



25TH STREET THEATRE



2025 Annual Report

Prepared by

Anita Smith

Artistic & Executive Director

Designed by

Katie Blackburn-Dust

Operations Manager

with Rebecca Spilchak

Administrative Support



Top: Puppets in *Luna* by Danielle Roy, Photo by Nicole Stevenson Photography
Middle: Johnny Tootoosis at the 2025 Fringe Festival, Photo by Andrew Bromell
Bottom: Company of *Mustard* by Kat Sandler, Photo by Nicole Stevenson Photography

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With great respect, 25th Street Theatre humbly acknowledges that we benefit as an organization and as individuals as a result of operating on Treaty Six Territory which is the traditional lands of the Cree, the Saulteaux, the Dakota, the Nakota, the Dene, and the Lakota and is recognized as the homeland of the Métis Nation. We pay our respects to the elders and ancestors of this place.



Above: 2025 Fringe Preview night at The Broadway Theatre, photo by Bokeh Media

Our Mission

25th Street Theatre creates and delivers relevant, engaging theatre programming for community members in Saskatoon and beyond. We support local artistic development, and young people with a curiosity for theatre by providing healthy, safe opportunities to share their talent, connect with the community, and learn from others.



Our Vision

25th Street Theatre is a financially sustainable organization sought out by artists for our equitable and safe environment. Our theatre shares and honours the voices of all people in accessible, inclusive spaces.

Our Values

1

Equity and Inclusion: We are committed to critically thinking about what we do and how we do it in order to be an equitable and inclusive organization.

2

Accountability: We exercise good governance and manage our finances with due diligence. We make tough decisions if needed in order to stay financially viable.

3

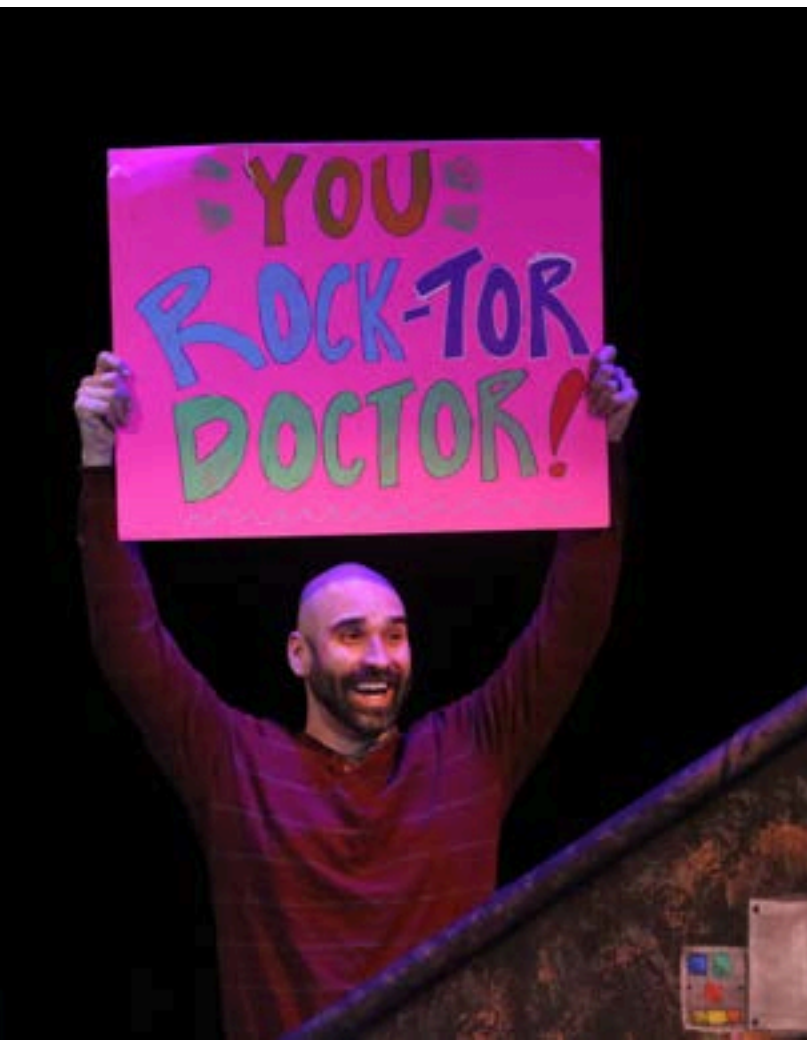
Safety: We are a safe workplace for all. We have documented processes to maintain health and safety for our staff, artists, and community members. We create safe spaces for community to engage in theatre.

4

Connection: We foster connection amongst the community, artists, and aspiring artists by bringing them together in unique, shared experiences.

5

Environmental Stewardship: We make decisions on procurement and program delivery with environmental stewardship as our guide.



Top: The Company of *Can't Help Falling in Love with Shakespeare* (Live Fully Productions) 2025 Fringe Preview Night, Photo by Bokeh Media
Left: Ed Mendez in *Luna* by Danielle Roy at the BackStage Stage 2025, Photo by Nicole Stevenson Photography
Right Top: Anita Smith and Mara Teare in *Mustard* by Kat Sandler 2025, Photo by Nicole Stevenson Photography
Right Bottom: Volunteers at the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe, photo by Abbey Fraser Saddleback

Board Chair Message

25th Street Theatre's 2024-2025 season was one of extraordinary storytelling and unique performing arts experiences for patrons to enjoy! One of my favourite parts of writing this message is the opportunity to reflect on all the wonderful moments, people, and performances that are part of each season. This season was no exception and included many wonderful "Beyond the Fringe" theatre pieces that inspired audiences.

First was a powerful production about friendship, love, growing up and finding magic where you least expect it in *Mustard* by Kat Sandler. At times hilarious and at other times heartbreaking, this show challenged audiences to consider how old is too old to believe in imaginary friends. Next was a re-staging of *Luna* by Danielle Roy, a beloved show from the 2023-24 season, that is for younger audiences. This show visited rural schools across Saskatchewan to share the magic of theatre with as many audiences as possible. The final "Beyond the Fringe" project was *Behind Closed Doors*, a playwriting development program, which is the most unique project from the season. Six local playwrights were challenged to stretch the boundaries of what we typically see as theatre and consider the question "what would we see if we could take a look behind closed doors?" Playwrights started developing their work, and the performance of these pieces will be a part of the 2025-26 season.

The final piece of the season was the Saskatoon Fringe Festival. Despite challenges around construction on the Broadway Bridge and Broadway neighbourhood Bus Rapid Transit stops, our staff came together to pull off a wonderful Fringe Festival. The Fringe brings our community together to enjoy live theatre and exciting busker performances, and it continues to be a staple in Saskatoon's busy summer festival scene.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated and resilient staff for putting together an inspiring and successful season. It was wonderful seeing the team, led by our Artistic and Executive Director, Anita Smith, bring our community together in so many ways through live theatre. 25th Street Theatre continues to be a leader in Saskatoon's arts and theatre community, and I am excited to see what the team has in store this coming season.

The Board also wants to express our sincere gratitude to our passionate supporters who continue to buy tickets for shows, help us to reach fundraising goals, and give up their valuable time to make 25th Street Theatre such a vibrant organization. A theatre company is only as strong as its supporters, patrons, artists, vendors and volunteers, and we are incredibly lucky to have strong community support in Saskatoon.

I know our theatre company will continue to delight and inspire audiences thanks to a dedicated leader, a creative team, and a solid foundation of community support. The future is bright for 25th Street Theatre, and I am privileged to be a part of this wonderful organization.

Jennifer Nairn
Board Chair

Artistic & Executive Director Summary



As I approach the seven-year mark at the helm of 25th Street Theatre, I am proud of the steps forward the organization has taken under my leadership, but I will remember the 2024-2025 season as the year the year-round staff stepped up when I stepped back.

When the Board agreed to my request for a four-month leave of absence so I could spend time with my family over the summer months, this meant that the three remaining year-round staff members (Katie Blackburn-Dust, Drew Mantyka, and Philippa Williams) would have increased responsibilities while I was away. This included increased human resource management, financial

management, and artistic oversight as well as reporting directly to the Board of Directors. While I know there were challenges, they navigated the roadblocks (some of them literal) that they encountered in a way that aligns with the values of 25th Street Theatre, and for that, I am very proud.

Because of the financial support that we received from the Brownlee Family Foundation and the 25K for 25th Street Theatre donors, we were once again able to plan a full season of Beyond the Fringe programming which included the Saskatchewan premiere of *Mustard* by Canadian playwright Kat Sandler; a remounting of *Luna* by Saskatchewan playwright Danielle Roy; the continuation of our Fringe Goes North program featuring Toronto based Fringe artist Keith Brown; and *Behind Closed Doors*, a playwright development program that paired six Saskatchewan playwrights with experienced dramaturges as they each developed a short, site-specific piece of theatre. Through this programming between the months of January and May, we employed 61 theatre artists and connected with over 2,600 audience members in 14 communities throughout Saskatchewan, putting \$134,000 into the pockets of theatre artists and over \$700,000 directly into the Saskatchewan economy. These are statistics of which we should be exceptionally proud considering we did not produce theatre for 21 years (1999 - 2020). Our artistic, cultural, and financial impact on the province of Saskatchewan has grown substantially in the past six years.

We have, of course, been producing the Saskatoon Fringe Festival since 1989, and 2025 was no exception. We welcomed 93 theatre artists to the Festival as they produced 23 plays at four venues throughout Saskatoon, including the expansion to the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan site with our first foray into Bring Your Own Venue. The Festival was impacted by construction on Broadway Avenue resulting in fewer artisan vendor spaces for Broadway Days and a less visually pleasing space.

There was also a year over year decrease in circle busking artists of 56% at the 2025 Festival, which is reflective of a national trend. Without guaranteed fees, outdoor busking performers are less likely to make the trek to difficult to reach destinations like Saskatoon.

When I started in my role with 25th Street Theatre in 2019, there were a number of goals that I set for myself, and the one that I have had the most difficulty reaching is my goal to update our Collective Bargaining Agreement with IATSE Local 300. I am so pleased to report that we were finally able to reach an agreement in the spring of 2025. This involved literally years of effort, and it was not until the union brought in international representation and dedicated a week to in-person negotiations that we were able to effectively move things forward. It is important to note that the efforts of board member, Nathan Sgrazzutti, were vital to us reaching an agreement that accurately reflects the realities of our organization's circumstances. Thank you, Nathan.

In early November of 2025, we hosted the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals Conference for the first time. While this technically took place in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the planning took place in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. We hosted colleagues from Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Whitehorse, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Ottawa, Toronto, Halifax, Elgin (Illinois), and Orlando (Florida). We engaged in conversations around common concerns and shared what is working at each of our festivals. The first two days of the conference were at the Alt Hotel and we went to Wanuskewin for the final day of the conference, which was a highlight for many. Attendance was down from previous conferences, and the generally held belief is that this was tied to the increased cost of getting to Saskatoon in comparison to a larger centre.

As I reflect on the work that we have done this past year, and the work we are currently undertaking, I am reminded of a quote oft attributed to Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." 25th Street Theatre is far from the largest theatre company in the province, and we do not have the resources of the larger organizations, but I can look each of our supporters in the eye and state with certainty that we make the most of every dollar we receive. The people who keep this company going year after year are resourceful, adaptable, and dedicated. It is the people who make or break an organization. It is for that reason, 25th Street Theatre has endured for over 50 years, and so long as we continue to prioritize creating an environment where good people want to be, I am sure we will continue to attract the people who will see this organization through the next 50 years.

Anita Smith

Artistic & Executive Director

Organizational Highlights & Challenges

Highlights

- Because the Artistic & Executive Director took a four-month leave of absence, the remaining year-round staff members took on new responsibilities and leadership roles.
- We employed 61 artists through our Beyond the Fringe programming, putting \$134,000 back into the pockets of theatre artists, 98% of whom call Saskatchewan home.
- Our Beyond the Fringe production of *Mustard* received overwhelmingly positive feedback with Danny Knight receiving the Saskatoon and Area Theatre Award for Outstanding Performance for his performance as Bug and 25th Street was awarded Outstanding Production.
- We effectively supported the development of six new plays by six Saskatchewan playwrights through *Behind Closed Doors*.
- Thanks to the support of Seiferling Law and with the help of Nathan Sgrazzutti, we were able to negotiate a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with IATSE Local 300.
- The feedback from Fringe theatre artists suggest that we are one of the most popular stops on the Fringe circuit.
- With the support of Creative Saskatchewan, we began working with Board Dynamics to update our policies and bylaws and provide the Board with the tools necessary to effectively govern the organization.

Challenges

- While we were told that the construction scheduled to take place on Broadway Avenue would not overlap with the Saskatoon Fringe Festival, it did. As a result, changes were necessary to the Festival site, and there was decreased participation from patrons, artisan vendors, and outdoor performing artists. There was a direct financial impact of this on the Festival, but there was also a financial impact on the outdoor performing artists and the artisan vendors with one vendor reporting a 64% drop in year over year sales.
- Our Collaboration Station+: In Schools tour was forced to end early as a result of illness making its way through the cast.
- A combination of factors including the Saskatoon Ex shifting their dates to overlap with the Saskatoon Fringe Festival resulted in fewer patrons at the outdoor portion of the Festival.
- Due to the limited capacity of our staff and the change in staff at the Saskatchewan Jazz Festival, we were unable to advance the shared community resources project in a meaningful way in this fiscal year, but plans are in place for forward motion in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- A 56% decrease in the number of applications from Circle Busking performers resulted in fewer outdoor performances than usual.
- Due to a blizzard, we were forced to postpone our Fringe Goes North program, but fortunately, we were able to send magician Keith Brown to the community of Wollaston in the spring of 2025.

Financial Position

The fiscal year of 25th Street Theatre runs from November 1st to October 31st. Our overall financial position is strong thanks to a culture of fiscal responsibility that includes researched budgeting, maintaining keen oversight of spending, and incredible donor support.

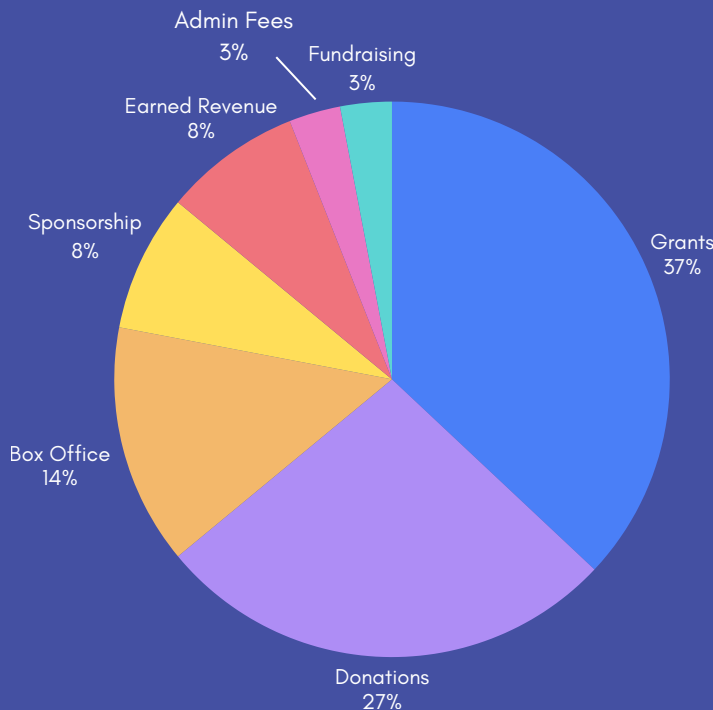
Our investment portfolio at SunLife Financial has made gains from the previous fiscal year and now exceeds our initial investment of \$80,000 with a balance of \$149,237 as of October 31st, 2025, but it should be noted that this includes \$60,000 from the Brownlee Family Foundation which was placed in a mutual fund so it could acquire interest until it is needed in the 2025-2026 fiscal year in support of a large project that spans two fiscal years.

Our endowment fund that was established thanks to the generosity of Robert Steane and is held in trust with the Saskatoon Community Foundation, continues to provide our organization with an annual payment of the interest generated, and in this year amounted to approximately \$5,500.

As you can see from the chart below, approximately 64% of our funding comes from donations and grants (down from 68% in 2023-2024), with sponsorships accounting for 8% (up from 5% in 2023-2024). While decreased sponsorships of live theatre is a common trend across the industry, we welcomed ATB Wealth as a new sponsor this fiscal year, and we look forward to continuing to foster this relationship.

As funding from government entities remains stagnant, I continue to believe that making and maintaining healthy relationships with donors is essential to the success of 25th Street Theatre moving forward.

Overall Revenue Breakdown 2024-2025



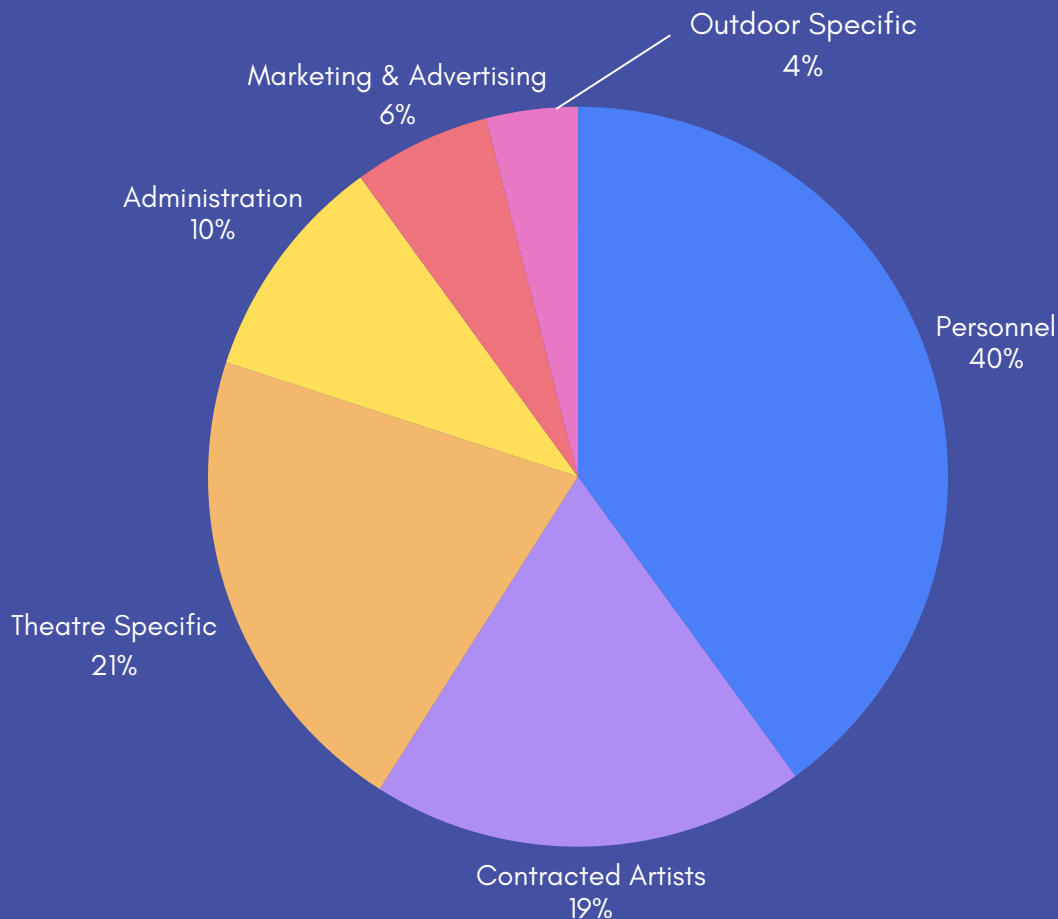
Fundraising initiatives undertaken this past year include:

- Online 50/50 Raffle
- Merchandise Sales
- Fringe Fun Run
- Carnival Games
- Bar Sales

25th Street Theatre was proud to be supported by the following funders:



Overall Expenses Breakdown 2024-2025



Grants & Funding

The following is a list of the grants received in support of projects initiated by 25th Street Theatre during the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

Granting Organization <i>(in alphabetical order)</i>	Contribution
Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals - Travel Bursary	\$400
Canada Summer Jobs	\$46,129
Canadian Heritage - Canada Arts Presentation Fund	\$29,700
City of Saskatoon - Community Grant	\$4,000
City of Saskatoon - Culture Grant	\$35,000
City of Saskatoon - Environmental Grant	\$1,500
City of Saskatoon - Community Reserve*	\$10,000
Community Initiatives Fund - Annual	\$50,000
Community Initiatives Fund - Summer	\$7,500
Creative Saskatchewan - Business Improvement Grant*	\$8,000
Creative Saskatchewan - Live Performing Arts	\$19,972
Creative Saskatchewan - Micro Marketing	\$5,000
Cultural Human Resources Council - Young Canada Works	\$7,250
David Edney Fund for Theatre	\$15,000
SK Arts - Festivals	\$45,000
Saskatchewan Liquor & Gaming Authority	\$443
Tourism Saskatchewan	\$7,500

*Deferred to 2025-2026 because of ongoing work.

Strategic Plan

Through SaskCulture, we were able to work with Shawna Enns at Praxis Consulting to develop a strategy map for 25th Street Theatre. This map (and our updated mission, vision, and values) was finalized in June of 2022 and has been shared with all staff and board members. It is used by the leadership team to guide us toward making decisions that align with our values and to ensure that we keep our collective momentum moving forward toward reaching our goals.

By 2025, 25th Street Theatre seeks to:

1. Develop a physical space for theatre creation. Ideally a place for administrative staff, artists, classes, and collaborations.
2. Grow an active, diverse, and engaged community meaningfully connected to 25th Street Theatre.
3. Develop sustainable ways to remove barriers for all to create and participate in theatre.



Above: 2025 Fringe Preview Night, photo by Andrew Bromell

2025 Saskatoon Fringe Festival

From July 30th to August 9th of 2025, 25th Street Theatre produced the 35th Saskatoon Fringe Festival featuring 23 local, national, and international theatre companies in 144 performances in four venues over 10 days. The outdoor portion of the event was located on 11th Street East between Broadway Avenue and Dufferin Avenue and in W.E. Graham Park behind Ecole Victoria. For three days (August 2nd to 4th), the outdoor portion of the Festival expanded to include Broadway Avenue between 10th Street East and 12th Street East, though the east side of Broadway in front of Ecole Victoria was unusable due to ongoing construction by the City of Saskatoon. In addition to the indoor theatre performances, the festival also featured 81 artisan vendors, 16 community organizations, 7 food trucks, and 26 street performers/music buskers as part of the 10 day event.

With Interim Festival Manager, Philippa Williams at the helm, the Festival kicked off with the ever-popular preview night hosted by local theatre artist Peace Akintade and local drag queen AnnaLynne Mokho. Performers were given two minutes to pitch their shows to attendees with the hopes of convincing them to buy a ticket. The Festival concluded with our Fringe Encore performance of *Cabaret of Legends*, produced by Dynamite Lunchbox Entertainment, the same group that we welcomed for our first ever Fringe Encore performance in 2022.

There were three official theatre venues in and around the Broadway area as part of the Saskatoon Fringe:

- Cosmopolitan Senior Citizens Centre
- The Broadway Theatre
- The Refinery Arts & Spirit Centre

We also expanded our “indoor” performance venues in 2025, to include our first satellite location at the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival which hosted two productions in a tent on their site.



Poster Design by Jaymie Raefla

2025 Indoor Theatre

Local	National	International
<i>Find Me, Please</i> Vaahe Art Group (Saskatoon, SK)**	<i>Brain</i> Blair Moro (Vancouver, BC)	<i>(a)political</i> Bobby Wesley (Orlando, USA)
<i>Shawn and Danny's Deadly Adventure</i> Little Black Bird Productions (Saskatoon, SK)**	<i>The Family Crow: A Murder Mystery</i> The Pucking Fuppet Company (Toronto, ON)	<i>Age Old Tales For All Ages</i> Paul Strickland Presents (Kentucky, USA)*
<i>A Spoonful of Magic</i> Krol Entertainment (Saskatoon, SK)	<i>Drag Me to the Opera</i> Aida Cupcake Presents (Calgary, AB)	<i>Oz</i> Rooks Entertainment Productions (Las Vegas, USA)
<i>The Mooneaters</i> Two Good Shoes (Saskatoon, SK)	<i>Jimmy Hogg: The Potato King</i> Jimmy Hogg (Toronto, ON)	<i>1 Small Lie: Martin Dockery</i> Concrete Drops Theatre (Brooklyn, USA)
<i>Colourless Ruby & the Fantastical</i> <i>Missing Shades</i> Skin and Bones Collective (Saskatoon, SK)*	<i>The Day the Beanstalk Market Crashed</i> Mind of a Snail Puppet Co. (Vancouver, BC)	<i>Adventures in Canadian Parking Lots</i> jem rolls/big words (Berkshire, UK)
<i>Spell It Out!!</i> Rogue Souls Productions (Saskatoon, SK)	<i>GOOSE!</i> Faux Ghost (Winnipeg, MB)	<i>Red Dirt/Red Storm</i> Second Star to the Right Productions (Lake Balboa, USA)
<i>The Prehistoric Wildlife Rescue Centre</i> Graeme Hopkins (Saskatoon, SK)*	<i>Tragedy or Triumph: An Improvised</i> <i>Shakespearean Epic</i> The Spontaneous Shakespeare Company (Vancouver, BC)	<i>The Singing Psychic Game Show</i> Glint of Light Ltd (London, UK)
<i>That's Life: A Verbatim Piece</i> beautifulminds theatre (Saskatoon, SK)**	<p>The Broadway Theatre The Refinery Arts & Spirit Centre The Cosmopolitan Senior Citizen's Centre Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan: Raynor Whiteside Financial Group Community Stage (BYOV)</p>	
<i>Can't Help Falling In Love... with</i> <i>Shakespeare</i> Live Fully Productions (Saskatoon, SK)	<p>*Kids Fringe **Diverse Voices Program participant. The Diverse Voices Program is meant to serve artists from our priority communities which includes Indigenous artists, artists of Colour, and Newcomer and Refugee artists. Through this program, the application and registration fees for the Saskatoon Fringe Festival were waived for participants thanks to the support of the Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation.</p>	

Attendance & Box Office

With nearly 6,200 tickets sold to the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe Festival, box office revenue was comparable to sales in 2024 which were up by 29% when compared to 2023.

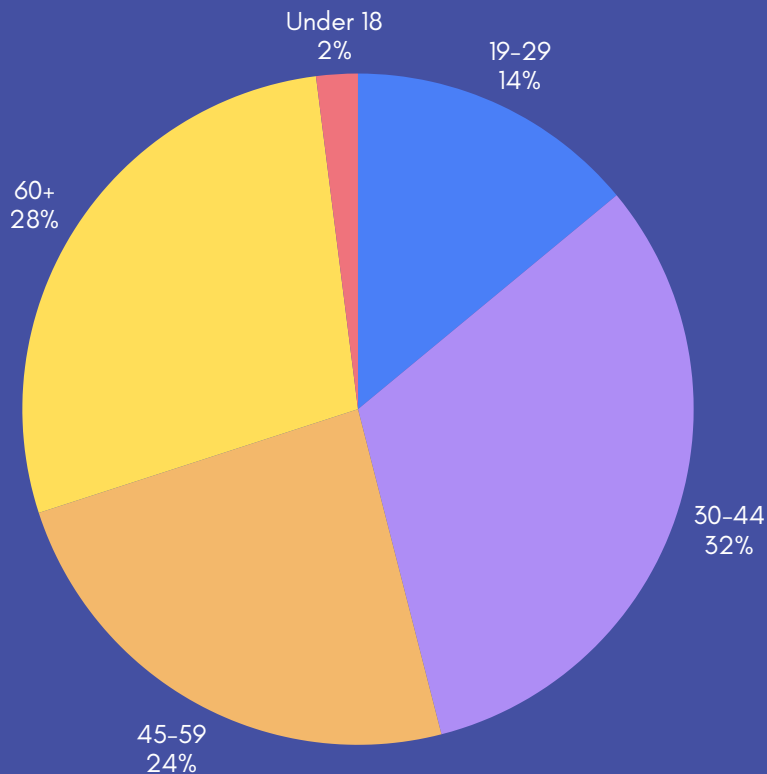
The bestselling show was *Jimmy Hogg: The Potato King* (Toronto), with a take-home box office of \$7,393.00 from their run at the Broadway Theatre. The average take-home box office at the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe Festival was \$3,440, which is a decrease of 4.7% from the average take home box office in 2024, but still up significantly when compared to 2023.

Based on the responses that we received from ticket buyers, we have learned the following about those who purchased tickets to a Fringe theatre performance:



Above: *The Family Crow: A Murder Mystery* at 2025 Fringe Preview Night, Photo by Andrew Bromell

Ticket Buyers by Age*



*Data was collected for approximately 50% of patrons. The reason for this is people who were purchasing tickets in person were not asked to answer the survey questions.



Above: Chris Parsons performing at the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe Festival, Photo by Andrew Bromell

Accolades

Our anonymous three-person jury, once again, was able to see every show at the Saskatoon Fringe Festival, and selected what they felt were the best shows in the following categories:



Outdoor Festival

The outdoor portion of our 2025 Festival once again took place in W.E. Graham Park and along one block of 11th Street East between Dufferin Avenue and Broadway Avenue. From August 2nd to 4th, our footprint expanded onto Broadway Avenue to engage the local businesses and recapture the energy of shutting down a major street to traffic to foot traffic which many patrons still cherish. Sadly, we were forced to physically reduce this expansion because of the ongoing City of Saskatoon Rapid Transit construction, which negatively impacted many areas of the event. Despite the interruption due to construction, the Festival still featured:

- Food Trucks (7)
- Full Artisan Vendors (20)
- Broadway Days Artisan Vendors (61)
- Community Corner (16)
- Outdoor performers (26)
- Street Stage
- Park Deck
- Carnival Games
- Complimentary Bike Valet
- Collaboration Station
- Fringe Beer Gardens
- Arts Engagement Activities (Pinwheel Art Workshops, Wild Prairie Art Gallery in memory of Joan Pain, S.A.L.T. Mine Theatre Workshop, Princess Story Time by Enchanted Saskatoon)
- Fringe Yoga



Collaboration Station

A beloved feature of the Festival, now in its sixth year, Collaboration Station is a free, drop-in arts program where young people can engage in theatre creation. Under the leadership of Dillon Person, with assistance from two other theatre artists, activities were focused on the popular children's tale, Where the Wild Things Are. Activities included making monster faces and crowns, scenic painting, and a wild rumpus parade that traipsed through the park full of little "wildlings" in costumes with their noise makers. We estimate that over 400 people participated in the program over the course of the Festival.



Thelma Pepper Art Walk

Once again led by Kelsey Ford, we hosted the Thelma Pepper Art Walk on August 2nd, with financial support from the Pepper family. The guided walk was held in a new location this year, beginning near the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival site and taking participants along the Meewasin Trail. This year was particularly well attended as the timeline coincided with the Pepper Family reunion. The Walk focused on telling Thelma's story and introducing people to her favourite medium, photography.



Thelma Pepper Art Walk led by Kelsey Ford at the 2025 Fringe, Photo by Seth Adams

Community Corner

For the fifth consecutive year, non-profit organizations from across Saskatoon were invited to participate in the Festival through our Community Corner program. Groups were given a 10' x 10' space on the outdoor portion of the site where they could speak with people about the services they offer/engage with the public in the way they best see fit. Some organizations distributed swag, some set up activities, while others simply handed out pamphlets. These spaces were free to the community groups that chose to participate.



Foundations Learning at Community Corner at the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe, Photo by Bokeh Media

Saskatoon Fringe Fun Run



Before the Festival site opened on August 3rd, a group of 28 runners/walkers/strollers set off from the Saskatoon Fringe Festival site for a Fringe 5K Fun Run. Now in its third year, the run was overseen by Race Director, Carol Affleck, and we received in-kind donations from Brainsport Saskatoon, Carol & Ross Affleck, and Rénee Dust & Todd Bailey.

Above: Race Director Carol Affleck & Fun Run Participant at the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe Fun Run, Photo by Katie Blackburn-Dust
Below: Drag Performance on the Park Deck at the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe, Photo by Bokeh Media



Beyond the Fringe

Collaboration Station+: In Schools - *Luna*



Tour Dates: March 24th – April 10th, 2025

Tour Locations: Davidson, Lampman, Mossbank, Grand Coulee, Moose Jaw, Vanscoy, Martensville, Edam, Hillmond, Maymont, Plenty, Wilkie (cancelled), Blaine Lake (cancelled), Leoville (cancelled)

Public Performance Dates: April 11th & 12th, 2025

Public Performance Venue: The BackStage Stage, Rемаi Arts Centre

This theatre-based initiative saw five theatre artists tour the province to 11 communities, spending the day with students in each community. In the morning, the artists presented a fully-staged production of *Luna* written by Saskatchewan playwright, Danielle Roy which we originally staged with many of the same artists in the winter of 2024. *Luna* follows the story of a 12-year old who has built a time machine in her Dad's garage, with plans of unfreezing her mother - who is trapped in time. Performed by four actors, *Luna* is a Theatre for Young Audiences play about grief, loss, depression, and the strength it takes to move forward.

In the afternoon the four performers offered four theatre-based workshops to four groups of students between the ages of 5 and 17. The workshops focused on playwrighting, puppetry, movement, and improvisation. The content of the workshops was catered to meet the needs of the age of the students engaged to participate in the project.

Unfortunately, illness made its way through the touring members of the company, which resulted in cancelled performances and workshops for the communities of Wilkie, Blaine Lake, and Leoville, and a replacement Stage Manager being needed for the public performances.

Through this program, 25th Street Theatre offered 44 workshops to over 1,600 students before culminating in three public performances at The BackStage Stage for 180 patrons.





“ The group was very good and were excellent with the students and staff. The kids enjoyed both the production and the workshop, and all staff that attended were very happy with everything as well. Thanks again for your efforts.

”

Mossbank School in Mossbank, SK

“ The whole group has been great to work with and we enjoyed visiting with all of them. Thank you for the opportunity to have this troupe in.

Hillmond Elementary School, Hillmond, SK

”

“ What a wonderful performance!! Your crew was amazing to work with and the kids were so engaged in the performance. I was able to take part in a couple of the workshops and they were awesome! We would love to have you back in the future!!

H.Hardcastle School, Edam, SK

”



“ It was great for my grand daughter and her friends to realize that their own stories can be told in performance. That the creativity and artistry is on stage and behind the scenes. We were inspired by it all!

Patron Feedback

“ This show was spectacular. I wasn't expecting to cry and feel so much but grief is just unexpressed love. Incredible acting and staging. 10/10 experience!!

Patron Feedback

Beyond the Fringe

Mustard

Dates: January 29th - February 8th, 2025

Venue: The BackStage Stage at The Remai Arts Centre

SATAward Nominations: Rory Jewiss, Artistic Excellence (Set Design); Outstanding Production; Peace Akintade, Artistic Excellence in Choreography (Intimacy Choreographer); Ed Mendez & Danielle Spilchen, Artistic Excellence in Choreography (Fight Choreographer); Danny Knight, Artistic Excellence in Performance (Bug)

SATAward Recipients: Danny Knight, Artistic Excellence in Performance (Bug); Outstanding Production

Playwright Kat Sandler, Canada's indie darling, made her Saskatchewan debut with our production of *Mustard* in January & February of 2025. The entirely Saskatchewan team began working on *Mustard* right after the holidays, and the show officially opened on January 31st, 2025. Hosting just over 600 patrons over the course of the run, this magical play explored themes of love, loneliness, family, violence, hope, and life transitions. With an average house size of 55 patrons, *Mustard* took audiences on a mind-bending and deeply real exploration of modern life in a whimsical and occasionally terrifying way. The feedback from patrons was overwhelmingly positive for this production, with patrons often returning to see the production multiple times.



Above: Mara Teare and Kayvon Khoshkam in *Mustard* at the BackStage Stage 2025, Photo by Nicole Stevenson Photography

“ From start to finish *Mustard* and everything about the 25th St Theatre production was amazing! The show was very entertaining, funny and emotional. Every cast member really fit their role and gave it their all. This theatre is a real treasure in Saskatoon!

Patron Feedback

”



“ This production was simply PHENOMENAL!!!! I had no idea what to expect and it blew me away! I laughed and cried and am likely going again! The actors were outstanding - STANDING OVATION!!! Well done!

Patron Feedback

”

“ It is a masterful mix of poignancy and hilarity delivered with art and class. It would be a shame to miss this show.

Patron Feedback

”

“ There were so many twists and surprises that kept me at the edge of my seat and humour that kept on giving! Absolutely worth venturing out to see on a cold cold night.

Patron Feedback

”

“ This show was an excellent work of art from the set to the acting to the overall experience. Congrats to everyone involved!

Patron Feedback

”

Beyond the Fringe

Behind Closed Doors

Dates: May 5-9, 2025

Rehearsal Venue: University of Saskatchewan Drama Department

Reading Venue: The Avenue Room

The *Behind Closed Doors* project was inspired by four things:

- the struggle to find available theatrical performance space;
- the desire to support the development of new Saskatchewan plays;
- the hope that by staging moments that are meant to be private, we may understand others better; and
- the belief that this had the potential to be an unforgettable theatre experience for patrons.

When this idea was shared with Mr. Brownlee, he agreed to support the project so long as one of the scripts taught those who have had every societal advantage that not everyone has the same start.

With that, we opened up applications, and we received nearly five times the number of pieces we could accept. In the end, six playwrights were selected to, for the next five months, work with one of two professional dramaturgs engaged on the project to develop their concept into a site-specific theatre piece of no more than 20 minutes. In May of 2025, 14 performers and three directors workshoped and rehearsed the pieces with the playwrights before presenting them to a small, invited audience.

Because of this work, we are now moving forward with fully-staged versions of these pieces in non-traditional venues throughout Saskatoon including a school bus, a coffee shop, a women's nightclub bathroom, the basement of a former medical facility, a "gentlemen's parlour," and the announcer's booth at a baseball diamond. *Behind Closed Doors* will not be your typical night at the theatre, it will be a theatrical adventure for patrons.

Beyond the Fringe

Fringe Goes North: *Absolute Magic* by Keith Brown

Show 1: November 21st, 2024 at Forest Grove Elementary, Saskatoon

Show 2: April 9th, 2025 at Father Megret School, Wollaston Lake

With the support of Orano, we once again were able to take a taste of the Fringe to Northern Saskatchewan... eventually. We put out a call for interest to the 2024 Saskatoon Fringe artists, and we selected Keith Brown's show, *Absolute Magic*, to travel to Wollaston Lake.

While we were prepared to head North in November, the weather had other plans. With the first snowstorm of the season forcing the cancellation of flights from Saskatoon to Wollaston Lake, the performer (of Toronto) was unexpectedly stuck in Saskatoon. Fortunately, we were able to find a school for him to perform in while he was here. Forest Grove Elementary School had an unexpected performance of *Absolute Magic* on November 21st, 2024 while Keith was storm stayed in Saskatoon.

With winter now fully settled in, Keith's trip to Wollaston Lake was postponed until the spring thaw. Keith and his show and workshops were finally able to make it to Father Megret School in April of 2025, where he performed for over 200 students, and taught magic tricks to 100 students in three separate workshops. While coordinating travel to more remote communities is difficult, this program continues to hold a special place in our programming plans, and we hope to be able to continue engaging with Northern Saskatchewan with future tour opportunities.

"The students and teachers enjoyed the show, and the students are very grateful that they had a wonderful magician to visit the northern school community. The workshops of using coins or cards were very memorable for students too. We had several students coming up to me showing the new tricks they learned."

- Father Megret School, Wollaston Lake, SK



Right: Keith Brown performing *Absolute Magic* at Forest Grove, 2024

Fringe Encore

Cabaret of Legends by Dynamite Lunchbox Entertainment

Date: August 9, 2025

Venue: The Broadway Theatre

Now in its fourth year, Fringe Encore has become a beloved part of our programming where we are able to showcase some of the best that Fringe has to offer by presenting a one-night only performance featuring a show or an artist who has previously performed at the Saskatoon Fringe Festival.

In 2025, we were pleased to welcome back, from Orlando Florida, Dynamite Lunchbox Entertainment with their (new to Saskatoon) production of *Cabaret of Legends* which features the music and the stories of some of the most iconic women in music including Tina Turner, Ella Fitzgerald, and Nina Simone with all roles being performed by Tymisha Harris. Attendance at this performance was down from the 2024 Fringe Encore presentation, but those who were in attendance gave the piece positive reviews.



Below: The Broadway Theatre at Fringe Preview Night 2025, Photo by Bokeh Media



Top Left: A Fringe Selfie at the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe, Photo by Andrew Bromell
Top Right: Peace Akintade and AnnaLyne Moko at Fringe Preview Night 2025, Photo by Bokeh Media
Left Top: Martin Dockery and Peace Akintade at Fringe Preview Night 2025, Photo by Andrew Bromell
Left Bottom: Carnival Games at the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe, photo by Bokeh Media
Bottom Right: Crowd in Artisan Alley at The Saskatoon Fringe Festival 2025, Photo by Bokeh Media

The People

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Festival Sales Assistant	Emily Rempel
Festival Sales Assistant	Rebecca Spilchak
Social Media Manager	Ireland Jones

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Venue Technician	Shelby Lowe
Venue Technician	Andrea Mareschal
Venue Technician	Jeremy Smith
Venue Technician	Tanqueray Strange
Refinery Venue Technician	Miriam Corlan
Refinery Venue Technician	Liam Scramstad

Saskatoon Fringe Festival Contract Artists

Circle Busker	Chris Parsons
Circle Busker	Johnny Tootoosis
Collaboration Station Coordinator	Dillon Person
Collaboration Station Artist	Marley Duckett
Collaboration Station Artist	Abigail Essilfie-Dughan
Preview Night Host	AnnaLynne Mokho
Preview Night Host	Peace Akintade
Thelma Pepper Art Walk Coordinator & Primary Artist	Kelsey Ford
Thelma Pepper Art Walk Assistant	Seth Adams
Fringe Goes North Contract Artist	Keith Brown
Fringe Encore Artists	Dynamite Lunchbox Entertainment

Saskatoon Fringe Festival Contractors

Media Relations Consultant	Britainy Zapshalla
Graphic Designer	Jaymie Raefita
Photographer	Andrew Bromell
Videographer	Bokeh Media
On Site Security	Fly on the Wall Security
Exterior Electrical Services	Axis Electric
Portable Toilets Provider	Aspen Ventures

The People

Collaboration Station+: In Schools - *Luna* Contract Artists

Playwright & Director	Danielle Roy
Stage Manager	Jalisa Gonie
Temporary Stage Manager	Jensine Emeline
Set & Prop Designer	Brooklynn Bitner
Costume Designer	Miranda Hughes-McKnight
Puppet Designer	Ricardo Alvarado
Sound Designer	Danny Downing
Lighting Designer	Judith Schulz
Costume Assistant	Julia Beke
Set Assistant	Kelson Cunningham
Actor	Johanna Arnott
Actor	Marley Duckett
Actor	Paige Francoeur
Actor	Ed Mendez

***Mustard* Contract Artists**

Playwright	Kat Sandler
Director	Tim Bratton
Stage Manager	Katie Blackburn-Dust
Set Designer	Rory Jewiss
Costume Designer	Jensine Emeline
Props Designer	Nicole Kidder
Sound Designer	Oli Guselle
Lighting Designer	Luke von Eschen
Head of Set Construction	Cody Brayshaw
Head of Scenic Painting	Philippa Williams
Production Assistant (Set)	Kelson Cunningham
Production Assistant (Costumes)	Morgan Carter
Intimacy Choreographer	Peace Akintade
Co-Fight Choreographer	Ed Mendez
Actor and Co-Fight Choreographer	Danielle Spilchen
Actor	Braden Butler
Actor	Kayvon Khoshkam
Actor	Danny Knight
Actor	Anita Smith
Actor	Mara Teare

The People

Behind Closed Doors Contract Artists

Playwright	Kaydence Banga
Playwright	Marley Duckett
Playwright	Mitchell Larsen
Playwright	Drew Mantyka
Playwright	Clare Middleton
Playwright	Cheyenna Sapp
Dramaturg	Yvette Nolan
Dramaturg	Fraser Stevens
Stage Manager	Emily Rempel
Assistant Stage Manager	Liam Scramstad
Director	Joshua Beaudry
Director	Bobbi-Lee Jones
Director	Kat MacLean
Actor	Peace Akintade
Actor	Kent Allen
Actor	Braden Butler
Actor	Sam Fairweather
Actor	Carol Greyeyes
Actor	Sean Hoy
Actor	Kayvon Khoshkam
Actor	Abby Osika
Actor	Autumn Scofield
Actor	Rebecca Spilchak
Actor	Ashton Turner
Actor	Liz Whitbread
Actor	China White
Actor	Philippa Williams

Community Corner Organizations

BYXE Street Team
Canadian Mental Health Association
CFCR 90.5 FM - Community Radio Society of Saskatoon
Extra Life
Foundations Learning & Skills
Prairie Harm Reduction
SK Library of Things
Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association
Saskatoon New Hope Dog Rescue
Saskatoon Open Door Society
Saskatoon Sexual Assault & Information Centre (SSAIC)
SGI Tent Activation
SOS Prairie Rescue
Western Development Museum - Saskatoon
YXE MADD

Sponsors (Cash)

ATB Financial
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High Key Brewing
Jump.ca
Mini Saskatoon
SIGA
SGI
SaskTel
SaskEnergy



Sponsors (In Kind)

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Culligan Water
Fly on the Wall Security
Loraas Disposal
Rawlco Radio
Saskatoon Media Group
The Wireless Age

Volunteers

Volunteers played a vital role in coordinating both the theatre and outdoor portions of the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe Festival and some even participated in our Beyond the Fringe programming. They require many different skills and support the festival in a variety of ways.

Without the support of our many volunteers (109 in 2025), our programming would look very different. Together they filled 469 shifts in 2025, with each volunteer working an average of 4.3 shifts. While the overall number of volunteers was down from 2024, the average number of shifts that each volunteer was taking on was up from previous year.

These are truly dedicated and generous individuals to whom our entire community should be grateful.



Rick Cranson and Karen White volunteering at the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe Festival, Photo by Abbey Fraser Saddleback

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Top: Johanna Arnott in *Luna* by Danielle Roy at the BackStage Stage 2025, Photo by Nicole Stevenson Photography
 Left: Chris Parsons performing on the Street Stage at the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe, Photo by Andrew Brommell
 Right Top: Festival Sales Assistant Rebecca Spilchak in The Fringe Gardens at the 2025 Saskatoon Fringe, photo by Abbey Fraser Saddleback
 Right Bottom: Front of House Volunteers at the Broadway Theatre at the 2025 Fringe, Photo by Abbey Fraser Saddleback



PO Box 27024



Saskatoon, SK, S7H 5N9

306.664.2239

info@25thstreettheatre.org



www.25thstreettheatre.org



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