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## **ROYAL MTC AND THE NATIONAL THEATRE SCHOOL OF CANADA ANNOUNCE NEW TRAINING PARTNERSHIP**

**WINNIPEG, May 26, 2015** – The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and the National Theatre School of Canada are pleased to announce an exciting new partnership that will provide new NTS graduates with an opportunity to gain valuable work experience to help launch their professional careers.

Starting in September 2015, a new graduate from NTS's [Production Program](#) will join Royal MTC annually for a seasonal full-time role as Assistant Production Manager. As Assistant Production Manager, the successful candidate will work as part of Royal MTC's production department and help support the research, planning and build of each Mainstage and Warehouse show.

"It has always been important to Royal MTC to support and nurture emerging talent in Canadian theatre. The National Theatre School attracts students from across the country, many of whom will go on to be important leaders and influencers in the theatre community," said **Russell Martin, Director of Production at Royal MTC**. "We're very excited about the prospect of working with these outstanding recent graduates and helping them to further develop their abilities."

The first NTS graduate who will be joining the Royal MTC production department as part of this partnership is Jess Alexander (Production, 2015). Jess has previously participated in many training programs and theatre festivals including the Paprika Festival, the Sears Ontario Drama Festival and the Toronto Fringe Festival. Most recently, Jess has worked with the Toronto Young People's Theatre under the mentorship of Rick Banville as a production intern, and has spent the last month working with the Segal Centre Academy in Montreal. Before she joins Royal MTC, Jess will be stage managing the upcoming production of *Bar Kapra the Squirrel Hunter*, which will be presented at the Montreal Fringe Festival.

"Partnerships such as this one provide key support to our graduates and a direct link to the national theatre community. NTS greatly values these connections in our efforts to train young production professionals," said **Andrea Lundy, Director of the Production Program at the National Theatre School**. "A position at the Royal MTC will provide Jess and future candidates with countless opportunities to hone their skills and to build their professional network. We thank the Royal MTC for recognizing the quality of NTS training and for offering our graduates such a highly stimulating environment to work in."

### **About the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre**

*The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (Royal MTC) is a community-based, registered charitable not-for-profit arts organization. MTC was Canada's first English-speaking regional theatre and, under founding Artistic Director John Hirsch, became a model for regional theatres throughout North America.*

*Under Artistic Director Steven Schipper and General Manager Camilla Holland, Royal MTC now presents over 250 performances annually for more than 150,000 theatre lovers. Royal MTC produces six plays at the John Hirsch Mainstage, four plays at the Tom Hendry Warehouse, as well as a regional tour, which annually travels to communities throughout Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. Royal MTC also produces the Master Playwright Festival and the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival, North America's second-largest Fringe Festival.*

**About the National Theatre School of Canada**

*Established in Montreal in 1960, the National Theatre School of Canada (NTS) is the leading professional training institution for theatre artists in the country. As a centre of excellence in the field of theatre training, the NTS offers programs of the highest quality in English and French to actors, directors, designers, production specialists, and playwrights. NTS has developed its international reputation by promoting pedagogical practices that embrace tradition while also championing invention, that place equal value on both performance and creation, and that are constantly questioned and adapted to today's context. The school's ambition is to remain a leading centre of learning and experimentation that will help prepare young artists to redefine the role of theatre in the 21st century.*

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