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Every day, 40,000 MGEU members across the province deliver the services Manitobans rely on. They're hard at work on the frontlines and behind the scenes keeping our province going and growing.



Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union

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# MAYWORKS PROGRAMME BOOK FUNDING PROVIDED BY

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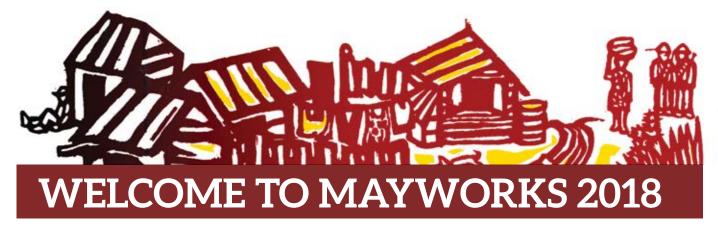
# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

President's Message	2
About MayWorks	2
2018 MayWorks Schedule of Events	3
Human Needs Neither Optional nor Negotiable	10
Here's to Your Health	11
Hard Times (Come Again No More)	14

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

# **APRIL**

711 111				
27	DAY OF MOURNING CEREMONY	11:00AM		
MAY	•			
1	CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS DAY	5:30PM		
5	WINNIPEG MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA	8:00PM		
3	AL CAFÉ	7:30PM		
7	ITALIAN POETRY AND HUMANISM	7:30PM		
10	PETE SEEGER'S THE INCOMPLEAT FOLKSINGER	8:00PM		
12	ASSOCIATION OF UNITED UKRAINIAN CANADIANS-100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION	4:00PM		
17	DESERTER	2:00 & 7:00PM		
18	THE YOUNG KARL MARX			
23	BOUNDARY AVENUE			
27	DOORS OPEN	11:00AM		
27	1919 SYMPATHETIC STRIKE TOUR	2:00PM		
28	THE LEGACY OF THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE	7:00PM		
29	THE LARAMIE PROJECT	7:30PM		



The theme for MayWorks 2018 is "Human Needs -Neither Optional nor Negotiable". We have chosen this theme because the reality is that human needs are being reconsidered. They are falling victim to the drive for fiscal austerity and, in place of the common good, there is corporate control of food, water, shelter and energy.

Hard won rights are becoming "negotiable" reversing generations of struggle to secure these as "essential" social rights. The social good has been replaced by the corporate good-pensions are unsupportable, health care has to be "cost justified", homelessness is an economic calculation, and so on. The determinant of human need has become the bottom line of the balance sheet.

But there is resistance to this path and always has been.

In this year's Festival the concert tribute to Pete Seeger, his life and work, is an affirmation of

the struggle for social justice and the dedication to social activism. In the essays you will find in this programme the issues of defining social commitments are examined not from the principle of fiscal balance but social balance and necessity. Those are but two examples from this year's Festival.

It was the events to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike that prompted workers and union activists to form MayWorks. The aim was to celebrate the struggles of working people through the art created in those struggles.

Whatever your interest we invite you to come and participate in the events that are part of this year's MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts.

### Glenn Michalchuk

President MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts

# ABOUT MAYWORKS FESTIVAL OF LABOUR AND THE ARTS

The MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts arose from the need to present art which explores the lives of working people, their struggles both past and present and their future aspirations. Since 1994 MayWorks has dedicated itself to presenting, in the month of May, art based on the lives of working people and their struggles. Our MayWorks Festival is not unique by any means. Other MayWorks festivals occur in Canada and labour arts festivals exist in many countries. All serve the important role of preserving and developing working class culture. We are proud to say that our MayWorks Festival is part of this.

Why is this important to unions and working people? Art is an important tool in shaping ideas, organizing and communicating to world. The

life and songs of Woody Guthrie are famous in this regard. Bertolt Brecht the German dramatist summed it up this way: "Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it"

# BEING PART OF MAYWORKS

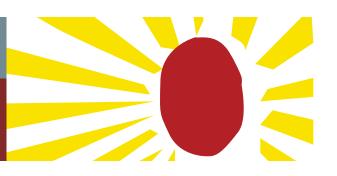
Would you like to participate in MayWorks? Artists, workers as artists or unions can organize an event in MayWorks for the 2019 Festival. Of course, the 2019 Festival will be marking the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike. The deadline for submissions is Friday January 11 2019. Submissions guidelines and forms can be downloaded from our web site: www.mayworks. org.

We also ask you to consider supporting the Festival by following us on Facebook, volunteering for MayWorks events and contributing financially to help us build the Festival.



# 2018 MAYWORKS

# SCHEDULE



# **APRIL 27 • 11:00 AM** DAY OF MOURNING CEREMONY

Safe Workers of Tomorrow Leaders Walk

## **Union Centre** 275 Broadway

This year we are planning to have our Day of Mourning ceremony and ceremonial sod turning at the site of the new Workers/Firefighters/ Peace Officers memorials on Friday, April 27 at Memorial Park.

### Programme:

10:50 am Gather at the Union Centre

11:00 am Welcoming and opening remarks: Michael Weier (Workers Compensation Board) and Susan Smerchansky (MFL

Health and Safety Committee)

**11:15 am** Walk to Memorial Park

11:25 am Arrive at Workers Compensation Board and meet students

11:35 am Arrive at Memorial Park for keynote speeches from Peace Officers, Fire Fighters and Worker's Representatives chaired by Safe Workers of Tomorrow

12:00 pm End of event











May Day

# **CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS DAY**

City Hall

On May Day raise your voice against cuts to social programs and in solidarity with working people everywhere. Winnipeg Labour Council organizes the annual May Day March. This year the theme is Stop the Cuts-People are entitled to health care, education, livelihood, housing in recognition of the deep cuts taking place to government spending. The march route will be south on Main to Broadway, Broadway to Smith, Smith to Portage, Portage to Notre Dame, Notre Dame to Albert ending at Old Market Square for singing of the Internationale. Recognition will be given to the two strikers who fell during the Winnipeg General Strike at Bannatyne and Main on Bloody Saturday, June 1919.

# MAY 5 • 8:00 PM WINNIPEG MANDOLIN **ORCHESTRA**

Ukrainian Labour Temple 591 Pritchard

Guest artist: Jess Reimer

The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, under the direction of Annis Kozub, will be performing its annual May Concert.

The evening's concert will be an eclectic mix with Americana from violinist and mandolinist Peter



Film





Literary







Ostroushko and klezmer clarinetist and bluegrass mandolinist Andy Statman; the movie scores of Ennio Morricone and Astor Piazzola; classical music by Gabriel Fauré; traditional Ukrainian music and a piece for clarinet by Myron Shatulsky, previous conductor of the Orchestra.

Tickets • \$20.00 • To reserve tickets: auucwinnipeg@gmail.com

MAY 5 • 7:30 PM AL CAFÉ Hotel Royal Plaza

330 Kennedy





Mayworks marks the revival of the celebrated Al Café, the celebrated political café which dates back to the 1970s. Mobilizing Winnipegers against the Pallister government is the politics of the evening but we might as well have fun doing it. On May 5 at 7:30 PM the doors will open to an evening of music, comedy and politics. The Café will continue until Pallister is kicked out and beyond. Dancing, drinks, music, comedians from all sectors of Winnipeg's many ethnic communities. Political discussion from the broad left. All Welcome.

# MAY 7 • 7:30 PM ITALIAN POETRY AND HUMANISM



McNally Robinson Booksellers 1120 Grant Avenue (Travel Alcove)

A reading of selected Italian poets in Italian and English by the singer Liliana Moscarda-Romanowski and Ron Romanowski with an introduction by Ron Romanowski author of the 2017 poetry collection *Butterflies of the North Woods*.

Our world culture has inherited many ideas and principles that we have come to value as the basis of civilization from the artists of Italy, specifically its poets. You are cordially invited to come out and enjoy some of their work.

Refreshment will be served.

Admission • FREE

MAY 10 & MAY 11 •

DOORS: 7:15 PM CONCERT 8:00 PM

PETE SEEGER'S

THE INCOMPLEAT FOLKSINGER

Performed by Mark Hellman Directed by Ross Desprez



**West End Cultural Centre** 

TICKETS: \$20.00 — CHOIR DISCOUNTS! GROUP RATES (10 OR MORE) call West End Cultural Centre Box Office

Tickets available through Ticket Fly -Organic Planet or at the door.

- It became this huge singalong...I've never been to a piece of theatre like that. CBC RADIO
- ...Hellman shines...GEORGIA STRAIGHT
- ...a beacon on the horizon that calls out to our better selves to respond, to act. BROKEN LEG REVIEWS
- ...beautiful tunes, accomplished storytelling and an immense heart.



**MAY 12** •

DOORS: 4:00 PM CONCERT: 4:30 PM Cocktails and dinner to follow ASSOCIATION OF UNITED UKRAINIAN CANADIANS-100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Association of United Ukrainian Canadians



100 years of our contribution to Canada

# Ukrainian Labour Temple 591 Pritchard

Formed in 1918 as a cultural, educational and political association of the newly arrived Ukrainian immigrants the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians is celebrating its 100th Anniversary under the theme 100 years of our contributions to Canada with a gala evening featuring a concert and banquet.



The Concert will showcase the performing arts groups of the Winnipeg Branch: Festival Choir, Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, Yunist School of Folk Dance, Yunist Dance Ensemble. The program also includes a dramatization by Brian Richardson and Kevin Longfield.

Tickets • \$25.00

To reserve contact: Gloria 204-467-5043









Film



MAY 17-27 • 7:30 PM nightly (Saturdays 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM, only 2:00 PM on May 27 no show Monday)

Moving Target Theatre Company & MayWorks present

## DESERTER

# Rachel Browne Theatre 211 Bannatyne St

Inspired by Joshua Key and American war resisters in Canada, Deserter is a new play by award-winning, Winnipeg-based playwright Daniel Thau-Eleff.

Deserter follows Curtis Colby, a fictional war-deserter who is detained for using a forged passport. He finds himself in a tug-of-war between the holding cell in the present-day, his time in Iraq, and a small town in Manitoba, where he and his wife Jessica are desperately trying to lead a normal life. Deserter explores moral behaviour in a complex world, raising questions about the relationship between civilians and soldiers in countries with (supposedly) volunteer armies. When should a soldier say no? What morality can we hope for in war? And what is the role of ordinary citizens?

Advisory: strong language and mature subject matter.

# \$25 general admission / \$20 for students/seniors/underemployed

More info and tickets available at: MovingTargetTheatre.com

With support from: Manitoba Arts Council, Winnipeg Arts Council



Literary







The

**Fight** 

for





# **Fairness**

# Continues.



# MAY 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26 THE YOUNG KARL MARX

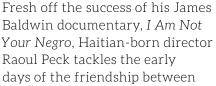
Directed by Raoul Peck 2017, Germany, 112 min (French, German, English dialogue)



Cinematheque, 100 Arthur Street, www.winnipegcinematheque.com

# Advance Tickets: Go to Tickets and Merch on the menu on Cinematheque website.

Friday, May 18 at 9 pm, Saturday, May 19 at 3 pm & 9 pm, Sunday, May 20 at 7 pm, Thursday, May 24 at 9:30 pm, Friday, May 25, at 7 pm, Saturday, May 26 at 3 pm





Karl Marx (August Diehl) and Friedrich Engels (Stefan Konarske) as they struggle to establish the Communist Party and complete the Communist Manifesto. (VIFF) Karl's wife Jenny is played by Vicky Krieps from Phantom Thread.

The Young Karl Marx is a gripping portrait of the legendary political writer based on letters and his friendship with associate Friederich Engels.

"The film gives you a real sense of what radical politics was about: Somehow the spectacle of fiercely angry people talking about ideas becomes absorbing and even gripping. It works due to the intelligence of the acting and the stamina and concentration of the writing and directing."

- The Guardian

"The Young Karl Marx" highlights what made him such a remarkable thinker: his endless appetite to continue learning and incorporating challenges and critique into his own thinking."

- The Intercept







Music



# MAY 23-27

# **BOUNDARY AVENUE**

A One Trunk Theatre PRODUCTION by Andraea Sartison, Caroline Wintoniw and Liam Zarrillo with Razak Iyal and Seidu Mohammed

# The Asper Centre of Theatre and Film (University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony St)

This May One Trunk Theatre will present the world premiere of Boundary Avenue, a documentary theatre play that examines the influx of asylum seekers crossing the USA/Canada Border at Emerson, Manitoba over the past two years. This project is created using verbatim text collected from interviews. Featured in the play are the stories of Razak Iyal and Seidu Mohammed, who crossed on Christmas Eve 2016, losing their hands from frostbite. Drawing on the traditions of documentary and verbatim theatre, but with a dramatic edge - this project brings to life a vital story happening in our province right now. The show is in development and set to premiere May 23rd-27th, a double bill with Sarasvati Production's New Beginnings.

# For more information visit one trunk the atre.com for show dates and times

Tickets are \$10-\$25 available at: https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3320798

# MAY 27 • 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM DOORS OPEN

Ukrainian Labour Temple 591 Pritchard Avenue

Tours will last approximately 30 minutes. The Ukrainian Labour Temple is the headquarters of the Winnipeg Branch and national office of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, a progressive organization that offers cultural,



Film

Talk

Literary

Theatre











social and educational activities. Constructed in 1918 -1919 it is the largest of the Ukrainian Labour Temples in Canada. The Winnipeg hall was built by volunteer labour and financed by donations from the newly arrived Ukrainian community. For much of its life it was the focus for Ukrainian culture, and worker and farmer activism. It is the only surviving labour hall associated with the events of the Winnipeg General Strike. The Ukrainian Labour Temple holds heritage designations from all three levels of government. The building continues to be a vibrant centre for progressive culture and politics and remains a focal point for the Ukrainian community.

# MAY 27 • 2:00-5:00 PM 1919 SYMPATHETIC STRIKE TOUR



In May 1919, over 30,000 workers shut down Winnipeg in one of the most important moments in our political history. Inflammatory social conditions and relations ignited into a major protest over wages, rights, inequality and revolution.

The Tour will go through highlights of what happened in 1919, exposing the social and economic conditions that led to and followed the Strike. The tour reflects on how the echoes of the Strike can be heard in Winnipeg of today – both inspiring some people and threatening others.

The tour cost is \$15 for employed adults - no charge for students, seniors, or those unemployed (it has been fully booked for the last four years so register early). Reserve a seat: commgroup@mts.net or call/text 204 793 3289.

Confirmation and location to meet will be sent to you after you register and provide an e-mail.



### MAY 28 7:00 PM

Memorial Service

# THE LEGACY OF THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE BROOKSIDE CEMETERY MEMORIAL SERVICE

On this the ninety-ninth anniversary of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, please join us at Brookside Cemetery for a Grave side memorial service for Mike Sokolowski, who died as a result of a gunshot wound on June 21st 1919.

After the service we will visit the gravesite of Steve Szczerbanowicz who died a few days later of gangrene poisoning as a result of gunshot wounds also received on June 21st during a peaceful demonstration.

# FOR DIRECTIONS-SEE BROOKSIDE CEMETERY -CITY OF WINNIPEG

# MAY 29, 30, 31 • 7:30PM

Meraki Theatre Productions

# THE LARAMIE PROJECT



"The Laramie Project" (written by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project) is a critical play that addresses the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, an openly gay twenty-one-year-old young man. This documentary-style play takes place in the small town of Laramie, Wyoming, where a hate crime that took the life of Matthew Shepard sparked national debate exactly 20 years ago. Meraki Theatre Productions is donating the proceeds of our performance to both the Matthew Shepard Foundation and the Rainbow Resource Centre's youth programming in Winnipeg. This play is also being presented as a part of Winnipeg Pride 2018.

Tickets • \$15 at the door (or from a member of cast) • Cash Only Limited seating

To reserve tickets, email: merakitheatreproductions@gmail.com



# **Human Needs Neither Optional nor Negotiable**

"You know, I've seen a lot of people walkin' 'round With tombstones in their eyes But the pusher don't care Ah, if you live or if you die."

Steppenwolf The Pusher

As we celebrate May Day and real peoples struggle to control their future it's important to identify the struggle from many different perspectives. Listening to people of the community, particularly poorer people, marginalized people, you will hear very important immediate cries for help. North Point Douglas with its long history of progressive activism is still listening and acting.

Tommy Douglas' father worked at Vulcan Iron Works on Sutherland Ave, one of the sites where the Winnipeg General Strike started. JS Woodsworth had his office on Sutherland in what is now the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre. Tommy went to school at Norquay School.

Vulcan iron Works is once again an Iron works, Titan Iron Works.

The issues of today are different from 1917, but the need to struggle for dignity and respect continue.

When we did a survey of residents of North Point Douglas we were amazed at the near unanimity of the number one concern, crime and personal safety. 86% of the community and 87% of self identified indigenous residents said crime and personal safety were what they wanted dealt with.

They wanted to get rid of "Crack Houses", the visible manifestation of crime. Where the guns were, where teens were taught to steal and deal. The thieves that stole their kids bicycles and any new shoes they might have afforded. They wanted the dealers gone, the street capitalists, who made their profit from the despair of the poorer residents. This wasn't the American Liberal 'War on Drugs", this

was the communities fight to take back control of their community.

Four indigenous elders who wandered around and identified the hard drug dealers. The young moms who called and identified the meth dealer next door. Getting them evicted, sending them a message that the community can fight back. Soon a difference could be felt. The Pusher didn't control the street any more. The Pusher couldn't depend on jail house culture, 'no squealing no ratting'. Instead Moms said, this is my turf and you aren't getting my kid into your dirty drug business. The Pusher got evicted and families looking for a safer place to live, moved in.

Our addicts and recreational drug users remained welcome in their community but the Pusher was pushed out.

Making an inner city neighbourhood a community, a home, involves empowering the people who live there so they want to stay. Being able to walk safely to the store is a right not a privilege.

The middle class view of crime as a social issue is very different to the inner city Mom who can't afford another bus pass when some creep stole her purse or fighting off the Pusher who is trying to get her daughter to "just try some meth".

North Point Douglas is a powerful community, taking on the street capitalists who would mess their lives. Like most struggles it seems it is never over, but for a proud community it feels good to be winning.

"Ah, but the pusher ruin your body Lord, he'll leave your, he'll leave your mind to scream

God damn, the pusher God damn, I say the pusher"

The Pusher by Steppenwolf

Sel Burrows



# HERE'S TO YOUR HERE'S TO YOUR

We all know of someone who got sick in spite of following a healthy lifestyle.
When that happens, we attribute the illness to 'bad' genes whose effect was too powerful to overcome.
We also probably know someone whose life was cut short because of bad habits like smoking and/or being sedentary.

Nonetheless, it is a mistake to believe that good health is simply a combination of good luck and a sensible life style.

When researchers look at the trends that emerge across the whole population, they see that the economic and social factors in which you live are much more important than your genes or lifestyle.

These working and living conditions are called the social determinants of health. If you have a decent home, healthy food, an adequate education, and regular, sufficient income you will be healthier than if you don't enjoy these conditions. And access to a comprehensive healthcare system that covers drugs, dental, vision, and physiotherapy and counselling services makes sure that we can regain and/or maintain our health.

Even things like
whether or not
you're Indigenous,
live with a disability,
or are an immigrant
will determine how
healthy you are
because systemic racism
and prejudices make it
harder for these groups to
access the proper education,
housing and work they need to
stay healthy.

Some of the most compelling evidence for the validity of asocial determinants of health perspective comes from the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) at the University of Manitoba's Department of Community Health Sciences. Researchers there divide Manitoba's population into five income groups, with the first group being the lowest income and the fifth group being the highest. They also group the population according to rural/urban, male/female and First Nations/non-First Nations.

The trends that emerge are telling. Premature mortality rates vary according to level of income, with the poorest having the highest rates. There are also large disparities in life expectancy between First Nation Manitobans and other Manitobans. According to the MCHP, there is "... undeniable

evidence of what, to many, is obvious: substantial disparities in health and well-being exist across income and geographic areas, and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Manitoba."

Work – or the absence of work – and the quality of work is a cornerstone determinant of health because most of us derive the income we need for housing and food (the basics) from our jobs. If you have rewarding work with a supportive boss, receive at least a living wage and have a pension, you have a better chance of remaining healthy. In contrast, if you are precariously employed, don't know if you'll have a job from one week to the next, or if you'll make enough to pay your bills and wonder if you'll ever be able to retire, your health will suffer. The stress created by being part of the precariat has been shown to increase psychological and physical illness and the use of healthcare services.

What can governments do to improve health across the board? Because having a decent job is so important, provincial and federal governments can

implement a suite of policies. First of all, the vast majority of precariously employed workers are nonunionized, so legislation needs to favour organizing and collective bargaining.

Government also has to make minimum wage a living wage; ensure that CPP allows workers to retire with dignity; and, provide adequate resources and compensation to unemployed workers. All workers need to be protected from unsafe work conditions and exploitive practices.

So, if governments really want to lower healthcare costs and strengthen the economy, they should take strong measures to ensure that everyone has access to decent jobs and a comprehensive healthcare system.

Lynne Fernandez holds the Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Mb.





MayWorks | gratefully thanks and acknowledges the support of the following funders who have contributed to the Festival

(as of March 31, 2018)

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LOCAL 832

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# HARD TIMES (COME AGAIN NO MORE)

by Stephen Foster

Let us pause in life's pleasures and count its many tears While we all sup sorrow with the poor There's a song that will linger forever in our ears Oh hard times come again no more

'Tis the song, the sigh of the weary Hard times, hard times, come again no more Many days you have lingered around my cabin door Oh hard times come again no more

While we seek mirth and beauty and music bright and gay There are frail forms fainting at the door Though their voices are silent, their pleading looks will say Oh hard times come again no more

'Tis the song, the sigh of the weary Hard times, hard times, come again no more Many days you have lingered around my cabin door Oh hard times come again no more

'Tis a sigh that is wafted across the troubled wave 'Tis a wail that is heard upon the shore 'Tis a dirge that is murmured around the lowly grave Oh hard times come again no more



# **CONTRIBUTION COMMITMENT FORM**

Labour Group/Organization/Individ	ual	
Phone Number(s)		
Address		
Website		
Email Address		
PLEASE SELECT YOUR DESIRED LE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO MAY		
Leadership \$1,500+	Organizer \$1,000-\$1,499	Steward \$500-\$999
Activist \$300_\$400	Mombor at Largo \$100_\$200	Other (please specify)

