

SEASON PARTNER



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 11, 2010**

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## SLAIGHT FAMILY MAKES \$1.25 MILLION INVESTMENT IN YOUNG PEOPLE

Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People (LKTYP) is thrilled to announce an extraordinary gift from one of Toronto's foremost philanthropic families -- the Slaughter Family.

**Mr. and Mrs. Gary Slaughter** will donate \$150,000 to LKTYP each year over a five-year period, to help fund a landmark new initiative: *The Artist-Educator Residency Program*. **Mrs. Ada Slaughter** will renew her gift of \$100,000 per year over the next five years to support LKTYP's youth programs including apprenticeships and scholarships and in particular, *The Ensemble*, LKTYP's Drama School program for teens.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director **Allen MacInnis**, the new annual Residency Program will provide an exciting opportunity for a group of unique artist-educators to work and learn for a full season at LKTYP. Each will participate in LKTYP's professional production side as well as work as a teaching artist in residence over a seasonal contract. Commencing in Fall 2010, this new "Company" of LKTYP artist-educators will be selected from professional theatre artists and drama educators from across Canada.

In announcing the Slaughter Family gift, Allen MacInnis said: "*Gary and Donna Slaughter's contribution to The Artist-Educator Residency Program will help us foster the artistic creation and teaching skills of those unique individuals who identify as both artists and educators. The ongoing support of Ada Slaughter will enable LKTYP to provide learning and development opportunities for teens and youth for years to come. We are enormously grateful for the kindness and generosity of the Slaughter Family.*"

Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People is celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this season and throughout much of its rich history, the Slaughter Family has been an unwavering source of support – not only through their philanthropic efforts but also by playing an active role in the company. Donna Slaughter is a former Chair of LKTYP's Board of Directors and Gary Slaughter has provided LKTYP with extensive media support and guidance through the former family-owned Standard Broadcasting. An avid supporter and patron of the arts, Ada Slaughter has supported accessibility programs at LKTYP for many years in order that all young people can enjoy and learn from the best professional theatre made just for them.

Managing Director **Hugh Neilson** said: "*The generosity displayed by the Slaughter Family is particularly significant during this time of economic uncertainty. This gift will allow LKTYP to strengthen our mandate, assist new artists and encourage creative learning for years to come.*"

Donna and Gary Slaughter commented: "*As parents who took our children to YPT, we experienced the positive impact that theatre created specifically for young people can have. We are keen to help LKTYP continue to make a difference. Supporting The Artist-Educator Residency Program is a perfect way to help this wonderful theatre serve the needs of Toronto's young people and its creative artists.*"

- 30 -

For more information, or to download images to accompany this release, members of the media may contact Marilyn Hamilton at the coordinates noted above.

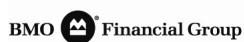
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