

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2011 Marked A Year of Change & Growth
Saint John Theatre Company hosts Annual General Meeting

SAINT JOHN – Dean Turner, President of the Saint John Theatre Company (SJTC) Board of Directors, presented a re-cap of the company's activities and upcoming projects during the 2012 Annual General Meeting. The meeting was held at the company's home on 112 Princess St on January 18th, 2012 at 6:30pm.

The 2010-2011 Main Stage line-up was a perfect combination of award-winning and classic scripts. The season opened with a twist; a contemporary version of the Oscar Wilde classic *The Importance of Being Earnest*. "After seeing the show, several students wanted to read the play...some have now gone to the library and taken out different books by Oscar Wilde" – comments Jean Peters of Read Saint John, whose students were offered complimentary tickets to the production as part of the SJTC's community outreach program.

In March *Black Comedy* hit the stage. *Black Comedy* is a farce set in the middle of an electrical black out. Audience members were given a unique perspective as the play was set using a reverse lighting scheme – when the lights were out the characters could see one another but when they were on the cast shambled around the stage apparently invisible to one another.

The 2010-2011 Season came to a close with the intense production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Alex Goldrich and Emily Bartlett, each a SJTC veteran turned professional actor, returned to Saint John to join fellow cast members in the timeless William's classic.

The Saint John Theatre Company Main Stage Series continues to grow as the 2011-2012 Main Stage Season launched this past Fall. An expanded Main Stage line-up was rolled out bumping the line-up from 3 shows to 4 for the 2011-2012 Season. The Season to date has rocked the box office in sales with two very different but equally pleasing productions: *The Rocky Horror Show* and *A Christmas Carol*.

An in house Studio Series was launched in 2011 offering audiences more non-traditional, intimate productions in the trendy BMO Rehearsal Hall; the primary rehearsal space used by theatre company volunteers. Over 400 people attended the 2 Studio plays last season. "Offering in house productions right here in our own facility allows us to expand our range of productions" notes Dean Turner, President of the Board. "The Studio Series allows SJTC to present plays that are of a smaller, more intimate nature where the audience will almost become one of the performers. This space allows us to produce shows that would not work as well in the larger space of the Imperial." The goal is to exceed last season's attendance with two award winning regional premiers in 2012: *Death and the Maiden* (Feb 9-11) and *The Drowning Girls* (Apr 5-7).

The ninth annual summer theatre festival – Theatre on the Edge – has also undergone some transformations this past August to accommodate the large variety of local dance, comedy, and theatre performances. Several touring groups performed at the 2011 festival, including Toronto based playwright and performer Jordan Tannahill, Nova Scotia's Off The Leash Theatre, Fredericton based Nasty Shadows Theatre Company, and the Valley Young Company out of Woodstock. Training workshops were also offered to help develop the local talent base.

Workshops in dance, writing, directing, and Shakespeare were offered throughout the three week festival.

The SJTC has also undergone some structural change with the completion of an elevator, allowing the exciting facility to be available to all of our patrons. Facility rentals are on the rise as the space evolves into a chic uptown hotspot for parties, meetings and other events.

2012 Returning Board of Directors: *President*, Dean Turner, CA, *First Vice-President*, Kizzy Kaye, *Second Vice-President*, Sarah Dever Letson, *Treasurer*, Robert Crowley, CA, *Directors*: Dr. Sandra Bell, Juliette Bosse, Blair Cormier, John Elliot, Richard Gradon, Kristi Stuart

New Board Members: George Daniel, Lisa Hrabluk, Pauline Cronin, Jeff Roach.

New Honorary Member: Brian Goodwin.

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