

LIFE WAS BEAUTIFUL AT ROYAL MTC THIS SEASON

WINNIPEG, JUNE 24, 2015 – The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre looked back on a thrilling season filled with searing drama, passionate characters and theatrically dazzling productions at its **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** this evening.

Artistic Director **Steven Schipper**, Chair of the Board of Trustees **Jim McLandress** and General Manager **Camilla Holland** reflected on the ambitious projects and co-productions that drove the 2014/15 season, and announced the theatre achieved an operating surplus for the third year in a row of \$182,374.

“With high-flying adventure and poignant storytelling, Royal MTC delighted audiences with another successful season,” said Jim McLandress. “This past year reminded us that it takes a remarkable amount of teamwork to bring each season to life and I want to recognize each of our partners, donors, volunteers, artists, designers and staff members for their continued dedication and support for our theatre.”

The season attracted 97,130 patrons to performances at the Mainstage and 17,749 people to the Warehouse in addition to 1,517 students who attended four Theatre for Young Audiences performances, bringing Royal MTC’s total ticketed attendance to 116,396.

In addition to the Mainstage and Warehouse seasons, the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival experienced another record-breaking attendance of 104,884, while theatre groups from across the city worked together to bring CowardFest, the 15th annual Master Playwright Festival, to 10,100 people. Royal MTC’s Regional Tour travelled as far as Churchill to bring Colleen Murphy’s **Armstrong’s War** to 2,990 people in 24 communities across Manitoba and Northwest Ontario. This spring, the theatre partnered with the Manitoba Bar Association to produce **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**.

Royal MTC’s Endowment Fund was renamed to honour and celebrate Steven Schipper’s 25th anniversary with Royal MTC, and \$237,922 was contributed to the Fund during the 2014/15 season that will help ensure viability and funding for artistically rewarding projects in future years.

Jim McLandress thanked retiring Board members **Evan Kuz**, **Jeff Lamothe** and **Brenda Zaporzan** for their dedication and commitment to the theatre in addition to long-time member and past Board Chair **Kerry Dangerfield**, who is stepping down after over 20 years of service to Royal MTC. Immediately following the meeting, the Board appointed the Executive: **James McLandress**, Chair; **Tony Fletcher**, Chair-Elect; **David Carefoot**, Treasurer; **Suzi Bonk**, Community Relations Committee Chair; **John Guttormson**, Governance and Strategic Planning Committee Chair; **Patrick Green**, Organizational Performance Committee Chair; **Dave Christie**, Resource Development Committee Chair.

The Executive joins returning Trustees for the 2015/16 season including **Heather Clarke**, **Bob Eastwood**, **Paulo Fernandes**, **Sandy Gousseau**, **Rita Gunn**, **Shawn Hughes**, **John Kearsey**, **Brenda Kriss**, **Andrea Robertson**, **Laurie Speers**, **Tim J. Valgardson**, **Judy Wakefield** and **Richard Yaffe** in addition to new Trustees **Jason Kasper**, **Derek Rolstone** and **Helga D. Van Iderstine**.

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