



## A food fight for the ages

Atlantic Repertory returns for sixth season with a heartwarming and humorous tale of reconciliation.



10/23/2023

SAINT JOHN – Back for its sixth season, the Atlantic Repertory Company (ARC) is pleased to present *Cottagers and Indians* February 21-25, 2024.

The heart-warming and humorous story, written by Drew Hayden Taylor, was inspired by real events around the area of Pigeon Lake, Ontario. This conflict was coined the “Wild Rice Wars” by local media.

The play brings up questions of ownership, equity, tradition, health, colonization, and reconciliation. The conflict over wild ricing on Pigeon Lake drew

attention to Indigenous rights and traditional foods. Hayden tells the story is told with warmth and humour, and encompasses issues of community, respect, and ownership.

*Cottagers and Indians* will be performed at the BMO Studio Theatre, located at 112 Princess Street, with matinee and evening performances available. Tickets are on sale now and are priced at \$35 for general admission and \$20 for students. To purchase visit [tickets.saintjohntheatrecompany.com](https://tickets.saintjohntheatrecompany.com) or by calling 506-652-7582.

This production is made possible with the support of the Pannell Family Foundation, the Province of New Brunswick, RBC Emerging Artists, BMO, the RBC Foundation, Emera NB, Nutrien, ArtsNB, and the New Brunswick Children's Foundation.

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*Learn more about ARC and its future homebase.*

Since its inaugural production in April of 2019, the Atlantic Repertory Company has steadily grown. What began as a small pilot project with the goal of employing Atlantic Canadian theatre artists in



Atlantic Canada has now developed into a fully realized professional company. ARC turns out a minimum of three productions every season while also providing ARC Academy professional development training to artists during the off-season.

As ARC continues to grow, so does its need for a space to operate out of. By 2025, we hope to employ a full-time team of permanent Resident Artists who will work on every ARC production in some capacity. The reality of this plan is that the 112 Princess Street production facility is simply too small to house the SJTC's permanent staff and that proposed for the ARC.

That's where the Sydney Street Courthouse comes in. When the Courthouse Theatre is fully operational, it will become ARC's new homebase. It will provide office space for Resident Artists, more and larger rehearsal/production spaces, and the opportunity for in-person ARC Academy sessions.

The new Courthouse Theatre will become a cultural hub for professional Atlantic Canadian artists, and it is our hope that this state-of-the-art, brand new production facility will encourage Atlantic Canadian talent to stay in Atlantic Canada whilst also enticing national and international artists to make New Brunswick their new base of operations. The professional caliber of ARC's productions increases Saint John's theatrical reputation with every performance, and the addition of the Courthouse Theatre as a homebase will secure ARC's continued ability to make our city shine, both on-stage and off.

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