



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Lisa Dent-Couturier
 519-428-3029
Email: community@compasstheatreproductions.org

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\$62,500 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to help mentor youth, adults and plan strategic growth

The area's leading transitional and mentoring theatre company officially rebrands in 2012

BRANTFORD-NORFOLK – A newly rebranded theatre company is taking a dramatic step forward to become the area's leading stepping stone for local youth and emerging talent wishing to pursue post-secondary education and training in the arts, culture and beyond.

Compass Theatre Productions, a division of Theatre Norfolk, will be supported by a \$62,500 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The grant is designed to help the theatre engage acclaimed professionals who can mentor local amateur youth, adult actors and technicians, and to assist the theatre in developing a strategic business plan for the future.

Compass Theatre is unique in the local area. The highly organic, professional calibre theatre company isn't tied to only one community or a single bricks and mortar location. Instead, it uses available stages in many rural communities to present a variety of socially relevant, classic and new works to inspire and engages audiences in all life stages. The theatre's highly praised production of Hana's Suitcase, directed by veteran actor Lee McDougall, was seen by almost 2,000 school children in Norfolk and Brant counties.

By developing partnerships with area businesses and community groups, Compass Theatre strives to grow local and employment opportunities for youth by enabling them to return home to gain valuable on-stage and behind-the-scenes experience and training. The theatre also provides employment for new graduates from Ontario's top post-secondary theatre programs.

In June, the theatre will announce exciting news about auditions, venues and performances for fall 2012 and winter 2013.

Compass Theatre Productions provides exceptional professional-style theatrical training to youth, experienced local performers, emerging artists and technicians. The theatre currently stages performances at venues in Brant, Norfolk and Perth counties. Discover more at ***CompassTheatreProductions.org***

A leading grant-maker in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities. For more information, please visit www.otf.ca.