

Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People

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LORRAINE KIMSA THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ANNOUNCES NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

Today, the Board of Directors of **Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People (LKTYP)** announced the appointment of a new Managing Director, **Hugh Neilson**. He replaces **Nancy J. Webster**, who recently took the position of Managing Director of English Theatre at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Currently General Manager of **Theatre Passe Muraille**, Mr. Neilson will step into his new role at LKTYP in February, 2010.

Hugh Neilson has been the General Manager of Theatre Passe Muraille (TPM) since 2007. He arrived there with over 20 years experience in the arts as a manager, administrator, director, producer, trainer, writer and performer. While at TPM, the theatre has experienced rejuvenation and a renewed stability, posting a surplus in each of the last two years. From 2001 to 2007, Hugh was the Deputy Director of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT). During his tenure, he successfully guided negotiation teams through six collective agreements with other artist associations. He was also in charge of the professional development portfolio for PACT and was influential in setting national standards and conditions for both theatre artists and administrators across Canada.

Commenting on the appointment, LKTYP Board president **Howard Glassman** said, "We are keen to build on the success we have achieved at LKTYP over the past six years. Hugh Neilson brings extensive experience and genuine optimism to this new role. He has great enthusiasm for the work we do and he's fully committed to the goals we have identified for the next several years."

Artistic Director, **Allen MacInnis** said, "Hugh is the kind of management partner I am looking for: passionate about the work we do, excited by a challenge, and possessed of a great sense of humour! I think we will make a great team."

In accepting his appointment to the role of Managing Director of LKTYP, Toronto's oldest, continuously-operating professional theatre company, Hugh said, "In my two years there, Theatre Passe Muraille has undergone an incredible turnaround thanks to the work of the devoted staff and my dearest friend and Artistic Director **Andy McKim**. TPM is a revitalized company that is developing and producing engaging work with exciting artists. I will take that experience with me and happily apply it to my new role as Managing Director at LKTYP. I look forward to working closely with Artistic Director Allen MacInnis and the wonderful staff and board to make good things happen at LKTYP."

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