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Press Release

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May 6, 2025

NTS DramaFest Announces Landmark Partnership with Atlantic Canada's High School Drama Festivals

Montreal, QC – The National Theatre School (NTS) DramaFest is proud to announce a new partnership with two of Atlantic Canada's leading high school theatre festivals: DramaFest – The Nova Scotia High School Drama Festival and the NBTA Provincial Drama Festival & Conference. This partnership marks a major step forward in strengthening national connections between student theatre-makers and expanding access to mentorship, resources, and celebration across provincial lines.

The collaboration, officially unveiled on May 6, 2025, brings together three organizations united by a shared mission: to amplify student voices, empower self-expression through the performing arts, and foster community among emerging artists.

"At NTS DramaFest, we believe in the power of theatre to help young people find their voices and build community," said Erika Kierulf, Co-Director of NTS DramaFest. "This partnership with the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick drama festivals strengthens our national network and ensures students in Atlantic Canada have more access, visibility, and support as they grow as artists."

Each year, DramaFest Nova Scotia and the NBTA Provincial Drama Festival bring hundreds of students together to share original and scripted work, develop skills through workshops, and build lasting creative connections. While each festival has its own distinct legacy, they are rooted in a common vision — that theatre is a tool for youth empowerment, collaboration, and change.

"DramaFest is a magical few days. It provides a chance for students to connect and meet new friends from across the province, flex their creative and expressive muscles, and to explore the world of drama and what they are passionate about." said **Chelsea Dickie**, Executive Director



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of Theatre Nova Scotia. “Partnering with NTS DramaFest allows us to expand those opportunities and share the incredible work of our youth from across our entire province and give those opportunities to students who may not otherwise have the access.”

“This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to empowering student theatre across regions,” added Suzanne Doyle Yerxa, Festival Coordinator for the NBTA Provincial Drama Festival. “We’re thrilled to see New Brunswick students benefit from greater access to national mentorship, resources, and recognition through NTS DramaFest.”

Although these festivals were originally forged in the spirit of competition, the heart of this partnership is about something deeper: providing a platform for students to come together, build community, and celebrate their voices. Together, these organizations aim to empower the next generation of changemakers through the performing arts.

The partnership will support expanded programming, artistic exchange, and new national opportunities for students beginning with the May 7–10, 2025 DramaFest cycle.

About NTS DramaFest

The National Theatre School (NTS) DramaFest is a nationwide celebration of student theatre that empowers high school students to express themselves, build confidence, and develop their artistic voices through performance, creation, and collaboration. NTS DramaFest supports festivals across the country with programming, mentorship, and a commitment to equitable access to theatre education.

About DramaFest (Nova Scotia)

Held annually in Halifax and organized by Theatre Nova Scotia, DramaFest is the province’s premier high school theatre festival. It brings together student theatre-makers from across Nova Scotia to showcase work, learn from industry professionals, and celebrate youth theatre.

About the NBTA Provincial Drama Festival

Organized by the New Brunswick Teachers Association, the NBTA Provincial Drama Festival & Conference welcomes students and educators to Fredericton each year for performances, workshops, and learning opportunities that strengthen artistic skills and build community.




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