

## National Theatre School of Canada Announces Appointment of Thomas Morgan Jones as New Executive Artistic Director of the English Section

[Montréal, Quebec – April 22, 2024] The National Theatre School of Canada (NTS) is proud to announce the appointment of Thomas Morgan Jones as the new Executive Artistic Director of the English Section and Director of the Directing Program and Residencies.

*"I am thrilled to welcome Thomas to the School. He was chosen for his unwavering dedication to our mission of nurturing the next generation of artists. With over 20 years of experience as a director, playwright and educator, Thomas' commitment to guiding and inspiring students is remarkable. His vision for the English Section and the Directing Program, coupled with his artistic practice rich in inclusivity and his genuine care for students, promises to foster a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that celebrates diverse voices and perspectives, while nurturing the growth and creativity of emerging theatre artists."* – **Fanny Pagé, CEO**

Thomas currently serves as the Artistic Director of Prairie Theatre Exchange (PTE) in Winnipeg, a position he has held for the past six seasons. The son of two French teachers, he is fortunate to be bilingual in English and French, which offers him a unique advantage in navigating the School's unique linguistic and cultural context.

*"The National Theatre School of Canada is extraordinary. It's commitment to incomparable theatre training and to community is a source of immense inspiration, and I know acts as a beacon for so many across the national arts ecology. The past, present, and future can be felt in the halls of the school. Joining NTS at this time, I feel a sense of wonder and deep commitment. I am filled with curiosity, an insatiable hunger to learn and an even more profound dedication to artists and their craft. I believe my unique skill set positions me to lead at NTS holistically, always dedicated to serving the students at the core of all I do. I believe in NTS: what it is and what it can be. It will be an honour to serve as the next Executive Artistic Director. My profound thanks to Fanny Pagé, the search committee, the Executive committee, the Board of Directors, and all the program directors at the School for their trust and collaboration."* – **Thomas Morgan Jones**

The Search Committee completed an extensive national search resulting in Thomas' appointment. Applications were received from coast to coast to coast and analyzed by a Search Committee comprised of the country's top artistic leaders who all share a deep passion and commitment to the School's mission and success. CEO Fanny Pagé led the search process and wishes to express her gratitude to the following Committee members who contributed their valuable time and insights to the process, as well as to the various program directors of the NTS English Section whose input was instrumental in selecting the next leader for the English Section:

- Andrea Romaldi, Director of the Playwriting Program, National Theatre School
- Camilla Holland, Executive Director, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre
- Daniel Bennett, Director of Production and Facilities, Canadian Stage (NTS alum)
- Jillian Keiley, theatre director
- Keith Barker, Director of New Plays, Stratford Festival
- Kenneth Schwartz, Artistic Director, Two Planks and a Passion Theatre (NTS alum)
- Miriam Fernandes, Co-Artistic Director, Why Not Theatre
- Marcus Youssef, artistic director, playwright and author (NTS alum)



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ÉCOLE  
NATIONALE  
DE THÉÂTRE  
DU CANADA

*“Thomas comes by teaching naturally. His pedagogy is vital to his artistic practice, as he is always exploring time, space, shape, movement, and gesture. Thomas’ impact transcends performance; in his rehearsal halls, everyone is valued, from artists to staff. He fosters collaboration in all aspects of the work, always searching for a shared creative vocabulary. Widely regarded as the ‘nicest person in Canadian theatre,’ Thomas humbly embodies this title, though he’d never admit it. I can’t wait for the students and staff at NTS to discover how truly beautiful and talented this man is.” –*

**Keith Barker**

*“The Search Committee was composed of a group of artists and theatre professionals I profoundly admire, and it was one of the most rigorous, thoughtful and collaborative committees I have had the opportunity to be a part of. The calibre of candidates was outstanding, as were the comprehensive, wide-ranging conversations on the future leadership of NTS and the rapidly changing nature of the art form. I believe that the functionality of a process is a critical component of fostering good outcomes. If this is true, then I am absolutely confident that the outcome this process generates will be good — for NTS and its students and faculty, and for the theatre community across Turtle Island/Canada.” –*

**Marcus Yousef**

Lastly, with Thomas’ arrival, the School will continue to lead and innovate in Canadian theatre education. Additionally, it remains dedicated to advancing equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility, aiming to elevate its influence and impact, fostering positive change within the theatre community and beyond. Thomas is scheduled to officially join NTS in August at the start of the next school year.

### **About Thomas Morgan Jones**

Thomas’ work as a director, playwright, dramaturg, movement coach, educator and artistic director has been seen nationally and internationally. Most recently he was Artistic Director of Prairie Theatre Exchange on Treaty 1 territory, where he championed new works, Indigenous theatre, digital creations, accessibility and professional development for artists.

Recent credits include directing *Wendy and Peter Pan* by Ella Hickson (upcoming) and his adaptation of *A Wrinkle In Time* by Madeleine L’Engle at The Stratford Festival (where he recently received the Jack Hutt Humanitarian Award); the world premieres of *Feast* by Guillermo Verdecchia, *The War Being Waged* by Darla Contois, and *Post-Democracy* by Hannah Moscovitch at PTE; and the upcoming co-production of his play *A Killing At La Cucina* with PTE and Vertigo Theatre.

He is a former artistic director of Theatre New Brunswick, associate artistic director of Theatre Direct, resident artist educator with Young People’s Theatre, and playwright in residence at Cahoots Theatre and Shakespeare in Action. During his time as an artistic director, Thomas has programmed over 40 world premieres.

Thomas holds a BA from the University of Guelph and an MA from the University of Toronto and has trained extensively internationally with SITI Company and The Suzuki Company of Toga.

### **About the National Theatre School of Canada**

Founded in 1960, the National Theatre School of Canada (NTS) is recognized as a leading institution for anyone wishing to pursue a career as a playwright, director, actor, set and costume designer, or production professional, and offers incomparable training for artists of all kinds. NTS is unique: it offers incomparable, high-level training for artists of all kinds in all aspects of the theatre arts, in both French and English. Many of its 2,000 graduates are among Canada's most active and versatile artists and designers, and the School's influence is felt from coast to coast and across the world. For more information, visit: <https://ent-nts.ca/en>

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