

ROAR!



in the Woods
Theatre Company

TORONTO
FRINGE
FESTIVAL

The Reminders – Play Synopsis

Inside a Toronto Public Library branch, a quiet, familiar rhythm unfolds—patrons reading, staff shelving, lives unfolding in near silence. But when Renee, a determined and unpredictable writer, begins placing her self-published memoir on the shelves, that order is disrupted. Refusing to accept that her story doesn't "belong," she challenges the invisible rules of the space and forces everyone around her to confront what those rules protect and who they exclude.

As tensions rise, a cross-section of library regulars are drawn into the conflict: Natalie, a rule-bound librarian clinging to structure as her sense of purpose begins to shift; JJ, an unhoused teen using the library as refuge while quietly beginning to write his own story; a newcomer navigating language, identity, and the pressure to succeed; and Charles, an observant patron who prefers watching stories unfold to living his own. What begins as a small act of defiance grows into a deeper reckoning about voice, belonging, and the right to be seen.

Set in one of the city's last truly free public spaces, *The Reminders* reveals the library as more than a place for books -- it is a site of connection, solitude, survival, and quiet transformation. As personal histories surface and intersect, the characters begin to question whose stories are valued, whose are dismissed, and what it means to leave something behind.

Written in and inspired by Toronto's libraries, the play reflects the lived realities of a city where public space is shrinking and isolation is increasingly common. Both a love letter and a challenge, *The Reminders* celebrates the library as a democratic space open to all-- while asking what is at stake if we fail to protect it.

By the end, the question is no longer whether Renee's book belongs on the shelf but whether any story can truly be excluded. In a place built on silence, *The Reminders* makes space for voices that refuse to be quiet -- and reminds us of the power of being seen.