

GHISLAIN CARON **Honoured with** **Leonard McHardy and John Harvey Award**

Toronto, June 7, 2011 – The **Leonard McHardy and John Harvey Award** (LMJH Award) was inaugurated in 2008 and recognizes the important work of theatre, dance and opera administrators. Recipients of the LMJH Award have at least 10 years of demonstrated commitment to the performing arts, in addition to having made an impact on the industry in Toronto. The Award is named after **Leonard McHardy** and **John Harvey**, the celebrated owners of Toronto's Theatrebooks, which they co-founded in 1975, and now stands as one of the longest surviving independent bookstores in the country.

This year's recipient is Ghislain Caron, the Managing Director of Théâtre français de Toronto (TfT), an enormously talented and resourceful arts professional who celebrated 21 years at TfT in October 2010, an important milestone for him and the company.

After receiving a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Caron moved to Toronto and soon began his career at TfT as box office manager and administrative assistant. In 1990, he took over accounting and budget preparation, and as the years progressed, also became involved in marketing and fundraising and has acquired in-depth knowledge in all areas of theatre administration.

In 1999, Caron was appointed TfT's Managing Director and in this role he has helped the company to flourish, working closely with TfT Artistic Director Guy Mignault. TfT has enjoyed unprecedented success and financial stability under Caron's leadership; he retired a 20% operating deficit in his first 2 years. Since then, the operating budget has more than doubled and is now over \$1.5 million.

Caron's thoroughness and dedication have allowed TfT to streamline the company's administration and maximize its efficiency; he spearheaded and led the company's recent move to 21 College Park. TfT's board of directors is appreciative of his clear, precise financial reports and analyses.

Additionally, Caron shares his administrative and management expertise in the non-profit arena by mentoring Toronto-based francophone artists, and helping them obtain the proper tools and skills necessary to improve their arts management knowledge. During his early years at TfT, Caron also freelanced in various administrative financial capacities with the Toronto Theatre Alliance, Skylight Theatre and Crow's Theatre. More recently, he acted as a Professional Development Advisor for Access Arts Canada where he helped a Congolese-Canadian artist found an arts service organization.

The previous winners of the LMJH Award are Jim Lefrancois, Naomi Campbell and Natasha Parsons. The LMJH Award is administered by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). LMJH Award potential recipients are nominated by TAPA members and then reviewed by a committee. Chaired by Sandy Tulloch, the LMJH Selection Committee is Derrick Chua, Leonard McHardy and Jacoba Knaapen. The award winner receives a plaque and a cheque for \$1,000 through the generous sponsorship of Elizabeth Comper.

The Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA) is an arts service organization that represents nearly 200 professional theatre, dance and opera companies in the City of Toronto and administers the Dora Mavor Moore Awards. In addition to the Doras, other programs and services provided by TAPA include: T.O. TIX - Toronto's Official One Stop Ticket Shop at Yonge-Dundas Square and online at www.totix.ca; 5 STAR EXPERIENCE Theatre & Dining Packages; Toronto's official Theatre Guide; hipTIX, offering \$5 tickets to students between the ages of 15 and 29; citySPECIAL; the Commercial Theatre Development Fund; and the Travel Retreat Initiatives Program – TRIP. For more information visit www.tapa.ca and www.totix.ca.