

PRESS RELEASE  
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# FUNDY FRINGE FESTIVAL

## New Direction for 2021 Fundy FRINGE

Fundy FRINGE Festival returns to Port City for ninth season with new leadership.

SAINT JOHN – The Fundy FRINGE Festival has been a summer staple for close to a decade. The innovative line-up of performance art, creative workshops and exciting bonus events spark a wave of creativity and energy into the uptown core every August.

The Fundy FRINGE Festival has evolved from its inception in 2013 thanks to the innovative and bold direction taken by its long-standing Director, Sarah Rankin. Through her leadership, Sarah has evolved the festival into a collaborative celebration of creativity recognized on a global scale. Sarah has also been an active member of the Canadian Association of FRINGE Festivals (CAFF) offering her expertise on boundary pushing theatre at the National level.

*“The Fundy Fringe really took shape with the establishment of Sarah Rankin as the fringe Director. Sarah did an amazing job in establishing the Fringe as a vital part of the summer theatre scene in Southern NB while also connecting our festival to the International Fringe Festival network. As a leader of the Fundy Fringe and as a board member of the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals, Sarah made her mark,”* adds Stephen Tobias, SJTC Executive Director. *“Sarah’s work culminated in the summer of 2020 when, faced with extremely rigid COVID health protocols, she oversaw the addition of a sophisticated digital component to the Festival. Sarah was also instrumental in creating the protocols that allowed the BMO Studio as home of the Fundy fringe to be among the first venues in the region to manage the processes of hosting live events for reduced audiences. I am extremely grateful for all that Sarah has done to nurture the Fundy Fringe Festival during her tenure.”*

Sarah Rankin will be replaced as Festival Director by Drew Murdock. While new to this position Drew is no stranger to the operations of the Festival and the BMO Studio Theatre space, having worked as the Festival’s Technical Coordinator for the past three seasons. Drew is also part of the Saint John Theatre Company staff taking on the challenging role of Video Producer in the Fall of 2020. Drew not only brings expertise in technical aspects of theatre production he also has a clear creative vision for the overall operation of the Festival.

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*"We are extremely lucky to have Drew on the team. Drew has worked with Sarah on the Fundy Fringe for several years and is very familiar with the structures and systems. Drew has also been managing the digital content creation for the SJTC-ARC and I am confident that he will bring the spirit of ingenuity to the Fringe."* Stephen Tobias, SJTC Executive Director.

The Fundy FRINGE Festival will return in August of 2021 making its home base at the BMO Studio Theatre, 112 Princess Street. Stay tuned for more details on the 2021 FRINGE and visit [www.fundyfringefestival.com](http://www.fundyfringefestival.com) in the coming weeks for more information.

*The Fundy Fringe Festival is part of a growing community of Fringe Festivals throughout North America, dedicated to supporting independent performers and artists and creating affordable spaces through which diverse communities can experience boundary-pushing theatre and other performances.*

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