

## TD Canada Trust Supports Theatre Education

### *Saint John Theatre Company Receives Funding for Post-Secondary Theatre Initiatives*

SAINT JOHN – For the second consecutive year Saint John Theatre Company has been the proud recipient of a gracious contribution of \$10,000 from the East Point branch of TD Canada Trust. This investment in the growth of the Saint John Theatre Company will be used to support numerous theatre education initiatives targeting university level students.



Presentation of TD Canada Trust donation to SJTC: Stephen Tobias (Artistic Director, SJTC), Dean Turner (President of the Board, SJTC), Laura Mae Slocum (Branch Manager, TD East Point), Sarah Splane, Sandy James (Customer Service Managers, TD East Point)

Currently the Saint John Theatre Company is partnering with UNBSJ and the students from the ENGL 3902 Drama Production course that is starting in the Fall 2011 semester. The students from this course will receive an overview of the production process from SJTC Artistic Director Stephen Tobias. The participants will also gain hands-on experience as they work in various areas of backstage preparation on *The Rocky Horror Show* which will run at Imperial Theatre from September 29 through until October 1, 2011. Students will receive credit for their participation in the process.

*“Students will be able to see first-hand what is involved in the evolution of a show from the first reading of the script to show night and the many, many details in between.”* Notes Tobias. *“This partnership provides a great opportunity for local students to see the workings of a professional quality show from a behind the scenes perspective.”*

Saint John Theatre Company has several other theatre education projects including a series of Master Classes with industry experts, and a Professional Guest Artist program that allows community based performers and technicians to create theatre alongside working professionals. *“This is the kind of experiential, hands on learning that has allowed the theatre company, over time, to develop a high-end indigenous talent base. The growth of this talent base – unparalleled in any other region of the province – has allowed for the continued SJTC programming growth which has benefitted local audiences.”* Adds Tobias.

Saint John Theatre Company has established a presence in the local High Schools over the past decade through offering class visits with cast and crew, student study guides and student discount nights to all Main Stage productions at Imperial Theatre. *“We feel it is now time to branch out to the University level. We have a great relationship with UNBSJ and a lot of hands on knowledge to offer local students who are interested in learning more about theatre. A long term goal of the company is to create the kind of post-secondary opportunities that will make it possible for students to further their theatre education without leaving New Brunswick as is currently the case”* Adds Tobias.



Cast members from *The Importance of Being Earnest*: Sarah Butler, Rob Jeffrey, and Scott Thomas visit students at Harbourview High

For more information on our theatre education initiatives please contact:

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