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SHAW FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2027 NEIL MUNRO INTERN DIRECTORS

- Intern directors to appear on regular playbill for the first time in Shaw Festival history -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (September 21, 2026) – The Shaw Festival is pleased to announce the selection of **Manami Hara** and **Murdoch Schon** to participate in the 2027 Neil Munro Directing Internship.

As part of the Slight Family Academy, the Shaw Festival engages two directors as Neil Munro Interns each season. This prestigious internship is intended to deepen the practice and promote the next generation of Canadian theatre directors through an ongoing training “gymnasia” with resident Shaw designers, visiting directors and general theatre practitioners in the Shaw Festival’s world-class repertory environment. Over the course of the season, the interns will learn to produce theatre of scale by providing support as assistant directors on two productions each, delivering pre-show chats and participating in various educational outreach programs at The Shaw.

The Neil Munro Internship culminates in the annual Directors Project showcase, featuring one-act plays designed by the season’s assistant designers and music intern and stage managed by the apprentice stage managers. For the first time in Shaw Festival history, the 2027 Directors Project will be available to the public, as Ms. Hara and Mx. Schon direct productions of **Agatha Christie’s *The Rats* and *The Patient***, respectively, which will run at the Court House Theatre from September 11 to October 10.

“For the upcoming season, The Shaw will highlight the incredible work and learning of these notable, bright directors by offering their projects to our audience and public,” said Shaw Festival Associate Artistic Director Kimberley Rampersad. “We’re excited to share these productions at the Court House Theatre later next year and to amplify the work of these two intelligent and dynamic directors.”

The 2026 Neil Munro Intern Directors Project took place from September 17 – 19. This season, **Makram Ayache** directed Tony Kushner’s one-act plays ***Flip Flop Fly!*** and ***Only We Who Guard the Mystery Shall Be Unhappy*** while **Cara Rebecca** directed Bernard Shaw’s ***Passion, Poison and Petrification***.

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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 Shaw Festival

One of the largest charitable theatre companies in North America, the Shaw Festival’s mission is to enrich and connect people’s lives through theatre. Based in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake, The 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*](#) and [*Ohio State Murders*](#). The Shaw Festival’s Holiday Season includes [*A Year with Frog and Toad*](#) and [*Rodgers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella*](#).

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.

We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing. ~ Bernard Shaw

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Media Contacts

Cathy Cowan
Marketing Communications Advisor
Mobile: 416-275-6197
ccowan@shawfest.com

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

Ash Belmer
Publicist, B-Rebel PR
Mobile: 416-617-8934
ash@b-rebelpr.com