SHELTER IN PLACE

A PLAY BY ROBIN TAYLOR WRIGHT

FEATURING
CHAEL DONALD, KARL ECKSTRAND, & BRONWYN SMYTH

Thursday Nov 19 7:00 pm

VIDEO POOL
media arts centre

laughing CACTUS productions

PRESS KIT

laughing CACTUS productions

Touring DIY production company connects with local talent to perform a dramatic reading of an original play.



100 Arthur Street - home of Video Pool

Winnipeg, MB - Laughing Cactus Productions will be presenting their latest comedy-drama *Shelter in Place* by Robin Taylor Wright at the Video Pool - Output Room. Featuring Chael Donald, Karl Eckstrand, and Bronwyn Smyth, it's a one act play with rock music-rich references, dark humour, and all the horror that natural disasters can instill. You maybe saw Laughing Cactus last time at the Lo Bar, performing *Home for Boys.*

Premiering in Fort Frances, it was presented as a reading in that community's library. It was very well attended, and incorporated a soundscape created by Taylor Wright to assist with storytelling immersion. As well, pre-recorded actors like Sue Schick from Finland and Omar Findlay from Toronto feature in pivotal moments.



Where the magic happens



An attentive crowd watches the Fort Frances reading of Shelter in Place

Laughing Cactus Productions holds a less-is-more economical approach to entertainment. Although we are more interested in the process and nourishing new ideas before they blossom, it’s a response to the crushing truth that it’s more difficult than ever to produce and maintain projects due to finances and scheduling. All proceeds made by these shows are split to reduce costs and reimbursing the artists involved.

This is a short play that will appeal to anyone who pines for the nostalgia of the 90s Canadian loud alternative scene (think Doughboys, Duotang, or Rusty) head on colliding with modern indie pop rock (think Beach Bunny, Imaginary Cities, or Alvvays). Put these bands into the bodies of an estranged father and daughter, with a looming severe weather threat, and you’ve got *Shelter in Place.*

Chael Donald plays Noa, lead singer of dormant Toronto power pop band the Brollies.



Video Pool is located at 100 Arthur Street in Winnipeg. The show will be performed at the Output, which is a wheelchair accessible simple set that can seat up to sixty people. The show doesn't run any longer than forty minutes.



Karl Eckstrand plays Noa's father James, a fading alternative rock star striving for relevance overseas.

Content warnings include brief strong language, scary noises (such as mock Emergency Alert tones created by the author), some cannabis use (mimed), parental estrangement, and depictions of panic and trauma. Despite some of the heavy subject matter, it is softened by humour and ends on a hopeful note.

With intentions to get into the Winnipeg Fringe in the future, come witness the launching of it. Audience reaction and absorption today is the crucial step in nourishing a full production tomorrow.
IG @laughingcactusproductions
www.laughingcactusproductions.com/sip

Bronwyn Smyth is the narrator - a stage directions reader with a strong personality of their own



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