

MEDIA RELEASE

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FESTIVAL PLAYERS ANNOUNCES THEATRE TRAINING IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Prince Edward County, ON, (January 12, 2009): Festival Players of Prince Edward County is pleased to announce the details of their 2009 Youth Mentorship Program. Beginning in late February and continuing through the summer, area youths aged 14 – 19 will be engaged in all aspects of theatre and mentored by the professionals taking part in Festival Players' 2009 Season.

Artistic Director Sarah Phillips will lead participants through the initial stages of launching a theatrical production. The process begins with learning about the plays being produced by Festival Players and tackling questions like: "How does a director break down a script?" "What does the actor do to prepare for a role?" and "How does the designer come up with the vision for the production?"

"The Youth Mentorship Program is unlike anything being offered to area students," says Phillips. "It's the chance of a lifetime for a young person with theatrical aspirations, or even just a curiosity about the inner workings of the theatre."

During the course of the program, workshops by other theatrical professionals will be provided in such things as group dynamics, choral work, mask, clown, period dance, auditioning, voice, acting technique, dialects, costume, set, sound and lighting design, singing, improvisation, reading Shakespeare, and others. Youths will be paired up with a Festival Players company member who will mentor them throughout the season.

Participants will be invited to audition for roles in this season's production of *Schoolhouse* and to take on production roles for all three plays.

The latest addition to the Youth Mentorship roster of instructors is Martha Ross, Co-Artistic Director of the award-winning Theatre Columbus in Toronto, who will lead the group through the process of creating and presenting their own piece of theatre. A painting by the artist Tom Thomson (whose life and work is the subject of this season's *Colours in the Storm*) will be the inspiration. The Youth Mentorship Program will culminate in a presentation for invited guests.

"We're absolutely thrilled to add a theatre professional of Martha's calibre to our program," says Phillips. "The youths will be given an opportunity to use all the knowledge and tools they will have acquired during the season to put together a piece of theatre. It's perfect."

Deadline for applications is January 31, 2009. Interested parties should immediately contact Sarah Phillips at sarah@festivalplayers.ca or 613.399.5677. This program is limited to 10 participants, so don't delay.

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