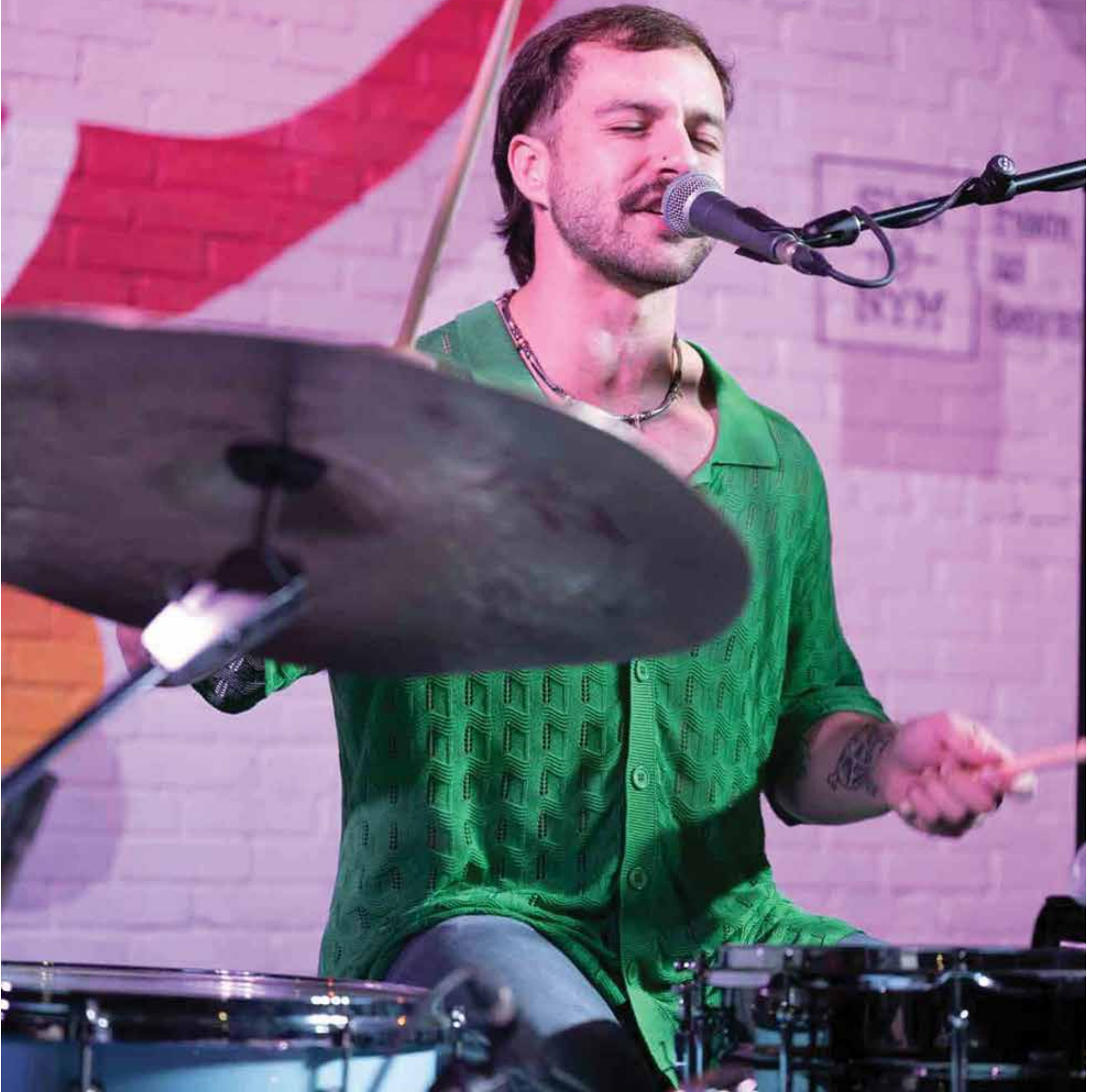
From Sept. 24 to 29, the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre will present *Pimootayowin: A Festival of New Work*, showcasing the artistry of several Indigenous playwrights: Mary Black, Ryan Black, Mike Lawrenchuk, Emily Meadows, Victoria Perrie and Eric Plamondon. A different play is open for free, public viewing each evening. For the full schedule, visit [bit.ly/3RuHdhz](http://bit.ly/3RuHdhz).

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# SPREADING THE SOUND

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Music and festivals growing through the cracks



Roman Clarke plays at the rebranded Maryland Music Festival on Sept. 9, 2023.

The crowd swells inside and surrounds the orange temporary fencing in the Maryland Food Fare parking lot. Fontine serenades the lot filled with people, dogs, bicycles and other odd assortments. It's a warm fall evening on a day packed with music and art. One of those Winnipeg days where people can't decide which event to attend. Everything is the same as before, yet a little different.

Since 2004, the Sherbrook Street Festival has taken

over the street to bring music, a market and activities to West Broadway. Last year, after a loss in both momentum and volunteers, festival organizers could no longer close off the street, and the event was spread over a few different locations.

"It can be complicated to close the street, because it is also an ambulance route," Eric Napier Strong, the West Broadway BIZ executive director, says.

Strong says having multiple locations took more

resources than they had available and "diluted the impact," so, this year, they focused on the event's strength: the music.

He credits the area with having "a thriving creative scene," and he wanted to prioritize hosting this year's event in a "familiar place."

"Turning the grocery store where you shop into this big community party felt right," Strong says.

Local independent concert promoter Real Love Winnipeg was brought on board to produce the festival in 2017. Gil Carroll, co-artistic director and founder of Real Love, says they focused on the concert in the parking lot because the board for West Broadway BIZ loved it.

The street festival was rebranded to Maryland Music Fest to avoid confusion, as the shops, stages and stands no longer occupied Sherbrook Street. "Last year, everybody said, 'Oh, we went to Sherbrook, but there was no festival,'" Strong says.

The University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) usually sponsors the Sherbrook Street Festival but wasn't involved with this year's Maryland Street Fest.

"Due to the change in UWSA management in the middle of June, with limited time, our focus and resources were centred around on-campus engagement and on-campus events. We hope to be part of the Maryland Fest next year," UWSA president Tomiris Kaliyeva says.

UWSA personnel changes also created some challenges with the university's annual Roll Call event. While it took place on the campus' front lawn, there was no beer garden or live music. However, Kaliyeva hinted that the UWSA is planning another party for students in the coming months.

Despite the gap left by the Sherbrook Street Festival, other events have grown out of its absence and have filled out the weekend. The newly founded Mango Fest held its first public event at Darling Bar. The Neighbour by Neighbour Music Fest, a fundraiser for Lord Roberts Community Centre, also brought people out for its second year.

"It's about community over competition," Carter Happy, a Mango Fest organizer, says.

The adaptation and reemergence of multiple festivals proves that while things change or seemingly disappear, the heart of the music and arts community finds a way to continue to thrive.

At the end of Maryland Music Fest, people got sweaty dancing to Roman Clarke before dispersing, some wandering into The Handsome Daughter for an afterparty featuring a Daughter-styled hoedown with The Land League.

Strong says the Food Fare owner has volunteered his parking lot for the whole day next year, which will allow the West Broadway BIZ to explore the return of the other activities.

"If people want to see the street festival aspect back again, they should send us an email and offer to volunteer next year."



More shots from Roman Clarke's set at Maryland Music Fest (above and below)







The crowd gets especially enthusiastic during Roman Clarke's set at Maryland Music Fest.



Mango Fest kicks off at Darling Bar on McDermot Avenue.



Veneer takes the stage at Maryland Music Fest.



Ila Barker plays at the Neighbour x Neighbour Festival at Lord Roberts Community Centre.

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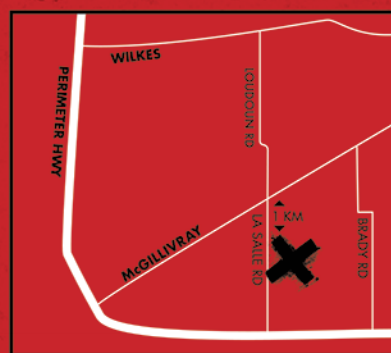
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Uzoma Asagwara (left), the NDP candidate for the Union Station riding, and Iqra Tariq (right), their Liberal challenger

# STUDENT ISSUES ON THE BALLOT

## Union Station candidates pitch their campaigns ahead of Oct. 3 election

AVA FEARN | CITY REPORTER | ✂ AVAWRITRESS

The University of Winnipeg (U of W) makes its home in the Union Station riding. With the Oct. 3 provincial election fast approaching, the riding's candidates are making their pitches to students and community members on a variety of issues at the ballot box. The Union Station riding contains 12,699 registered voters, according to Elections Manitoba, and encompasses most of downtown.

Uzoma Asagwara, the riding's New Democratic Party (NDP) incumbent and Iqra Tariq, the Manitoba Liberal Party's challenger, both spoke to *The Uiter* for this article. The Progressive Conservative (PC) candidate is Aaron Croning. A spokesperson from the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba did not reply to requests for comment.

### Access to healthcare

Healthcare is becoming increasingly inaccessible for Manitobans. There is a province-wide shortage of doctors, nurses and hospital beds, along with long emergency-room wait times.

For international students, this issue is intensified due to the high health-insurance

rates tacked onto their already-long lists of living, education and travel expenses.

In 2018, the Province repealed universal healthcare for international students, in order to save an estimated \$3.1 million dollars a year.

Depending on their length of studies, international students at the U of W pay around \$1,375 per academic year for mandatory Manitoba Blue Cross and University of Winnipeg Students' Association Greenshield insurance (not including the extra \$1.65 per day for Guard.me insurance, which offers extended coverage).

For full-time undergraduate domestic students, the UWSA health plan, which offers extended health, dental and vision benefits, costs \$501.60 per academic year.

Asagwara, a U of W alum, says the NDP plans to restore universal healthcare for international students if elected.

"We want to make sure that international students can stay healthy, focus on school and are motivated to stay in Manitoba," they say.

The Liberals have also promised to reinstate healthcare coverage for international

students and increase the number of family physicians to ensure that every Manitoban has access to one. As a pharmacy assistant working in Union Station, Tariq has seen students and non-students alike struggle with accessing a family doctor.

On Sept. 18, the PCs promised to spend \$30 million a year to recruit more healthcare workers. On Sept. 19, Radisson candidate James Teitsma promised more healthcare services at pharmacies to ensure accessibility and offset the demands on doctors' offices and clinics. However, these promises may ring hollow to voters who have watched the PCs gut Manitoba's healthcare system during their past seven years in power, creating the mess all three parties are currently pledging to fix.

### Mental health

Along with medical care, the NDP wants to ensure that youth have access to the mental healthcare services they need. The party hopes to listen to and work closely with healthcare providers, mental healthcare providers and frontline mental healthcare workers, according to Asagwara.

"(Our plan is to) take steps alongside them ... in making the right investments and decisions to strengthen mental healthcare and services for young people in Manitoba," they say.

The Liberals have also pledged to provide accessible mental-health support. The party aims to make mental healthcare free under Medicare by covering the costs of regulated psychotherapy and adding mental-health training to expand coverage.

Tariq, a University of Manitoba alum, especially wants meaningful mental healthcare that takes the culturally diverse students and residents of Union Station into account.

"Having healthcare in place that is meaningful, culturally competent, inclusive and (factors in) the diversity that is within Union Station and the types of students that live there ... is really important to me," she says. She stresses that international students have a unique set of obstacles, such as acclimating to a new environment, as well as familial and cultural expectations.

### Financial barriers

Tuition continues to increase as much as 2.75 per cent, affordable housing is scarce, and the cost of living is increasing, with the inflation rate up 2.6 per cent in Manitoba as of July 2023.

One of the ways the NDP hopes to make life more affordable is by increasing the tax credit for renters to \$700 dollars from the current \$525.

The party also plans on strengthening renters' rights and ensuring there are no more above-guideline rent increases by landlords, a frequent problem this year.

"Students shouldn't also have to worry about housing security when they're getting their education," Asagwara says.

Tariq, a former president of the University of Manitoba Muslim Students' Association, says the Liberals plan to reinstate the tuition rebate program, which offers a 60 per cent rebate on tuition when students begin working in Manitoba, to encourage students to stay in the province.

**Advance polling for the Manitoba provincial election opens Sept. 23. Election-day polls will be open Tuesday, Oct. 3. For more information, visit [electionsmanitoba.ca](https://electionsmanitoba.ca).**

## CITY BRIEFS

TESSA ADAMSKI | CITY EDITOR | ✂ TESSA\_ADAMSKI @TESSA.ADAMSKI

### Resumé, please!

Looking for a part- or full-time job? The Winnipeg Career Fair and Training Expo is taking place on Sept. 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the RBC Convention Centre. Attendees can network with more than 100 businesses, companies and organizations that are hiring or providing career resources, training and continuing-education programs. The Jobs Canada Fair will return to Winnipeg on Nov. 29, 2023 and Jan. 25, 2024.

### Nomination for UWSA byelection

Students at the University of Winnipeg, or those who hold office as a member of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association, can be nominated for the UWSA byelection until Sept. 28. Vacant positions at the UWSA include an environmental ethics director, recreation and athletics director and a women, trans and non-binary students' director. These positions represent community interests and act as liaisons between students, service centres and other groups.

### City record for fires in vacant buildings

Winnipeg reported a new annual record of 104 fires in vacant buildings this August – an increase of 20 vacant-building fires compared to the previous record of 84 in 2022 and 64 in 2021. There are approximately 600 to 700 vacant buildings in Winnipeg, according to the City, which began charging property owners with vacant buildings for any firefighting costs. As of Aug. 31, the city has issued 27 bills totalling more than \$750,000, with the highest bill costing almost \$104,000.

### Counter-protest against 'parental rights' march

2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy groups held a counter-protest against "1MillionMarch-4Children," a movement opposing "gender ideology" in schools. Between 1,500 and 2,000 people rallied against each other, including 250 to 300 counter-protesters at the Manitoba Legislative Building on Sept. 20 at noon, according to the Winnipeg Police Service. Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ rallies are linked to "parental-rights" policies that would require educators to obtain parental consent before using a student's chosen first name and pronouns.

### Gillingham addresses downtown safety strategy

Mayor Scott Gillingham discussed his plans to revitalize downtown with more than 60 business owners and employees, including the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, on Sept. 18. The City is considering the return of a grant program covering 50 per cent of eligible safety exterior lighting for businesses, which was discontinued in 2021 due to a lack of interest. By the end of the year, Gillingham also plans to have 24 peace officers patrolling Winnipeg Transit buses and bus stops to address issues of violence.

### Calls for landfill search continue

On Sept. 18, 200 supporters rallied at the Manitoba Legislative Building, demanding that government officials make a decision to search for the bodies of two First Nations women – Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran – that the Winnipeg Police Service suspect are located in the Prairie Green landfill. Premier Heather Stefanson is refusing to commit to a search, citing a risk of exposure to toxic chemicals and asbestos, which was listed in the feasibility report. Advocates continue to pressure the provincial and federal governments to agree to the search that could cost between \$84 million to \$184 million.



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

A slate of events are planned for Truth and Reconciliation Week at the University of Winnipeg.

## 'WE ARE STILL HERE'

Panel, feast, art installation scheduled for campus TRC Week

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD | CAMPUS REPORTER | X MIEKERUTH

The University of Winnipeg (U of W)'s third annual Truth and Reconciliation Week kicks off on Monday, Sept. 25. Through a series of events, students can continue learning about Indigenous cultures and honour residential-school survivors.

The university's Office of Indigenous Engagement (OIE) is hosting the week of programming, along with the U of W Students' Association (UWSA) and the Indigenous Students' Association (ISA), in

recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day on Saturday, Sept. 30.

Sarah DeLaronde, project manager for the OIE, has spearheaded much of the event planning.

She says it's necessary for Indigenous people within the university to be vocal and visible to repair the heavy influence of colonialism in structuring Canadian education systems.

"I think that it's important for (the OIE) specifically and for the university as a whole to have these opportunities for students who didn't grow up in Canada or didn't grow up in this territory to learn from us," DeLaronde says, "and to learn from the people of this territory about what has happened and ways that we can work together to make things better for future generations."

The week's events begin on Monday, Sept. 25 at 10 a.m. with the raising of the Every Child Matters flag in front of Wesley Hall and an opening prayer from Elder Sharon Pelletier.

At 12:30 p.m., a panel discussion titled Critical Reflections on Residential School Histories will take place in Eckhardt-Grammaté Hall, hosted by Sen. Mary Jane McCallum and U of W assistant history professor Dr. Karen Froman.

On Wednesday, Sept. 27, the ISA will

host a feast at 12:30 p.m. in the Aboriginal Student Services Centre. On Friday, Sept. 29, the UWSA and OIE will give away orange shirts, informational leaflets and assorted goodies in front of Wesley Hall, starting at 10 a.m.

Donations will be accepted on site to support the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre's Sept. 30 youth-oriented programming. Ma Mawi is an Indigenous-led family resource organization, and its name translates from Anishinaabemowin to "we all work together to help one another." The group will host a sacred fire and cultural teaching starting at 10:30 a.m. at its 445 King St. Gathering Place for Truth and Reconciliation.

Throughout the week, Wesley Hall will be lit up in orange, and orange steel T-shirt cutouts made by artist Kendra Gierys will be installed on the front lawn.

## IN SEARCH OF TRANS SAFETY ON CAMPUS

Building Trans Solidarity series will explore inclusion, resiliency, allyship

MIEKE RUTH VAN INEVELD | CAMPUS REPORTER | X MIEKERUTH

The University of Winnipeg (U of W) 2SLGBTQ+ Solidarity Collective is hosting a week of events to help reshape conversations surrounding trans issues on campus.

The Building Trans Solidarity five-event series runs from Sept. 23 to Oct. 5 and will "unpack contemporary issues facing transgender, Two-Spirit and gender-nonconforming communities, celebrate their resiliency and work toward an inclusive, discrimination-free future," according to a U of W media release.

A roundtable discussion, a keynote talk and a film screening will all take place on the U of W campus. *Another Placell*, a poetry and sound art show, is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1 at acertinc. Transphobia Right and Left, a virtual roundtable, will close out the series on Thursday, Oct. 5.

"We want to weave these kinds of conversations into the fabric of campus life," Dr. Noah Schulz says. Schulz is a collective member and an instructor in the U of W's political-science department. "We want trans realities and issues, in theory, to be respected as knowledge that's important and can be advanced in the university," he says.

Schulz will moderate the Saturday, Sept. 23 roundtable discussion, Supporting 2SLGBTQ+ Students in Our Schools and Libraries. It starts at 2 p.m. in Eckhardt-Grammaté Hall and frames K-12 public schools as the "frontlines of protecting trans and gender-diverse students."

Schulz says speakers will also draw connections between anti-trans sentiment and other forms of bigotry.

"We know that queer and other marginalized people get scapegoated in these times," he says. "We know that these movements are interlocking ... it connects with white supremacy and antisemitism and attacks on reproductive rights."

*Framing Agnes*, an award-winning reenacted documentary examining trans histories and legacies, will show in Eckhardt-Grammaté Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 23. Chase Joynt, the film's director, will participate in a Zoom question-and-answer session after the screening.

The U of W Students' Association (UWSA) 2SLGBTQ\* director Brie Villeneuve is delivering the series' keynote talk: Sex, Gender, and Identity: How to Be a Better Trans Ally. Their talk takes place Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 12:30 p.m. in The Hive, located next to the main campus' Ellice Street exit.

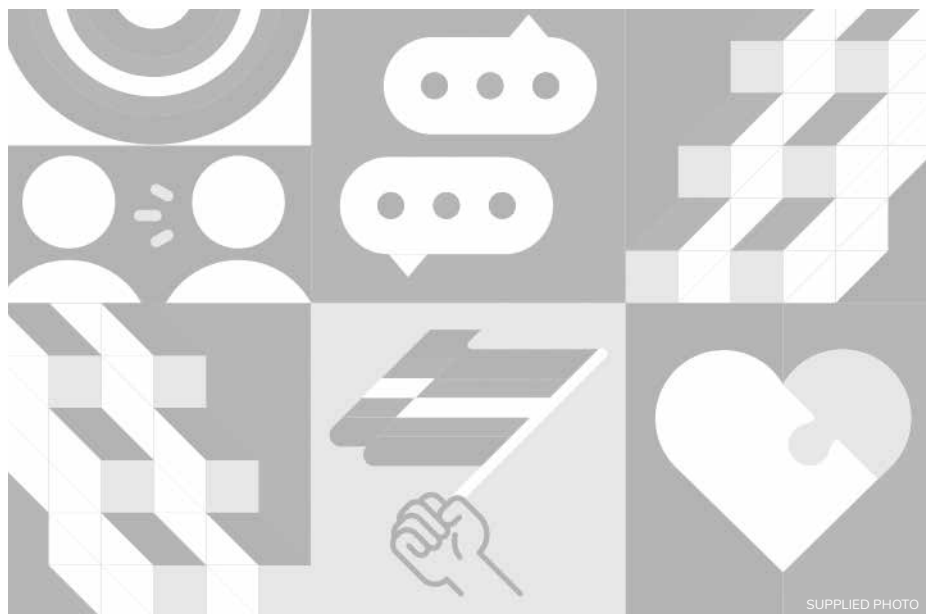
Villeneuve says their talk will provide U of W community members with an opportunity to learn how to support trans students and colleagues from "a trans person who spends a lot of time educating themselves on these topics and listening to other trans people."

They hope university decision-makers attend the talk and understand that conversations about protecting the U of W's trans communities need to be proactive and ongoing, instead of only happening in response to specific incidents.

The 2SLGBTQ+ Solidarity Collective was founded in March to organize a rally to coincide with U of W political-science professor Dr. Joanne Boucher's controversial talk called *The Commodification of the Human Body: The Case of Transgender Identities*.

U of W community members raised concerns about the "transphobic undertones" of posters on campus advertising the talk. An online petition calling for the event's cancellation received nearly 1,800 signatures.

Boucher avoided making policy recommendations during the talk and declined to answer audience questions about her stance on trans healthcare policies in Canada. She also denied knowing about the precise wording used on the posters advertising her talk.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The University of Winnipeg's 2SLGBTQ+ Solidarity Collective was formed in reaction to a transphobic lecture held on campus last year.

Several people interviewed for this article mentioned Boucher's talk as a turning point for trans students' sense of safety on campus.

UWSA Rainbow Lounge coordinator James Webster says the administration's response to Boucher's talk demonstrated an attitude that prioritizes cisgender comfort over trans safety.

"The administration is mostly in that on-the-fence category, where they don't have a strong opinion one way or the other," they say. "They're not hindering (safety) actively, but they're not helping, either."

Webster says administrators should consider how trans students can more directly provide them with feedback about their experiences on campus.

"It should be (that) any student can go up and say 'This is wrong. You wronged me.' and have the administrators and the school and the UWSA listen to them," he says. "It just feels like, especially in feedback about trans-inclusive policies, they only want to listen to people in positions of power."

Safety concerns are front of mind for Void, an agender first-year student who spends most of their time between classes in the Rainbow Lounge.

"I don't feel safe being around cisgender (cisgender heterosexual) people," Void says. "I don't

feel like I can be myself around them. Luckily, I have my safe space at the Rainbow Lounge, but I wish I could spend more time openly."

Void alternately uses they/them and it/its pronouns. "I find a lot of comfort in the sort of lack of humanity," Void says about going by it/its pronouns. "I don't vibe with this concept of being limited to my body as a binary, so I completely separate myself from this human binary by using inhuman pronouns."

While they want to help spread awareness of why some nonbinary folks find comfort in it/its pronouns, Void says anxiety over its personal safety holds it back from being as open as it wants to be. They usually wear pronoun, queer and political pins but haven't worn them lately.

Void says cishet community members are the most important audience for the event series to reach.

"(The events are) meant for people who want to be better, not for people who are already in the community," they say. "Whenever this stuff is getting spread, really try and make sure (that) it's hitting the audience that actually needs it, not the audience that already fucking knows."

Dates, times and locations for each event are available at [bit.ly/3PJ6bZt](https://bit.ly/3PJ6bZt).



# UNVEILING THE UNIVERSE THROUGH PHYSICS AND CURIOSITY

Dr. Andrew Frey, associate physics professor

THANDI VERA | FEATURES REPORTER | @THANDIVERA

Dr. Andrew Frey's journey to academia might have been written in the stars.

Some of his earliest memories include gazing at the sky while waiting in a car outside a daycare in North Carolina. He says these moments sparked a lifelong curiosity in and passion for understanding the cosmos.

As a child, Frey also found solace in books. "I always liked fantasy and science fiction a lot – especially whatever I could find at the library," he says.

Frey's astronomy career has taken him from the University of California, Santa Barbara to McGill University in Montreal. It eventually led him to Winnipeg in 2011.

His work involves tackling questions related to dark energy, dark matter, inflation and the Big Bang. In this field, "it's hard to find a job wherever you want, (so) you kind of go to where the job is," he says. Winnipeg became Frey's new home.

Even compared to the warmer southern climates in California and North Carolina, he says Winnipeg is "really actually a very livable city."

Frey has maintained his childhood love for reading. "I still like to read when I get

a chance," he says. "Sometimes that has to wait until vacation or when there's time off."

He and his wife also enjoy attending concerts, particularly classical performances. "I think my wife and I do try to get to music concerts when we can. She's also a PhD physicist, but recently she's been doing more singing in the arts," he says.

Frey is passionate about teaching and sharing his knowledge with students. He says he values the importance of diverse perspectives and constant learning.

"Seeing people learning things, that's really fulfilling," he says. He also finds great satisfaction in his research, where he endeavours to uncover new insights into the universe's secrets.

**What was your favorite toy growing up?**

"It would have been Transformers. The ones from back in the '80s."

**What was your worst grade in university?**



SUPPLIED PHOTO

"So I have to confess. I didn't get anything below an A. I know that's less fun, but my hardest class would have been Spanish."

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

"I don't know if this counts, but teleportation!"

**What is something you've learned from students?**

"I think just remembering to think about things in different ways, because not everybody understands the same thing in the same way."



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## Student Services

### MONEY TALKS

The Money Talks series continues with webinars this month on applying for awards. The next session is **Tues., Sept. 26**, from 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon via Zoom.

To register, please visit: [uwinnipeg.ca/awards](http://uwinnipeg.ca/awards)

### CAREER CHATS ON INSTAGRAM

Career Chats are live sessions on Instagram that feature advice from an employer or career-related expert. Hosted by Career Services, these live sessions take place every other Thursday at 11:00 am on UWinnipeg Instagram.

The next session features Kamillah El-Giadaa from Volunteer Manitoba (**Thurs., Sept. 28**).

### WANTED: VOLUNTEER NOTE-TAKERS

Are you interested in doing some volunteer work while you are attending classes this fall?

There may be students in your classes who need access to quality notes for reasons related to a disability or med-

ical condition. Accessibility Services is seeking volunteer notetakers to fill this need.

If your instructor makes a request for a volunteer notetaker in one of your classes, please consider signing up! It's a great way to sharpen your own note-taking skills and help out another student at the same time. **BONUS:** You will receive a Reference Letter upon request and your name will be in a draw to win a University of Winnipeg Bookstore gift card.

Contact [vnt@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:vnt@uwinnipeg.ca) for more information.

### DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR IN-COURSE AWARDS

The deadline for current students to apply online for in-course scholarships, bursaries, and awards is **Sun., Oct. 1**.

The University of Winnipeg has hundreds of available awards for students from different backgrounds, departments, and faculties. The criterion varies widely - some require a minimum GPA, while others require demonstrated financial need, or participation in extracurricular activities. We encourage all students to apply, using the convenient online application.

Find out more here: [uwinnipeg.ca/awards](http://uwinnipeg.ca/awards)

### VOLUNTEER FAIR

Join us for the annual in-person Volunteer Fair on **Wed., Oct. 4, 2023** from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm in the Riddell Hall Atrium.

This event is an opportunity to meet with a variety of charities and non-profit organizations who are actively recruiting volunteers.

Volunteering is a great way to gain valuable experience and develop useful contacts; it's also a way to try new things, have fun and give back!

### NEED A SPOT TO STORE YOUR STUFF? RENT A LOCKER!

Locker rentals are available in various locations. Find details and cost, along with an online form, here: [uwinnipeg.ca/lockers](http://uwinnipeg.ca/lockers)

### STUDENT ID CARDS

If you haven't got your Student ID Card yet, you can still order it. (Returning students: Continue to use your same card.) For instructions, please go to [uwinnipeg.ca/student-id-cards](http://uwinnipeg.ca/student-id-cards)

### FALL READING WEEK

The University of Winnipeg's annual Fall Term Reading Week will take place from **Oct. 8 - 14**. There will be no classes, except for Education students taking 4000-level certification courses who are required to attend class and practicum during this period. Please consult your course outline for more information. The University will be closed for Thanksgiving Day on **Oct. 9**.

### UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Are you a UWinnipeg student who wants to study abroad and explore the world? Studying in another country offers students the unique opportunity to attend a university for one or two terms in another part of the world, while retaining UWinnipeg student status.

The next Information Session on the Exchange Program will be held via Zoom on **Wed., Oct. 18, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.** Email [exchange@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:exchange@uwinnipeg.ca) for the link. For more info, see: [uwinnipeg.ca/study-abroad](http://uwinnipeg.ca/study-abroad)



# ACCORDING TO HER

## White lies

CIKU GITONGA | COLUMNIST

Sometimes, I feel like the wrong kind of African. I came to Canada when I was 17. Now, I am a citizen. All the time, I get the question: “have you gone back to Kenya since you left?”

I get it from immigrants and Canadians alike, and each time my answer is the same. “No.”

Then, there is a pause of silence, and, with it, the rising need to explain myself. All my explanations are lies.

I say, “It’s too expensive. I want to focus on finishing university and saving up afterwards.” I tell them I am afraid to see just how much my country has changed. The Nairobi of my childhood did not have fancy yoga studios or chains like KFC.

Yes, I am broke, and yes, I hold on to nostalgia with a grip of steel. But the real reason that I haven’t gone back is both more simple and complex. I don’t want to.

Eventually, I will want to go back, right? I won’t die here, in a foreign place, will I?

Nowadays, I brandish my Kenyan identity with the same enthusiasm I employed to hide it in high school.

I tell people “Canadians are too passive-aggressive, too uptight. Kenyans are shameless. If there’s music, we will dance. If we hate

you, we will tell it to your face.”

This is both the truth and a nationalist myth of my making. I feel the need to build a country around me in the place of the one I left behind.

Even as I set myself apart from this cold place, these cold people, I struggle not to integrate. I watch the shows everyone is watching. I read the same books.

When I first came to Canada, I was complimented all the time for my English: “you speak so well.”

Nowadays, I never get that kind of compliment. My voice is both an illusion and the truth – both conscious effort and the subconscious, gradual weathering away of who I used to be.

“Nairobi would eat your white asses alive,” I once said to a group of people. I felt out of place with them, backed into a corner.

“I feel like a coon,” I once said to a man I was seeing. “I don’t have black friends. I keep finding myself in these all-white spaces. I feel like I don’t belong anywhere.”

I ranted, and he listened. Then he said, “You know, I also feel like I don’t belong anywhere. As a white guy, I feel like people ...”

“No. You don’t get to draw parallels between our experiences. It’s trite.”

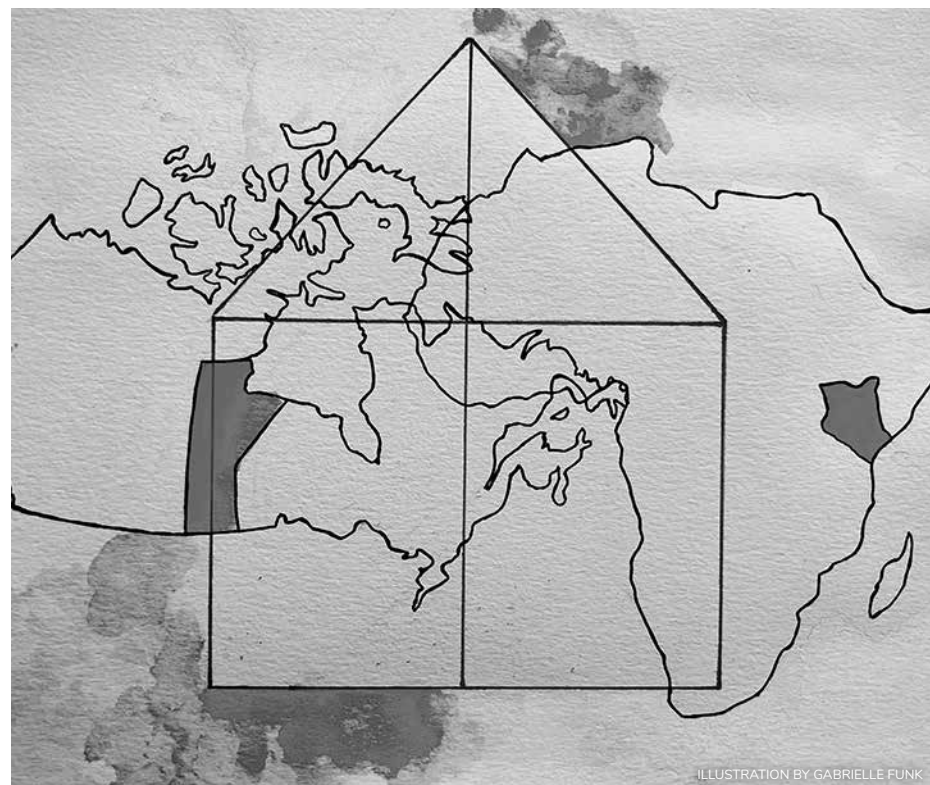


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

We fought bitterly. I did not cry afterwards. The only thing that makes me cry without fail is the thought of my childhood, that left-behind place where I ran barefoot on the sun-warmed pavement, where I stayed inside on rainy days, reading the same beloved books over and over.

On the phone, my oldest friend will say in greeting, “Ciku, when are you coming back?”

**Ciku Gitonga is a writer and a politics major. Her dream in life is to escape authority and be left alone to write.**

# WHY THE SAG-AFTRA STRIKE MATTERS

## And what it could mean for the future of entertainment

DARA BABATOPE | VOLUNTEER | @DARA.B.X

An unprecedented labour dispute has marked the summer of 2023, holding the entertainment industry hostage.

On July 14, the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) embarked on a strike. Approximately 160,000 members’ demands include better pay, improved working conditions and a fair slice of the ever-evolving entertainment pie.

This strike is not just a singular event. It’s a historical turning point. It’s the first actors’ strike since 1980 and the first joint strike involving both actors and writers since 1960.

The concurrent strike by the Writers Guild of America (WGA) lends even more weight to SAG-AFTRA’s pleas for equitable compensation in an industry where creativity should never be undervalued.

Now, these strikes have plunged the American film and television industries into a state of uncertainty.

SAG-AFTRA’s dispute is with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), which represents the film and TV industry.

The strike is not just about money. It’s about ensuring that the people who breathe life into stories aren’t left behind as new technologies like streaming and artificial intelligence reshape the industry.

Famous actors from the *Breaking Bad* cast, including Bryan Cranston, Bob Odenkirk and Aaron Paul, got back together and joined their coworkers in the protest. This gesture shows the industry as a whole, including writers, crew and all those who work behind the scenes, as well as the performers’ solidarity.

In an interview with the BBC, Brian Cox, the commanding star of HBO’s *Succession*, calls for the regulation of new technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and digital recreation and the fair compensation of actors’ residuals. Cox’s concern for the future of entertainment resonates with many, highlighting the cloud of uncertainty over an industry in the midst of transformation.

Streaming giants’ insatiable greed looms large over the creative landscape, affecting both writers and actors. The battle they wage is not just against the AMPTP but against a system that constantly prioritizes profit while disregarding human talent.

So what lies ahead for this historic strike? What outcomes can audiences anticipate?

Already, production delays are causing ripples, affecting release dates and jobs for dedicated crew members. Financial losses for studios are mounting, and the longer the strike persists, the deeper these losses will cut.

A successful strike could usher in higher wages and better benefits for actors and writers, setting a precedent for fair compensation and improved working conditions. This could benefit not just those currently on strike but generations to come.

However, the spectre of increased AI adoption in production looms if the strike drags on. Studios may turn to AI, potentially leading to job losses for actors and writers.

The outcome of the strike hinges on key factors: the strength and resilience of SAG-AFTRA, the willingness of the AMPTP to negotiate and audience support (by following and urging corporations by tagging them on their social-media handles everywhere, of course).



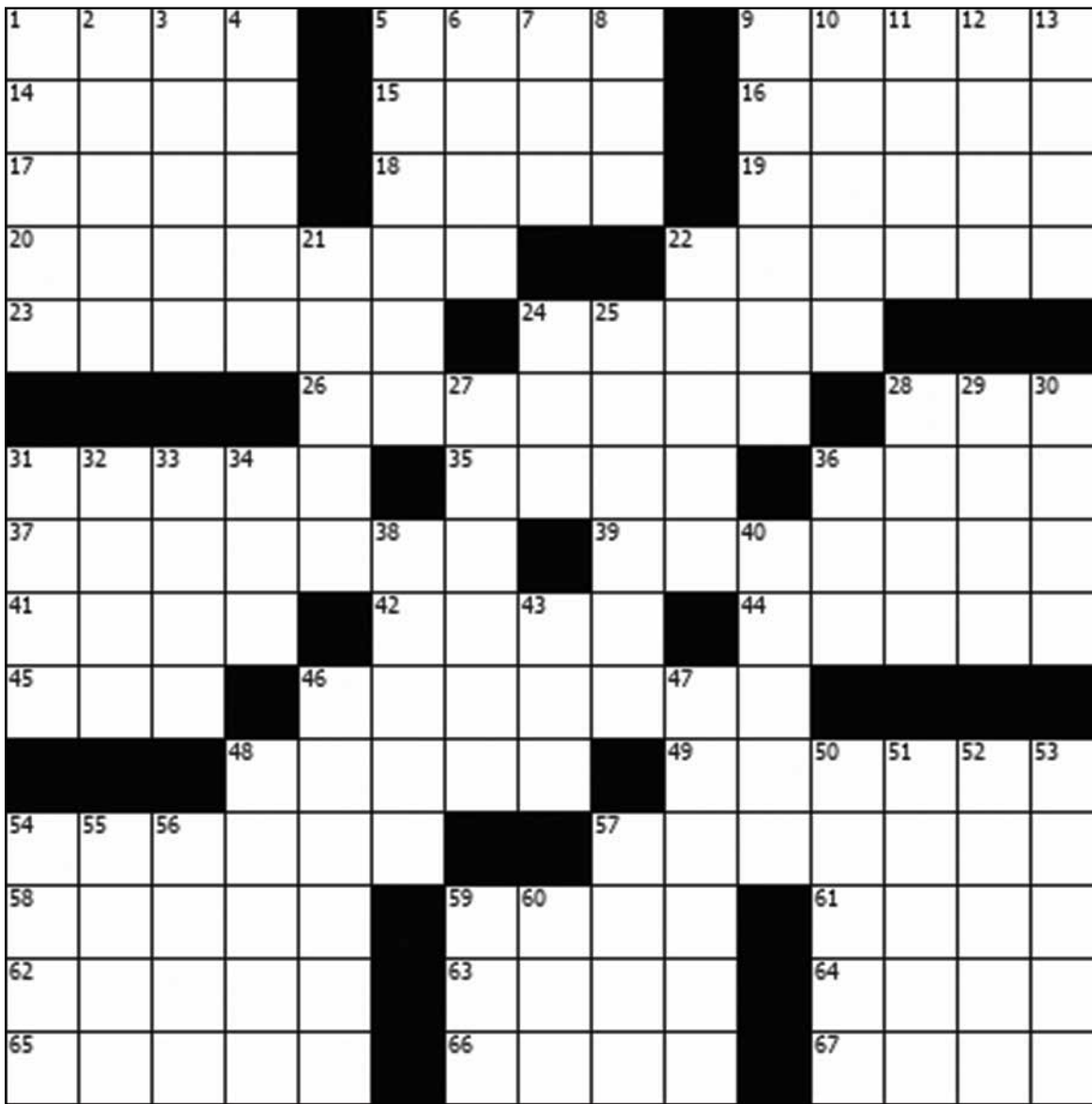
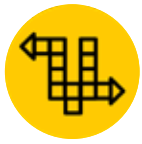
ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

Audiences must recognize the strike’s importance for the industry and workers’ rights. It’s a battle for fairness, equity and the recognition of the creative, enriching forces.

So what next for the SAG-AFTRA strike? The future remains uncertain, but one thing is clear: the voices behind the screen will not be silenced. The show must go on, but it must go

on with fairness and justice for all.

**Dara Babatope is an English major at the University of Winnipeg. In his free time, he writes or watches films.**



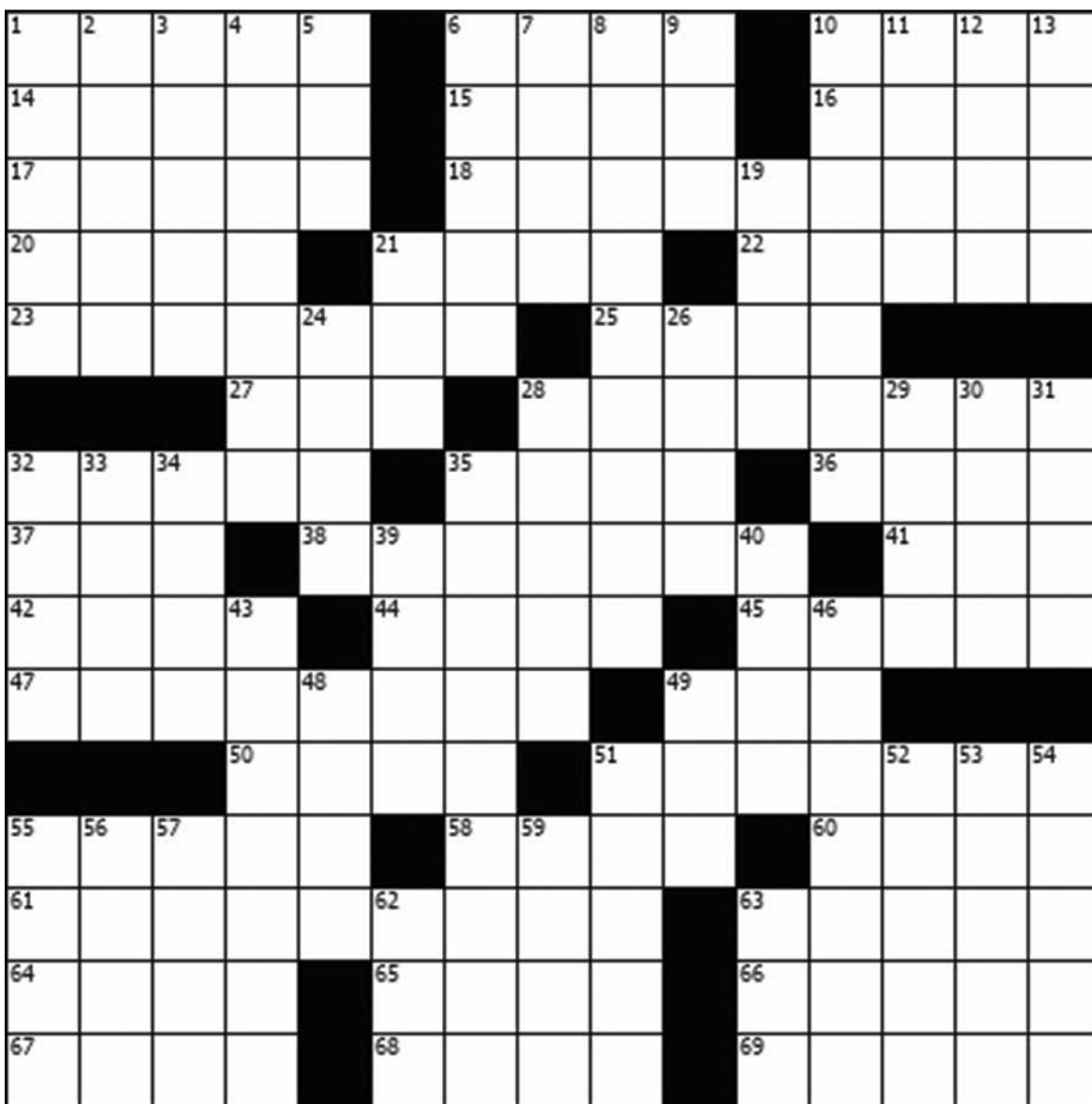
ONLINECROSSWORDS.NET

### ACROSS

- 1. FILE
- 5. MAKES A KNOT
- 9. UNPAID TOILER
- 14. REMOTE
- 15. CAPRI OR WIGHT
- 16. WHITTLED DOWN
- 17. SHORT SKIRT
- 18. ROBIN'S RESIDENCE
- 19. SERVING PERFECTLY
- 20. ASSUMPTION
- 22. MAKE
- 23. TRANQUIL
- 24. PILE UP
- 26. WITH ICE CREAM (3 WDS.)
- 28. \_\_\_\_ AND DON'TS
- 31. LUSTROUS FABRIC
- 35. CONCERN
- 36. FINE SPRAY
- 37. TRAILBLAZER
- 39. SHAKESPEARE PLAY
- 41. FIRST GARDEN
- 42. SINGER DIANA \_\_\_\_
- 44. PERMIT
- 45. FRENCH PREPOSITION
- 46. LOAFER ORNAMENTS
- 48. OLD HAT
- 49. FINALLY (2 WDS.)
- 54. IN ABUNDANCE
- 57. PITTSBURGH PLAYER
- 58. GROWN-UP
- 59. CHIMNEY PART
- 61. VANISHED
- 62. WINTER COAT
- 63. MANY YEARS
- 64. CONNECTING WORDS
- 65. GREASY STREAK
- 66. CLEAN FURNITURE
- 67. NOT AS MUCH

### DOWN

- 1. HIGHWAY ENTRANCES
- 2. FLAMING
- 3. MORE SENSIBLE
- 4. TOP QUALITY
- 5. CHRISTMAS GLITTER
- 6. PSYCHIC'S PHRASE (2 WDS.)
- 7. CITY RAILWAYS
- 8. HARDEN
- 9. SCANTY
- 10. SHOE FASTENERS
- 11. PAVAROTTI SOLO
- 12. AIR DUCT
- 13. MARGIN
- 21. RIDICULOUS
- 22. WEST POINT STUDENT
- 24. PHYSICIANS' GP.
- 25. SULLEN
- 27. CROSSWORD DIRECTION
- 28. PICKLE VARIETY
- 29. NORWEGIAN CAPITAL
- 30. STORE AWAY
- 31. WENT FAST
- 32. HELPER
- 33. LITTLE PIGGIES
- 34. TAVERN
- 36. ACTOR \_\_\_\_ GIBSON
- 38. WIPE OUT
- 40. UNDUE SPEED
- 43. COMPASS POINT (ABBR.)
- 46. DEPOSIT ON TEETH
- 47. NEWEST
- 48. \_\_\_\_ DOT
- 50. LAWFUL
- 51. SOLO
- 52. MAILED
- 53. LOCK OF HAIR
- 54. MOUNTAIN PASSES
- 55. GENESIS MAN
- 56. ENTICE
- 57. WORKS ON A TAN
- 59. GAVE LUNCH TO
- 60. YANKEE \_\_\_\_ GEHRIG



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### ACROSS

- 1. FABLE WRITER
- 6. WHITTLE DOWN
- 10. CURVED DOORWAY
- 14. HOISTING MACHINE
- 15. CRY OF SORROW
- 16. HAY UNIT
- 17. NARROW CHANNEL
- 18. RUMP
- 20. COUNT CALORIES
- 21. PROFOUND
- 22. JARGON
- 23. EDUCATIONAL MEETING
- 25. LACKING HAIR
- 27. FELLOW
- 28. REBEL
- 32. SHARPLY INCLINED
- 35. GULL'S KIN
- 36. BIBLICAL LOCALE
- 37. HAVE A COLD
- 38. STUCK FAST
- 41. IN ADDITION TO
- 42. BIRD'S HOME
- 44. GREASY
- 45. TELEVISION AWARDS
- 47. BUREAUS
- 49. SMALL VEGETABLE
- 50. RIGID
- 51. MOM AND DAD
- 55. LARGE TRUCKS
- 58. INVOICE
- 60. CHAIR
- 61. EXAGGERATE
- 63. GAZE STEADILY
- 64. SOIL
- 65. ON AN OCEAN TRIP
- 66. POINTER
- 67. PUB BEVERAGES
- 68. PRECIOUS STONES
- 69. MAILED

### DOWN

- 1. CITRIC AND BORIC
- 2. TENNESSEE \_\_\_\_ FORD
- 3. MASSACHUSETTS CITY
- 4. FORMER (HYPH.)
- 5. STROKE LOVINGLY
- 6. DOCUMENT
- 7. BURN BALM
- 8. POPULAR JAM FLAVOR
- 9. DETROIT TIME ZONE (ABBR.)
- 10. CONDENSE, AS A NOVEL
- 11. DROUGHT'S LACK
- 12. DRAIN PROBLEM
- 13. SUPERMAN, E.G.
- 19. SHE, IN BORDEAUX
- 21. ACTOR \_\_\_\_ AYKROYD
- 24. CALIFORNIA WINE VALLEY
- 26. DIARIST \_\_\_\_ FRANK
- 28. STAGGERS
- 29. GENESIS MAN
- 30. REFUSE
- 31. ODDS AND \_\_\_\_
- 32. BEACH FEATURE
- 33. STADIUM PART
- 34. BESIDES
- 35. BASEBALL POSITION
- 39. ACTIVE PERSON
- 40. BAMBI, FOR ONE
- 43. SUMMER TOPS (HYPH.)
- 46. EMINENT CONDUCTOR
- 48. LIP
- 49. BUDDY
- 51. EARNEST REQUESTS
- 52. COMES CLOSER
- 53. FORTUNETELLER'S CARD
- 54. HEARTY SOUPS
- 55. FIZZY DRINK
- 56. HARMFUL
- 57. SIMPLE
- 59. LIST ENTRY
- 62. CHILDREN'S GAME
- 63. MAPLE'S FLUID



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