

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A Year of Substantial Growth

Saint John Theatre Company's 2013-2014 AGM wraps up a season with a best-selling Main Stage production, a successful summer theatre festival, and an upgraded Studio space

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 2014 Annual General Meeting. The meeting was held at the company's home on 112 Princess St on November 26th, 2014 at 7:00pm.

2013-2014 marked yet another busy year of shows at the Imperial and in the BMO Studio Theatre at the company's home at 112 Princess Street. The Main Stage season at the Imperial started with the hugely successful 'Annie'. This was not only a great production for audiences of all ages; it also had the biggest ticket sales for any production in SJTC's history. This was followed by a



joint production with Theatre New Brunswick, of the Tony Award winning play 'Red'. This production had successful runs in both Saint John and Fredericton. The Main Stage season ended with 'Pride & Prejudice', the classic Jane Austen novel turned into compelling theatre.

'Pride & Prejudice' was the SJTC Classics for the Classroom program for the season gaining strong support for the Fundy Reads project from the community including the Saint John Free Public

Library, CBC and various local high schools. A highlight of that support was a well attended session with students from a number of high schools with the students learning about various aspects of life in Jane Austen's world including the intricacies of dating and dancing in the 19th century.

In April of 2014 the SJTC produced a second Legal Show in cooperation with the Saint John Law Society. 'A Few Good Lawyers' was an evening of scenes from well known court scenes from plays, movies and TV with all of the actors, and dancers, being active lawyers in the community. The show was very well received and was strongly supported by the community including UNB and the legal community.

August 2013 saw the first, but most definitely not the last, Fundy Fringe Festival with 15 productions in 5 venues doing 75 performances over 5 days.

The BMO Studio Theatre continues to be a popular space for SJTC produced plays as well as visiting theatrical productions. The SJTC Studio Series started with the one woman show 'Lost' in September 2013 and continued with the intriguing 'Venus in Fur' in February 2014. The holiday season was rung in with the hilarious and wildly popular 'Twisted Dickens' an improvised Christmas Carol.

Major renovations to the BMO Studio Theatre space were also completed this year under the guidance of our Technical Director, Brian Goodwin. The changes included new stage lights, sound system, lighting board, sound board, projector and audience seating. This major project was made possible by a significant grant from the Government of Canada under the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund and donations from a number of companies and individuals. The financial

results for the Company have improved significantly in the past year. While the overall economy continues to be an issue, SJTC took many steps to increase its revenue base. SJTC continues to take its role as a training organization for theatre in New Brunswick very seriously. Working hard to ensure that its actors, directors, technical designers and production crews have the opportunity to grow and develop their skills. This is done through activities such as Script Happens, guest artist programs and through special workshops and training sessions for the many people working on each show. Partnerships with UNB Saint John and local high schools are ongoing. The SJTC Education Committee continues to be a valuable tool to better coordinate SJTC activities with local high schools and with UNBSJ. For several years, the SJTC has provided UNBSJ students the opportunity to volunteer and receive academic credit for a Drama Production course.

This summer saw the second Fundy Fringe Festival which continues to grow in support. The Studio Series returned in the fall with a fabulous production of 'Mary's Wedding'. The second Studio Series production will be 'Betrayal' here at the BMO Studio Theatre in February. 'Script Happens', a presentation of original one-act plays by local playwrights will return in January.



The 2014-2015 Main Stage subscription base has significantly increased from last year, due in part to the very successful first Main Stage production of the year, 'The Sound of Music'. The 2014-2015 Main Stage season will continue with the joint production with Tutta Musica and the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra of 'Every Good Boy Deserves Favour' by Tom Stoppard and Andre Previn. This show will be unique in the history of SJTC as in addition to our shows at the Imperial, we will be touring the production to Fredericton, Moncton and Edmundston.

The Main Stage season will end with the Classic for the Classroom 'The Great Gatsby'.

"It has been a busy and successful year and we have a lot of people to thank for that. I would like to thank all of the Staff and the members of our Board of Directors for their time and energy. I look forward to more great theatre from our company in the coming year," adds Dean Turner, President, Saint John Theatre Company.

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