



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA RELEASE

Theatre Calgary announces Stephen Schroeder as new Executive Director

(CALGARY, AB) - Theatre Calgary's Board of Directors is pleased to announce **Stephen Schroeder** has been named the new Executive Director of Theatre Calgary. Mr. Schroeder has been serving as the theatre's Interim Executive Director since January, 2025.

A long-time Calgarian, Schroeder has spent the majority of his professional career in the city's arts and culture sector. Prior to joining Theatre Calgary, he served 12 years as Executive Director of the Calgary International Film Festival. Schroeder also spent 11 years in Arts Commons as Managing Producer with neighbouring One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre.

"We are delighted to announce Stephen's appointment as Theatre Calgary's new Executive Director," say Joy Alford and Cathy Samuel, Co-Chairs of the Board. "Since stepping in as Interim Executive Director earlier this year, Stephen, together with Artistic Director Stafford Arima, has guided the organization with insight, responsiveness, and collaboration. His extensive experience, deep roots in Calgary's arts and culture community, and authentic leadership are an ideal fit for Theatre Calgary's talented team. We are thrilled to begin this new chapter and look forward to the opportunities to come."

"I'm grateful to the Theatre Calgary Board of Directors for putting their trust in me, and for the adventures that lie ahead with Stafford and this incredible team," says Schroeder. "I was already a fan of the company for its amazing work on stage when I was asked to join as Interim Executive Director back in January. Since then, I found myself falling deeper in love with Theatre Calgary and its dedicated people, welcoming culture of kindness, abundant champions, commitment to a thriving arts community, and extraordinary artistic and educational aspirations."

Arima is elated with the announcement. *"It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome Stephen, who has been a staple in the Calgary arts community for nearly three decades, championing arts access and sustainability. His commitment to cultural leadership, strategic vision, and collaborative spirit aligns beautifully with the company's mission. I look forward to our partnership as we continue to expand Theatre Calgary's impact, elevate new voices, and deepen community engagement. I am excited for the bold and inspiring work ahead."*

Schroeder also anticipates a great future for our audiences. *"Theatre Calgary's care and respect for its curious and engaged audiences, and the joy we take in delighting them, is special. Live theatre is relevant in our changing world as a place to gather, feel, laugh, and learn together. I am inspired and humbled to play a part in the story of this tremendous 57-year-old company and the exciting times to come."*

Theatre Calgary engaged Prospector Executive Search for this position. A full bio for Stephen can be found on the next page.

Founded in 1968, Theatre Calgary is Calgary's first and largest professional theatrical company. Our mission is to stimulate, provoke, and delight through ambitious programming created to ignite local, national, and international engagement. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Stafford Arima and Executive Director Stephen Schroeder, we aim to stand amongst the best theatres globally as a leader in innovative, impactful, and diverse programming.

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STEPHEN SCHROEDER

Stephen has worked professionally in arts and culture for almost three decades. From 2012 to 2023, he was Executive Director of the Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF). During his tenure, CIFF achieved record audiences, became an Oscar-qualifying festival for short film, and was named multiple times as one of the world's "50 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee" by MovieMaker Magazine. From 1998 to 2010, Stephen was Managing Producer at one of Canada's best-known performing arts companies, One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre (OYR), where he produced over a dozen new works, managed the company's national and international touring, helped establish the Summer Lab Intensive school of performance creation, worked to build The High Performance Rodeo, Calgary's International Festival of the Arts, into the largest annual event of its kind in Western Canada, and established the company's endowment fund. In 2006 Stephen was honoured with the Rozsa Award for Excellence in Arts Management. He is a proud father and cultural omnivore, with a love of, and wide taste in, the arts, travel, and learning.



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