

PRESS RELEASE
NOVEMBER 30th, 2023

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SJTC reflects on its 33rd season of work. Saint John Theatre Company hosts Annual General Meeting.

SAINT JOHN – On the 29th of November 2023, the SJTC held its yearly general meeting where individuals from the board, staff, and community congregated both in person and virtually. During the meeting, a comprehensive report was provided regarding the 2022-2023 season, a detailed review of the company's financial standing was provided, and a preview of future undertakings was shared.

Throughout Season 33, audiences were treated to an abundance of exceptional productions and events. From the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Fundy Fringe Festival to the extended run of the Loyalist Burial Ground Walking Tour, the early months of the season were filled with memorable experiences. In the fall of 2022, the Atlantic Repertory Company presented a remarkable rendition of the Tennessee Williams classic, *The Glass Menagerie*, along with Mbene Mwambene's compelling one-man show, *The Whispers*, which featured an outreach component to local schools. Later, Clyde A. Wray's theatrical interpretation of the original audio recording of *Georgina Whetsel and Lena O'Ree; Pushing Toward The Future* entertained audiences in the winter.

As the season progressed, the BMO Studio Theatre welcomed the renowned Canadian actor R.H. Thomson for a spellbinding three-week run of the spine-chilling production, *The Woman in Black*, while the Kitbag Theatre provided a joyful live performance of *The Songs of Johnny and June*. Additionally, Talk Is Free Theatre showcased the powerfully moving play, *Every Brilliant Thing*, and the in-house Studio Series production, *Copenhagen*, directed by Dean Turner, left audiences captivated.

Music lovers were delighted with the special Live @ The BMO Music Series of work, featuring the likes of Theresa Malenfant, Brent Mason, Alfie Zappacosta, and Matt Minglewood, while a new winter project in 2023 presented digital works from across the globe in the AITA/IATA International Digital Theatre Festival.

The SJTC Main Stage series which serves as the foundation of the season included three exceptional Main Stage performances, including *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *9 to 5 The Musical*, all of which showcased the incredible talents of the Saint John Theatre Company.

Planning for the Courthouse Theatre is underway. Permits have been acquired, business plans are being enhanced and fundraising targets are being developed. The company is committed to the development of the project and looks forward to diving further into this project in the months to come.

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Financially the 33rd Season marked a transition out of the pandemic which resulted in an overall deficit for the company. Budgeting goals are targeting a break even for Season 34. Projects to date in Season 34 have exceeded expectations, helping to place the company in a more desirable financial position.

The company would like to extend a thank you to the members of the STJC Board who left during the past year; this was a team of behind-the-scenes community members who brought their skills and commitment to ensure that the company's creative work can flourish. Thank you to Chris London, Jo-Anne MacDonald, Shane Snow, Signe Gurholt, Peter Buckland, Lynda Rogers, Amy Winchester and Kevin Scott. A very special thank you is also extended to Past President George Daniel who has been a valued member of the Board since 2011. He has served as Board member, VP, President, and this previous season as Past President.

The SJTC is a leading Canadian performing arts organization that produces and presents professional and community-based performances with the goal to entertain, educate, employ, and enrich the community.