

Media Release

PTE ANNOUNCES NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Prairie Theatre Exchange is excited to announce the appointment of the company's **new artistic director, Thomas Morgan Jones**. Currently working as artistic director for Theatre New Brunswick, Jones has spent more than 15 years creating theatre across Canada and internationally, bringing with him a wealth of experience as a director, playwright, dramaturg, instructor, and movement coach.



PTE's Board of Directors **unanimously approved the recommendation of Jones** by the selection committee, which was made up of PTE board member Ainsley Cunningham, trustee for the PTE Foundation Trust (and former board president) Susan Goldie, PTE Playwrights Unit member Rick Chafe, former PTE general manager Cherry Karpyschin and current PTE general manager Tracey Loewen, chaired by PTE board vice-president Jane Helbrecht.

"We are thrilled to have Thomas join the PTE team," says Helbrecht. "Thomas has a strong vision for the theatre which aligns with PTE's priorities and mandate. His commitment to Canadian contemporary theatre and investment in local playwrights in previous communities lends itself well to building on the great work Robert Metcalfe has done over the last 15 years."

During his tenure in New Brunswick, Jones helped build a new 100 seat theatre (The Open Space Theatre), returned the company to a seven location touring network, programmed sixteen world premieres, helped tour the company's work across Canada, and made it his priority to bring more diversity and gender equity to the stage and rehearsal hall.

"For me, the position of artistic director is in many ways a community service role," says Jones. "We are here to serve our communities (artists and audiences) and to bring people together. We are here to ignite new conversations, new relationships, to question and to listen."

Jones is looking forward to bringing his family to Winnipeg, and will be able to spend some time in the city working closely with current artistic director Robert Metcalfe before he officially takes over in July, 2018.

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