

Ruth Madoc-Jones receives the John Hirsch Director's Award

Toronto, January 6, 2009 - The Ontario Arts Council (OAC) is pleased to announce **Ruth Madoc-Jones** as the recipient of the 2008 **John Hirsch Director's Award**. The award will be presented at a post-performance reception at the world premiere of *them & us*, by Tracy Dawson and directed by Ruth Madoc-Jones, at Theatre Passe Muraille on Thursday, January 8, 2009.

FACTS about Ruth Madoc-Jones

- o Ruth Madoc-Jones is a freelance director and dramaturg, and cofounder of the indie theatre company Les Vaches (*The Ecstasies*, *Jekyll* and *STEM*).
- o Ruth Madoc-Jones was a 2005 directing intern at the Shaw Festival where she worked with Neil Munroe and Martha Henry. In 2004, Madoc-Jones participated in the Siminovitch master class in directing, and was the Associate Producer for the SummerWorks Theatre Festival, along with being on the selection jury from 2002-2004. Madoc-Jones was on the Toronto Arts Council Theatre Committee from 2003 - 2005, was the Associate Artistic Director of Nightwood Theatre in for the 2002/2003 season, and was the co-recipient of the 1999 K.M. Hunter Artists Awards (theatre).
- o Ruth Madoc-Jones has directed at Femfest in Winnipeg, the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the *Groundswell Festival* for Nightwood Theatre, the *Weesageechak Festival* for Native Earth Performing Arts, and *Rhubarb!* for Buddies in Bad Times in Toronto. She was assistant director for *As You Like it* at CanStage and associate director on *Finding Regina* and *The Danish Play* with Nightwood Theatre.
- o Selected directing credits include: *Dreary and Izzy* by Tara Beagan for Native Earth Performing Arts, *Antony and Cleopatra* for Shakespeare in the Rough, *The Drawer Boy* by Michael Healey for Theatre Passe Muraille, *The Gladstone Variations* for Convergence Theatre, *a nanking winter* by Marjorie Chan for Nightwood Theatre/Cahoots Theatre Projects, *The Three Birds* by Joanna Laurens for Ryerson Theatre, and *Bird Brain* by Vern Thiessen for Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People.
- o Upcoming works include *Madness of the Square* by Marjorie Chan for Cahoots Theatre Projects.
- o Ruth Madoc-Jones is a graduate of the acting program at the National Theatre School of Canada.

FACTS about the John Hirsch Director's Award

- o The \$5,000 John Hirsch Director's Award is presented every three years to a promising theatre director to further the recipient's professional development. The John Hirsch Memorial Fund was established by a bequest to the Ontario Arts Council in 1989 from the late John Hirsch, one of Canada's most distinguished directors. Nationally, the Canada Council for the Arts administers the John Hirsch Prize for theatre directors in English and French-language categories.
- o Past recipients include: Joël Beddows (2005), Jennifer Tarver (2002), Chris Abraham (1999), Josephine LeGrice (1996), and Colin Taylor (1993).
- o Recipients are chosen through a nominating and selecting panel process administered by OAC.
- o This year's jury included Joël Beddows (Ottawa), Lynda Hill (Toronto), Keira Loughran (Stratford), Andy McKim (Toronto), and Greg Wanless (Gananoque).

QUOTES

The jury noted Madoc-Jones' gift for collaboration and breadth of work, as well as "her comfort with a variety of approaches and aesthetics whether traditional or current". The jury also remarked "Ruth exhibits clear vision as a theatre artist and handles challenges with aplomb" and noted "her support of new and emerging playwrights."

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- o John Hirsch (1930 - 1989) had a tremendous impact on Canadian theatre. At 28, Hirsch co-founded Winnipeg's first professional theatre. He became Associate Artistic Director at the Stratford Festival in 1967, and then Artistic Director from 1980 - 1985. The recipient of numerous theatre and literature awards in North America, John Hirsch was named to the Order of Canada in 1967 and won the Molson Prize for outstanding contribution to the arts in Canada. [John Hirsch - biography](#)
- o About [granting programs and awards](#) of the Ontario Arts Council
- o About [them & us at Theatre Passe Muraille](#)

- 30 -

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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