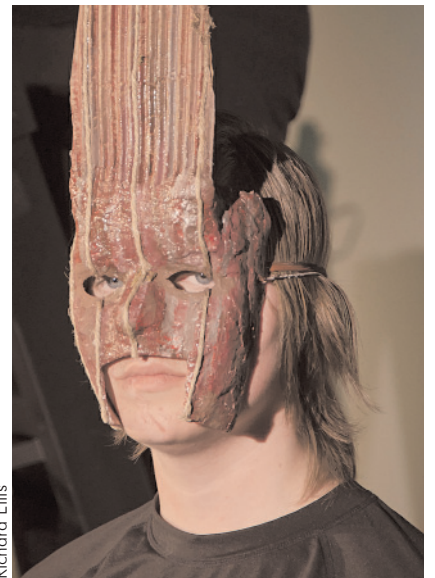


  
**MAY SHOWCASE 2011**



Richard Ellis

Photos: Alan Dean (unless indicated otherwise)

# Message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



What a whirlwind spring it has been. We had a great series of 30 different Open House presentations, followed by "Shakespeare's Birthday Bash". The Ottawa Theatre School

ended their year with "Theatre Smorgasbord" and *Hamlet* (produced in conjunction with the Ottawa Shakespeare Company). Then we launched into May Showcase with *These Enchanted Woods*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Charlotte's Web* and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* It's been a busy few months!

This spring we also began new spring courses for children, youth and adults, and started taking registrations for our 19th year of summer camps. OSSD summer camps give kids a chance to learn new drama skills, but they are also an opportunity to make new friends and have experiences that last a lifetime. Our summer camp councilors were all campers once, so they know how to make it an unforgettable experience. In fact, some of our campers-cum-councilors loved camp so much that they have gone into theatre professionally and are now teaching at summer camp.

As you may have heard, I will be taking a leave of absence for part of 2011/2012. I am looking forward to having an opportunity to "recharge my batteries", to write, and to research theatre training in other countries. I am very pleased to introduce **Erin Downey Silcoff** who has agreed to step into the role of interim Artistic Director starting in August. Erin and I will work together through fall registrations, so that we can help you to find the best course for you or your child.

Erin comes to OSSD with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Previously the Director of The Montreal Children's Theatre, Erin has a passion for drama education and for working with children in the arts. Erin is already deeply committed to OSSD and has been attending Open Houses and performances. She is very impressed by the talent and drive that exists in our students.

With recent events, we have all been reminded of what a devoted and dedicated group the OSSD/OTS family is. I have been incredibly gratified to read

letters from parents, students, alumni, social agencies and community members that have told me the important role that OSSD has played in your lives. On behalf of all of the OSSD staff, thank you for the support that you have shown.

We look forward to continuing to offer you the best in drama and theatre education.

Amanda Lewis, Executive Director

## Drama school changed my son's life

By Janice Bugby, Ottawa Citizen May 23, 2011

Re: Drama school begs for city's financial backing, May 19. My name is Janice Bugby and I am a resident of Manotick. I am writing to encourage city council to support the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama. It is imperative that council guarantee the loan for this school, in my opinion.

Allow me to share my story. I have a 17-year-old teenage boy, who has not had an easy time through the tumultuous teen years. He has a learning disability which has caused him difficulties at school as well as socially. Two years ago we enrolled him in a program at the OSSD, a Shakespeare course. What a transformation.

My son, who never wanted to participate in extracurricular activities and avoided school as much as possible, was suddenly surrounded by like-minded teens from all across the city; all thought Shakespeare was the coolest dude ever. He never missed a class. Not only did we see him be inspired in his drama class, we saw such huge changes in the rest of his life. Confidence, leadership, ownership ... I could go on. The level of commitment from the staff was unbelievable, they are the kind of people you want to have an influence on your teen.

My son is not a typical teen, he does not party, he is not athletic, he looks to the arts as a source of entertainment and inspiration. While you are making your decision remember the children like my son, there are many of them. If I had the resources, I would write a cheque to this school without blinking an eye. I cannot do that but I can tell you that these people are credible and real and are committed to their community. I have no doubt that the loan guarantee is a low risk for the city and a real opportunity to do something really special and important to a lot of people.

Janice Bugby, Manotick

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Auditions are now being scheduled for the 2011-12 The Acting Conservatory program. Our Diploma Program has grown once again and we are proud to announce our status as a Private Career College.

The OTS Acting Conservatory program is a unique training experience for dedicated post-secondary students passionate about a career in the theatre. With a specialized curriculum focused on fundamental acting skills and practical production experience alongside working professionals, OTS plugs our students into what's happening in Canadian theatre right now.

For more information on auditions, visit our website at [www.ottawatheatreschool.com](http://www.ottawatheatreschool.com) or call us today.



## Ottawa Theatre School: at the Fringe

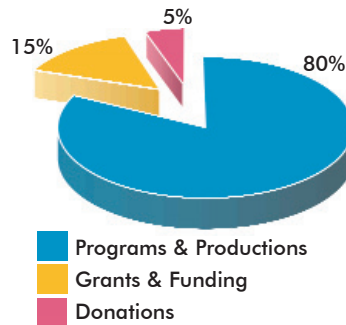
The Ottawa Theatre School Acting Conservatory program presents *Glitch*, a new play by David Hersh and directed by Bruce Bissonnette. "... Adam is caught in a whirlpool of lies, treachery, and violence. He tries to change direction but is invariably led to the same conclusion... Murder..." *Glitch* stars OTS grads **Jodi Morden, Kaitlin Miller, Kyla Gray, Diego Arvelo** and **Greg Shand** and plays June 17 - 24 at Arts Court Theatre. Come and see our emerging artists, producing original theatre!  
[www.ottawafestival.com](http://www.ottawafestival.com)

## Message from the Chair

It is often said that crisis is the combination of danger and opportunity - I, for one, believe this to be true.

The recent crisis faced by OSSD has thrown into sharp focus the risks faced by artistic organizations in Ottawa. Tuition at OSSD accounts for 80% of revenues received by OSSD. The other 20% of the cost for each child or adult student comes from grants, donations and fundraising. This means that OSSD needs to raise nearly \$250,000 each year from sources other than tuition. This puts the school in peril whenever those sources become uncertain.

### Revenues



The opportunity we all now share is to build upon 23 years of outstanding programming to create Ottawa's pre-eminent example of artistic education - both creatively and financially. The tremendous support from our parents, adult students, alumni and community supporters has demonstrated that OSSD is valued in the community. Now we must turn our attention to ensuring that OSSD is never again in peril because of short-term cash flow concerns.

The school needs your help. We need to complete OSSD's \$50,000 fundraising drive by 31 August 2011. Although we are well on our way to achieving this goal, your donation is needed to ensure our success. We understand that, for some, times are difficult, but we ask you to do what you can to help. Whatever the amount, your tax-deductible donation will help to ensure that OSSD is able to continue to deliver exceptional educational programming, helping people of all ages build confidence, literacy, social skills and creative capacity. Please, donate now.

Aside from donations, the Board is seeking new members who can potentially connect the school to corporate donations and sponsorships, as well as parent volunteers to help organize an annual fundraising event for the school.

Most importantly, we need you to keep registering for the excellent programming offered at the school. Registrations are the lifeblood of OSSD. Many summer camp offerings are now fully booked, but there are still plenty of great opportunities. As well, the Ottawa Theatre School is now auditioning for fall classes, and registration for all September classes will begin shortly. Watch our website for details!

Spread the word that OSSD is here to stay and will continue to contribute to a vibrant cultural life in Ottawa.

Warmest regards,  
Randy McIntyre - Chair, OSSD Board of Directors

**Donations can be made on our website at [ossd.com](http://ossd.com) or visit us at OSSD at 294 Picton Ave. We'd be very glad to accept your donation!**

## Also at the FRINGE FESTIVAL

The Senior Acting Company (students 16 - 19 years) is presenting *Moonfleece* by Philip Ridley as part of the Ottawa International Fringe Festival. It's an edgy play in which a new generation encounters a world torn apart by the adults. Families and friendships are splintered by the politics of race, sexuality and money. Scathing political satire is

juxtaposed against magical storytelling with strange resonances of Hamlet. *Moonfleece* is an adventure by a mature company of young actors not to be missed. *Moonfleece* plays June 17 - 26 in Studio 311, Academic Hall, University of Ottawa, 35 Rue Seraphin-Marion.  
[www.ottawafestival.com](http://www.ottawafestival.com)

## Dates to Remember

- **Fringe: Senior Company show and OTS show:**  
June 16 - 26 check website for details
- **Summer camp registration (on going)**
- **Summer camp start date**  
June 27
- **Fall Registration open**  
June 30
- **Closed for Canada Day**  
July 1
- **Closed for Civic Holiday**  
August 1
- **OSSD Open House**  
September 10
- **Children & Youth classes start date - September 15**
- **Adult Recreational classes start date - September 19**



Send address changes, letters and story ideas to:

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