



Hilarity meets heartbreak in Norm Foster play on stage at Neptune this month

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Halifax, NS – January 9, 2018 – The first show of the New Year at Neptune Theatre opens on the Fountain Hall stage next week. *Jonas & Barry in the Home*, written by and starring prominent Canadian playwright **Norm Foster**, begins January 16 and runs until February 11.

Directed by **Derek Ritschel**, Artistic Director of the Lighthouse Festival Theatre, *Jonas & Barry in the Home* is about two unlikely friends living in a retirement residence and their efforts to add fun, excitement, and a little mischief to the lives of each other and those around them. When Barry, a retired dentist (played by **David Nairn**), reluctantly moves into Gateway Gardens in an effort to be closer to his daughter Rosie (**Erin MacKinnon**) who works there, he meets Jonas (**Norm Foster**), a rambunctious and retired actor, who adopts him as a project in his attempts to bring him out of his morose state and regular old routine.

“Three years ago, my friend David Nairn asked me to write a play for the two of us,” said Foster. “A play that we could perform down in the warm climate of Florida when we got older. Perhaps perform it in senior’s homes in the Sunshine State while basking by the pool and sipping umbrella-festooned drinks during our off hours.”

The show premiered in 2015 at Theatre Orangeville, where Nairn is Artistic Director, to receptive audiences and positive reviews, many noting its deep rooted humour and continuous comedy.

“This is a fantastic production for the mainstage and I’m so thrilled to welcome Norm to Neptune,” said Neptune’s Artistic Director Jeremy Webb. “There’s something exceptionally special in having the playwright of a show also star in it. Nobody knows a character better than the writer and it’s exciting to see an artist of Norm’s calibre on stage performing in a play he’s created.”

Jonas & Barry in the Home is the first show to open at Neptune since Jeremy Webb took over as Artistic Director January 1.

With Derek Ritschel directing, the show’s design team includes **Beckie Morris** on set, **Vandy Simpson** on costumes, **Leigh Ann Vardy** on lighting and **Eric Ewing** on sound. The stage management team is **Jane Butler Creaser** as the Stage Manager with **Patricia Vinluan** as Apprentice Stage Manager.

Jonas & Barry in the Home is sponsored by The Berkeley, Premiere Suites and Telus.

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Media Call Notice:

Tuesday, January 16 – 12:30 – 1:30pm
Fountain Hall, 1593 Argyle Street

All members of the media are welcome to attend for photo, video and interview opportunities.

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The first performance of *Jonas & Barry in the Home* is the Bell Aliant **Pay What You Can** performance on Tuesday, January 16 with previews continuing Wednesday, January 17 and Thursday, January 18. Opening night is Friday, January 19 and the show runs until February 11.

Tickets can be purchased online at neptunetheatre.com, by phone at 902-429-7070 or toll-free 1-800-565-7345, or in person at the Box Office, 1593 Argyle Street. Find out more about Neptune Theatre on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube channel NeptuneHFX.

Now in its 55th Season, Neptune Theatre inspires audiences with great stories. Located at 1593 Argyle Street, Neptune boasts two newly renovated stages: Fountain Hall and the Scotiabank Stage, plus a year-round Theatre School and a province-wide Young Neptune Company Tour.

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