



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Lise Driscoll / 506-652-7582 / lise.driscoll@saintjohntheatrecompany.com

One of Canada's Most-Produced Playwrights Offers Expertise to Emerging Maritime Talent

Stephen Massicotte to lead dramaturge weekend workshop for Script Happens finalists this September

SAINT JOHN - Award winning Canadian playwright, screenwriter and actor, Stephen Massicotte will be leaving the hustle of New York to spend some time here in Saint John September 5-7 to offer vision, focus and share his all around know-how to five regional amateur playwrights who have been selected to have their works be part of the annual Script Happens showcase. Stephen is a leading Canadian Playwright whose play, *Mary's Wedding*, is one of the most produced Canadian works in North America.

Script Happens, a development wing of the Saint John Theatre Company, is designed to provide an avenue to foster the growth of emerging playwrights, directors and actors. "As one of New Brunswick's largest theatre organizations, the SJTC takes seriously the responsibility to develop and produce emerging playwrights from our region. For ten years, the Script Happens project has developed and showcased the new theatre works of playwrights from southern NB and beyond," adds Stephen Tobias, Executive Director. Over 50 scripts to date have been developed through the Script Happens program. The annual event begins with a Maritime wide script search in which amateur playwrights submit their one-act original works. Seventeen submissions were made this year; five have been selected to enter the second phase of the process which involves mentoring and training in the craft of playwriting from a professional dramaturge. The end product will be a presentation of the top three scripts in a Script Happens showcase which will be performed January 22-24 at the BMO Studio Theatre.



Wishbone – written by Billy Curtis. Featuring Shelly Smith & Mary Boyce. Script Happens 2013.



Stephen Massicotte

Stephen Massicotte will lead the team this season, offering his guidance to help contextualize the pieces and establish connections among the text, actors and audience; essentially guiding the transformation of these works from page to stage. A graduate of the University of Calgary Drama program, Stephen Massicotte has become a world renowned playwright; some of his works include *Mary's Wedding*, *A Farewell to Kings* and *The Boy's Own Jedi Handbook Trilogy*. Stephen is part of a skilled line-up of dramaturges that have guided local playwrights through the Script Happens development program over the years including Jeffrey Hatcher from Minneapolis (playwright of *Tuesdays With Morrie*, *Jekyll & Hyde*) as well as Caleb Marshall (TNB Artistic Producer). "The ability to attract a playwright of the caliber of Stephen Massicotte is indicative of the stature and importance that the Script Happens program is gaining in our industry. I look forward to our collaboration with him on this project. I am particularly excited for the regional playwrights who will get the opportunity to benefit from his experience and expertise," adds Tobias.

The SJTC is also proud to include one of Stephen's works in their Studio Series line up this season, the award winning - *Mary's Wedding* (Oct 15-18, BMO Studio Theatre). Premiering in 2002, *Mary's Wedding* - a haunting story of love during the Great War, has become the most widely performed Canadian play.

Funding for the Script Happens development program has been provided by the Province of New Brunswick. The final works will be presented January 22-24, 2015 –at the BMO Studio Theatre, 112 Princess St. Tickets \$17.50 adult ~ \$12.50 student – to purchase visit www.ticketpro.ca or call 1-888-311-9090.

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Media Inquiries:

Lise Driscoll, SJTC Marketing & Communications, lise.driscoll@saintjohntheatrecompany.com,
506-652-7582