

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Harbourfront Centre and Shaw Festival Announce
First Shows in New Artistic Residency**
*Celebrated productions of **Sleuth** and **A Christmas Carol**
open landmark theatre residency in fall 2026*

TORONTO (July 21, 2026) – Two of Canada’s leading cultural organizations, the Shaw Festival and Harbourfront Centre, today announced the first shows in their new three-year artistic residency, bringing acclaimed Shaw Festival productions of ***Sleuth*** and ***A Christmas Carol*** to Toronto this fall.

“To launch our residency at Harbourfront Centre, we wanted to begin with two very different but equally compelling stories: *Sleuth*, an award-winning modern thriller, and *A Christmas Carol*, an iconic tale of transformation,” said Tim Carroll, Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival. “These performances will be specially adapted for the Harbourfront Centre stage, offering Toronto audiences a glimpse of The Shaw’s artistry in a new setting.”

The residency brings together two of Canada’s leading cultural organizations with a shared commitment to making exceptional artistic experiences more accessible. By presenting acclaimed Shaw Festival productions at Harbourfront Centre, the partnership will introduce new audiences to theatre while expanding year-round cultural programming on Toronto’s waterfront. As one of Canada’s most dynamic public spaces, Harbourfront Centre welcomes more than six million visitors annually to engage with arts, culture, learning and recreation, providing an ideal setting for this new theatrical collaboration.

“We’re thrilled to welcome the Shaw Festival to the Harbourfront Centre to offer residents and visitors the opportunity to experience world-class theatre in the heart of the city,” said Tenio Evangelista, President and Chair of the Board of Directors for Harbourfront Centre. “This residency reflects our commitment to bringing exceptional arts experiences to broad and diverse audiences and we’re especially excited to welcome *A Christmas Carol* as part of our winter season programming, adding even more holiday magic to the waterfront.”

Presented at The Fleck at Harbourfront Centre Theatre, a multi-purpose performance venue that hosts theatre, dance and music presentations on the waterfront year-round,

the residency will give audiences greater access to world-class theatre right in the heart of Toronto.

Subscription packages are now on sale, with a third production to be announced in October. Performance schedules, subscription packages and tickets are available at HarbourfrontCentre.com/Shaw.

SLEUTH

Previews: October 16-17

Opening: October 18

Closes: November 1

Direct from its critically acclaimed run at the Shaw Festival's Court House Theatre ending on October 9, ***Sleuth*** is a fiendishly clever "cat-and-mouse game" from playwright Anthony Shaffer. Directed by Peter Fernandes, this sharp and stylish Tony and Edgar Award-winning play is a quintessential crime thriller guaranteed to provide an edge-of-your-seat experience.

When celebrated mystery writer Andrew Wyke (Patrick Galligan) invites his wife's lover (Sepehr Reybod) to his home in the English countryside, all is not as it seems. What unfolds is a fiendishly high-stakes game of revenge and power. Widely regarded as one of the most ingenious and entertaining psychological thrillers in modern theatre, this production is guaranteed to be an edge-of-your-seat experience right to its heart-stopping conclusion.

Sleuth is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
concordtheatricals.com

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Previews: November 12-19

Opening: November 20

Closes: December 23

The Shaw Festival's charming annual production of the beloved classic ***A Christmas Carol***, by Charles Dickens, adapted for the stage and directed by The Shaw's Artistic Director Tim Carroll, finds a new home at Harbourfront Centre's Fleck Theatre stage. Reimagined for the new space, it's certain to warm the cockles of even the most frigid of hearts and remind audiences what the holidays are all about.

On Christmas Eve, wealthy miser Ebenezer Scrooge (Sanjay Talwar) is visited by the tormented ghost of his late business partner with a warning to change his selfish ways or suffer a similar fate. During the night, Scrooge is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past (Madelyn Kriese), Present (Qasim Khan) and Future, each with a similar warning and visions of what was, what is and what could be his fate. Humbled by this experience, Scrooge resolves to change his ways.

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. ~ George Bernard Shaw

About Harbourfront Centre

Harbourfront Centre is Toronto's waterfront community campus for arts, culture, learning and recreation. Spanning a 10-acre campus at the heart of Toronto's central waterfront, it is a registered, charitable not-for-profit cultural organization that offers year-round programs and events accessible to all audiences. The organization champions established and emerging Canadian artists across varied disciplines and serves as a recreational hub for more than 6.3 million annual visitors. Whether hailing from across the street or around the globe, Harbourfront Centre offers memorable and meaningful experiences for all who visit. www.harbourfrontcentre.com

#

Media Contacts

For the Shaw Festival
Cathy Cowan
ccowan@shawfest.com

For Harbourfront Centre
Morganne Campbell
+1 437-771-4562
mcampbell@harbourfrontcentre.com