



CANADIAN STAGE CUTS ITS ACCUMULATED DEFICIT IN HALF The 18.19 Annual Report

Canadian Stage, one of Canada's leading arts organizations, is pleased to release its 18.19 season annual report. Along with celebrating a transitional year that saw the creation of a new leadership team, the successful launch of a Transformation Campaign that raised \$2.8 million, the development of a multi-year strategic plan with the assistance of world-renowned arts consultant Michael Kaiser, the company is thrilled to announce the reduction of its long-standing deficit by half, bringing it below \$1 million for the first time since 2006.

"The 18.19 season at Canadian Stage was one of great transition and remarkable achievement," says Canadian Stage co-chairs Alexandra Baillie and Tony Baylis. "We welcomed a dynamic and inspiring new leadership team -- award-winning director Brendan Healy, joined as Artistic Director, and seasoned arts executive Monica Esteves, began as Executive Director -- and together, they see an adventurous and impactful future for the company and have already taken great strides towards achieving that vision."

The 18.19 season presented 17 works, including 4 world premieres, and featured 257 performances that were enjoyed by over 80,000 attendees. This varied and critically acclaimed season included: *Revisor*, the latest sold-out collaboration from Canada's Crystal Pite and Jonathon Young, Hofesh Shechter's gut-wrenching *Grand Finale*, which won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Touring Production, *Every Brilliant Thing*, which was nominated for Outstanding Direction in Brendan Healy's directorial debut at the organization, and Akram Khan's Olivier Award-winning *Xenos*, Khan's first collaboration with Governor General's Award-winner Jordan Tannahill.

Along with executing this successful season, the company achieved financial and organizational success. The \$2.8M Transformation Campaign -- the largest single-fundraising campaign of the organization's last two decades -- enabled Canadian Stage to jump-start the next chapter of the company's future with strategic investments in expanded programming, while adding increased organizational and human resources, and addressing the accumulated deficit -- which has been cut in half from \$1.6 million to \$800,000.

The season was also one of exciting partnerships and collaborations. Working with the Stratford Festival, Luminato, Centaur Theatre, Théâtre français de Toronto, Banff Centre, the National Arts Centre, Red Sky Performance and Why Not Theatre enabled Canadian Stage to open its doors to some of our country's brightest creators such as Robert Lepage, Kim Collier, Chris Abraham, Ravi Jain and Eda Holmes.

FOR CANADIAN STAGE: BRENDAN HEALY, Artistic Director MONICA ESTEVES, Executive Director
ALEXANDRA BAILLIE Board Chair

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“The 18.19 season was a powerful affirmation of the prominent role Canadian Stage plays within Canada’s cultural milieu,” says Artistic Director Brendan Healy. “We could not have dreamed of a more inspiring year. The diverse and adventurous programming was not only a reflection of our great city, but it was also inspired by our artistic partners and neighbours. Parallel to the exceptional artistic achievements, we are beyond thrilled that this past year was also a financial and organizational success.”

“It takes an exceptionally large village to implement all that the organization has achieved,” says Executive Director Monica Esteves. “For their tireless work and steadfast commitment to Canadian Stage, our heartfelt thanks is humbly extended to the hundreds of artists, staff, board, volunteers, donors and audiences. Together, our efforts will ensure that Canadian Stage is a vital, artistic force locally, nationally and internationally.”

Canadian Stage is also pleased to announce the development of its four-year strategic plan, guided by world renowned consultant and arts management expert Michael Kaiser. A road map to guide the organization to a thrilling destination, the strategic plan was shared with stakeholders in January 2020.

ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE

Canadian Stage's mission is to be the leading contemporary performing arts organization in the country. A collision of disciplines and cultures, Canadian Stage reflects the dynamism and complexity of Canada and is a vital artistic force locally, nationally, and internationally. In its over thirty-year history, Canadian Stage has employed thousands of artists and developed and produced hundreds of new productions. Many of the plays developed by Canadian Stage have been awarded and nominated for Canada's most prestigious literary and performing arts honours, including Governor General's, Chalmers and Dora Mavor Moore Awards. Throughout the theatre season, nearly 100,000 patrons attend performances and workshops in our three Toronto venues. Throughout our history, Canadian Stage has provided outstanding education and outreach programs cultivating a diverse audience demographic.

FOR CANADIAN STAGE: **BRENDAN HEALY**, Artistic Director **MONICA ESTEVES**, Executive Director
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