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After 12 successful seasons Paprika announces new Festival model

–Young people across the city can expect the Festival to appear in different venues each year, beginning with Theatre Passe Muraille in 2014 and the Theatre Centre in 2015

September 9, 2013 – Toronto: The **Paprika Festival**, Toronto's leading arts Festival for young artists under the age of 21, will be hosted by different theatres across the city each year beginning with **Theatre Passe Muraille in April 2014**. This is an important step for Paprika, an organization known for its professional mentorship of young artists.

This announcement comes with great support from the Festival's former home, the Tarragon Theatre.

"We are excited to see Paprika explore new spaces and relationships over the next few years – our community will benefit enormously from the energy these young artists bring to their theatres. Tarragon will continue to support Paprika in any way we can and we look forward to welcoming Paprika back sometime soon." – **Gideon Arthurs, General Manager, Tarragon Theatre**

Under the Artistic Direction of Andy McKim, Theatre Passe Muraille is a fitting venue for 2014 given that Andy was the Associate Artistic Director at the Tarragon Theatre at the inception of the Paprika Festival in 2001. He, along with past Artistic Director Urjo Kareda, provided founder Anthony Furey with the resources needed to establish the Festival in a partnership with Tarragon.

"Paprika is home to the freshest voices in Toronto theatre. It has been instrumental in attracting exceptional young artists to the theatrical medium because it provides such exceptional support, leadership and mentorship to theatre artists in their formative years. Looking back at the aspirations we had for Paprika in 2001 makes me realize just how much it has outstripped our initial vision. I am so proud that Passe Muraille will get a chance to host this seminal festival of new theatre works in 2014 and I welcome them all through our big red doors."

– **Andy McKim, Artistic Director, Theatre Passe Muraille.**

The Theatre Centre's Artistic Director, Franco Boni—once a board member for Paprika—shares his enthusiasm for the Festival's mandate and was an integral element in the development of Paprika's new model. Paprika will have the fortune of appearing in 2015 at the Theatre Centre's newly minted state-of-the-art venue located at the edge of Parkdale. In 2015, audiences can expect to see a variety of young artists working in mixed forms of media and performance.

Paprika's move comes after much analysis of the Festival's activities and the communities it serves. Outgoing Artistic Producer, Rob Kempson, expanded the Festival's reach through exciting new programs such as the very successful School Tour program. This brought plays created by young artists to the classrooms and auditoriums of high schools. The peer-to-peer relationships formed through this initiative attracted many new participants to

the Festival. Despite this increase in engagement, the Festival sought more access for its participants to a greater variety of professional institutions in the city.

“I feel so lucky to have been part of this groundbreaking initiative before my final days with the Festival. It is the step that will make Paprika wholly supported by the broader artistic community—and that’s good for our artists. There is simply no better person to lead this new vision than Dan Daley. Our future is bright indeed.” – Rob Kempson, outgoing Artistic Producer

An integral part of this new model will be how the Festival adapts and responds to the space it occupies, the artists who reside there and the administrative teams that produce the art. These elements will offer a new exploration for the participants, new forms of mentorship and new themes which will shape the presentation.

“In the coming years, I hope we visit the farther reaches of the city and beyond, but more importantly it will be our lasting relationships and the formation of legacies in each new home that is important to me.” –Dan Daley, incoming Artistic Producer

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