



CANADIAN
ARTS PRESENTING
ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CAPACOA Recognizes Excellence in Canadian Touring and Presenting

“The work of presenters, agents and touring artists – ensuring access to the live performing arts for all Canadians, is a key component of societal well-being. It is with a deep sense of honour that we celebrate this year’s award recipients and their impact on our communities.”

Erin Benjamin, Executive Director - CAPACOA

Toronto, November 7, 2011 – CAPACOA (Canadian Arts Presenting Association) announced the winners of the **2010-2011 CAPACOA Awards**, recognizing excellence in the field of live performance touring and presenting, at its Annual Awards Gala Dinner yesterday. Recipients of the three awards – Presenter of the Year, Agent of the Year, and Touring Artist of the Year – were chosen by CAPACOA members from among the nominations also submitted by CAPACOA members from across the country.

“On behalf of our membership, CAPACOA congratulates all the nominees and winners on the extraordinary recognition of their colleagues and peers in the industry,” said Executive Director Erin Benjamin. “CAPACOA is delighted to offer this annual opportunity for its membership, and indeed the performing arts community in Canada, to celebrate the commitment and contribution of unique individuals in the business.”

Recipients for the 2010-2011 Season are:

Presenter of the Year

Phyllis Stenson, Executive Director, Harrison Festival Society, Harrison Festival of the Arts (BC)

Phyllis has been the Artistic Director of the Harrison Festival in BC for the last 28 years. The ten day event has focused on culturally diverse music and dance since its inception. Strong partnerships have also been established with the local aboriginal community. In addition to the festival, the organization presents ten concerts during the year. Phyllis is a co-founder of WRAD, the Western Artistic Directors of Roots Music Festivals and was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of the Fraser Valley in 2006.

Touring Agent of the Year

Julien Paquin, President, Agency Division, Paquin Entertainment Group (ON)

Julien joined his father, Gilles, as an agent at Paquin Entertainment in 1993. In a short time, Julien fortified the value of his role at the company and developed a vision to push the Agency to new levels. In 1999, propelled by continued dedication and success within the Agency, Julien spearheaded the opening of Paquin Entertainment's Toronto office. Under Julien's direction, the Agency roster has steadily grown to over 150 acts. The diversity of the talent and genres of artists reflect Julien's vision for the Agency: a diversified, people-oriented organization, providing distinguished service to its roster artists, thereby enhancing their careers and gaining their respect. Julien's commitment and contribution to both Paquin Entertainment and the industry-at-large continues to be recognized; he recently won his sixth Canadian Country Music Award for Agent of the Year.

Touring Artist of the Year

***Jake's Gift*, written & performed by Julia Mackey (BC)**

Julia grew up in Montreal, and received an education degree from McGill University before heading out west in 1993 to pursue acting and writing. In 1995 she started doing just that with Victoria's Theatre SKAM, and has since worked with many other theatre companies across Canada. Since early 2007, Julia has been touring *Jake's Gift* to Theatres and Festivals across Canada. In 2009, her work in *Jake's Gift* garnered her a nomination for Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Lead Role (small theatre category) at Vancouver's Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards.

In addition, the winner of the [2011 National Arts Centre Award](#) for distinguished contribution to touring in the performing arts was announced. This year's winner is **Ballet Jörgen Canada**.

*The Canadian Arts Presenting Association/l'Association canadienne des organismes artistiques (CAPACOA) is the national service organization for the performing arts touring and presenting community in Canada. CAPACOA is committed to integrating the performing arts into the lives of all Canadians and provides leadership, knowledge, communications, skills development and arts promotion on behalf of its members and within the arts presenting community. CAPACOA's 2011 Annual Conference, **Culture of Curation**, was held November 4-7 in Toronto and welcomed more than 220 presenters, agents, managers, and touring artists from across Canada.*

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