



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Launching your child into an artistic profession

–What started as a local theatre Festival for young people has become a launch pad for young professionals across the GTA.

September 9th 2013, Toronto – **The Paprika Festival** has announced its call for applicants to enrol in its 13th season of professional theatre mentorship for young people. The Festival has become a significant bridge for young artists entering the field of professional theatre. This is because the program unlike any in Toronto, is centered upon mentorship in the practice of both creating and successfully producing live performance.

About the Festival

The Paprika Festival, a playful title coined by past Artistic Director of the Tarragon Theatre, **Urjo Kareda** (1982-2001), was started twelve years ago by an eighteen-year old who wanted a professional theatre program for people like him. **Anthony Furey**, now a columnist for the Ottawa Sun, ignited something that, to date, has affected the lives of nearly a thousand young people, many of which now work professionally in the arts community. This year marks the first time that Paprika will step outside of the walls of the Tarragon Theatre, in a new model that will bring the Festival to different communities across the city.

“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**

Many alumni attribute their success to the important lessons they learned at Paprika.

“I can’t imagine that much of my work would have seen the light of day without this Festival. I can draw a direct line from my experience with Paprika and my work being heard and produced in the professional world. The Festival also connected me with artists my own age, and those friendships and collaborations have lasted over many years and many projects.” —**Rosamund Small, participant**

Rosamund Small spent three years as a playwright with the Festival before joining its executive team this past season. This May, her latest play, *Vitals*, will be produced by the award winning independent theatre company Outside the March in association with Theatre Passe Muraille. Other Festival Alumni include: **Mitchell Cushman** who joined the Festival as a young director and is now a seasoned director with credits at Mirvish, SummerWorks and across Canada. **Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman**, a playwright with credits at Factory Theatre and abroad, spent several years at with Paprika. **Johnnie Walker**, runs his own theatre company in

Toronto which has produced numerous hit shows at both the Fringe Festival and SummerWorks.

CALL FOR APPLICANTS

Platforms for artists 21 and under

Resident Company

Collective research, development and creation of an original play in cooperation with a local community for a local community.

Project/Productions

Independently stage your original performance project or theatre production with a company of your choosing, under the guidance of a professional artist mentor.

Playwrights in Residence

Learn the practice of writing an original play under the mentorship of Toronto's best playwrights.

Creators' Unit

Meet other creative thinkers and express your ideas in this performance lab directed by professional artists.

Advisory Board

Join a team of leaders, activists, artists and art-enthusiasts and guide the Festival through programming and planning decisions. *Ages 14 to 25*

Platforms for returning Paprika artists

Resident Company

Create and stage an original play with a local community for a local community.

Artists' Lab

A platform for emerging and working artists to present their latest writing and/or performance in mentorship with senior artists. *Age 21+*

For more information and to find application forms, visit paprikafestival.com

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