

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHAW FESTIVAL RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM THE JAMES A. BURTON AND FAMILY FOUNDATION

- Funds earmarked to further Festival's community engagement efforts -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (September 7, 2023) — The [Shaw Festival](#) is delighted to announce the receipt of \$500,000 from the **James A. Burton and Family Foundation**. The donation will help the Festival deepen its community connections, engage with new audiences and share the art of theatre with those unable to experience it due to accessibility barriers through newly developed programs and roles.

“As we continue to create and build an accessible Shaw Festival of the future, we are incredibly grateful for the visionary support of the [James A. Burton and Family Foundation](#),” acknowledged Executive Director **Tim Jennings**. “This contribution will help us to break down barriers that prevent anyone – for whatever reason – from physically accessing the art we create and experiencing the joy and the connection that our creativity produces.”

“We are thrilled and truly thankful to be the recipient of this incredibly generous gift from the James A. Burton and Family Foundation,” remarked Artistic Director **Tim Carroll**. “Which will also support the expansion of the **Embedded Artists Program** – a program I am incredibly proud of.”

“This program provides artists with full-time employment, so they can have a level of financial security in their lives, which is unprecedented in the Canadian theatre industry. We hope it will be transformative and bring an end to the idea that you have to live in precarity to make great theatre,” he added.

“We’re very pleased to support the Shaw Festival and assist in fostering the sustainable future it envisions and is working to create, which will ultimately benefit a wide range of groups in our communities,” stated **Jim Burton**, Chair of the James A. Burton and Family Foundation.

The financial support will also fund the creation of two new positions that will anchor The Shaw’s community outreach and engagement work: a Director of Engagement and Outreach, and an Associate Executive Director role under the direct mentorship of Executive Director Tim Jennings.

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The Shaw Festival wishes to acknowledge and honour the land upon which its patrons and company members gather as the historic and traditional territory of First Nations peoples. Recognition and thanks are extended to the Neutral Nation, the Mississauga and the Haudenosaunee for their stewardship of these lands over millennia.

About the James A. Burton and Family Foundation

Established in 2018, the James A. Burton and Family Foundation is a lifelong dream of Jim Burton to create a multi-generational legacy of philanthropy, to work with his children and be actively engaged in community. It is a platform that will survive for generations, providing support, active involvement and inspiration, while making positive systemic impact on many lives.

Focusing on education, wellbeing and environmental solutions, the Foundation seeks a lasting, positive future for the generations to come through both local and global initiatives that create quantifiable, observable outcomes.

About the Shaw Festival

Inspired by the spirit of Bernard Shaw, the Shaw Festival creates unforgettable theatrical encounters. The Shaw Festival is a place where people who are curious about the world gather to share the unique experience of live theatre and to create a deeper human connection with the artists, the beauty and abundance of Niagara and with each other. For more information, please visit shawfest.com.

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