

PRESS RELEASE  
DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

Contact: Lise Driscoll, Marketing & Communications, SJTC  
506-652-7582 ext. 226, [lise.driscoll@saintjohntheatrecompany.com](mailto:lise.driscoll@saintjohntheatrecompany.com)

# A Season Of Growth, Change & Success

## Saint John Theatre Company Celebrates A Successful Season at AGM

SAINT JOHN – At the 2017 Annual General Meeting, Dean Turner, President of the SJTC Board of Directors, presented a re-cap of the company's activities for the 2016-2017 season, Treasurer Robert Crowley presented a positive 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The SJTC 27th season was packed with a brilliant blend of family, funny and thought-provoking pieces. Activity began in the summer with a taste of Shakespeare in the Loyalist City Shakespeare production of *As You Like It* (July 2016) directed by James McClure. The fourth annual Fundy Fringe Festival (August 2016), known for its edgy, easy, and entertaining performance art, boasted 20 live acts from across Canada and beyond. In true FRINGE fashion, performances took over the uptown in various hot spots including: the BMO Studio Theatre, Sanctuary Theatre, NB Museum – Mary Oland Theatre, Saint John Arts Centre and the SJ Ale House.

The in house Studio Series opened with a revival of *The Diary of Anne Frank* (October 2016) under the direction of Shane MacMillan. This show was an SJTC Classics for the Classroom production and included 5 student shows among the total of 14 performances. Support for the project was received from local high schools, the Jewish Historical Museum, and the Saint John Free Public Library. Some special add-ons included student participation from St. John The Baptist School in The Butterfly Project in remembrance of lives lost in the Holocaust, a special preview performance to many new to Canada families from the YMCA Newcomer Connections group as well as a pre-show discussion with Holocaust expert Dr. Cheryl Fury. The Studio Series continued with the regional premiere of *East of Berlin* (April 2017) with Andrea Arbour directing. *Script Happens*, our annual presentation of original one act plays returned in June 2017 with an interesting, varied and successful collection of new works.





The company also presented a diverse Main Stage Series at Imperial Theatre. The Main Stage Season opened with the beloved holiday classic *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* (November 2016). The heart-warming premier adaptation was written by SJTC veteran Bob Doherty. In March 2017 one of the most widely read and beloved stories of all time, the timeless and touching *Of Mice & Men* directed by Dean Turner was staged at Imperial Theatre and then hit the road to tour to communities in Sussex, St Stephen and Fredericton. This was an SJTC Classics for the Classroom production for the season receiving strong support from the community including the Anglophone South School District, the Province of New Brunswick, TD, the McCain Foundation, the MacMurray Foundation, the NB Children's Foundation, the Saint John Free Public Library, CBC

and our local high schools. The SJTC was pleased to offer free student performances in each community, reaching in excess of 1,700 students. The Main Stage season ended with a revival of the very funny 1960's comedy *Boeing Boeing* (May 2017) under the direction of Stephen Tobias.

The SJTC was pleased to participate in a unique international touring opportunity in January of 2017. The 2016 SJTC Main Stage production of *An Enemy of the People* directed by Richard Rose was presented at Theatre Konstanz in Konstanz Germany. Four successful performances were given including a free student showing.

The Improvisation Corporation continued a holiday tradition with their hilarious performances of *Twisted Christmas* (December 2016) for both corporate Christmas parties and public performances. The BMO Studio Theatre also saw a number of visiting productions as part of its Canadian Stages Series and its ever-popular Live @ The BMO Music Series. "We continue to be committed to giving artists from across Canada an attractive smaller venue for theatrical and musical performances in southern New Brunswick while continually bringing in new audiences to our performance space," adds Board President, Dean Turner.

Board members Scott Brittain and Dr. Michael Howlett resigned from the Board. The SJTC would like to thank Scott and Michael for their valuable contribution to the SJTC. President Dean Turner will be stepping down and George Daniel will become new Board President. The company would like to thank Dean Turner for his many years of support and leadership.

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George Daniel has been an energetic and proactive Board member since January of 2012. His enthusiasm for the success and growth of the company has been a strong asset to the company over the past six years. The SJTC is also pleased to welcome four new members to the Board: Marketing Specialist Emily Teed, Lawyer and dedicated SJTC volunteer Jon O’Kane, Communications and Community Manager Kate Shannon, and Operational Excellence Specialist and Consultant Nicole Paquet. Board member Dr. Sandra Bell will be transitioning into the role of Vice President.

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 have also been instrumental in the long-term success of the company. Support this past season was also provided by: the Saint John Canadian Lebanon Association, the Sussex Area Community Foundation, the New Brunswick Children’s Foundation, the MacMurray Foundation, the Crabtree Foundation, and the McCain Foundation. Community support was also offered from the Saint John Free Public Library, the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, Anglophone South School District, and UNBSJ.

Media Inquiries: Lise Driscoll, Marketing and Communications |  
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