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FRINGE HIRES Interim Festival Director

Hamilton, ON – The board of directors of the Hamilton Festival Theatre Company is delighted to announce that it has hired Jessica Anderson as the Interim Festival Director for the 2016 [Hamilton Fringe Festival](#). Jessica will step in for Executive Director Claire Calnan, who will take maternity leave in March.

Jessica is an arts administrator, playwright and all-around theatre enthusiast. She has several years of administrative experience having previously worked for the Living Arts Centre, the Ottawa Arts Court Foundation, the Ottawa Little Theatre and Pat the Dog Theatre Creation. Jessica studied drama and English literature at Queen’s University and Scriptwriting at Algonquin College. Jessica’s first full-length play, *My Purple Wig*, has been short-listed for several awards and premiered Off-Broadway at the Lion Theatre in November of 2013. She was the recipient of the 2012 RBC Tarragon Emerging Playwrights Award for her play *The Gods and Calvin Brewer*. Her most recent play, *A Different Kind of Job*, premiered as part of the TA2 Studio Series at Theatre Aquarius.

“I’m very excited to take on the important and challenging role as Interim Festival Director. I’ve chosen to make Hamilton my home in large part due to the thriving and up-and-coming arts community and I’m eager to contribute to an organization that supports such a large variety of artists,” says Anderson.

Board President Valerie Vanlandschoot says “We are confident in the skills that Jessica will bring to this role and look forward to working with her for the 2016 festival. “

According to Executive Director Claire Calnan, “We have made great strides with the Hamilton Fringe over the past few years and I am very pleased that we will have such a gifted and experienced candidate take us into the festival in 2016. I am confident that the Fringe is in very good hands”

The Hamilton Fringe Festival is an 11-day un-juried annual theatre festival that takes place each July in downtown Hamilton. Presenting live theatre in an informal, accessible and inexpensive environment, the Fringe strives to break down traditional boundaries between audience and artist, encouraging open dialogue between theatre-goers and theatre-creators.

The 2016 Festival will take place from July 14th to the 24th, 2016. The organization is also producing a site-specific winter festival from February 11-14th, 2016: [Frost Bites](#) at The Cotton Factory, 270 Sherman Ave N.

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