



IATSE members preparing Pantages Playhouse for opening night, 1921.



**As a Manitoban, you helped pay for the MTS Centre. Don't you feel that the MTS Centre should support the community that supported it?**

If so, please consider contacting the people below. *Tell them you disagree with True North's decision to use an out-of-province temp firm.* Breaking a hundred-year-old Winnipeg tradition is not the way to launch the exciting new arena project.

**Premier Gary Doer**  
 ph: 945-3714  
 email: premier@leg.gov.mb.ca

**Mayor Sam Katz**  
 ph: 949-0566  
 Email: mayor@city.winnipeg.ca

**Jim Ludlow**  
 President and CEO, True North  
 ph: 987-7825  
 email: jludlow@truenorth.mb.ca



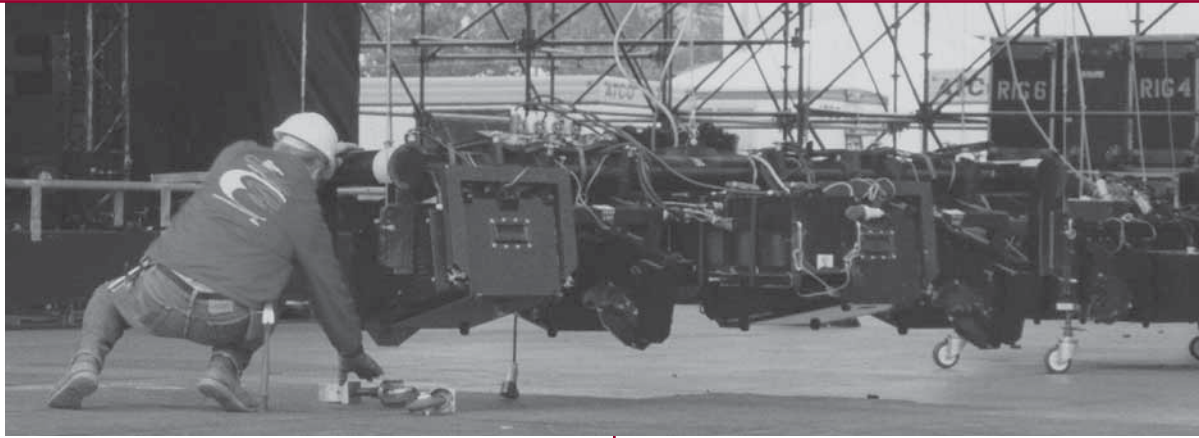
# FRANKLY, WE'D RATHER BE BEHIND THE SCENES RIGHT NOW.



This brochure is being distributed by members of IATSE 63, along with our family members and friends.

We're not used to having a public presence. We'd prefer to be working behind the scenes at the MTS Centre. In fact, we should be there. Please take a moment to read this—we think you'll agree.





IATSE stands for the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. We're the

"crew"—we build and set up the stage, climb high above it to rig the lights and sound, and do the sets, wardrobe, props, and much more. An executive producer at Rainbow Stage referred to us as the "unsung heroes" of the show.



## True North? Or "True West Coast?"

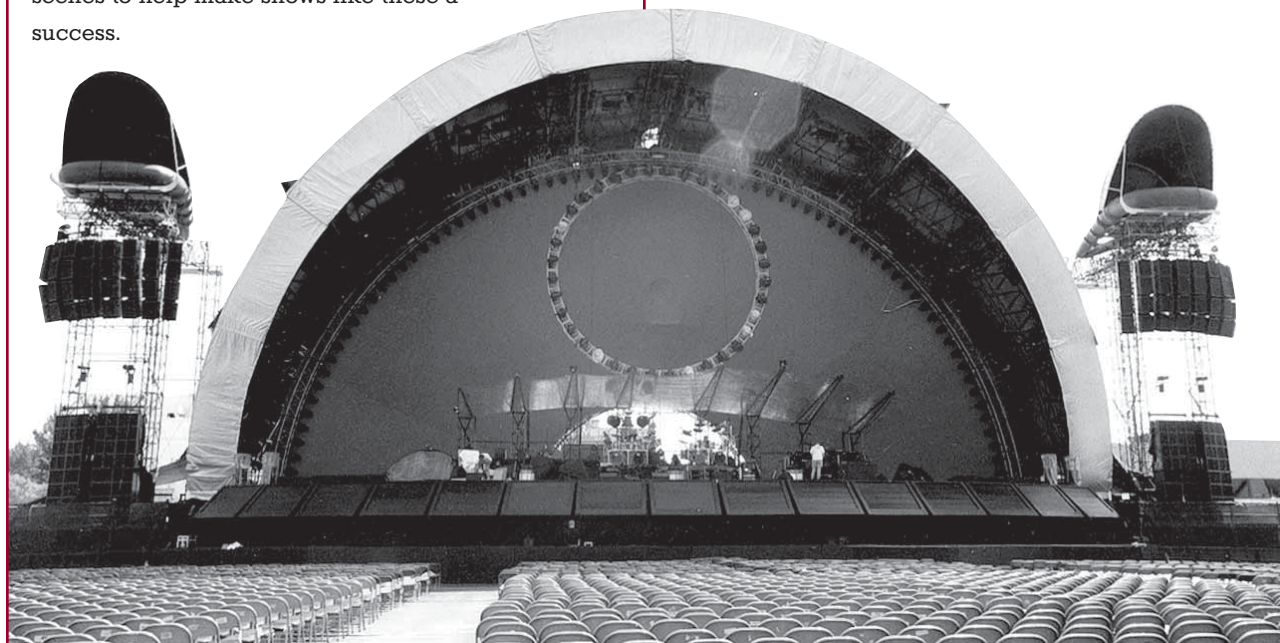
For fifty-five years we worked at the Winnipeg Arena. When the MTS Centre opened, we believed that relationship would continue, and negotiated for 23 months. Then, two weeks before opening night, the MTS Centre told us it had contracted-out our old jobs to a BC temp firm, without even holding a public tendering process.

We are local people, working to support our families. Some of our members have been on the job for 35 years. The BC firm hired by True North charges union rates—then hires low-wage temp workers. Where does the rest of that money go? It seems the only real winner here is a company from out of the province.

## Community support is a two-way street

True North and the MTS Centre have received a lot of support from the community—including more than \$40 million of public money. Shouldn't True North support the community?

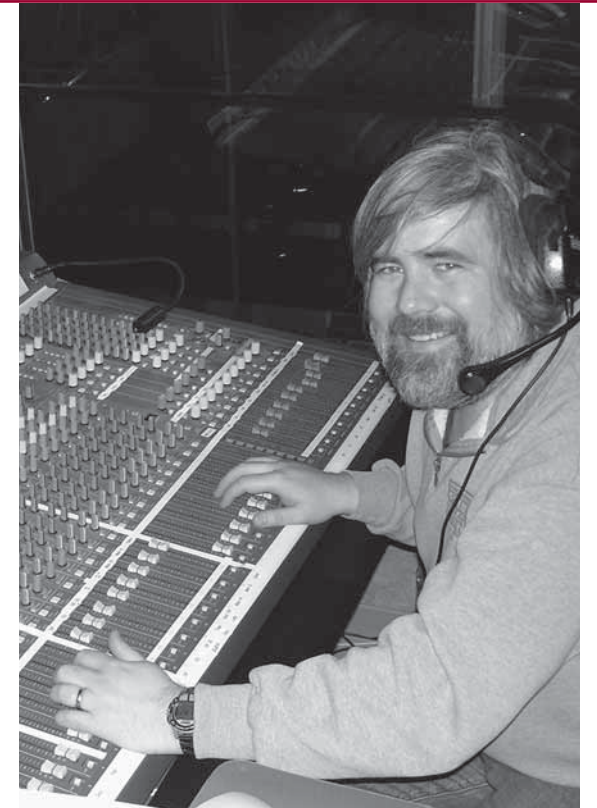
IATSE has been an integral part of Winnipeg's entertainment community since 1899. Think back to any of the great entertainment events in our city's past. From Charlie Chaplin and the Three Stooges, through the Guess Who, the Rolling Stones, Harry Belafonte, and Paul McCartney, to the Jets, the Ice Capades, Phantom of the Opera, and both Pan-Am Games ... on and on, for more than a century, IATSE members have been working behind the scenes to help make shows like these a success.



the only winner is a company from out of province

We're proud of our connections with the community. We donate our time to benefit shows all over town. A few years ago, IATSE members started putting on a spectacular show for underprivileged kids in West Broadway. Soon this became an annual event with IATSE members donating all the gifts—and a sound tech or rigger dressed up as Santa!

In the past, when ticket sales were slow for certain Arena shows, Winnipeg Enterprises would sometimes ask us for reduced rates—and we always managed to reach an agreement so the show could go on. We took a voluntary five-year pay freeze with arts organizations when their funding was cut in the 1990s. Sadly, it seems to us that True North's management doesn't believe in that same spirit of cooperation.



## The MTS Centre is a first-rate facility ... shouldn't it have a first-rate crew?

IATSE crews are highly skilled. We have a three-year apprenticeship program. When you attend a show, wouldn't you feel safer knowing the massive equipment hanging above you was hung by a local rigger who has done that job hundreds of times before?

That's why the Winnipeg Arena used IATSE members—and why we're at the Convention Centre, the Concert Hall, MTC, and Pantages Playhouse. IATSE members guarantee the safest, most reliable, best-quality technical support.

