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## COVID-19 closes venues for *Hey, Riel!*

St. Albert, Alberta — **Musicalmania!**'s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary spring matinees of *Hey, Riel!* planned for April 6 and 7 at the Northern and Southern Alberta Jubilee in Edmonton and Calgary have been indefinitely postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

St. Albert-based composer, lyricist and artistic director **C.W. Oxley**, who first staged *Hey, Riel!* in 2000, has been juggling texts, emails and phonecalls with venues, ticket holders, cast and crew, guest artists and performers since Thursday when she first received word from the Jubilee.

“The cancellation of shows and closures of schools is of course affecting us drastically. Some ticket holders required an immediate refund, while many schools, other groups and individuals are currently in a position to let us hold on to payments received for tickets while they wait for the show to be rescheduled.

“Naturally this translates into a loss of salaries for the professionals involved. We are not alone in this, of course,” says Oxley, “I know of many friends and colleagues who are being financially squeezed by all the closures.

“Yes, this makes for immediate tough times on all affiliated with our group, BUT, there are still 9 1/2 months left in 2020—lots of time to present anniversary performances!” says Oxley, who always looks for the upside. “Our eager and talented cast, crew and guest artists and performers are continually practicing and creating, and ready to jump back on board at the drop of a hat!”

The company has received a flood of communications from new and long-time supporters who are rooting for it. “This company will prevail!”

Announcements about Musicalmania!'s 2020 productions will be made on the company's website, [musicalmania.org](http://musicalmania.org), and its social media sites.

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**Pour convenir d'une entrevue en français, veuillez contacter:**

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