

SHAKESPEARE IN THE RUINS

— SPRING 2013 NEWS —

**JULIUS
CAESAR
JUNE 6-29**

**Celebrating
20 YEARS
of SHAKESPEARE...
IN THE RUINS!**



EARLY BIRD SPECIAL! TICKETS ON SALE NOW! Call 204-942-5483



Just Watch Me

By Sarah Constible

**"CRY 'HAVOC,' AND LET
SLIP THE DOGS OF WAR"**

- Mark Antony

"JUST WATCH ME..."

- Pierre Elliot Trudeau

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND. BENAZIR BHUTTO. JULIUS CAESAR.

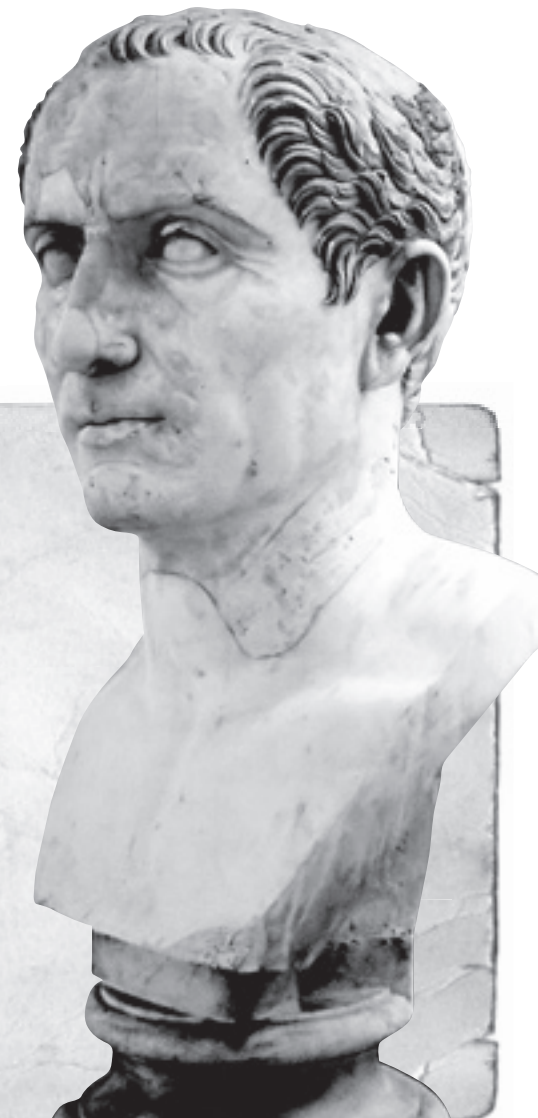
Human history is littered with the violent deaths of political leaders. The motivations for these assassinations are legion: notoriety, religion, a wish to end tyranny, a desire to prevent social change. In almost every case, the killers have felt justified in their actions. Their beliefs are strong enough that, in their eyes, murder becomes a necessity. The consequences often outweigh whatever perceived benefit such bloodshed would have achieved (e.g. World War I).

We, as Canadians, are not immune to this. In 1970, Quebec's Minister of Labour, Pierre LaPorte, was murdered by the Front de

Liberation du Quebec, a separatist group who wanted to end "Anglo-Saxon imperialism". This brought about the invoking of the War Measures Act by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (the Caesar of his day), in which our government suspended civil liberties and arrested over 400 individuals suspected of having ties to the radical organization.

One of the reasons why we choose to perform Shakespeare is because of his uncanny ability to transcend time and place and reveal some universal truth about humanity. With that in mind, I have chosen to set our production of Julius Caesar in Canada during the time

of the FLQ "Black October" Crisis. It is my hope that, by bringing the story closer to our home and our history, it will illuminate the truth that Shakespeare realized over 400 years ago: that we are all capable of transgressing our moral code and of committing acts we would otherwise view as abhorrent. (To that end, I have also decided to cast a woman in the role of the conspirator Cassius). I am also excited by the opportunity to use the ruins as a multi-level stage, with action occurring in unexpected places, and hopefully create the sensation that the audience is embroiled and therefore complicit in the conspiracy.



To become embroiled and somehow complicit in the conspiracy, phone **204 942 5483** and reserve your tickets to **Julius Caesar** right now!

SIR Trivia

20 YEARS OF SIR

By Arne MacPherson

1. SIR has always utilized gender blind casting . What play featured Lora Schroeder and Megan McArton in two major roles usually played by men?
 - a. Twelfth Night
 - b. The Tempest
 - c. Much Ado About Nothing
 - d. Richard III
2. The late great Wayne Nicklas was a mainstay on the SIR stages. Which role did he NOT play?
 - a. Launcelot
 - b. Touchstone
 - c. Odysseus
 - d. Don Pedro
3. What successful director of theatre and opera across Canada was a founding member of SIR?
 - a. Larry Desrochers
 - b. Richard Rose
 - c. Ann Hodges
 - d. Brian Deedrick
4. What actor famously made an entrance by dropping out of a tree in A Midsummer Night's Dream?
 - a. Derek Aasland
 - b. Deb Patterson
 - c. Chris Sigurdson
 - d. Michelle Boulet
5. What person with a direction name was the first production manager/stage manager of SIR?
 - a. Katie East
 - b. Adam West
 - c. Alan North
 - d. Terry Southern
6. What rooftop production featured the SIR premiere of Andrew Cecon?
 - a. King Lear
 - b. Romeo & Juliet
 - c. As You Like It
 - d. The Merchant of Venice
7. What SIR play was set in Vaudevillian times, complete with a rolling piano?
 - a. Twelfth Night
 - b. Loves Labour's Lost
 - c. Much Ado About Nothing
 - d. The Threepenny Opera
8. What timeless classic, adapted by Rick Chafe, got its world premiere by SIR?
 - a. The Iliad
 - b. The Odyssey
 - c. Shakespeare' Dog
 - d. Antigone
9. Who performed the role of Romeo in SIR's first production, and now performs the role of SIR's General Manager?
 - a. Matthew Moreau
 - b. Kevin Klassen
 - c. Arne MacPherson
 - d. Robert Slade
10. What role did Winnipeg screen star Steve McIntyre play for SIR?
 - a. Iago
 - b. Petruchio
 - c. Berowne
 - d. Shylock
11. What production featured Michelle Boulet swimming into the play down the La Salle River?
 - a. A Midsummer Night's Dream
 - b. The Tempest
 - c. Macbeth
 - d. Love's Labour's Lost

NEXT QUESTION

By Michelle Boulet

Artistic Co-Chair Michelle Boulet sits down with new SIR Ensemble Member Gord Tanner for a round of next question. Gord has the option to simply “next question” anything he doesn’t want to answer.

Q: How long have you been acting professionally?

A: Do you mean when did I get my Equity card or do you mean when I started making money? Ben (his son) walks in the room and says “you make money?” Gord ignores him and says the answer to the first is 14 years and the answer to the second is ten years.

Q: What was the first production of Shakespeare in the Ruins that you saw?

A: The first SIR production I ever saw was *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1998. It was a good strong start. I loved that show. One of my most memorable moments was you playing Beatrice on a swing!! (I don’t have the heart to tell him that never happened) I also remember Matt Moreau (our current GM) in a toque playing Dogberry. (That, thank God did happen)

Q: What is your favourite play in the canon?

A: You mean the favorite play that I have read? Oh, no, you mean Shakespeare. Right. Is this the forum for me to admit how few I have read? No? Yes? Ummmm. Hamlet.

Q: What role would you like to play above all others?

A: Oh my goodness. You mean in Shakespeare? Well (long pause) not yet, but some day I would like to play Lear.

Q: What was your first thought when SIR asked you to be in the Artistic Ensemble?

A: (Laughs outrageously) My first thought was Really?

Q: What is the funniest thing to ever happen while you were on stage?

A: First Equity Co-op I was in was “Suicide Prohibited in Spring Time” directed by Daphne Korol. I played the lead (as a newspaper reporter) and I was in a scene with Daphne (who had a small cameo) and I was interviewing her. In the scene Daphne completely dried on her lines. She stared at me for about ten seconds, and then said “Bye, bye” and walked off stage.

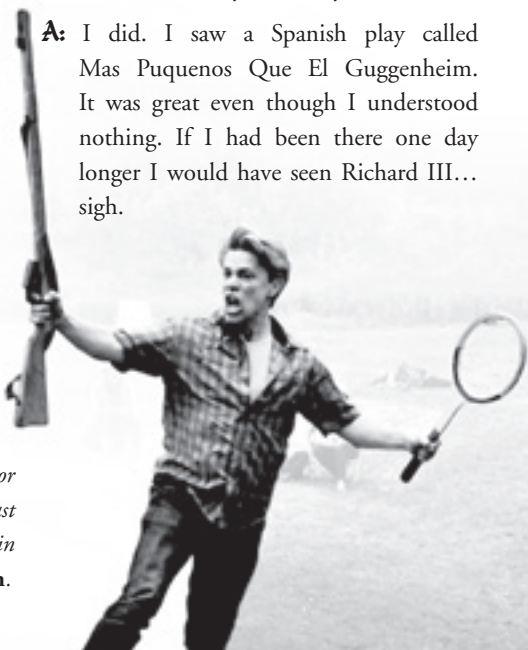
Q: Who is the best actor in the Ensemble?

A: Uhhh, next question!

Q: You were just in Mexico shooting your latest film. Did you see any theatre?

A: I did. I saw a Spanish play called *Mas Puquenos Que El Guggenheim*. It was great even though I understood nothing. If I had been there one day longer I would have seen Richard III... sigh.

Mr. Gord Tanner is a local actor, writer, & director who has graced every stage in Winnipeg and was last seen with SIR as Theseus, Oberon and Lysander in A Stripped-Down Midsummer Night's Dream.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

By Kevin Klassen

It's hard to believe that it's already been 20 years since Lora Schroeder, Ann Hodges and B. Pat Burns gathered over a dozen friends and colleagues, invited them out to the ruins of a Trappist Monastery on the outskirts of St. Norbert and said: "Hey kids! Let's put on a show!" The show was *Romeo and Juliet*, the kids christened their collective Shakespeare in the Ruins (SIR), and a theatre company was born. The original founding company included: Derek Aasland; Michelle Boulet; B. Pat Burns; Lee J. Campbell; Matt Moreau; Maggie Nagle; Debbie Patterson; Gene Pyrz; Lora Schroeder; Marc Beaudry; Katie R. East; Ann Hodges; Grant Guy; Arne MacPherson; Rick McPherson and Rick Skene.

Incorporating the unique environment of the ruins; *promenade-style* audience movement; an intriguing mix of bare-bones contemporary and traditional aesthetics; cross-gendered, multiple-role casting and a dynamic, text-oriented style of performance, the inaugural performance of *Romeo and Juliet* set the template for what has continued to be SIR's approach to the works of William Shakespeare to this day.

Our artistic programming continues to be directed by a passionate ensemble of artists whose shared goal is to produce dynamic theatre in non-traditional settings, with a focus on creating an immediate, intimate relationship with you: our audience.

The adventurous spirit that drives SIR has led us to perform in places well beyond the Trappist Monastery Provincial Heritage Park Ruins, including productions on Winnipeg's Dreman Building parkade rooftop, Gaboury-Lagimodiere Park in St. Boniface, and Assiniboine Park. In addition to working

our way through the Bard's canon with our annual spring Main Stage production, SIR has developed and performed unique one-hour, four-actor touring productions: *Stripped-Down Macbeth*; *Stripped-Down Romeo & Juliet*; *Stripped-Down Hamlet*; and *A Stripped-Down Midsummer Night's Dream*, which have traveled to high schools throughout Manitoba, Western Ontario and Eastern Saskatchewan. (Clearly, we have chosen a literal interpretation of our namesake's famous words: "All the world's a stage...")

SIR also has a proud history of developing and presenting new works by Manitoba playwrights. We can take credit for world premieres by Rick Chafe (*The Odyssey*, 2000) and Debbie Patterson (*Head*, 2006), and are currently developing Kevin Klassen's adaptation of *Cue For Treason* and a new play by Sarah Constible and Ross McMillan called *Eye Through the Window*, about the lives of Charles & Mary Lamb. All four of these plays share some aspects with Shakespeare's works (historical and cultural significance; grand themes; etc.), but more pertinently to SIR, they offer wonderful opportunities for a large cast of actors and plenty of room for inventive staging.

Our ongoing commitment to making the works of Shakespeare accessible and enjoyable for everyone (through clarity of text and unusual environmental staging), and our dedication to an "ensemble" approach (in *every* aspect of our organization), in addition to our initiatives in youth and community education, developing new work, and professional development, have all contributed toward making Shakespeare in the Ruins a unique and valuable Canadian arts organization for the past twenty years!

Thank YOU for continuing to provide the most important component of this entire equation: the audience. We hope you will join us at all the exciting events we have planned to help us celebrate this auspicious milestone: HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF US!

SHAKESPEARE IN the City

By Claire Therese Friesen

My favourite time of the year is here! It's the start of *Shakespeare in the City*! This year we are partnering with *Pathways to Education* – *Winnipeg*. *Pathways* is a program which aims to increase the graduation rate in the North End of Winnipeg. For the past two years I have been coordinating and facilitating the *Pathways* Mentoring program. Through the program I have had the chance to get to know many wonderful and creative young people, so I jumped at the chance to host

the *SITC* program at *Pathways*. We started rehearsals at the beginning of February and will be performing at the beginning of May. I am seeing the magic of Shakespeare already – students taking the *No Fear Macbeth* book out from the library, borrowing *Macbeth* graphic novels from friends, and watching scenes from various productions on YouTube. It is so neat to see students connect to the story, now hundreds of years old, and yet still as relevant today as it was then.

If you would like to attend the *SITC*'s public performance of *Macbeth*, please contact the office for details (and be sure to bring a non-perishable food item for the Winnipeg Harvest food bank)!

SHAKESPEARE IN Central Park

We are ecstatic to announce that, as part of our 20th Anniversary celebration, 2013 will see the birth of brand new programming for the community: *Shakespeare In Central Park*.

Shakespeare in Central Park will consist of six free public performances of *A Stripped-Down Midsummer Night's Dream* from August 22nd-24th, 2013, presented on and around the beautiful historic Waddell Fountain in Winnipeg's Central Park.

The newly renovated Central Park has been instrumental in revitalizing Winnipeg's core area. Situated as it is, directly north of SIR's offices in Portage Place, it's been inspiring to see the park packed with families on any given afternoon or evening, and the myriad activities being enjoyed by all ages, and we are confident that the fun-filled hour-long adaptation *A Stripped-Down Midsummer*

Night's Dream (which enjoyed a spectacular sold-out interprovincial tour in October/November 2012) will be a truly magical addition to the Park and to Winnipeg's summer events calendar!

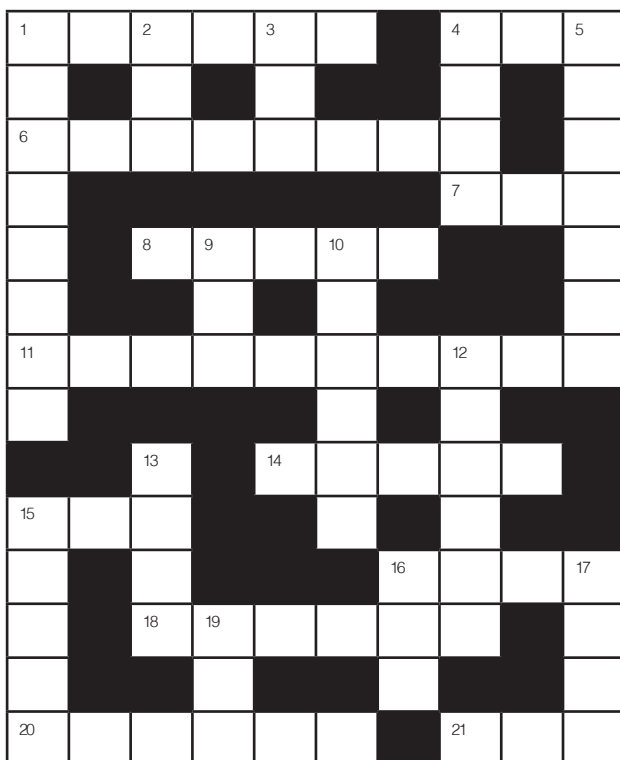
Here's how **you** can help! Beginning in June (with the opening of *Julius Caesar*) we will be launching an **online fundraising campaign** at Indieogo: An International Crowdfunding Platform to Raise Money. All of the proceeds will go toward ensuring *Shakespeare in Central Park* as a successful (hopefully annual), admission-free event, and you can look forward to a variety of creative and unique benefits for your buck! To learn more, visit www.indieogo.com, stay tuned to the SIR website, and go see *Julius Caesar*!

PUZZLES THE WILL

By Debbie Patterson

ACROSS:

1. Pimp from Pericles
4. "Ill ____ by moonlight,
proud Titania." (Dream)
6. In Julius Caesar,
Acts and scenes are
marked in Roman
_____.
7. "____ by my side, and let
the world slip: we shall
ne'er be younger." (Shrew)
8. "Where ____ blood makes
____ hands unclean."
(R&J)
11. See 10 down.
14. Poet from Julius Caesar.
15. "Out dog, out ____, thou
drivest me past the bounds
of maidens' patience."
(Dream)
16. "If you pardon, we will
____." (Dream)
18. Cassius wants to kill him
in the Capitol.
20. Timon of _____.
21. How Antonio feels at the
beginning of Merchant of
Venice.



Check out our website for answers.

DOWN:

1. Odysseus' long suffering
wife (played by Megan
McArton in Rick Chafe's
The Odyssey: SIR 2001.)
2. Buddy of Pistol and
Bardolph.
3. To ____ is human.
4. You don't want to ____
SIR's next show!
5. Shakespeare's "there".
9. Question whose answer is
"T'is."
10. With 11 across,
Shakespeare's verse.
12. Newest member of the
SIR ensemble: Gord
_____.
13. SIR's resident francophone
actor, designer and
production manager.
15. Roman conspirator who
is wise to Caesar's false
modesty theatrics.
16. Mercutio's queen.
17. (spoiler alert!) How
Caesar, Brutus, Cassius,
Titinius, Cicero, Cinna
the poet, Portia, young
Cato and a bunch of
senators end up.
19. "When the ____ is in, the
wit is out." (Much Ado)

Donate to S.I.R. through Canada Helps!

CanadaHelps is a secure and easy way to support more than 80,000 charities across Canada, including S.I.R.! Simply go to our website and click on the "Donate Now" button on the left side of the page. You will receive a tax receipt from CanadaHelps and a smile from the SIR Ensemble!

Donors:

THE FOLKS WHO HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN.

Following is a list of the people whose generosity has helped SIR to succeed.

SEASON SPONSOR

Jim Gibbs

SHOW BUILDERS

Pierre Moreau
WH Loewen

LOVERS

The Van Buekenhout
Family Trust

JESTERS

George Bass
Judith Hall
Michael Kinnear
Dr. Gina Rempel
Ted Stevenson
Arlene Young

KINGS AND QUEENS

Darlene Abreu-Ferreira
Helen Arkos
Douglas Arrell
Carol Budnick
Donna Cuming
Kerry Dangerfield
Marylin Derksen
Enda Egan
Charlotte Enns
Lottie Enns-Braun
Barry Hammond
Vivian Hilder
Camilla Holland
Dr. Chris Johnson
Johnston & Company
Management
Heather Kilbrai
Marion Klassen
Kustom Kulture
Pamela Lockman
Edward Mann
Dana McWhirter
Bob Metcalfe and Miriam
Metcalfe-Smith
Patrick Migliore

Valerie and James Orloff
Robb Paterson
Brenda Pruden
Edward Shinewald
Helen Sim
Katherine Sullivan
Terry Tully
Cornelia van Leveld
Donald Whitmore

SPIRITS

Audrey Aitken
Debbie Allan
Donald Bailey
Susan Bethune
Eric Bosse
Michelle Boulet
Ardith Boxall
Kate Byman
Glenn Clark
Councillor Ross Eadie
Monika Franz-Lien
Virinder Gill
Brenda Gorlick
Cheryl Green and
Rudy Rempel
Jacqueline Guertin
Gerry Hector
Richard Howell
Cherry Karpyschin
In Memory of
Don Klassen
Glen Knapp
Diane Koch-Schulte
Katarina Kupca
Kerry LeBlanc
Pam Lockman
Kevin Longfield
Matthew Moreau
Gareth Neufeld
Carmen Paterson-Payne
Brian Perchaluk
Maureen Petkau
Cathy Phillipson
Debra Radi
Joff Schmidt

Ramandip Singh
Jim Taylor
Brigitte Tremorin
Leslie Wakeman
Helen Whetter

FRIENDS

Lorna Aasland
Jayne Baizley
Lorinda Baranoski
Margery Boulet
Kevan Bowkett
Sandra Brabant
Peter Butner
Daniel Carroll
Christine Coltart
Muriel Conner
Brian Crow
Joan Daugherty
Shawna Dempsey
H. Duckworth
Charlotte Enns
Kate Fennell
Catherine Ferguson
Kathleen Hodgert
Mrs. Muriel Hogue
Elizabeth Hopkins
Carol Hughes
Krista Jackson
Alicia Johnston
Cherry Karpyschin
Mike Kirkness
Mykola Kowalchuk
Heather Laser
Tracey Loewen
Nina Logan
Sylvia Main
Priya Mani
Michael Marshall
Russell Martin
Les McCann
Rebecca McCauley
Lillian McDonald
Heather McIntyre
Lorri Millan
Sheila Norris

Agnieszka Pawlowska
Johanna Person
Elizabeth Pickell
Marina Platt-Lyle
Terry Price
Brenda Pruden
Deb Radi
Steven Ratzlaff
Rory Runnells
Andraea Sartison
Eileen Shewchuk
Grant Sims
Hugh Sutherland
Shelley Sweeney
Brenda Taylor
Jean Tymko
Linda Van Buekenhout

BEHIND THE SCENES

The following people have worked behind the scenes to help SIR succeed.

STAFF

Michelle Boulet,
Artistic Co-Chair
Kevin Klassen,
Artistic Co-Chair
Tracey Loewen, Accountant
Claire Freisen, SITC Program
Coordinator
Matthew Moreau,
General Manager

BOARD

Bill Kerr, Chair
Tessa Vanderhart, Vice Chair
Russell Martin, Secretary
Debbie Allen, Treasurer
Michael Marshall
Randal Payne
Arne MacPherson
Andrew Cecon
Eric Bosse

SHAKESPEARE IN THE RUINS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF:



Canada Council
for the Arts Conseil des Arts
du Canada



WHAT YOU WILL WEDNESDAY SPONSOR:



SHAKESPEARE IN THE CITY SUPPORTERS:

The Graham C. Lount
Family Foundation
The Thomas Sill
Family Foundation

YOUTH & EDUCATION SUPPORTERS:



The Ernst Hansch
Foundation

FALL TOUR SPONSOR:



VOLUNTEER SPONSOR:



20TH ANNIVERSARY SUPPORTER:

The Gail Asper Family
Foundation



SHAKESPEARE IN CENTRAL PARK SPONSORS:



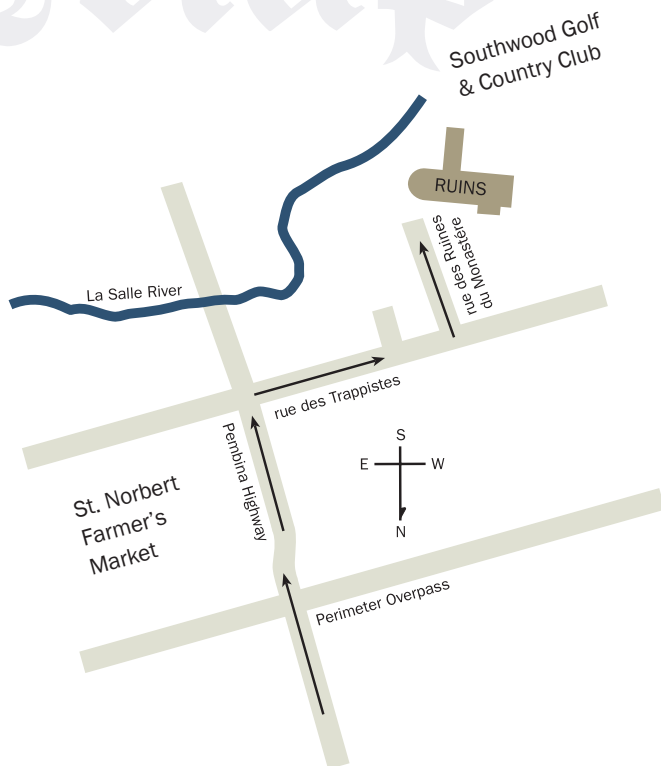


SHAKESPEARE
IN THE RUINS



Unit Y 300-393 Portage Ave.,
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
Canada R3G 3H6

GETTING TO THE RUINS



Julius Caesar



**CELEBRATE 20
YEARS OF SIR WITH
20% OFF TICKETS**
PURCHASED BEFORE **May 30**
CALL **204-942-5483**
ON SALE NOW!

shakespeareintheruins.com

Good for all performances from June 5
to June 16, except Opening Night