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Natives return to their roots to perform in a classic production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
SJTC welcomes veterans to the stage to bring a timeless favourite to life for the finale of its 21st season

Saint John Theatre Company (SJTC) is proud to welcome back two familiar faces to its cast of the upcoming Main Stage production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, the Tennessee Williams' award winning classic about a Southern family coming to grips with the imminent passing of its patriarch amidst the turmoil of their everyday lives.

Alex Goldrich and Emily Bartlett, each a SJTC veteran turned professional actor, will return to Saint John to join fellow cast members in the timeless Williams' classic which will be staged at Imperial Theatre May 19-21. This production will mark the last SJTC Main Stage production of the season.

Alex Goldrich will be playing the role of Brick Pollitt, the favorite son and mourned lover who has been broken by regrets and repression. Alex grew up in Saint John and performed in several past SJTC productions including *The Crucible*, *The Zoo Story*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Cabaret*. He is currently living and working as an actor in Montreal. When asked what attracted him to the script and this role, Alex commented: *"There's just something I love about Tennessee Williams. His plays are all poetry and seduction and longing...also, I find Brick Pollitt so fascinating. He is so tightly contained, so haunted.... He pretends to want no-one and nothing, but something within him is crying out to those around him."*

Emily Bartlett will play the leading lady Maggie Pollitt, also known as 'Maggie the Cat', the gorgeous heroine who's desperate loneliness has made her hardened, nervous and resentful of life. Emily, who is also a Saint John native, has performed in several SJTC productions including *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Whodunnit*. She currently works as a professional actress in Toronto. When asked what she felt the audience will enjoy about this production Emily notes, *"Many of the characters in the play are very big personalities so the audiences will be entertained charmed. The drama and conflict will be compelling."*

The remaining cast is made up of: Dean Turner (Big Daddy), Bet O'Toole (Big Mamma), John Case (Gooper), Amber Arsenault (Mae), John Martin (Doctor Baugh), and Kevin McNeil (Reverend Tooker). Two company members will also be gaining experience and learning from the leads as understudies: Christina Isbill (Maggie) and Rob Jeffrey (Brick). There are several child actors that round out the cast as well. The production will be directed by Stephen Tobias.

Written by Tennessee Williams in 1955, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* has become a treasured literary piece. One of Tennessee Williams's best-known works, the Pulitzer Prize winning production is a North American classic that has several recurring elements including greed, superficiality, decay, sexual desire, and death. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* is even said to be Williams' personal favorite!

"One of the best playwrights of the Twentieth Century, one of the best directors I've ever met, and the most beautiful theatre I've ever seen. When I moved away from Saint John in 2007 I thought I would probably never have the privilege of stepping onto the Imperial Theatre stage again, or of working again with Stephen Tobias. I'm so happy to have been wrong", concludes Alex Goldrich.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof is the final Main Stage production this season and will play at Imperial Theatre from May 19-21. Tickets for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* are on sale now at Imperial Theatre box office 674-4100.

For more information please contact:

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