

WORLD
THEATRE
DAY



JOURNÉE
MONDIALE
DU THÉÂTRE



WORLD THEATRE DAY ADDRESS BY JANI LAUZON 2024 CANADIAN AMBASSADOR

For a moment, imagine your life without the sheer pleasure of hearing a laugh ripple through an audience, or a collective hush following a transformative moment when a character says something that makes your thoughts explode and your breath trip over itself. The magical genius of a design element that surprises you with a whole other world you couldn't see coming...

We got a taste of life without these moments over the last few years. We stayed home, we isolated as we were told to do. And now we are faced with a choice; be complacent or rally together to ensure that our ability to be together, learning about each other, remains an important part of our lives.

I don't begrudge my kids' generation their love of social media and content creation that's fun, instant and easily accessible. And I understand that on occasion, our tired and over stimulated minds would rather have AI write our speech for us....and no, AI did not write this for me.

But I am craving some glimmer of hope....no, a guarantee, that we will continue to be curious about ourselves. That we will still yearn for intellectual stimulation, and we will remain active in our pursuit of excellence as a human species; striving for love and acceptance only achieved when we better understand one another. This is what live theatre affords us, the opportunity to get to know each other through stories. Stories that feed our minds, stories that feed our hearts and souls.

From our independent artists in the north, south, east, and west, to our regional and commercial theatres, our festivals big and small; this country has a rich history of storytelling that continues to challenge and inspire us.

If you've been following the news, you will know how hard people around the world are working to bounce back from having been denied cultural and creative expression. Together we can make sure this never happens again.

The only way forward is to work together. We are all part of the circle. On this World Theatre Day, and every day moving forward, I envision a resurgence, a rally for theatre, an investment from all of us. Whether it be making use of discounted ticket options or coming to the theatre to witness the innovative work by extraordinary artists, it's time to gather again and celebrate what we have to offer the world.