



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 2018

PLAYHOUSE'S 2017 SEASON ANNOUNCED AS FINALE FOR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ASHLIE CORCORAN

GANANOQUE, ON – It is with bittersweet feelings that the Board of Directors of the Thousand Islands Playhouse (TIP) announces that Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** will be stepping down from her position in order to take on the role of Artistic Director at the Arts Club Theatre Company in Vancouver, BC. The Arts Club is Canada's largest urban not-for-profit theatre company, and is located in Ashlie's home province.

TIP is grateful for Ashlie's contributions over the last five years, a time of artistic and organizational growth for the company. As well, her time at the Thousand Islands Playhouse has allowed Ashlie to hone her skill in all areas of management of a successful regional theatre. With the support of TIP she has also been able to direct on the larger stages of the Canadian Opera Company, Tarragon Theatre, and the Shaw Festival. The company is very pleased with her growth during this time.

Ashlie's tenure with the company was remarkable for its conscious eclecticism and breadth of styles in her programming, ranging from large-scale musicals, such as her and Andrew Kushnir's adaptation of *The Pirates of Penzance*, *She Loves Me*, and *Into the Woods*, to the screwball comedies of *Boeing Boeing* and *Don't Dress For Dinner*. Ashlie also pushed the envelope with productions of contemporary international work such as *The Ugly One* and *Das Ding (The Thing)* and brought classical work back on TIP's stages with *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Comedy of Errors*.

Other innovations include: the founding of a Playwrights' Unit designed to foster the talent of both emerging and established artists, and initiating a series of partnerships with theatre companies across Canada. With these co-productions the Thousand Islands Playhouse and Gananoque's national presence and profile has increased considerably.

Ashlie has shared TIP's commitment to providing educational and outreach experiences to emerging audiences and artists. The Thousand Islands Playhouse Young Company, which tours schools throughout Eastern Ontario, now includes hands on workshops for students, makes stops at seniors' residences, and performs in a variety of public spaces. Through the RBC Emerging Artist Grant program, our Young Company receives enhanced training from senior artists. With support from TD Bank Group, Ashlie has implemented a series of subsidized student matinees to ensure that the next generation of theatre goers has access to the regular season productions.

Additionally, the company's corporate sponsorship numbers, as well as Patron member and subscriber numbers have grown over the last five years as a result of TIP's high quality work under Ashlie's leadership.

Thousand Islands Foundation For The Performing Arts
Artistic Director: Ashlie Corcoran | General Manager: Brett Christopher
185 South Street | Gananoque, ON | K7G 1A1
Administration: 613-382-7086 | Box Office: 613-382-7020
1000islandsplayhouse.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 2018

In Ashlie's words, "I am very proud of everything that we have accomplished together at TIP over the last five years. I feel incredibly fortunate to have collaborated with this amazing team, and to have partnered with our fantastic General Manager Brett Christopher. Our work has been ambitious, and always strives the highest level of professional standards and artistry. I am so pleased that our audience has responded to it. "

"When I first arrived here five years ago, I was immediately welcomed by the Playhouse supporters and team. I feel incredibly lucky to have had this experience in the wonderful community of Gananoque; I am certainly going to miss all of my friends that I have made here. I will take all of the lessons I've learned at the Playhouse into my next position. My position here has taught me a lot, and I am grateful for having had this opportunity."

The Thousand Islands Playhouse is in the midst of its 35th anniversary season, with the first two productions, *BOOM* and *Million Dollar Quartet*, both being box office and critical successes. Ashlie will continue as Artistic Director of TIP until October 2017, and will direct *Leading Ladies* and *The Birds and the Bees* this season. During this time the board, staff, Brett Christopher (General Manager), and Ashlie will work together to make a successful transition in the organization.

The Thousand Islands Playhouse wishes Ashlie great success in her new position and is thrilled that she gets to be closer to her family. Her time with the company has positioned it well to move forward into the next 35 years.

Media Contact: Emily McMahon, Marketing Manager - emily@1000islandsplayhouse.com / 613-382-7086 ext. 23