

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tenth Annual *Theatre on the Edge* summer festival postponed until 2013. Innovative Theatre Festival Feels Impact of Funding Cuts

SAINT JOHN - Saint John Theatre Company regrets to announce that due to a shortage of funding and planning resources their annual summer theatre festival will be cancelled for 2012. With a strong emphasis on original material and work that flies well beyond the mainstream, Theatre on the Edge (TotE) has grown into a significant cultural festival that has attracted audiences and performers from Southern New Brunswick and beyond for the past nine years. In recent years the festival has offered events in the multiple disciplines of theatre, dance, music and film. Recently the festival expanded to include the Shakespeare in the Parkinglot productions. Over the years the festival has premiered many original plays, hosted out of town talent such as *Venus Machine Theatre* from Toronto, *Notable Acts Theatre* from Fredericton, *Suburban Beast Theatre* from Toronto, *Off the Leash Theatre* from Halifax as well as Connection Danceworks, the Improvisation Corporation and other groups from the Greater Saint John region. For the first time in almost a decade, the festival will be cancelled in an effort to acquire proper funding, re-gain planning focus and develop next year's line-up.

"While this delay is a bit of a set-back in the development of Theatre on the Edge, the new timelines will give the company time to properly plan and implement a larger and enhanced Theatre on the Edge festival for 2013," notes Stephen Tobias, Artistic Director of the Saint John Theatre Company. *"While we are disappointed with the outcome of this year's planning, we continue to be optimistic and excited at the plans that are already under consideration for 2013."*

Members of the SJTC Board of Directors, Pauline Cronin and Sandra Bell have agreed to sit as co-chairs of TotE 2013, and the task of strategizing next year's festival. The festival organizers plan to create a more sophisticated festival next summer that could involve more venues with representation in dance, theatre, comedy, music and even film. *"TotE gives an opportunity for artists from a variety of backgrounds to try new things. For the audience members, it gives them a chance to experiment, to see things from a new perspective,"* adds Board President and long time TotE organizer Dean Turner. *"We plan to use this delay as a chance to enhance the festival and reach even more people with a greater variety of entertainment and training workshops."*

"It has long been the goal of the SJTC to develop a multi-disciplinary festival that celebrates cutting edge performing artists from Saint John as well as other regions of New Brunswick and beyond. This kind of festival works very well in communities all over the country – but they don't happen without sustained support from all three levels of government and the private sector." add Tobias. *"Our goal is to re-introduce a well supported, properly planned and appropriately funded festival next year ... stay tuned for more details on TotE 2013!"*

Saint John Theatre Company was established over 20 years ago and has grown into a premier provider of English-language theatre in New Brunswick. The company strives to produce quality live entertainment and training for audiences and theatre practitioners throughout southern New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Maine.

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