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DYING TO BE THIN

BY LINDA A. CARSON **OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2013**



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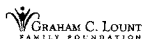


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COVER PHOTO: LEIF NORMAN

DYING TO BE THIN

MANITOBA THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Derek Aasland, *Executive Producer*

Linda A. Carson, *Playwright*

CAST

Heather Russell *Amanda*

CREATIVE TEAM

Krista Jackson *Director*

Linda A. Carson. *Playwright*

Sol Desharnais. *Set and Costume
Designer*

Bill Williams *Lighting Designer*

Susan Chafe *Sound Designer*

Jessica Freundl *Stage Manager*

Keith Damboise *Stage Manager
(extension)*

Tatiana Carnevale. *ASI Mentorship*

PRODUCTION

Laura Lindeblom. *Production Manager*

Curtis Cushnie *Technical Director*

Diane Klisko *Head of Wardrobe*

Samantha Harrison . . . *Head of Properties*

Eric Bosse *Venue Technician*





A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Dying to be Thin is a witty and inspirational look behind locked doors into the secret life of a young teenager living with the eating disorder bulimia. Written from the playwright's own personal experience, the play unfolds to tell the poignant story of

Amanda, as she sets out to have her "last ever in her whole life binge."

I want to thank Linda A. Carson for trusting Manitoba Theatre for Young People with her very personal story and for letting our audiences witness truth and authenticity. Our public and school audiences will come to the theatre AND we will take this incredible one-person show on the road and criss-cross the province so that we can reach 21,600 Manitoban youth in their own schools and communities. I have many more people to thank for bringing this powerful play from the page to the stage, especially Krista Jackson (Director), Heather Russell (Amanda), Sol Desharnais (Set & Costume Designer), Bill Williams (Lighting Designer), Susan Chafe (Sound Designer), and MTYP's great production, administrative, marketing, box office and front-of-house staff.

And, perhaps most importantly I wish to thank YOU...our audience. Theatre cannot happen without you. *Dying to be Thin* brings the unspoken into the open. Make no mistake, our society faces big issues and challenges, but we also have big ideas, passionate supporters like you, and a powerful tool. Thank you for coming to the theatre! Thank you for taking your seats, lifting your voices, and being a part of the conversation.

Manitoba Theatre for Young People is moving to seize the moment, whether it is through our season of plays in 2013-2014, in our theatre school with more than 1,600 children and youth, on social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, MTYP's blog) both before and after the play, or through our outreach and community resource activities. We are made for this moment and we will seize it – so long as we seize it together.

I hope that you will move with us! Enjoy the show.

Sincerely,

Derek Aasland, Executive Producer



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Back in the early 1990's Linda A. Carson was given a writing assignment in her last year of theatre school. To graduate, everyone had to write and perform their own one person-show. She panicked and then thought, "there is one thing in my life that I know a lot about..." And so *Dying to be Thin* was born.

In the play, Linda invites us to share a morning with Amanda Jones – a typical seventeen year old girl who is trying to get herself out of bed and off to school. This seems like a simple enough task, we do it everyday. But her secret struggle with an eating disorder called Bulimia Nervosa is keeping her cut off from normal life and she is slipping further and further away from her friends and family.

Spend some time thinking about the disorder, but then look past it. Man or woman, it won't take long to find a parallel in our lives; to find where our insecurities have a strangle-hold over aspects of us we wish they didn't. Amanda's courage to face herself over the course of the play is a challenge to us all to see what is facing us when we look in the mirror.

Krista Jackson, Director

THE ARTISTS



Heather Russell *Amanda*

Heather is a graduate of the Honours Acting program at the University of Winnipeg and a founding member of both Sweet and Salty Collective and The Talentless Lumps. Favourite credits include: *The Crackwalker* (Sweet and Salty Collective), *Magical Mystery Munsch* (PTE), *Top Dog* (Sarasvati/Winnipeg Fringe), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Folkspeare) and *13 Plays About Love* (Winnipeg Fringe). Watch for her later this season at MTYP in *Night Light*! Thank-you to Krista for giving me this incredible opportunity, to Linda for having the courage to write such a relevant play, and to Cam for his constant love and support! This performance is dedicated to the memory of my Gram and Grandma.



Linda A. Carson *Playwright*

Linda, a graduate of Vancouver's Studio 58, has been a professional actor and writer for 25 years. She has acted in theatres across Canada and written several plays, including *Mom's The Word* (co-wrote, Jessie Award), *George And Martha* (Adapted from James Marshal), *Hear To Here* (Carousel Players) and *Jack and The Bean* (YPT & PHT & MTYP). Linda's latest acting credits include *George and Martha* (Carousel Players), *Where the Wild Things Are* (MTYP), *Rocket and the Queen of Dreams*, (Roseneathe Theatre) and *Brighten Beach Memoirs* (Theatre Northwest). Linda is excited to be back with *Dying To Be Thin*. She thanks each and every person of MTYP's creative, dynamic and committed team who have realized this project.



Krista Jackson *Director*

Krista is very pleased to return to MTYP to direct after last appearing here in *Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang* (1987) and *The Last Voyage of the Devil's Wheel* (1988). After working as an actor for over two decades, Krista returned to live in Winnipeg and founded zone41 theatre to explore classics. For zone41 she has directed *Village Wooing* for the 2012 Master Playwright Festival and most recently *The Miser of Middlegate* in co-production with Theatre Projects Manitoba. She spent last season at The Shaw Festival as assistant director on *Hedda Gabler*, *His Girl Friday* and *Misalliance* and as director of *If Men Played Cards as Women Do & Overtones*. In January, Krista directs *The Seagull* at RMTC. She is the proud 2013 recipient of the Gina Wilkinson Prize for emerging female directors.



Bill Williams *Lighting Designer*

Bill is a well known Canadian lighting designer with more than 40 years of experience and over 600 production credits. He has worked for many leading theatre, dance and opera companies across Canada, Europe, Asia, South America, the U.S., and in the U.K. Bill is delighted to be returning for his 30th show for Manitoba Theatre for Young People.

When not designing for the stage, he is actively involved in the fields of theatre facility consulting, teaching and photography. Bill is also the author of 'Stage Lighting Design 101' and 'A History of Light and Lighting'.



Susan Chafe *Sound Designer*

Susan Chafe has done audio design for Winnipeg theater project Adhere and Deny since 2007, and worked with the dance collective Gearshifting Performance Works since 2010, scoring *Sensory Life*, *Infinite World*, *Hybrid Human* and *Inspiro*. Her sound art has been presented on the Deep Wireless CD 2007 (Toronto, NAISA Adventures in Sound Art), Art in the Air (Faucet Media and Strutts Gallery), This City is a Radio (Paved Arts, Saskatoon), and the Winnipeg

International Performance Festival. She is also a graphic designer and co-founder of the artists' book collective Lives of Dogs.



Sol Desharnais *Set and Costume Designer*

Sol Desharnais is an artist and craftsman who has recently returned to his home town of St-Pierre-Jolys, Manitoba after a decade living in the Jura Region of France. Sol is a contemporary artist and designer of fashion, interiors and sets. His work as a set designer and installation artist has been seen at the Cercle Molière, the Met Winnipeg, the Esplanade Riel Bridge, the Fringe Festival and various events. His SOL Design handbag series sold in fine boutiques across Canada, makes use

of wood, wool, felt and leather in stunning and improbable combinations. Sol is known to reinvent everyday objects and spaces by designing with uncommon associations of materials in a pure and minimal form. He's also a fan of coffee with friends :)



Jessica Freundl *Stage Manager*

Jessica is thrilled to do her first show at MTYP! She graduated with Stage Management and Production degrees. Selected Stage Managing credits include: *Julius Caesar*, *Henry IV and V* (SIR), *The Penelopiad*, *Miracle on South Division Street*, *August Osage County*, *Grumpy Old Men: The Musical*, *The 39 Steps*, *White Christmas*, *Looking Back- West* (MTC), *EDEN* (Sarasvati Productions), *Hairspray* (Rainbow Stage), *Kings Park* (MTTC), *The Father* and *Lenin's Embalmers* (as Running Crew) (WJT).

Dad Voice Over **Paul Essiembre** *Robbie Voice Over* **Tim Carlson**



If you are concerned that a friend might have an eating disorder, or that you might have an eating disorder, talk to someone you trust. This could be a parent, a teacher, a guidance counsellor, or another friend.

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INTERNET

Website

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Eating Disorders: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/mh/eatingdisorders>

YouTube

One woman shares part of her eating disorder recovery story: bit.ly/19UzCDL

IN PERSON

Teen Clinics

If you want to talk to a counselor or a doctor, a teen clinic is a good place to start.

For a listing of teen clinics in Winnipeg and Rural/Northern Manitoba:
<http://teentalk.ca/teen-clinics>

For a longer list of resources for teens, parents, families and friends, go to:

bit.ly/1dfhaIM





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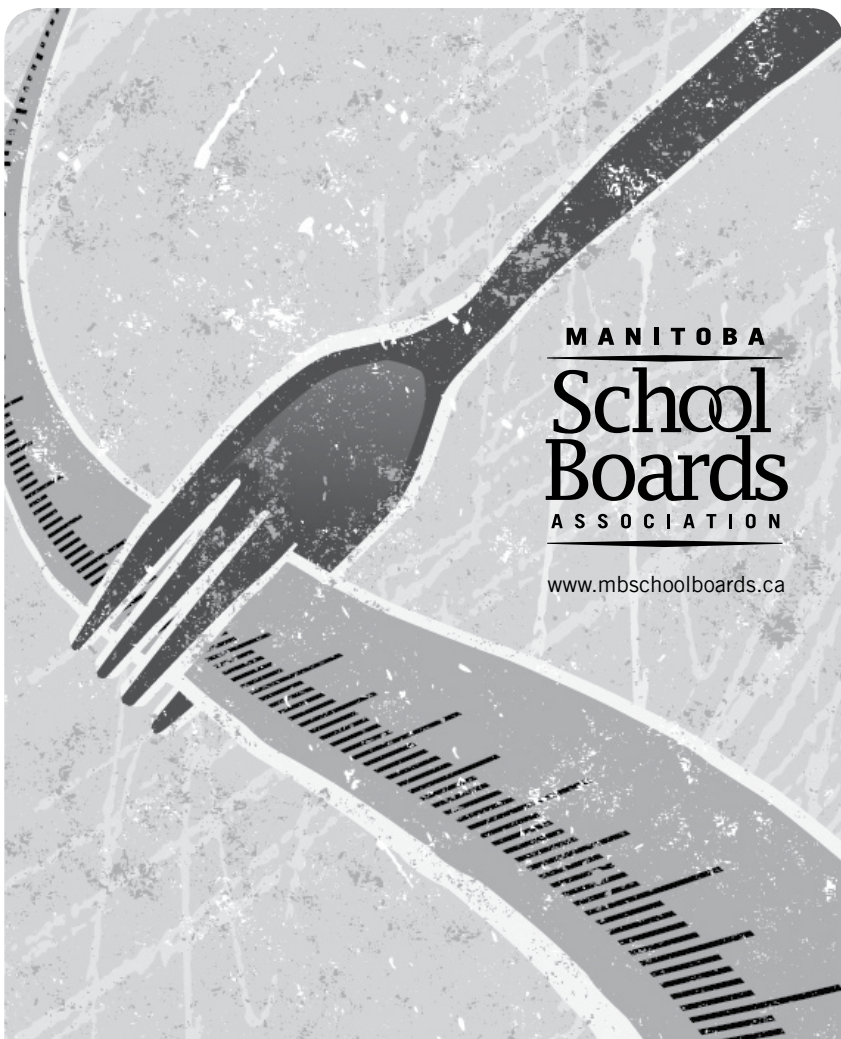
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MTYP
2013-2014

Manitoba Theatre for Young People

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Loc Lu, *Director*

YOUNG COMPANY:

B. Pat Burns, *Director*

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Theresa Thomson, *Director*

MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY:

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Mike McKay, *Musical Director*
Ksenia Broda-Milian, *Assistant Director*
Tori Popp, *Assistant Stage Manager*

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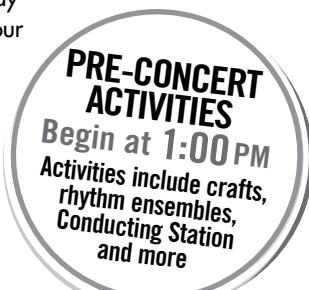
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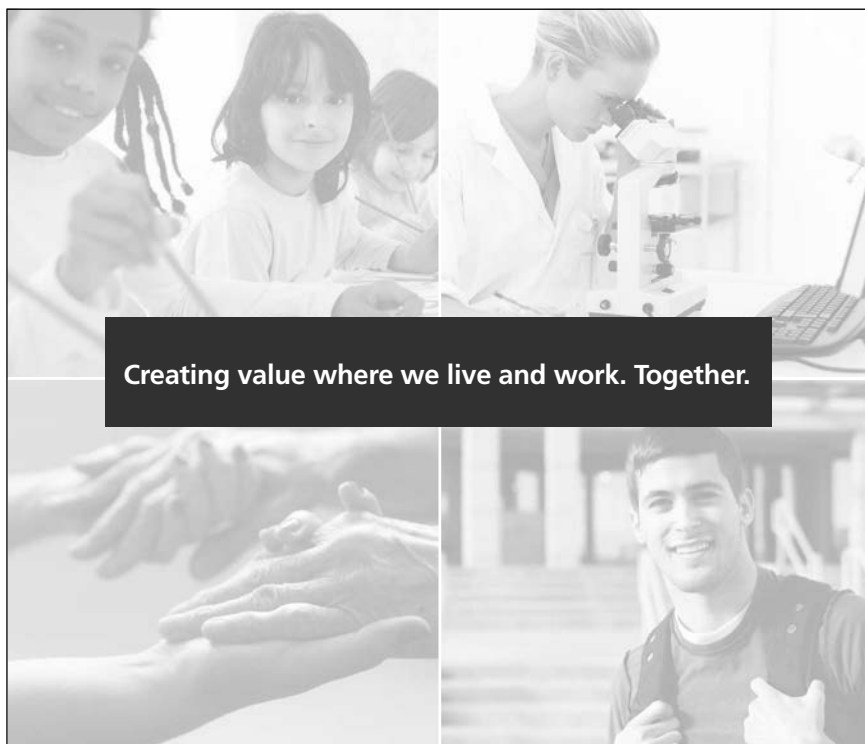
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