



NEW APPOINTMENTS TO SHAW FESTIVAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS ANNOUNCED

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (March 20, 2026) — At the Annual Meeting for the 2025 season this afternoon, [Shaw Festival](#) Board Chair **Ian Joseph** announced several new appointments to The Shaw's Board of Directors, Board of Governors and the Shaw Festival Foundation (U.S.). He also thanked and recognized departing board member **Samihha Sachedina** for her time and dedication.

Samihha Sachedina departs after four years as a member of the Shaw Festival Board of Directors. As senior vice-president of Enterprise and Operational Risk Management at Sun Life, she served on The Shaw's Finance and Audit Committee and acted as its representative on the Endowment Foundation Board. The Shaw Festival thanks Sachedina for her dedicated service and extends its best wishes for her continued success.

Sandra Aversa, a senior vice-president at Wealth Management Global Operations with RBC Financial Group, joins the Shaw Festival Board of Directors. A Chartered Accountant and Chartered Professional Accountant, she holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Toronto. Aversa is a board member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum and vice-chair of the Canadian Cancer Society's Finance, Risk Management and Audit Committee. In 2025, she was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for Volunteering.

Joining the Shaw Festival Board of Governors are **Lorne** and **Rosemary Barclay**, **Dr. Roe Green** and **Mary Mizen**.

Lorne and **Rosemary Barclay**, Toronto-based philanthropists and longtime supporters of the arts, were appointed to the Shaw Festival's Board of Governors. Lorne Barclay is the past President of Howard, Barclay & Associates Ltd., an investment counselling firm serving high-net-worth clients, and previously served as Chairman and CEO of Smith Packaging Limited and as Vice President and Corporate Secretary of Sealed Air Corporation. A CPA and MBA graduate of the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, he has also held leadership roles within international executive networks including the Young Presidents' Organization. Lorne Barclay brings extensive governance experience to the role, having previously been chair of the Shaw Festival's Board (2001–2002) and most recently as vice-chair of the Shaw Festival Endowment Foundation (2002–2025). Together, the Barclays have supported numerous cultural and community organizations and share a longstanding passion for theatre and the arts.

The Shaw Festival Board of Governors also welcomes **Roe Green**, an American arts philanthropist. Chief executive officer of the Roe Green Foundation, Green is a dedicated patron of the arts. A community activist with advanced degrees in theatre from the University of Colorado and Kent State University, she brings extensive arts management experience from the Cleveland Opera, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and Cain Park. In 2025, she received the 2025 President's Award for Visionary Achievement from Case Western Reserve University in recognition of her exceptional philanthropic service. A supporter of Chattaqua Theatre Company in New York, she also serves on the boards of Case Western Reserve University, Kent State School of Theatre and Dance, Maltz Jupiter Theatre and the Cleveland Play House.

Mary Mizen, a marketing professional and community volunteer based in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, has been appointed to the Shaw Festival Board of Governors. Known for her leadership in local cultural and charitable organizations, Mizen spent 26 years with IBM Canada, working in administration, education, training and marketing, developing expertise in retail marketing, advertising, brand development, fundraising and partner marketing. After moving to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2008, she became active in community service, joining the Shaw Guild in 2014 and later serving as its president for the 2023–2024 term, while also acting as an ex-officio member of the Shaw Festival Board of Directors. In addition to her work in the arts, she volunteered for several years on the board of Hospice Niagara, contributing to health and community support initiatives in the Niagara region.

Joining the Shaw Festival Foundation Board (U.S.) is **Dr. Bonnie Rose**. A long-time Niagara Region resident, passionate supporter of theatre and advocate for cross-border cultural collaboration, Rose brings extensive knowledge in higher education leadership and arts advocacy. Previously serving as executive vice-president and vice-president for academic affairs at Niagara University, she oversaw major institutional operations within the university's theatre program. She also served as vice-president academic at Niagara College and led a national consulting firm specializing in organizational strategy and public policy. A past chair of the Niagara Symphony Orchestra, she has held governance roles with organizations including Niagara College, the Toronto Public Library and the Niagara 1812 Legacy Council.

During the proceedings, the recent passing of **The Honourable William (Bill) Saunderson** was acknowledged. Saunderson served on both the Board of Directors, and most recently, the Shaw Foundation Board as chair of its Investment Committee. He and his wife Meredith have been deeply engaged with The Shaw since the mid-1990s, when Saunderson served as Ontario's minister of tourism. He will be deeply missed and the Shaw Festival extends its condolences to Meredith and the Saunderson family.

-30-

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 Shaw Festival

One of the largest charitable theatre companies in North America, and among the last ensemble repertory theatres in the English world, The Shaw's mission is to enrich and connect people's lives through theatre. Based in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake, Shaw's 2026 productions include [*Funny Girl*](#), [*One for the Pot*](#), [*Amadeus*](#), [*Sleuth*](#), [*Jeeves & Wooster in Perfect Nonsense*](#), [*A New Work in Progress*](#), [*The Wind in the Willows*](#), [*Heartbreak House*](#), [*Ohio State Murders*](#), [*A Year with Frog and Toad*](#) and [*Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella*](#). Additional programming includes [*Coffee Concerts*](#), [*Speakeasies*](#), [*What's In Your Songbook*](#), [*Gospel Choir*](#), [*Cabarets*](#) and [*Pop-Up Patios*](#). Tickets are available through the Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW and online at shawfest.com.

Through its [All.Together.Now](#) Campaign, The Shaw is creating new spaces and programs where people can build real human connections and rediscover their creativity. For more information, visit shawfest.com.

Connect with the Shaw Festival

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | #ShareYourShaw

Media Contacts

Jennifer Anand
Senior Manager, Communications
1-800-657-1106 x 2222
Mobile: 905-941-0018
janand@shawfest.com

Matthew Bickerton
Communications Coordinator
1-800-657-1106 x 2224
Mobile: 905-941-0377
mattbickerton@shawfest.com