



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **WINNIPEG FRINGE KICKS OFF 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH PERFORMER LOTTERY & RETRO READING**

**WINNIPEG, December 8, 2011** – On Tuesday, December 13, 2011, the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival is kicking off the 25<sup>th</sup> year of mass-producing originality with two great events - the annual **Indoor Performer Lottery** followed by the first installment of the **Retro Readings Series**.

Every year, eager Fringe applicants gather for the **Indoor Performer Lottery** and wait anxiously to see which companies will be chosen at random to appear at the next year's festival. Be a part of the excitement and get a behind-the-scenes look at the selection process. The national and international draw starts at 5:45pm with the local and kids venue draw following at 6pm at the King's Head Pub, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 120 King Street. Can't be at the lottery but want to be part of the action? Follow the #wpgfringe hash tag on Twitter as performers tweet from the event. Official results will be posted on [www.winnipegfringe.com](http://www.winnipegfringe.com) on Wednesday, December 14.

After the Fringe Lottery, stick around for the first of our special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, the **Retro Reading Series**. Between now and the launch of the festival in July, the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival will host five readings of some of the most memorable Fringe plays from the past 24 years. Get your Fringe fix and hear the works of playwrights who got their start at the festival. December's Retro Reading is **Aftertaste by Kevin Klassen**, the winner of the first Harry S. Rintoul Award at the 2002 Winnipeg Fringe. The reading on December 13 starts at 7pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the King's Head Pub. Admission: pay what you can. All proceeds go to the Actors' Fund of Canada.

In the lead up to the 2012 Fringe, there will be lots of opportunities for Fringe fans and past performers to share their memories. Once a week starting in January, an electronic copy of a Winnipeg Fringe Festival program will be posted on the Fringe website, starting with the first one from 1988. Peruse the past online and share your thoughts on Facebook ([facebook.com/WinnipegFringe](http://facebook.com/WinnipegFringe)) or Twitter ([twitter.com/WinnipegFringe](http://twitter.com/WinnipegFringe)). The Winnipeg Fringe is also collecting Fringe stories, whether it's your favourite Fringe memory, or the best show you ever saw. Post your comments on Facebook or Twitter or submit them by email to [fringe25@winnipegfringe.com](mailto:fringe25@winnipegfringe.com). You might even win a few tickets if you share!

The **2012 Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival runs July 18-29, 2012**. Fringe Festival passes are already on sale online, in person at the MTC Box Office (174 Market Avenue), by calling 204-942-6537 or by mailing a pass order form. Visit [www.winnipegfringe.com/tickets](http://www.winnipegfringe.com/tickets) for more info.

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**For more information, please contact:**

Teri Stevens, Fringe Publicist  
(204) 934-0302  
[publicist@mtc.mb.ca](mailto:publicist@mtc.mb.ca)