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Saint John Theatre Company to re-schedule spring programming.

In light of COVID-19 coronavirus developments, late March performances of 'Driving Miss Daisy' to be moved to the BMO Studio Theatre, and May performances of 'The Wolves' and 'Mary Poppins' to be re-scheduled to Fall 2020.

SAINT JOHN – In light of recent coronavirus developments, a decision by the SJTC Board of Directors was made to re-schedule two of the company's larger scale spring productions and hold all remaining programming at the BMO Studio Theatre. Performance dates of 'The Wolves' and 'Mary Poppins' will be adjusted for the safety of SJTC audience members, volunteers and staff.

"In thirty years of producing theatre I have never before encountered such a situation, and am deeply distressed that I am in the position of having to make these changes. That said, I must also weigh the safety of our audience, our students and our artists when deciding how best to proceed." – Stephen Tobias, Artistic Director, SJTC.

'The Wolves', originally scheduled May 7-8 at the Irving Oil Field House will be postponed until early October (revised dates tba). *"The Wolves is a show we had specifically selected for its appeal to youth, specifically young women. Our main focus of audience development for this show is based on having a large number of high-school students in attendance. Three free matinee performances were being offered to area students. In light of recent restrictions imposed by the Department of Education, we felt postponing the dates would best align with their efforts."* – Stephen Tobias, Artistic Director, SJTC

'Mary Poppins', originally scheduled to run May 20-23 at Imperial Theatre, will be postponed until mid-November (revised dates tba). With an estimated audience and volunteer base draw of close to 6,000 during its run at Imperial Theatre, the company

decided that rescheduling dates would be best for public safety and safety of the large cast and production team for this show which has already begun rehearsals.

“As the largest theatre company in New Brunswick we feel it’s important to be decisive about this difficult issue for the benefit of our community. The SJTC relies substantially on revenue from ticket sales of popular productions such as Mary Poppins. We would urge ticket holders for The Wolves or Mary Poppins to consider maintaining their financial support for our theatre by accepting to exchange their tickets for the Fall 2020 dates, or to donate proceeds from refunded tickets to the SJTC. In addition to our concern for public safety we also know this pandemic will adversely impact artists and performing arts companies everywhere. We urge you to continue to support live theatre in Saint John.” – George Daniel, SJTC President

In line with government recommendations discouraging public gatherings of more than 150, ‘Driving Miss Daisy’, which was originally planned for the Imperial Theatre has been moved to the 90-seat BMO Studio Theatre, at 112 Princess Street. While the SJTC will continue to closely monitor developments through the Public Health Agency of Canada and the New Brunswick government, programming at the 90-seat BMO studio theatre will for the moment, proceed as scheduled.

“At the BMO studio we are introducing heightened cleaning protocols with focus on high traffic and high contact areas and are increasing our communications with guests, partners and staff on important health and safety measures. It goes without saying that we ask anyone who is feeling unwell to refrain from attending a performance.” – Stephen Tobias, Artistic Director, SJTC

The SJTC continues to work on logistics that impact ticket holders, donors, sponsors and advertisers. Ticket holders will be contacted in the coming days and weeks to reschedule their tickets for any of these performances or receive a full refund. The SJTC will post updates on its website and social media platforms as developments with the coronavirus COVID-19 situation progress.