

MEDIA RELEASE

studio180theatre

Ontario Trillium Foundation Grants Provide \$132,400 to Help Studio 180 Theatre Serve Ontarians during the pandemic

TORONTO, ON: Studio 180 Theatre is thrilled to announce receipt of two grants totalling \$132,400 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), that will help the company rebuild and recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"University–Rosedale's creative sector experienced a lot of uncertainty during the pandemic," said Jessica Bell, MPP for University-Rosedale. "I am thrilled that Studio 180 Theatre has this opportunity to connect with audiences in new ways, work towards rebuilding a vibrant and resilient arts community and ensure our local talents can thrive on both digital and traditional platforms."

In early 2021, Studio 180 Theatre received an \$82,400 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation that has enabled Studio 180 to continue connecting with audiences by delivering more online programming, exploring models of digital monetization, and upgrading its digital capacity through a new website, equipment and software that will help staff work remotely more effectively.

Later in 2021, the organization also received a \$50,000 Community Building Fund grant from the Government of Ontario, a program delivered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, that has helped with staffing costs so Studio 180 can continue offering artistic, outreach, and educational youth programming at a time when box office revenues are non-existent due to theatre closures and public health measures.

"It's impossible to adequately express our thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the support they've provided us during the pandemic," said Joel Greenberg, Artistic Director. "All of us in Studio 180 Theatre know that our circumstances would have been severely limited without the OTF's support, and the limitation would have been felt in both our staffing and, as crucially, in our programming capacity."

Studio 180 Theatre's mission is to engage, provoke and entertain through dynamic theatre and innovative Beyond The Stage experiences that delve into social and political issues. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, they have offered digital programming such as theatre presentations of published work, opportunities to engage with artists to talk about creative work and hosted several panels about a wide range of topics. The OTF's investment will have both immediate and longer-term impacts on our artists, staff and audiences as we continue to navigate, and begin to emerge from, the pandemic. For more information, please visit studio180theatre.com

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario's non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario's economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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