

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16th, 2013

Fundy Reads 1984

Saint John Theatre Company and the Saint John Free Public Library Reach Out to the Community to read, discuss, and watch the dystopian classic 1984.

SAINT JOHN - **Fundy Reads 1984** is a partnership between Saint John Theatre Company (SJTC), the Saint John Free Public Library and local High Schools. Every year SJTC works to include a play that is based on a literary work as part of its Main Stage line-up at Imperial Theatre as part of the Fundy Reads literacy initiative. Partnerships are then formed with local High Schools as well as the Saint John Free Public Library to promote literacy through book discussions, study guides, and other special events all culminated by an on-stage performance of the play.

This year George Orwell's *1984* has been selected as part of the Fundy Reads initiative. The timeless and prophetic masterpiece that examines the bleak society of Oceania under the constant surveillance of Big Brother and the Thought Police has been a classroom staple for decades. Saint John and surrounding residents are encouraged to read or even re-read the book, participate in library events, and see the multi-media stage adaptation of the classic which will run at Imperial Theatre from May 16-18.

Below is a list of **Fundy Reads 1984** events & promotions:

- Extra copies of *1984* have been ordered so make sure you drop into the library, pick up a copy and start reading. Library discussion guides are also available.
- A celebrity book panel will review *1984* on CBC radio (dates/times TBD – so stay tuned).
- May 1st (6:30-8:45pm) – film viewing of *V for Vendetta*, one of several films inspired by *1984*. (Held at Saint John Free Public Library).
- May 8th (6:00-7:00pm) – actors from the SJTC production of *1984* will present some scenes from the play followed by Q&A session with cast & crew. (Held at Saint John Free Public Library).

SJTC is also pleased to offer a special \$5 off discount on its production of *1984* to book club members who read the book leading up to the show! Book club members are encouraged to register their group by emailing stage@saintjohntheatrecompany.com . Discount coupons will then be mailed out. Those who are not part of a book club can submit their name as well as their favourite quote from the book to be entered to win a pair of 2013-2014 Main Stage SJTC Subscriptions (\$150 value).

Funding from Telus and TD Canada Trust has made this vital outreach possible.

For more information on **Fundy Reads 1984** please contact Lise Driscoll, Marketing & Communications, 506-652-7582 ext 226 or email lise.driscoll@saintjohntheatrecompany.com.