

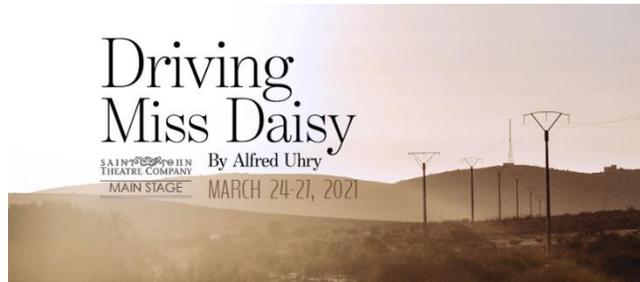
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 8TH, 2021

31 YEARS
OF THEATRE

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Main Stage Modifications

Pandemic limitations force the Saint John Theatre Company to cancel the March Main Stage production of 'Driving Miss Daisy'



SAINT JOHN – the Saint John Theatre Company (SJTC) Main Stage Series has been the most public face of the company's season of work with close to 10,000 people attending annually. The season suddenly came to a halt in March of 2020 with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, the remaining two productions in the series, *Driving Miss Daisy*

(March) and *Mary Poppins* (May) were postponed until 2021.

Unfortunately, due to developing Public Health guidelines, the March 2021 performances of *Driving Miss Daisy* have been cancelled. The beloved production had strong advance ticket sales, a stellar cast and was ready to begin the final tech rehearsals prior to opening night back in March of 2020. After two attempts to re-schedule, enhanced Public Health regulations, and the inability to secure rights to offer a streaming version of the show, the SJTC has been forced to remove the production from the season line-up.

"I have been personally working on this project for close to 2 years and have already managed one major delay in March of 2020. The play has been fully conceived and designed, and we are ready to get back into rehearsal. We have an incredible cast that is excited to get started. Unfortunately, in spite of all that, the timing is just not right. The project requires the large-scale treatment that is only possible at the Imperial Theatre – which makes the production vulnerable to changes in COVID-19 protocols. The play also requires that two of the main actors would have to cross interprovincial borders," adds Stephen Tobias, Executive Director, SJTC. *"While this felt very manageable in the fall of 2020, the constant disruptions that have been occurring in early 2021 make the planning process too difficult."*

SJTC subscribers and single ticket holders will need to contact the Imperial Theatre to process refunds, offer credits or convert the balance to a donation to the SJTC. Ticket holders are asked to contact the Imperial Theatre box office at 506-674-4100. More information will follow on the status of the remainder of the SJTC Season of work. Please stay tuned.

The SJTC would like to extend thanks to their ongoing supporters of the SJTC Main Stage Series, including: Season Patron, BMO Financial Group, Main Stage Series Sponsor, Canaport

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The SJTC Main Stage Series is also supported by a full host of local and government supporters and dozens of local program advertisers. Thank you.