PRESS RELEASE
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Saint John Theatre Company Reflects on a Year of Growth and Achievement at Annual General Meeting

Saint John, NB – Board, staff, volunteers, and members of the Saint John Theatre Company (SJTC) gathered last evening for the organization's Annual General Meeting to review the operations and accomplishments of the 2024–2025 season.

Executive leadership reflected on another year of continued evolution, noting the company's growth from a small community theatre into one of New Brunswick's leading cultural institutions. Over the past 35 seasons, the SJTC has expanded its reach, programming, and infrastructure to support both community engagement and professional artistic development.

A Season of Dynamic Programming
The year saw a wide range of performances across multiple platforms, including the Main Stage at Imperial Theatre, Presentation Series, Studio Series, Live @ the BMO Music Series, Loyalist City Shakespeare, the Fundy Fringe Festival, and the Atlantic Repertory Company (ARC). Main Stage productions - *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, and *Dial M for Murder* drew enthusiastic audiences while showcasing strong local talent. As the company approaches its 100th major production at the Imperial, SJTC remains its largest rental client and a defining presence in the historic venue.

The BMO Studio Theatre continued its transformation into a major cultural hub in Southern New Brunswick. Serving as the home of the Atlantic Repertory Company, the Fundy Fringe Festival, and creative work that supports Loyalist City Shakespeare, the venue has grown from a rehearsal hall into a multi-disciplinary space that fuels artistic development and activity in the region.

Major Strategic Growth Projects Continue
The AGM highlighted significant progress on multi-year initiatives, including the development of the new Courthouse Theatre on King's Square and the continued evolution of ARC as a home for emerging professional theatre talent. These forward-looking projects represent major investment in the cultural future of Saint John and will help shape regional performing arts for decades to come.

Planned infrastructure improvements also advanced this year, supported by donors and government partners, including the installation of a new HVAC system at the BMO Studio Theatre. These investments strengthen the company's ability to serve artists and audiences well into the future.

Navigating Growth with Courage
Executive Director Stephen Tobias spoke to the challenges and demands of managing rapid advancement, noting that growth requires constant learning, adaptation, and readiness to embrace necessary change.

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"We often talk about theatre as a safe space," said Tobias. "But for us, this work is also about being brave - taking strategic risks, learning from our experience, and pushing forward. Standing still isn't an option, and I'm proud of our team for meeting that challenge every day."

Acknowledging Service and Support

The organization extended its sincere appreciation to the staff, volunteers, artists, donors, funders, and audiences who fuel the work of the Saint John Theatre Company each year. Three members of the Board of Directors completed their terms at the AGM and were recognized for their service: Sandra Bell, Board Chair; Dean Turner, Treasurer and Brian Goodwin. Their leadership, guidance, and dedication were celebrated as key to advancing the company through a period of important change and growth. The company is excited to announce that new members Lisa Crowley, Jeff McAloon, and Jillian English will be joining the Board.

Looking Ahead

As the organization prepares to enter its 36th season, the SJTC remains focused on strengthening its foundation while continuing to foster vibrant, accessible, and innovative performing arts experiences for audiences throughout the region.

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.