

## A YEAR IN REVIEW 2016/17 ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS

The 2016/17 season was the first year for Dennis Garnhum as the incoming Artistic Director of the Grand. The proudly Canadian season was crafted and planned by the outgoing Artistic Director, Susan Ferley, in honour of Canada's celebration of 150 years since Confederation.

The opening event of the season was the High School Project. Susan Ferley's final production, *Les Misérables School Edition*, was an incredible celebration of the young talent in our region. The production showcased vocal and acting talents and enjoyed sold-out houses and standing ovations. The opening night included a tribute to Ferley – a wonderful acknowledgement of her 15 years of artistic contributions here at the Grand.

The subscription series began with the sounds of one of Canada's beloved musicians in the production of *Joni Mitchell: River*. Three outstanding singers — Louise Pitre, Emm Gryner, and Brendan Wall — sang a collection of Joni's songs accompanied by a powerful band of musicians. The message



was clear: this year we celebrate Canada.

On the McManus Stage, Ronnie Burkett's *The Daisy Theatre* played to sold-out houses for a two-week run in November. This was his first appearance at the Grand and audiences cheered with delight at this master puppeteer improvising and crafting a new show nightly. Due to overwhelming demand, Burkett returned in the 2017/18 season.

Rod Beattie created a new one-man version of *A Christmas Carol* in another run that sold out before opening. It was impressive to see him change characters with the turn of a head or an adjustment in his voice.

December heralded the arrival of our largest production of the season — *The Wizard of Oz*. Reimagined by director Rick Miller, the production was staged as if on a movie set, with the Wizard as director. This was an imaginative look at a beloved classic. Michelle Bouey starred as Dorothy and made an iconic character feel original and fresh. And as to be expected, our Toto garnered much attention and delight.

The New Year began with a production of *The Lion in Winter*. Winter was warmed with the antics of royalty behaving badly. Featuring Stuart Hughes and Brenda

Robins, this play, written in 1966, was a contemporary and smart look at family interaction through the lens of medieval royalty.

Three wonderful actors, E. B. Smith, Sam Kalilieh, and Michael Spencer-Davis shared the stage in the biting production of *Art* by Yazmina Reza. Over a 90-minute period, these three convincingly debated the power and need for art in our lives.

Newfoundland theatre company, Artistic Fraud, brought its touring production of *The Colony* of *Unrequited Dreams* to the Grand. This play examined Newfoundland's journey to join Canada.



EMM GRYNER

BRENDAN WALL

### Joni Mitchell: River

CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED BY ALLEN MACINNIS, MUSIC ARRANGED BY GREG LOWE, SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER DANA OSBORNE, LIGHTING DESIGNER JASON HAND, SOUND DESIGNER MICHAEL LAIRD.

### The Colony of Unrequited Dreams

AN ARTISTIC FRAUD PRODUCTION, BASED ON THE NOVEL BY WAYNE JOHNSTON, ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY ROBERT CHAFE, DIRECTED BY JILLIAN KEILEY, MUSIC COMPOSED BY PATRICK BOYLE. SET DESIGNER SHAWN KERWIN, COSTUME DESIGNER MARIE SHARPE, LIGHTING DESIGNER LEIGH ANN VARDY, ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER KAILEIGH KRYSTOFIAK, SOUND DESIGNER DON ELLIS.



Directed by Jillian Keiley, this visually stunning production was cited as being a brilliant stage realization of Wayne Johnston's wonderful novel.

One of Canada's most respected painters, Tom Thomson, was the focus of *Colours in The Storm* – a musical examining the life and death of Thomson. Heather Davies directed an ensemble of some of Canada's finest artists exploring the delicate question of Thomson's untimely death. Beautifully sung and lovely to look at – it was the perfect finale to a season with a proudly Canadian focus.

Special events this season included:

### INDUSTRY PANEL

Entitled *Finding the Edge*, this night was hosted by Actor Bruce Dow who led a conversation featuring acclaimed Set Designer Bretta Gerecke, Tom Thomson Art Gallery Director and Curator Virginia Eichhorn, London Chef Andrew Wolwowicz, Performance Consultant Natascha Wesch, and entrepreneur Perry Voulgaris.

### SPRING HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

The High School Project spring production was an original compilation of various scenes plucked from Shakespeare's plays. Entitled *Shakespeare: The Mixtape*, the production was directed and compiled by Megan Watson, Artistic Associate at the Grand.

### PLAYWRIGHTS CABARET

Over two evenings, 16 ten-minute plays were performed on the McManus Stage – the culmination of rehearsals and workshops of new work by local writers.

### JEANS 'N CLASSICS

New to the Grand in 2016/17, Jeans 'n Classics celebrated its 20th anniversary with a five-concert series over the course of the season. Incredibly popular, this London-based and internationally acclaimed series returned in 2017/18.

Much of this past year was focused on preparing

to launch our new season. Artistic Director Dennis Garnhum and Executive Director Deb Harvey announced a bold new direction: WORLD CURIOUS/LONDON PROUD. With that, the Grand announced a number of new initiatives: COMPASS, a new play development program; LONDON PROUD, a community commitment encompassing three innovative projects, 100 Schools, 1000 Seats, and the High School Project's new partnership with Sheridan College Music Theatre Program; and the 2017/18 season showcasing nine plays on two stages – the largest in the theatre's history.



# OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

For the 18th consecutive year, the Grand Theatre can announce a successful and positive year end with a surplus of \$58,264, contributing to an accumulated surplus of \$583,214. This is a significant achievement which speaks to the hard work and diligence of a very committed staff and board.

Last season, we held 213 performances and had 92,076 patrons attend the Grand Theatre during performances that included six Spriet Stage productions, a fall High School Project musical, five Jeans 'n Classics concerts, one Spriet Stage presentation, and four productions on the McManus Stage including the spring High School Project. 58% of our earned revenue was the result of ticket sales, contributing \$3.6M to our budget.

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Grand prides itself on the economic impact on London and surrounding regions. This past year, we provided employment for 245 people and contributed over \$3.9M in salaries and benefits. Of goods and services purchased 62% or \$1.3M was spent locally, making a significant contribution to the local economy.

As part of our community outreach, we provided box office services for 19 local organizations, and 25 local companies or individuals rented our facilities including a Spriet Stage wedding and reception.

The Grand donated theatre tickets to over 400 local charitable organizations. These tickets were used by the organizations as prizes for their fundraising events and represented a total value of \$66,825 in donated tickets. Over 90 complimentary tickets were provided to new Canadians in London through our Cultural Access Pass program.

The Annual Holiday Wish for Kids performance of *The Wizard of Oz* welcomed over 350 children and families from 30 agencies across London. For many this was their first live theatre experience. Lobby spaces were filled with games, activities, and special treats – including a visit from St. Nick and Mrs. Claus!

### ON THE STAGES

The highlights from the 2016/17 Season began with the 20th year of the High School Project and the production of *Les Misérables School Edition* that had one of the highest attendance records of the season at 91% capacity. This also marked the last High School Project directed by Susan Ferley, the Grand's outgoing Artistic Director. On Opening Night, over 80 returning High School Project alumni gathered with the current cast and performed a special rendition of "One Day More" in Susan's honour that brought the house down.

In February, Catalyst Theatre blasted onto the Spriet Stage with six performances of *Vigilante* that had 97% attendance and featured High School Project alumnus Eric Morin in one of the lead roles.

A newly piloted program for our youngest of audiences, StoryPlay with Kate Pinkerton, provided a first look at a theatre environment over the course of five Saturday mornings from January to May. Pre-kindergarten aged children and their caregivers enjoyed a fun, story-and-music-filled morning on our McManus Stage.



### The Lion in Winter

BY JAMES GOLDMAN, DIRECTED BY KRISTA JACKSON, SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER SUE LEPAGE, LIGHTING DESIGNER LOUISE GUINAND, SOUND DESIGNER JOHN GZOWSKI.

SARAH AFFUL AS ALAIS. TOP: BRENDA ROBINS AS ELEANOR, SARAH AFFUL AS ALAIS, RYLAN WILKIE AS RICHARD LIONHEART, PAOLO SANTALUCIA AS PHILIP, STUART HUGHES AS HENRY II, ANDRE MORIN AS JOHN AND BEN SANDERS AS GEOFFREY.



### The Wizard of Oz

BY L. FRANK BAUM, WITH MUSIC AND LYRICS BY HAROLD ARLEN AND E.Y. HARBURG, BACKGROUND MUSIC BY HERBERT STOTHART, DIRECTED BY RICK MILLER, MUSICAL DIRECTOR RYAN DESOUZA, CHOREOGRAPHER KERRY GAGE, SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER BILL LAYTON, LIGHTING DESIGNER RENÉE BRODE, PROJECTION DESIGNER RORY LEYDIER, SOUND DESIGNER ANDY ALLEN.

BRUCE DOW AS THE COWARDLY LION.



### THE GRAND GALA

The 43rd Annual Grand Gala, themed "Everything Starts with an Idea," welcomed special guest, Michael Rubinoff. With the announcement of a new partnership between the High School Project and Sheridan Music Theatre Program and in recognition of the tremendous Broadway success of *Come From Away* that was conceived and developed at Sheridan, the Grand was thrilled to welcome Mr. Rubinoff and his family, friends, and colleagues. During the evening, three scholarships were presented to High School Project students who had been accepted to Sheridan for the fall of 2017. Thanks to the sponsors and attendees, the Gala raised just over \$160,000 for the Make a Difference programs that include the High School Project and other youth initiatives.

### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Each year, we receive generous support from the City of London, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts. These government funders contributed 14% of our revenue.

### FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Grand Theatre's commitment to producing leading and innovative work for our audiences while providing our creative teams the opportunity for artistic enrichment remains a top priority. The breadth of programming we offer is made possible through the generous support of exceptional sponsors, individuals, foundations, and corporate donors.

The arrival of Dennis Garnhum as the new Artistic Director of the Grand brought a new vision for the future of the theatre. Turning vision to action required an enhanced donor program and increased requests for support from our sponsors and donors.

A new donor level – The Directors' Circle – was created and the response exceeded expectations. Eleven Directors' Circle members each made a commitment of \$20,000 during the 2016-17 season.

This combined commitment was leveraged further and in the spring of 2017, Helen and Andy Spriet announced a \$1M gift to the theatre – the largest single donation in the history of the Grand. In recognition of this transformational contribution, the MainStage will be known as the Spriet Stage for the next 25 years.

### 2016/17 SPONSORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

BMO returned as our Spriet Stage Season Sponsor. Three Spriet Stage title partners – BlueStone Properties, London Life, and 3M – returned as Title Sponsors.

Western Fair District was welcomed as a new Title Sponsor of our Fall High School Project and joined the Thames Valley District School Board and the London District Catholic School Board as Program Sponsors of this one-of-a-kind Canadian theatre experience. The Grand also thanks two foundations for their contributions to this valued initiative: The Good Foundation and the Westminster College Foundation.

Libro Credit Union continued their passionate support as Lead Community Partner of our Make a Difference youth programming initiatives.

TD Bank's support of Accessing the Arts, our discounted and complimentary ticket programs, ensured that the doors of the theatre were held wide open to welcome many new theatre patrons.

Sterling Marking Products returned as Presenting Sponsor of our Annual Grand Gala.

We were thrilled to welcome VersaBank as Presenting Sponsor of the Jeans 'n Classics Series. Donors and supporters generated \$1,222,030 (20% of revenue) in contributions last season, demonstrating the exceptional support of our patrons. We thank the 952 donors who made a contribution to the theatre over the course of the 2016-17 season.

A special tribute to Susan Ferley was initiated and the 81 "Friends of Ferley" raised just over \$14,000 in support of the High School Project.



### CAPITAL PROJECTS

A leading gift of \$100,000 was made by the Smith Family in honour of Don and Joan Smith, longtime Grand Theatre supporters. This support enabled the theatre to undertake much-needed capital projects including: fire-retarding of the Spriet Stage curtains, repairs to the fly system, replacement of the Richmond Street poster windows and the addition of a front window video screen.

In recognition of this generous contribution, the Grand hosted a special Boys and Girls Club celebration during the holiday production. We were delighted that so many of Don and Joan's children and grandchildren were able to join us as we paid tribute to the legacy and generosity of their parents.

### COMPASS: NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Shortly after his arrival in the Fall of 2016, Dennis presented a vision for the Grand to commission and produce new work on our stages. The COMPASS program was launched in November with an announcement of four new plays to be developed and produced by the Grand in coming years. We are grateful for the leading financial support of Tourism London and Carlyle Peterson LLP in this initial stage of the COMPASS program.

#### IN SUMMARY

The Grand Theatre is most grateful for the extraordinary commitment and outstanding work of the 130 guest artists of our 2016-17 Season. They gave us the shows and created the magic of live theatre once again at the Grand. Thank you to all of the actors, designers, musicians, stage managers, and directors who made London home for a few weeks last season.

To our subscribers and donors, thank you for your continued support. Theatre is only theatre when there is an audience, and we are very grateful for our loyal, curious, and knowledgeable theatre patrons.

The Grand Theatre is the artistic heart of London and has been a signature property and leading cultural institution since 1901. As we move towards the Grand's 50th anniversary as a professional theatre company, the Grand Theatre team stays committed to providing London and area with transformative theatre experiences that connect and inspire our community.

#### Art

BY YASMINA REZA, TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON, DIRECTED BY NIGEL SHAWN WILLIAMS, SET DESIGNER DENYSE KARN, COSTUME DESIGNER LISA WRIGHT, LIGHTING DESIGNER BONNIE BEECHER, SOUND DESIGNER VERNE GOOD.

SAM KALILIEH AS SERGE AND E.B. SMITH AS YVAN. OPPOSITE: MICHAEL SPENCER-DAVIS AS MARC, SAM KALILIEH AS SERGE AND E.B. SMITH AS YVAN.





# YOUTH AND EDUCATION Make a Difference

### LEAD COMMUNITY PARTNER: LIBRO CREDIT UNION

Each year the Grand Theatre strives to inspire the next generation of creative, articulate, and responsible citizens by providing opportunities for youth in our community to discover and participate in the powerful medium of theatre. The financial support of Libro Credit Union is instrumental in helping us achieve this goal.

### HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

The High School Project offers an exceptional opportunity for students to receive education and training, at no charge, in the working environment of a professional theatre. 67 students from TVDSB, LDCSB, CSViamonde, and homeschools received invaluable mentoring from theatre professionals. The *Les Misérables School Edition* company was made up of 17 crew, 3 student musicians, and 47 cast members. There were 16 performances of *Les Mis* directed by Susan Ferley on the Spriet Stage.

The spring High School Project was Shakespeare: The Mixtape, directed by Megan Watson and



performed in the round on the McManus Stage. The show, created in part by the students, consisted of 4 crew members and 10 cast members.

The Museum London Youth Council and the Spring High School Project students participated in workshops on creativity and different art forms at the museum. The Youth Council also displayed original art in the McManus lobby during the run of the show.

### EDUCATION & SCHOOL TRIPS

A discounted group rate for students and teachers, supported by the TD Accessing the Arts Program, provided the opportunity to attend matinee performances on both the Spriet and McManus Stages.

### STUDENT CLUB

Student Club is a subsidized full-season subscription for all six Spriet Stage productions, designed to encourage youth engagement at the Grand. Sponsored by Lexus of London, 80 high school students experienced a VIP evening at the theatre that included pre-show talks with guest artists and staff, pizza dinner donated by Domino's, and an exclusive post-show Q &A with cast and crew in the rehearsal hall. Enhanced funding support this season from Lexus ensured students from Youth Opportunities Unlimited had the opportunity to participate as well.

### CAVE

This past season, the Grand was a site for Community Arts Venues Education, or CAVE. The CAVE program is part of a larger London Arts Council initiative called Culture Infused Learning. Over four weeks, four elementary classes each spent a week at the Grand. Weeks were filled with workshops led by Grand staff and artists about character development, Broadway choreography, play writing, costumes, props, and poster study. The week also included a backstage tour, a Spriet Stage production, and the opportunity to meet actors and crew for an exclusive Q&A.

### COMMUNITY

The Grand Theatre participated in and hosted a wide variety of events for our community including:

#### Culture Days/ Doors Open weekend.

The Great Ghost Hunt, in partnership with Eldon House, which included ghost tours and haunted scenes. Approximately 40 Grand staff, volunteers, and HSP alumni dressed up and acted as tour guides.

Preshow children's activities and crafts during the run of *The Wizard of Oz* created and led by London Children's Museum.

During several shows last season, the lobby spaces were transformed into galleries for community artists. Artists and galleries featured included: the Tom Thomson Gallery, The Arts Project, Westland Gallery, Steve Tracy, Studio Shim, John Schuster, Margeaux Collyer, Jesse Robertson, Michael Gibson Gallery, Art Gallery of Lambeth, Print London, Kevin Bice, Annemarie Plint, Susan Garrington, Brian Moore, John Maurer, Killbear Art Group, and Plein Air Art Group. In addition, Museum London hosted *White Out*, an event held as part of the run of *Art*.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

as at June 30, 2017 - Interest revenues from the Endowment Funds are included in Fundraising

#### 2016/17 SEASON RESULTS

| Total Revenues      | \$6,185,891 |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Total Expenses      | \$6,127,627 |
| Season Surplus      | \$58,264    |
| Accumulated Surplus | \$583,214   |
|                     |             |

#### REVENUES

| Net Ticket Sales  | 58% | \$3,591,663 |
|-------------------|-----|-------------|
| Government Grants | 14% | \$895,950   |
| Fundraising       | 20% | \$1,222,030 |
| Other Revenues    | 8%  | \$476,248   |

#### SALARIES (Permanent and Seasonal Full & Part time)

| Artistic Salaries & Fees (Guest Artists)        | 130 people | \$831,141   |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Production / Technical Salaries & Fees          | 76 people  | \$1,656,561 |
| Administration/Marketing/Fundraising/Operations | 39 people  | \$1,170,785 |
| Royalties                                       |            | \$311,576   |
| Total Salaries & Benefits                       | 245 people | \$3,970,063 |

#### GOODS AND SERVICES PURCHASED:

| Purchased locally (62%)           | \$1,337,690 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Purchased outside of region (38%) | \$819,874   |
| Total Goods & Services            | \$2,157,564 |

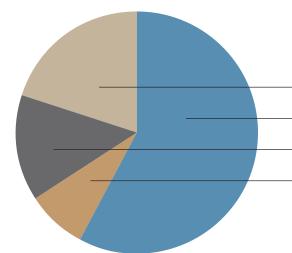
### SELECTED 2016/17 STATISTICS:

|                              | Productions | Performances | Attendance |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Spriet Stage (839 capacity)  | 7           | 172          | 79,524     |
| McManus Stage (144 capacity) | 4           | 30           | 3,862      |
| Presentations                | 6           | 11           | 8,690      |
| Total                        | 17          | 213          | 92,076     |

Market Value of OAC and London Community Foundation Endowment Funds as at June 30, 2017







TOTAL ANNUAL REVENUES \$1,222,030 Fundraising 20% \$3,591,663 Net Ticket Sales 58% \$476,248 Other Revenues 8% \$895,950 Government Grants 14% Colours In The Storm

BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY JIM BETTS, DIRECTED BY HEATHER DAVIES, MUSICAL DIRECTION BY MAREK NORMAN, SET DESIGN-ER SHAWN KERWIN, COSTUME DESIGNER JESSICA POIRIER-CHANG, LIGHTING DESIGNER RENÉE BRODE, PROJECTION DESIGNER RORY LEYDIER, SOUND DESIGNER JIM NEIL.

JAY DAVIS AS TOM THOMSON. INSET: JAY DAVIS AS THOMSON, BINAESHEE-QUAE COUCHIE-NABIGON AS ANNIE FRASER, MA-ANNE DIONISIO AS WINNIE TRAINOR, TIM FUNNELL AS MARTIN BLETCHER AND GAB DESMOND AS SHANNON FRASER.



# DONORS

SPRIET STAGE For their transformational gift of \$1 million, we proudly name the beautiful proscenium stage in Helen and Andy Spriet's honour.

The generosity of our Annual Donors provides vital support for the Grand Theatre's artistic and youth programming. In recognition of their contributions and to enhance their experience as theatregoers, we provide our Annual Donors with a number of benefits, depending on the giving level, which include complimentary coat check and light beverages as well as exclusive invitations to dress rehearsals, play readings, backstage tours, receptions and more. The following made donations between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

#### GRAND VISIONARIES - DIRECTORS' CIRCLE (\$20,000+)

Directors' Circle members have chosen to make a pace-setting investment that will help propel the Grand Theatre toward its next phase of evolution into 2017/18 and beyond.

Tom Burnett Lynn Davis Dr. Deborah & Ron Koudys Linda & Dr. Cecil Rorabeck Debbie & Bob Schram Penny & Gerald Slemko Roberta & Dr. Robert Sokol Helen & Andy Spriet Elaine Stalker & Jack Norman Susanne & Marty Thrasher Judy White

#### GRAND VISIONARIES - PATRONS' CIRCLE (\$10,000 to \$19,999)

Two anonyr

Two anonymous gifts

#### GRAND VISIONARIES - AMBASSADORS' CIRCLE (\$5000 to \$9999)

Architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson Noreen De Shane Dr. Jeanne Denium

Lynne & Bill Gray

Downtown London Susan Ferley S. Elizabeth Moore Kathleen Murphy & Harry Joosten Susan Carlyle & Dave Southen One anonymous gift

#### GRAND CHAMPIONS - LONDON PROUD CLUB (\$2500 to \$4999)

Besty & Sheldon Aaron Jane & Justin Amann Bertha Archambault & Jackie Johnston Auburn Developments Anne & Bruce Barran Jim Cressman Jacqueline Crosby & George Kerhoulas

**GRAND SUPPORTERS -**

ASSOCIATES (\$1000 to \$2499) Gina & Ted Barber Lina & Chris Bowden Ken Brown Twee & Robert Brown Elizabeth & Allan Drewlo Form & Build Supply Inc. Dennis Garnhum Deb Harvey Lily & Grant Hopcroft Marilyn & Brent Kelman Suzanne Lanthier Cathy & Bob Lawless

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Mary Bancroft

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Charlotte Ann Bell

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We are deeply grateful to the compassionate individuals who have made the important and thoughtful decision to make a planned gift to the Grand Theatre. We honor them through their membership in the Proscenium Society.

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A CATALYST THEATRE PRODUCTION, BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY JONATHAN CHRISTENSON, DIRECTED BY JONATHAN CHRISTENSON, CHOREOGRAPHER LAURA KREWSKI, SET CONCEPT & REALIZATION JONATHAN CHRISTENSON & JAMES ROBERT BOUDREAU, COSTUME, HAIR, & MAKE-UP DESIGNER NARDA MCCARROLL, LIGHTING DESIGNER BETH KATES, SOUND DESIGNER WADE STAPLES.

JAN ALEXANDRA SMITH WITH MEMBERS OF THE ENSEMBLE We would like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following volunteers who have so generously given their time during the 2016/17 season. Volunteers are one of the most important resources within our theatre. Their time, commitment, enthusiasm, and support of the Grand Theatre allow us to provide quality customer service to our patrons and help support every department in our organization.

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