

PRESS RELEASE  
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## SJTC redefines success amidst COVID-19

### Saint John Theatre Company hosts Annual General Meeting, reflecting on 31<sup>st</sup> season of work

SAINT JOHN – On November 17, 2021, staff, board, and community members gathered in person at the BMO Studio Theatre and virtually via Zoom to participate in the Saint John Theatre Company's (SJTC) Annual General Meeting. The meeting included an overview of the 2020-2021 Season, a review of the financial status of the company, as well as a glimpse of projects on the horizon.

The President of the SJTC Board of Directors, George Daniel, highlighted the success amidst the struggles the company endured this past season. A solid financial report for the fiscal year was presented by Andrew Logan of Teed Saunders Doyle. Artistic Director Stephen Tobias thanked the staff and Board and highlighted past season achievements as well as plans for the coming months.

The 2020-2021 season was prefaced with a busy 2019-2020 season that completely came to a halt in March of 2020. The onset of COVID-19 forced the company to re-think and develop new and innovative ways to connect with audience and artists through months of isolation. The SJTC entered Season 31 having created some basic digital presentations and hosting a successful fundraising event that helped with operations throughout the early months of COVID-19.

“As we launched season 31, we were still feeling a bit rudderless and uncertain of the way ahead – and this was where the organization reaped the benefits of a having a great team who had been in the trenches for many years together. It takes nerve to move forward when the outcome is not clear. It takes trust and motivation to understand that, sometimes, the most important thing is to simply keep moving.”

Stephen Tobias, Artistic Director, SJTC/ARC

After settling in for a bumpy ride, staff and Board of the SJTC were leading the way in developing protocols to get live audiences in the BMO Studio Theatre beginning with the Fundy Fringe Festival in August of 2020. The company also produced a theatre series at the BMO Studio Theatre venue with both live audiences as well as digital distribution. In the Spring of 2021 SJTC/ARC were proud to present *We Were Here* which celebrated the lives of local legends from the Black community. This project received National attention. Despite project cancellations, the team were able to develop new opportunities to keep artists engaged through the ARC Academy training workshops held from September 2020 until May of 2021. Throughout the 2020-2021 Season the company also underwent several significant facility upgrades to the BMO Studio space, in addition more permanent staff members were added to the team.

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Members Matt Letson, Dr. Sandra Bell, Dr. Timothy Christie and Pauline Cronin have stepped down from the SJTC Board of Directors. The SJTC would like to thank Matt, Sandra, Timothy and Pauline for their contribution to the SJTC. Members Shane Snow, Lynda Rogers and Jo-Anne MacDonald were added to the Board. Board member Chris London will be stepping into the role of Vice President.

“We believe that our 31<sup>st</sup> season will mark a distinct time in our history, where the SJTC matured, demonstrated resilience, and became an innovator within our industry.” George Daniel, President, SJTC Board of Directors

*The SJTC is a professional arts organization that aims to enrich and engage the community by producing quality theatre and creating experiences through performing arts. The company strives to be a leading Canadian performing arts organization.*