

# 2024-25 IMPACT REPORT



Scene from A TASTE OF HONG KONG  
Photo by Javier Sotres

# INTELLECTUALLY ALIVE, EMOTIONALLY CHARGED



## OUR MISSION

Pi's vision is to build an empathetic and connected world through theatre. We produce and present theatre that is intellectually alive and emotionally charged. We invest in work that creates artistic encounters that challenge perceptions and generate conversation. We are concerned with creating social moments, community connections, and artistic impact. We believe in work that extends beyond the stage and gets people talking.

## ABOUT PI

Founded in 1984, Pi Theatre is under the leadership of Artistic Director Richard Wolfe, and Operations Manager Branden Sugden.

Pi runs Prime Placements, a mentorship program for emerging artists and cultural workers. We are committed to accessibility in our work and support our community with discounted tickets.

Since the company's inception, we have produced over 100 shows and events. Our peers have recognized Pi and its collaborators with 34 Jessie Richardson Awards and 118 nominations for outstanding artistic achievement in Vancouver professional theatre. Pi is a member of Arts BC, the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance (GVPTA), and the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT).

## VALUES

### EXCELLENCE

*We create an environment where individuals are supported in the development of their talent with the resources they need to do their best work.*

### INSPIRATION

*We are passionate and seek to fuel the imagination of artists and audiences.*

### EXPLORATION

*We question our assumptions, and encourage alternative approaches and perspectives.*

### INTEGRITY

*Pi follows the guidelines and fee structures negotiated between PACT, Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA), Associated Designers of Canada (IATSE Local ADC659), and the Playwright's Guild of Canada (PGC), providing a living wage for arts workers and staff while maintaining a safe, open, and inclusive workspace. We regularly reflect on, update, and implement our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion policies and other practices.*

### RIGOUR

*We build organizational capacity with well-considered processes and procedures. We are responsive, resourceful, and innovative when realizing our vision and mission.*



## STAFF AND ASSOCIATES

**Artistic and Producing Director:** Richard Wolfe  
**Outgoing General Manager and Producer:** Libby Willoughby  
**Interim General Manager:** Cory Philley  
**Operations Manager:** Branden Sugden  
**Social Media Coordinator:** Mary-Anne McAllister  
**Graphic Designer:** Terry Wong  
**Bookkeeper:** Meredith Burney

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Daren Mercer  
**Vice-President:** Catherine Ballachey  
**Treasurer:** Craig Boyko  
**Secretary:** Caleb Dycks  
**Director:** Leslie Palleson  
**Director:** Cheryl-Lee Fast



## PI THEATRE

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+1 (604) 872.1861 | [info@pitheatre.com](mailto:info@pitheatre.com) | [@pi.theatre](https://www.instagram.com/pi.theatre)

Pi Theatre is grateful to be living and creating on the unceded ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples: the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ (Tsilil-Waututh) Nations.

Pi is a BC Society and is registered as a charitable organization with the Canada Revenue Agency.

**BN: 894730159RR0001 | BC Society #: S-24462**

# FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE



## 2024-25 BUDGET

**Income: \$371,350**

### GOVERNMENT GRANTS: \$242,656

Received from : Canada Council, BC Arts Council, BC Gaming, Canadian Heritage, and the City of Vancouver

### CONTRIBUTED INCOME: \$9,706

Includes: \$6,456.03 (individual donations), \$2,500 (foundations), \$750 (bursaries)

### EARNED REVENUE: \$93,988

Includes: \$24,068.97 in ticket sales and \$25,739.24 in touring guarantees

### IN-KIND REVENUE: \$25,000

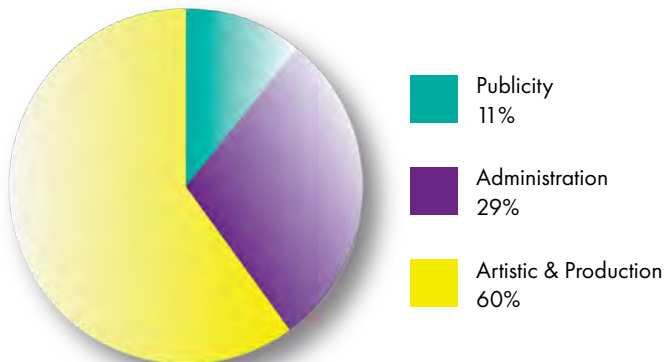
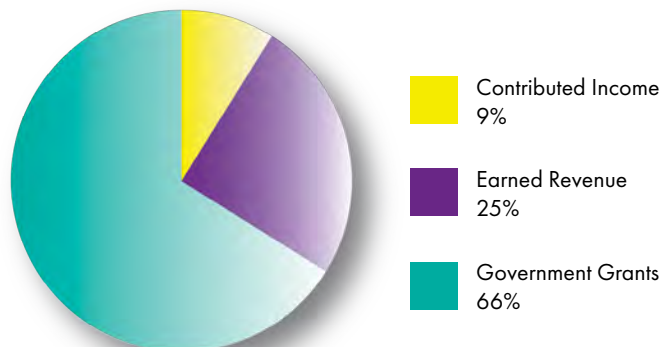
**Expenditures: \$342,778**

### MARKETING AND PUBLICITY: \$37,342

### ADMINISTRATION: \$98,886

### ARTISTIC AND PROFESSIONAL FEES: \$130,486

### OTHER PRODUCTION COSTS: \$76,064



## Summary

- Increased non-government revenue from *A Taste of Hong Kong* co-production contributions.
- Advance on 2025-26 operating from Canada Council recognized as revenue.
- We are in a strong financial position going into the new year.

## CONTENT

### CORNERSTONE PRODUCTIONS

*Black & Rural* by Shayna Jones; *A Taste of Hong Kong* by Anonymous

### PI PROVOCATEUR PRESENTATIONS

*Rat Academy*, by Katie Yoner & Dayna Lea Hoffman in collaboration with Joseph McManus; *Little Friends of Pi*, created by Headfullofrocks;

### CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

*Polygraph / Le Polygraphe* – Staged Play Reading; *Embodied Knowledge & Storytelling: A Black & Rural Community Retreat* at Adinkra Farm; *A Taste of Hong Kong* – Congee Social; Pi's 40th Anniversary Party

### CANADIAN WORKS

*Black & Rural* by Shayna Jones, *A Taste of Hong Kong* by Anonymous; *Rat Academy*, by Katie Yoner & Dayna Lea Hoffman in collaboration with Joseph McManus; *Little Friends of Pi*, created by Headfullofrocks

## IMPACT & REACH

**AUDIENCE MEMBERS REACHED: OVER 2,425**

**ARTISTS AND CULTURAL WORKERS COMPENSATED: 35**

**TECH AND PRODUCTION WORKERS COMPENSATED: 18**

**FULL-TIME STAFF: 2**

**BOARD MEMBERS: 5**

**VOLUNTEERS: 45**

**NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS: 1,849**

**INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS: 2,140**

**THREADS FOLLOWERS: 376**

**TWITTER FOLLOWERS: 2,436**

**FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS: 1,894**

# GLANCE BACK MOVE AHEAD



Hello Everyone,

The 2024/2025 season was a milestone year for Pi Theatre, marking our 40th anniversary with ambition, artistry, and an extraordinary range of work across communities and cities.

The season began with *Black & Rural* by Shayna Jones, which opened MT Space's season in Kitchener, Ontario. The production returned to Ontario in November with a presentation by dance Immersion at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto, expanding the reach of this important work.

In December, our Pi Provocateurs Performance Series welcomed Batrabbitt Productions to Vancouver with their acclaimed show, *Rat Academy*. Staged in a found warehouse space in the Downtown East Side, the production sold out its run and delighted audiences.

Honouring Pi's 40th season alongside Théâtre la Seizième's 50th, we revisited *Polygraph* (written by Robert Lepage and Marie Brassard), originally co-produced with Seizième in 1992. Our January 2025 presentation at Studio 16 took the form of a highly staged reading with original sound, video, and set design, co-directed by Cory Haas and myself.

March brought the world premiere of *A Taste of Hong Kong*, produced with fu-GEN Theatre and in association with Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre. The show played to sold-out houses and later travelled to Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille. It received four Jessie Award nominations.

The season concluded with Pi Theatre's 40th Anniversary celebration at Beaumont Studios in July, bringing our community together to celebrate four decades of bold theatre and shared creative vision.

The 2024/2025 season reflected both the depth of Pi's legacy and the strength of its future. Thank you for being a part of it. We're excited for what lies ahead!

Richard Wolfe,  
Artistic and Producing Director

Dear friends and supporters of Pi Theatre

On behalf of the Pi Theatre Board of Directors, it was a true honour to celebrate the company's past and present through a vibrant 40th anniversary season. As we look to the future, we see an uncertain path that demands resilience and imagination.

Like much of the Canadian theatre community, we're navigating economic headwinds that challenge how arts organizations operate. Funding pressures have intensified, and rising costs for touring, production, and daily operations continue to rise while budgets tighten.

The future of Canadian theatre requires new economic models, deeper community engagement, and stronger advocacy for public funding. Culture is not a luxury but essential to our economy, well-being, and identity.

Through this uncertainty, Pi Theatre has leaned into community as both a necessity and a core value. Local and national partnerships with fu-GEN Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre, and Théâtre la Seizième help us create work rooted in lived experience. Productions like *A Taste of Hong Kong* reveal audiences' hunger for stories where communities see themselves and one another.

As board members, we see our role not only as governance but as stewardship of four decades of bold, intellectually alive, emotionally charged theatre. In times of constraint, it would be easy to program conservatively and to limit risk. We're proud that Pi Theatre continues to invest in community, in emerging artists, and in innovative work that holds a unique place in the Vancouver theatre ecology.

We thank our donors, public partners, artists, crew, staff, and audiences whose generosity, creativity, and presence sustain this work.

Darren Mercer,  
President, Board of Directors

# BRINGING THE ART TO LIFE



## CORNERSTONE PRODUCTIONS



Our Cornerstone Productions are large-scale productions that demand significant resources. Cornerstone Productions are broadly inclusive in terms of our choice of writers, performers, administrators and designers. We primarily hire artists and cultural workers from the local community to create these productions. We typically produce one Cornerstone Production in each season. This season we were pleased to offer audiences in Vancouver and Toronto the premiere of a project that had been in development for a couple of years entitled *A Taste of Hong Kong* by Anonymous.



Derek Chan in *A TASTE OF HONG KONG* | Photo by Chelsey Stuyt,

A Scene from *RAT ACADEMY* | Photo by Marc Chalifoux



## PI PROVOCATEURS PERFORMANCE SERIES



Pi Provocateurs Performance Presentations is a series that features provocative artists from BC and across Canada. We present these shows most often in non-traditional or underutilized spaces. This year's *Rat Academy* and *Little Friends* made up our Provocateurs Performance series (*Blue Horse Opera* had to be rescheduled to the fall of 2025 due to illness).

## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT SERIES



Close Encounters is our audience engagement program. It features a range of community events intended to expand our audience's involvement and understanding of the work we do by exploring the themes of our Cornerstone Productions and the Provocateurs Performance Presentations. Close Encounters can include multi-disciplinary events, concerts, cabarets, fine art installations, and panels featuring artists and invited guests. A very special Close Encounters afternoon happened this year at the Beaumont Studios in celebration of Pi's 40th Anniversary.



Artistic Director Richard Wolfe hosts Pi's 40th Anniversary Party

FEARLESS

CORNERSTONE  
PRODUCTIONS



## BLACK & RURAL

WRITTEN, PERFORMED and CREATED by SHAYNA JONES  
DIRECTED by RICHARD WOLFE

On tour September 26-29, 2024 and November 20-22, 2024

Featuring voiceover performances by:  
TOM PICKETT, OMARI NEWTON, KWASI  
THOMAS, GISELLE CLARKE-TRENAMAN IVY  
CHARLES, BRITNEY BUREN,  
MARIAM BARRY

Stage Manager: KAYLEIGH SANDOMIRSKY

Tour Stage Manager: MARIA ZARRILLO

Lighting Design: BRAD TRENAMAN

Set Design & Costume Consultant:  
CECILIA VADALA

Sound Design & Composition:  
RUFUS CAPPADOCIA

Movement Director: AMBER BARTON

Dramaturg: ANGELA KONRAD

**“Spell-binding. *Black & Rural* awakens a deep-seated longing in many of us who live busy, noisy, urban lives and wonder why we live the way we do. One life. No rewind.” —Jo Ledingham**

**“Pi Theatre has brought to the stage an exceptionally important piece of art ...*Black & Rural* puts forward timeless tales and fresh perspectives.” —*STIR Vancouver***

*Black & Rural* was back on tour in the winter of 2025, making two separate stops in Toronto, ON and Kitchener, ON.

*Black & Rural* is the story of a lone Black country woman struggling to defy the monolith of what matters to Black lives. Derived from dozens of real-life interviews with Black folk tucked away in the countryside across Canada, Shayna Jones weaves together a story of vulnerability, quiet triumph, and striking humanity. The show features Shayna’s unique storytelling voice, interspersed with new folkloric tales and verbatim reflections from her interviewees.

Scenes from *BLACK & RURAL* | Photos by Sarah Race



CORNERSTONE  
PRODUCTIONS



## A TASTE OF HONG KONG

WRITTEN by ANONYMOUS; DIRECTED by RICHARD WOLFE

March 6-15, 2025 at the Vancity Culture Lab

On Tour May 13-17, 2025 at Theatre Passe Murraile Mainspace

Performed by: **DEREK CHAN**

Dramaturgy: **MARJORIE CHAN** 陳以珏

Stage Manager: **JETHELO E. CABILETE**

Lighting Design: **SOPHIE TANG**

Video Design: **ANDIE LLOYD**

Animation: **RONNIE CHENG**

Sound Design: **ALEX MAH**

Set Design: **JERGUS OPRSAŁ**

Production Management: **JESSICA HAN**

Production Assistant: **EMMA GRAVESON**

PRIME PLACEMENTS PERSONNEL:

Direction: **EMMA GRAVESON**

Video: **DORIS HUANG**

Jackie Z welcomes you to *A Taste of Hong Kong*, a hybrid of political theatre and a snack-sized tasting class. Sample favourites like curry fish balls, siu mai, and more while learning about the city's culture and history from its colonial era to the radical changes of today. The class offers an intimate glimpse into the pride, resilience and determination of Hong Kong people.

Written by an anonymous playwright, this project highlights the reality of self-censorship in Canada. Amid ongoing debates about free speech, the author chose not to reveal their identity, fearing reprisals from a foreign government's security services. In other words, some Canadian artists living here do not feel free to express their political views through art. Such coercion is a familiar tactic in authoritarian systems.

*A Taste of Hong Kong* was produced in association with Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre (vAct) and supported by fu-Gen Asian Canadian Theatre Company.

Scenes from *A TASTE OF HONG KONG* | Photos by Javier Sotres



# BRINGING THE ART TO LIFE



PI PROVOCATEUR  
PRESENTATION SERIES



## RAT ACADEMY

WRITTEN by KATIE YONER & DAYNA LEA HOFFMAN

in collaboration with JOSEPH MCMANUS

December 5-7, 2024

Directed by:  
**JOSEPH MCMANUS**

Performed by:  
**KATIE YONER**  
**DAYNA LEA HOFFMAN**

Set and Lighting Design:  
**CLAIRE SONMOR**

Costume Design:  
**MEEGAN SWEET**

Mentorship:  
**KAREN HINES**  
**JOHN TURNER**  
**MIKE KENNARD**

*“Rat Academy is a heart-warming winner.” — Edmonton Journal*

*Rat Academy* follows Fingers, a curmudgeonly street rat with a heart of gold, who is completely alone. Or so he thinks, until he discovers Shrimp, an escaped happy-go-lucky lab rat. Eager to preserve his legacy, Fingers creates the Rat Academy to train Shrimp in the ways of the cold, hard street rat. Their alleys are far from predictable, and as the unlikely duo tries to exist in a world that hates them, they learn that survival is nothing without love.

*Rat Academy* was performed in an active warehouse in East Vancouver, the secret location of the show revealed to ticket holder just three days before the show. The show played to a sold-out audience before continuing to tour across Canada.

Scenes from RAT ACADEMY | Photo by Marc Chalifoux



PI PROVOCATEUR  
PRESENTATION SERIES



## LITTLE FRIENDS OF PI

CREATED BY HEADFULLOFROCKS

July 6, 2026



At Pi Theatre's 40th Anniversary Party, Headfullofrocks Artistic Director Blake Hobson-Dimas created a performance to premiere his fabric-art creations: *Little Friends of Pi*. This fabric art piece and performance paid homage to influential artists through Pi's history. Crocheted by hand, these dolls embody Pi's spirit of Fearless theatre

and the impact this spirit has had on the Vancouver theatre scene and communities across Canada. The works feature Sarah Kane (*Blasted*, 2015), Haruki Murakami (*After the Quake*, 2010), Taylor Mac (*Hir*, 2018), Shayna Jones (*Black & Rural*, 2023) and Artistic Director Richard Wolfe.



Scene from *POLYGRAPH / LE POLYGRAPHE*  
Photo by Chelsey Stuyt

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS  
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT  
SERIES



## POLYGRAPH / LE POLYGRAPHE

STAGED PLAY READING January 24 & 25, 2025

Direction:  
**CORY HAAS** and **RICHARD WOLFE**

Translation: **GYLLIAN RABY**

Cast: **SEAN SONIER**, **CHISTIAAN WESTERVELD** and **MIA WISTAFF**

Video Design: **ARYO KHAKPOUR**

Sound Design: **JACK GOODISON**

Technical Direction & Lighting Design:  
**ZAC LABRIE**

Surtitles: **GABRIELLE MORIN**

Stage Management: **MELANIE THOMPSON**

To honour the 40th Anniversary of Pi Theatre and the 50th anniversary of Théâtre la Seizième, the companies produced a staged reading of *Polygraph / Le Polygraphe*, written by Marie Brassard and Robert Lepage.

The choice to do a staged reading of *Polygraph / Le Polygraphe* with Seizième pays tribute to the history of collaboration between Pi (Pink Ink Theatre back in the Polygraph days)

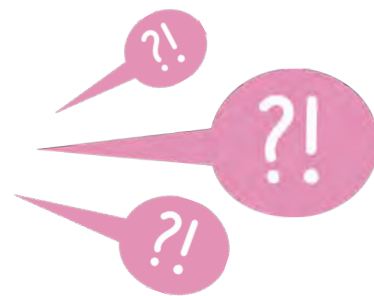
and Seizième. As a significant part of its four-decade history, Pi was instrumental in introducing Québec and Franco-Canadian dramaturgy, in English, to the Vancouver public. 1992's production of *Le Polygraphe* marked the first time that Robert Lepage allowed one of his shows to be produced outside his own company.

**Produced with with Théâtre la Seizième**



## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

### AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT SERIES



#### **EMBODIED KNOWLEDGE & STORYTELLING:**

#### **A BLACK & RURAL COMMUNITY RETREAT AT ADINKRA FARM**

November 23, 2024

Shayna Jones, dance Immersion & b current Performing Arts invited Ontario-based African Diasporic artists to a communal learning experience including embodied storytelling workshops, informal performances, collective drumming, and a home-cooked African-Caribbean meal at Adinkra Farm in New Lowell, ON.

#### **A TASTE OF HONG KONG – CONGEE SOCIAL**

March 6-15, 2025

Following each performance of *A Taste of Hong Kong*, audiences were invited on stage to join Jackie for a bowl or two of congee to discuss the themes of the show and contribute to the Lenin Wall erected on stage at the end of the show.

#### **PI'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY**

July 6, 2025

This season marked the 40th Anniversary of Pi Theatre's boundary-pushing performance. We gathered to celebrate the artists, audiences, and ideas that have shaped the company into a force for Fearless contemporary theatre in Canada.

The party had a bar and open mic for sharing stories from Pi's past and featured *Little Friends of Pi*.

The Congee Social following A TASTE OF HONG KONG | Photo by Richard Wolfe



# CHAMPIONS OF THE MISSION

TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF ART, CREATIVITY, ORIGINAL THOUGHT, AND NEW IDEAS. FOR THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC CONVERSATION, OF SHARED LAUGHTER AND TEARS, OF MUTUAL SUPPORT. WITHOUT YOU, OUR WORK WOULD NOT BE SEEN, FELT, OR HEARD. A MILLION THANK-YOUS.



## DONORS

Richard Wolfe & Connie Kostiuk, Ronald Deibert & Jane Gowan, Shayna Goldberg, Michelle Bjornson, Jane & Chris Westheuser, Evelyn Harden, Pamela Hawthorn, Kristen Johnson, Johnna Wright, Miranda Huron, Elaine McRitchie, Clayton Baraniuk, Colin Smith, Darren Mercer, the Estate of Elsie & George Kowalenko, and The McGrane - Pearson Endowment Fund held at Vancouver Foundation.

## PARTNERS

dance Immersion, MTSpace, Adinkra Farm, Théâtre la Seizième, Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre (vAct), fu-Gen Asian Canadian Theatre Company, Theatre Passe Murraile, Beaumont Studios.

## FUNDERS



Canada Council  
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### JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Learn more about upcoming events!

[pitheatre.com](http://pitheatre.com)



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Receive exclusive perks!

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**Pi Theatre**

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Scene from POLYGRAPH / LE POLYGRAPHE  
Photo by Chelsey Stuyt