



Neptune Theatre partners with Prime Mover Theatre Company to sew seeds for change, announce Artistic Director Intern.

(K'jipuktuk/Halifax, NS – December 23, 2020) Neptune Theatre and Prime Mover Theatre Company are excited to announce **Patricia Cerra** as the first **Artistic Director Intern** under the newly reimagined **2020-21 RBC Chrysalis Project** dedicated to the professional development and advancement of IBPOC arts leaders.

In a statement from **Cerra**, she expressed her delight to join Neptune Theatre and Prime Mover Theatre Company as the Artistic Director Intern, "As an IBPOC artist, I'm committed to passionate leadership that engages in the inclusivity of diverse voices; building these bridges will be invaluable for our communities and our industry."

In October, it was announced that the two theatre companies were partnering on the project to support emerging Indigenous, Black and People of Color (IBPOC) artistic leaders. Supported by the RBC Emerging Artist Program, the **2020-21 RBC Chrysalis Project has been reimagined** as an *Artistic Director Internship* exclusively designated for emerging IBPOC arts leaders.

Over the last three years, The Chrysalis Project has provided emerging theatre artists, in multiple disciplines, with hands-on learning and mentoring. With the industry's current shutdown, Neptune and Prime Mover saw an opportunity to reformat the RBC Chrysalis Project to address one of the most important issues facing Canadian theatre.

"The refrains of 'there aren't enough qualified candidates of colour and representation begin at the board and leadership level' have been heard so many times that they have become damaging tropes, the status quo, and an excuse for the theatrical community to avoid taking decisive action to make change," said **Ray Hogg**, founding artistic director of Prime Mover Theatre Company and deputy artistic director of Musical Stage Company.

Over the next 10 months, Cerra will work closely with the artistic and administrative staff at both companies to develop the 2021-2022 Season and redraft policies, develop programming, and advance community stewardship while building her credentials and artistic resume.

Cerra is thrilled to be given this opportunity to spend 2021 working with the theatre companies in a capacity that will help move the industry forward, "Engaging in important conversations and meaningful collaborations will allow us to take steps forward together." Adding, "As uncertain as the future feels right now, a shift has happened. Seeds have begun to be planted, and I have great hope that something beautiful will emerge."

On behalf of Neptune Theatre, artistic director **Jeremy Webb** stated, "We are looking forward to welcoming Patricia to the Neptune family. Working with Patricia and Ray is a positive step towards building capacity in the Canadian theatre landscape for IBPOC artists." Adding, "It is opportunities such as the RBC Chrysalis Project that will help nurture the next generation of artistic leaders."

Cerra will be relocating to Halifax in the new year and officially starts in the new role of artistic director intern on January 18, 2021.

For more information about the RBC Chrysalis Project, visit:
<https://www.neptunetheatre.com/neptune/rbc-chrysalis-project>

About Patricia Cerra

Patricia is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist; at present, she works as a director, performer and educator. She has been involved in over thirty productions with theatres around the country. Recently she has been recognized with the Sterling Award for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role, Comedy. Patricia has had the pleasure of world-premiering many new works and finds great joy in play development. She worked at the Banff Playwrights Lab collaborating with national and international playwrights on over a dozen brand new works. She will be debuting her short play as a part of the Sprouts Festival in 2021. Patricia also serves her community in various committees and initiatives including the 35//50 Initiative YEG and the Mental Health and Wellness Task Force with CAEA. She is also on the Board of Directors for Theatre Alberta. Patricia completed her training at the Citadel/Banff Professional Theatre Program and has graduated from the University of Alberta BFA Acting program with Distinction.

About Neptune Theatre:

For 58 years, Neptune Theatre has contributed to Halifax's cultural, social, and economic well-being and the province. Under the vision of artistic director Jeremy Webb, Neptune Theatre audiences experience works from Atlantic Canadian and Canadian playwrights and stories representing the diversity of our communities and the region. Neptune Theatre is committed to providing opportunities for the growth and development of emerging, local artists and accessible programming so more people can experience live theatre.

About Prime Mover Theatre Company:

Prime Mover Theatre Company is Canada's newest theatre company dedicated to the advancement of marginalized artistic voices through advocacy, artist training, and large-scale co-production. The company focuses on developing and championing exceptional artists and their works, developing new live-performance work, and assembling production partners from flagship organizations across the country. In October 2020, the company developed its creative artist development program - The Legacy Project (which includes Legacy Fellowship, NoteWorthy, and the RBC Chrysalis project).

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