

media release

Metcalfe's Sexy Laundry cleans up and breaks box office records at Festival Antigonish

WINNIPEG September 8, 2008 – Robert Metcalfe, PTE's Artistic Director, brought his deft hand at comedic direction to Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre's Mainstage with outstanding success. **Sexy Laundry**, was his first directing job at FAST but may not be his last as the show has broken box office records in their 21 year history. The production featured talented actors, Shelley Thompson and Stewart Arnett. The last performances are now sold out.

Sexy Laundry has been keeping audiences laughing since it premiered July 9th. In fact the first audiences laughed so much the play ran over time by approximately 20 minutes. Madonna Van Vonderen, FAST Administrator, spent several weeks with PTE's GM, Cherry Karpyshin. She shadowed Karpyshin and learned from one of Canada's most respected arts administrators. In June, Karpyshin received the Mallory Gilbert Leadership Award from the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and designated Van Vonderen as her protégé who received a portion of the cash award.

Seven of the 19 mainstage performances were sold out. An incredible success since it has been rare that any show sells out a single performance. **Sexy Laundry** finishes its run September 14 with a 3-day run at FAST's second stage in Wolfville, NS.

"We're so happy that this show has done so well. We've been blessed with an excellent cast and Bob's bang on direction," says Van Vonderen.

When Van Vonderen was in Winnipeg in 2005 she saw Sharon Bajer's *Molly's Veil* performed and brought Bajer's play to the East Coast with a production last summer. The production featured Bajer and fellow Winnipegger, Carson Natrass in the cast.

*"I was delighted to be asked to direct **Sexy Laundry** at Festival Antigonish. We did it here a few seasons ago and I watched from the side lines – Kim McCaw directed that one. I knew it had a huge potential for them. It's funny and witty and with the cast I had to work with I knew it would be well received. However I wasn't prepared for the huge, sustained laughter. It is unusual for a show to run so far overtime due to the audience,"* says **Metcalfe**.

Metcalfe now turns his attention to directing the more serious kick off to PTE's 36th season with Daniel MacIvor's **How It Works**. MacIvor's play, a look at a modern Canadian family, opens October 16, 2008 at PTE.

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For more information contact : Mr. Carman Johnston, Marketing and Development Manager, at 925-5257; Fax 942-1774; e-mail publicity@pte.mb.ca