

2020 CREATIVE NOVA SCOTIA AWARDS GALA

PRESS RELEASE

Creative Community Impact Award

2020 CREATIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

Arts Nova Scotia and the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council will celebrate the **HIGHLAND ARTS THEATRE** as part of the 15th Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala, to be held virtually through liveheist.com/livestream on Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 7 PM AST.

ARTISTIC VISION FOR THE 2020 GALA: GENERATIONS

As vital creative Nova Scotians, we must be willing to look into the past to see ourselves in the making. Nova Scotia is a name 400 years old, Mi'kma'ki is a name more than 10,000 years old. The actions, stories, and art of our ancestors is who we are, and our own actions, stories and art is who we will be. The past affects the present affects the future.

GENERATIONS represents a snapshot in time: a group selfie for our archives in which we can highlight our achievements, celebrate beauty and diversity, critique our choices and decisions, and create a deliberate ripple forward in time to our future selves. Amidst a year of societal lockdowns, global pandemics and civil rights movements, Nova Scotians are also processing great loss. We must commit to look at how we contribute to our communities and the society around us. What ripples will you create?

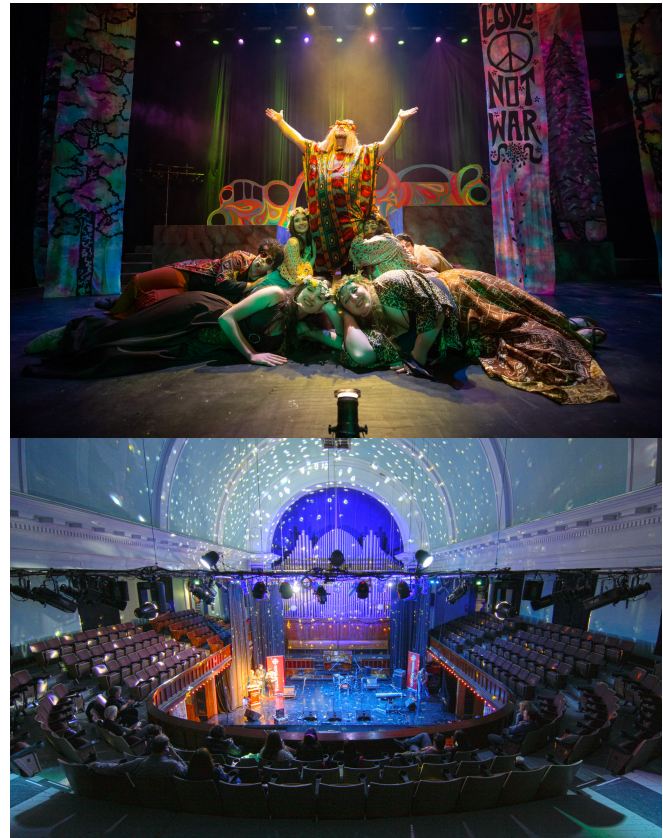
The HIGHLAND ARTS THEATRE will receive the 2020 Creative Community Impact Award.

The HIGHLAND ARTS THEATRE will receive \$10,000.

HIGHLAND ARTS THEATRE

The Highland Arts Theatre, or "HAT" as it's affectionately called, is a performance venue in downtown Sydney, Nova Scotia, formerly the home of St. Andrew's Church. When the church was decommissioned in 2013, the beloved historical building was transformed into a state-of-the-art centre for arts and culture. Every year, the Highland Arts Theatre produce twelve mainstage productions and bring tens of thousands of people to the Sydney downtown core.

It is their mandate to create a reliable, professional theatrical presence in downtown Sydney, producing quality productions with a special emphasis on Cape Breton stories.



In the shadow of COVID-19, the theatre launched a bold new operating model called "Radical Access." The model solicits monthly donations via a Patreon crowdsourcing format in exchange for a series of community "perks," including arts scholarships for local youth, a \$10,000 commission for a BIPOC artist, and – perhaps most revolutionary – free tickets for everyone for all mainstage productions.

This innovative model has so far raised over \$600,000 and has meant the difference between success and bankruptcy in light of COVID-19. The Highland Arts Theatre has received attention from the Globe & Mail and the New York Times and are currently producing theatre with limited audiences of 50-70 per performance in their 400-seat venue.



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CREATIVE NOVA SCOTIA AWARDS 2020

ABOUT THE CREATIVE NOVA SCOTIA AWARDS GALA

Presented by Arts Nova Scotia and the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council, the Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala is an annual event that celebrates excellence in artistic achievement, to include the announcements of the Portia White Prize, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Arts Award, winners of the Prix Grand-Pré, the Established Artist, Emerging Artist and Indigenous Artist awards, and the Creative Community Impact Award. Collectively, the awards are worth \$95,000.

The gala will consist of live performances, presenters, appearances from the celebrated award winners and unique pre-recorded segments. The awards ceremony will provide an opportunity for the presentation of the province's top arts and culture prizes.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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2020 GALA DETAILS

November 14, 2020 at 7 PM AST

Artistic Directors and Event
management team: Heist

Co-hosts: Nathan D. Simmons and
Linda Carvery

The event will be broadcast digitally
through liveheist.com/livestream

Accessibility: ASL interpreters will be
present during the livestream and all
pre-recorded segments will have
closed captioning.

