

RAISE THE CURTAIN ON 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY AND CREATIVITY



Three Charitable Forces. One Mission. A Stronger Theatre Community for All.

Dear Valued Supporter,

For half a century, Theatre Antigonish, followed by Festival Antigonish, and the Festival Antigonish Foundation have been cornerstones of creativity, connection, and culture in our region. Together, these three charitable organizations form a creative hub that fosters access to the arts for everyone regardless of age or experience. Theatre Antigonish nurtures local talent, Festival Antigonish creates professional productions in our region, and the Foundation's endowment protects long-term sustainability. This year, as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Theatre Antigonish and prepare for the 38th season of Festival Antigonish, we are joining for the first time in a collaborative campaign to secure the future of theatre in Antigonish.

Sharing in Our Recent Achievements

You may recall recent innovative programming: the imaginative podcast *Hector the Spectre Steals the Show* (now a fully staged production Nov 26th – 30th), or the immersive outdoor shows at Keppoch Mountain with *The Hobbit* and *Robin Hood*. Despite the immense challenges of recent years, we've continued to captivate audiences with record-breaking, Merritt Award-nominated productions like *The New Canadian Curling Club* or the acclaimed wit and production values of *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson Apt 2B*.

Challenges We Face

Despite these achievements, our theatre is facing critical challenges. Our infrastructure is in urgent need of repair, with many parts of the facility showing wear. Rising costs of materials and labor, coupled with funding reductions from a key partner, have further strained our resources. While our community remains passionate about theatre, post-pandemic hesitancy has impacted attendance, and the critical support we received during the pandemic has ended.

Yet, we remain steadfast. With your help, we can address these challenges head-on and secure a future where theatre continues to inspire, connect, and enrich our community.

Raise the Curtain Campaign: \$50,000 for 50 Years of Art and Connection - Join Us!

By supporting this collaborative campaign, your gift, to the charity of your choice, will:

- 1. Grow Access for All:** Expand educational programs and facility upgrades, ensuring theatre remains welcoming for everyone.
- 2. Inspire Creativity on Stage:** Invest in high-quality productions, support emerging artists, and bring new voices to our stage.
- 3. Secure Theatre's Future:** Strengthen staffing, operational capacity, or the Foundation's endowment for long-term growth.

Together, We Are ALL the Art of Belonging. Thank You For Supporting Us All!

Caleb Marshall
Managing Director



Minoli Amit MD
Chair, Board of Directors



FESTIVAL ANTIGONISH SOCIETY
CHARITY #88620 1599 RR 0001

AND/OR
(SUPPORTS GREATEST NEED WITH IMMEDIATE IMPACT)

THEATRE ANTIGONISH
CHARITY #88723 2999 RR 0001

I would like to give towards: Theatre Antigonish Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre

I would like to support: Grow Access for All Inspire Creativity on Stage Secure Theatre's Future

Your Name/organization (for recognition)

Phone Number

Email Address

Address

City

Postal Code

I've enclosed a cheque to my chosen charity.
(With this form) sent to 5015 Chapel Square,
Antigonish, NS, B2G 2W5

OR I'd like to make a credit card donation online using the QR code
(No form needs to be submitted.)

Please acknowledge my gift
 I wish for my donation to remain anonymous.
 This gift is in honour of _____

Total Donation

SCAN



**THEATRE
GIVING
CAMPIAGN**

RAISE THE CURTAIN FOR 2024-2025

—AREAS OF GREATEST NEED—

GIFTS TO EITHER FESTIVAL ANTIGONISH OR THEATRE ANTIGONISH CAN SUPPORT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THREE PRIORITY AREAS:



Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre 2024 Young Company Production of *The Paper Bag Princess and Other Stories*. Photo by Dave Risk.

1. ACCESS FOR ALL: MAKING THE ARTS INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING

- **Community Access Initiatives:** Support inclusive programs like **Pay-What-You-Can Previews, Relaxed Performances, and Affinity Nights**, making live theatre accessible for all.
- **Accessibility Enhancements:** Such as hearing accommodations, accessible seating, and a mobile-friendly website will make our theatre a welcoming space for all.
- **Educational Opportunities:** Donations fund **Youth Bursaries, Assistant Teachers, and Professional Mentorship**, nurturing young artists with skills beyond the stage.

2. INSPIRING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION ON STAGE

- **Production Quality & Innovation:** Funding for **projection, lighting, and design equipment** enables us to stage visually stunning productions.
- **Expanded Artistic Horizons:** Support for **artist travel, competitive fees, and housing** allows us to bring top national talent to collaborate with local artists.
- **Empowering Future Artists:** Supports **mentorship and employment programs** for our Young Company and Academy.

3. ENSURING A FUTURE FOR THEATRE IN ANTIGONISH

- **Administrative & Operational Sustainability:** Funding for **critical staffing and administrative support** helps us run efficiently, and focus on quality experiences for audiences and community members.
- **Enhanced Venue Experience:** **Facility upgrades, and safety improvements**, create a comfortable, welcoming environment.

GIFTS TO FESTIVAL ANTIGONISH FOUNDATION SUPPORT:

- **Long-Term Sustainability:** The endowment supports a stable future, subsidizing **growth initiatives and facility renewal** for generations to come to to enjoy theatre in our community.

"The Bauer Theatre gave me a sense of belonging 20 years ago as a university student and inspired me to make Antigonish my forever home. Over the years, it has enriched my life and provided my students with access to the rich resource of high-quality and diverse performing arts experiences that have come to be essential to the heart of this community."

-Jenn Priddle, Theatre Arts/Drama/French/Visual Arts teacher

YOUR GIVING IMPACT

Examples of how past donations have been used and what future donations could achieve:

- \$25 – Purchases a seat to a Relaxed Performance for someone in need
- \$50 – Buys us one replacement stage lightbulb
- \$100 – Subsidizes a family of 4 to attend a *Pay What You Can*
- \$200 – The average cost of one costume
- \$250 – Provides a student for a full week of Classes
- \$400 – Hires a guest instructor to offer classes
- \$500 – Licenses a movie screening for the community
- \$750 – Provides theatre access for community use
- \$1,000 – Creates an educational workshop for school or community group
- \$1,500 – Travel & Accommodation for one out of town artist
- \$2,000 – The cost of one LED Stagelight
- \$2,500 – The presentation fee for a touring school performance
- \$3,500 – Subsidizes tickets for schools to attend matinees
- \$4,000 – Provides an apprentice artist with 5-weeks employment and PD
- \$5,000 – A guest Director for one Production
- \$10,000 – The average cost of one week of professional rehearsal
- \$15,000 – The design and build of one professional set

If you have questions, contact Caleb Marshall at caleb@festivalantigonish.ca

WAYS TO GIVE:

All donations of **\$20 or more** will receive a charitable tax receipt.

- **CHEQUE** Payable directly to charity of choice. (Details on Giving Form)
- **ONLINE** at canadahelps.org. (Search: [Festival Antigonish Society](#) and/or [Theatre Antigonish Society](#))
- **PHONE** Sissie Wang at **902-867-3333** between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Tue -Fri) to donate.

"The creative community-minded fusion between Festival Antigonish and Theatre Antigonish has encouraged careers galore and become a major contributor of artistic excellence."

- Jeremy Webb, Neptune Theatre Artistic Director

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO SUPPORT

- **Foundation Endowment Fund:** Your generosity can live on to secure the future of theatre in Antigonish. All donations are eligible for up to 100% matching funding from the department of Canadian Heritage Endowment Incentive Fund.



FESTIVAL ANTIGONISH FOUNDATION
CHARITY #83168 9013 RR 0001
(SUPPORTS LONG-TERM)
TO LEARN MORE:
festivalantigonish.ca/foundation/

- **Legacy / Planned Giving:** The simplest option is to leave a bequest in your will. It could be a sum of money or a gift in kind such as artwork, securities or real estate. Whatever you choose, ensure that your generosity lives on, securing the maximum possible tax benefits for your estate.
- **In Celebration / In Memory:** Consider a gift when you are planning an event, retirement or to honour the memory & a loved one.
- **Third Party Events:** You can turn any activity into a fundraiser. Let your imagination run wild! From bake sales to golf tournaments to dinner parties, the possibilities are endless to support our programs. Contact our office to let us know what you are planning.

"The Bauer Theatre is more than just a venue — it's a cornerstone for creating community. It has nurtured my passion for the arts and provided countless opportunities for growth and creativity"

- Sheumais MacLeod, performer, FAST Board Member, Trustee MacLeod Group Family Trust



Theatre Antigonish 2016 Production of Eurydice.



Theatre Antigonish 2023 Production of Grimm's Tales.



Theatre Antigonish 2023 Production of Suspense & Dragnet.

"As a longtime supporter, I've seen first-hand the joy and impact theatre brings to our university and beyond. I invite you to join me in supporting Theatre in Antigonish, ensuring this invaluable community hub continues to thrive and inspire."

- Peggy Gallant, Donor and former Board Chair



Festival Antigonish 2023 Production of The New Canadian Curling Club.



Festival Antigonish 2023 Production of The Little Girl and the Wind.



Festival Antigonish 2024 Production of Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt 2B.

THE CHARITIES AT A GLANCE

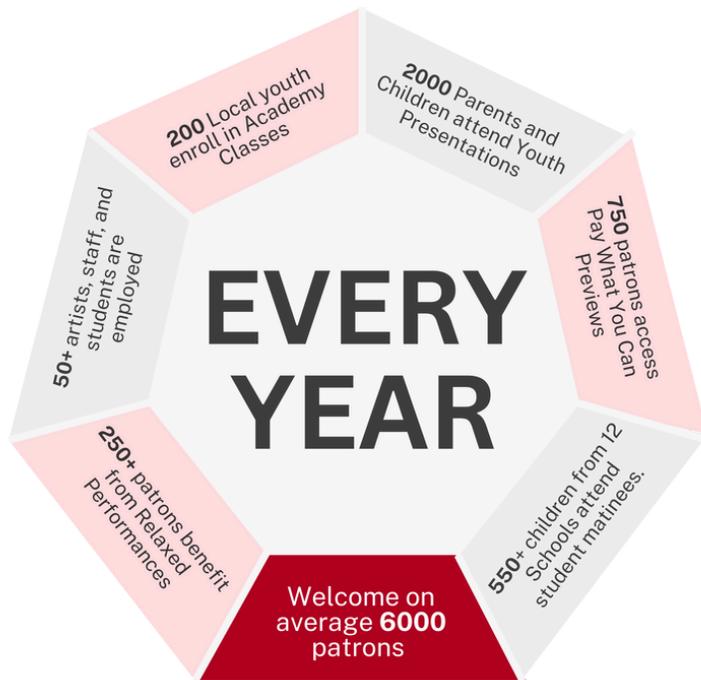
Based out of historic Bauer Theatre, together these collaborative companies create a vibrant hub of creativity where every performance, class and mentorship are testaments to the enduring power of the arts to ignite imaginations, nurture empathy, and transform lives.

"I can truly say that these companies play an invaluable role in my life. Join me in supporting, so their remarkable legacy continues to bring art, inspiration, and connection for years to come."
- Aida Arnold, Donor and former Board Chair

FESTIVAL ANTIGONISH (FAST)

A cornerstone of artistic excellence, FAST produces professional mainstage summer productions featuring top Canadian talent, a Young Company program that develops emerging artists and captivates young audiences, and special music events like the lively *Antigonish Kitchen Party*. The Theatre Academy offers classes and workshops for all ages, fostering creative growth. Through community engagement, FAST creates welcoming spaces, for underrepresented groups, ensuring theatre remains accessible, inclusive, and inspiring for all.

SELECT ACCOLADES



37 seasons of Professional Theatre in rural Nova Scotia.

10 N.S. Merritt Theatre Award nominations in 2023.

Acclaimed actors, writers and directors like, **Daniel MacIvor, Emmy Alcorn, Laura Teasdale** and **Richie Wilcox** got their start on the Bauer stage, as well as award-winning designers and stage managers, **Judy Joe, Ingrid Risk** and **Zeph Williams**.

2017 DEANS Tourism Award for Festivals and Events.

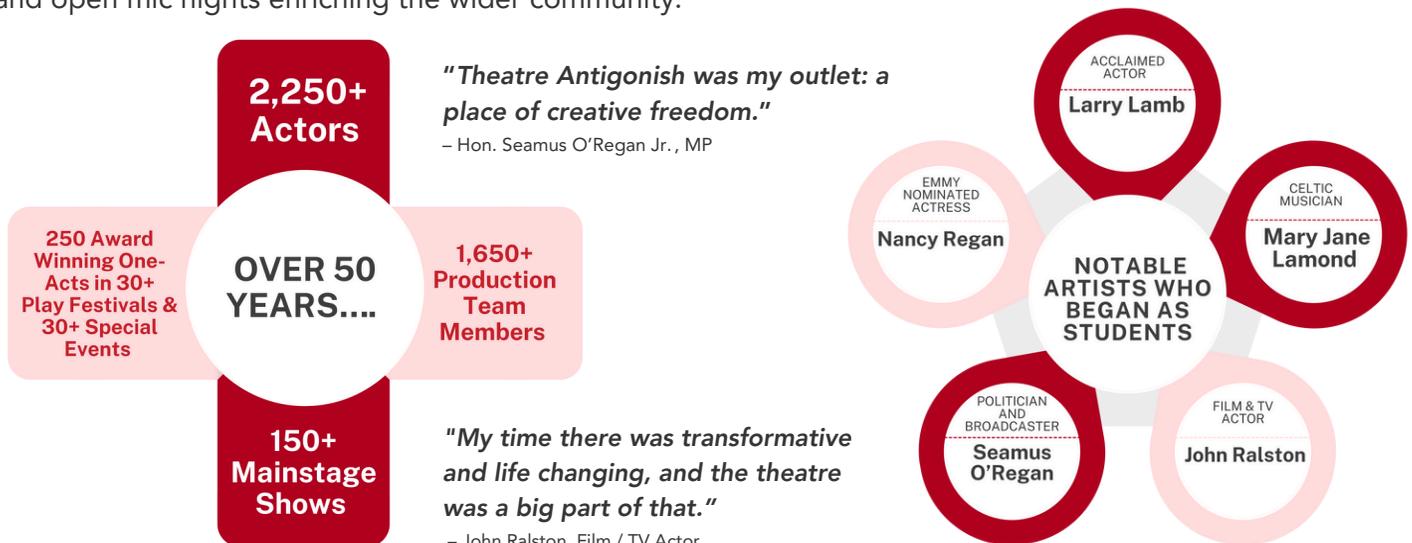
"One of Canada's top 5 summer theatres."
-Ottawa Citizen

Economic Impact

- 40% of audience travel from beyond a 50 km radius.
- For every \$1 spent by visiting patrons, another \$28.50 is spent in the local economy.

THEATRE ANTIGONISH (TA)

Celebrating its 50th anniversary partnership with Saint Francis Xavier University, Theatre Antigonish unites students and community members with professional mentors on all aspects of theatre production. Each season offers a vibrant mix of programming; from mainstage and holiday productions to concerts, improv, cabarets, and open mic nights enriching the wider community.



FESTIVAL ANTIGONISH FOUNDATION

The Festival Antigonish Foundation was established to grow a sustainable financial base for Festival Antigonish. Thanks to the generous support of donors (and matching funds from Heritage Canada's Endowment Incentive Program,) the Foundation's endowment has grown to over \$1 million. The fund is carefully managed, with only the earned interest used to support annual operations, helping keep ticket prices accessible and expand programming and community engagement. For Information, please visit festivalantigonish.ca/foundation/.