



NEWS RELEASE

294 Picton Avenue
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December 12, 2005

For immediate release

Just in Time for the Holidays: Ottawa Theatre School Receives Grants

Ottawa, Ontario – When Artistic Director Amanda Lewis was informed that the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama (OSSD) would receive \$30,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, she was ecstatic.

“This grant makes it possible for OSSD to enter an exciting new phase of growth with benefits for the entire community,” said Lewis.

OSSD recently moved to new studios in Westboro. For the first time in its 17-year history, this small charity that provides speech arts and drama training to children, youth and adults, has its own in-house performance space. The Natalie Stern Studio Theatre, named after the school’s founder, is a black box theatre with a flexible design and seating for up to 80 audience members. The grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and a grant from the City of Ottawa will help OSSD equip the theatre with a lighting and sound system.

“OSSD students are absolutely thrilled to be training in a professional setting,” Lewis commented. “The response from the Ottawa performing arts community has been equally enthusiastic, knowing that there is new venue available to them. We are incredibly thankful to our supporters.”

Ottawa Centre MPP, Richard Patten, also believes that this is good news for Ottawa. “The Trillium grant to OSSD is an investment in the social and economic well-being of our community,” said Mr. Patten. “The Ontario government is strongly committed to promoting access to and support of the arts in Ottawa.”

The equipment grants have opened a number of unique opportunities at OSSD, including the development of a new technical class in lighting to start January 2006. The Natalie Stern Studio Theatre will officially open April 22, 2006.

The Ottawa School of Speech and Drama is a registered charity that provides speech arts and drama training to children, youth and adults in Ottawa. Classes are offered in both English and French.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario’s charity casino initiative.

OSSD gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.

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