



## Casting Complete for Atlantic Repertory Company (ARC) Inaugural Season

10/30/2018

SAINT JOHN - ARC, a professional theatre residency program recently launched by the Saint John Theatre Company (SJTC), has moved into the first phase of a three-year pilot project. Auditions were held in Saint John and Halifax for emerging professionals and theatre school graduates who have ties to the Atlantic Region. Casting is complete for the two dramas planned for year one of the program.

'No Man Is An Island', an original work based on the history of Partridge Island, written by Saint John playwright **Thomas Hodd**, will be performed April 9-14, 2019. This play is based on the history of Partridge Island; a major point of Irish immigration in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. 'No Man is an Island' is more than a story of immigration: it's a story of sacrifice and belief, about facing ones fear of others, and what it takes to make a community. Cast members include: **Jeff Dingle (Woodstock, NB)**, **Kyle Gillis (Halifax, NS)**, **Melissa MacGougan (Halifax, NS)**, **Sarah O'Brecht (Saint John, NB)**, and **Peter Sarty (Halifax, NS)**. The play will be directed by noted Canadian theatre artist **Natasha MacLellan**.

'Abyss', a thriller written by **Maria Milisavljević** and translated from German, will be performed June 4-9, 2019. 'Abyss', which had its Canadian premiere at Tarragon Theatre, tells the story of a missing young woman and her three friends who search for her. The play is described as a lyrical thriller and modern day epic cloaked in the mystery of Europe's underworld. Cast members include: **Caroline Bell (Saint John, NB)**, **Mandy E. MacLean (Oromocto, NB)**, and **Evan Mercer (Shearstown, NL)**. The play will be directed by renowned Canadian director **Richard Rose**.

*"I am very excited about the calibre of talent in the region. The sessions in Saint John and Halifax were inspirational and it was extremely gratifying to see the level of enthusiasm for this new program. ARC is clearly necessary and is already a valued addition to the Atlantic Canada theatre industry. I'm very much looking forward to working with these two teams of artists as we launch our inaugural ARC projects."*

When fully implemented, ARC will offer paid residencies for emerging professionals and theatre school graduates from the Atlantic Region that would encompass professional work and training in all areas of theatre production and career development. Emerging theatre professionals who come to the region each year as ARC residents would participate in production and performances at SJTC and contribute to creative activity in the region such as outreach and touring. ARC fills a major gap in the East Coast theatre community by helping new performers find great opportunities to advance their careers without leaving Atlantic Canada.

The ARC pilot project is supported in its first year by the Province of New Brunswick, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the RBC Emerging Artists Project.

For information on the artists and performance details please visit: [www.atlanticrep.ca](http://www.atlanticrep.ca)

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