

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## SJTC Celebrates Another Season of Growth

175 performances of 43 works at 25 theatres reaching in excess of 20,000

SAINT JOHN – At the 2016 Annual General Meeting, Dean Turner, President of the SJTC Board of Directors, presented a re-cap of the company’s activities, Treasurer Robert Crowley presented a financial report for the fiscal year, while Artistic Director Stephen Tobias focused on upcoming projects. The meeting was held at 112 Princess Street on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016.



The 2015-2016 Main Stage Season opened with a lively and highly technical production of *The Wizard of Oz*, followed by the ever-popular *Noises Off*, and closed with a New Brunswick themed version of *An Enemy of the People*, a Classics for the Classroom production, which toured to Fredericton, Moncton and St Stephen. The show will also tour to Konstanz Germany this January as part of a cultural exchange which offers development opportunities for local actors as well as exposure of Canadian theatre abroad.

The BMO Studio Theatre was a busy place last season offering seven professional theatre pieces from artists across the country as part of the professional Canadian Stages Series, seven music acts as part of the popular Live @ The BMO Studio Music Series, three in house

Studio Series pieces with local talent and direction, as well as numerous rental events. An expanded music series has been launched for the 2016-2017 season.

A special student outreach project was also part of the line-up last season as part of the company’s Theatre on the Road (SJTC ToR) initiative. *Fallout*, a play about cyber bullying and its long-term impact, was performed by NS based Off The Leash Creative and Eastern Front Theatre. The SJTC was proud to offer this relevant play to 16 schools throughout the Province, reaching approximately 5,800 students over the two week run, at no charge to the schools.



August saw the re-launch of the ever-popular Fundy Fringe Festival under the leadership of Festival Director Sarah Rankin. Selections for the 2016 line-up were chosen in true FRINGE fashion; by lottery. Twenty live theatre acts submitted from across Canada and beyond were chosen boasting an all-embracing combo of local, national and international works. “*Fringe theatre taps us into a bigger world of unique works presented by theatre makers from across the world,*” notes Stephen Tobias, Artistic Director, SJTC. Several “after-hours” events were added to the festival, bringing in excess of 6300 people into the uptown area over the 6 day run.

The SJTC 2016-2017 season now is in full swing with 1 holiday classic at Imperial Theatre, 4 music acts, 2 professional presentations and a

special 2 week run of the Studio production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* which played to sold out houses and offered 4 free student performances reaching out to close to 300 local students all complete before the New Year.

The SJTC has many more productions on the horizon for 2017. Next up in the Main Stage is *Of Mice and Men*, a special Classics for the Classroom touring production. *"We are hoping to share this beloved classic with roughly 6,000 students across Southern NB at no cost to them,"* adds Artistic Director, Stephen Tobias. *"Student outreach is a vital part of who we are. Huge amounts company growth and development have stemmed from educational outreach initiatives."*

Board member Elizabeth Cormier resigned from the Board. The SJTC would like to thank Elizabeth for her valuable contribution to the SJTC. George Daniel, Bob Crowley, Matt Letson, Sandra Bell and Dean Turner have all agreed to return for another three year term. Dr. Michael Howlett was appointed to the Board.

The evening concluded with recognition of key contributors and partners to the SJTC. Stephen Tobias acknowledged BMO Financial Group for its role as a major patron in all SJTC activities, Canaport LNG for its continued support of the SJTC Main Stage Series, and TD for its support of SJTC Classics for the Classroom youth outreach and various education initiatives. Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, The Province of New Brunswick, The Pannell Family Foundation as well as the Imperial Theatre Foundation who have been instrumental in the long-term success of the company. The Saint John Free Public Library, Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, Anglophone South School District, UNBSJ, and the Gregg Centre for the Study of War have also been valuable partners this past season.

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