



Liverpool  
International  
Theatre  
Festival

INFORMATION SHEET and MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Liverpool International Theatre Festival Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary**

Liverpool, Nova Scotia. April 9, 2010

The Liverpool International Theatre Festival began in 1992 as a way to increase business in Liverpool during the tourist shoulder season. Under the very capable guidance of creative director Eva Moore and a huge team of volunteers, the first festival drew appreciative crowds to the Astor Theatre to enjoy twelve theatre companies from Nova Scotia, Canada, and around the world.

This year, on May 19, the curtain will rise for the tenth time on a spectacular mixture of local and international performers, hailing from Italy, Wales, Iran, the United States, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia. And to celebrate this milestone, LITF organizers are putting the finishing touches on some big plans for the big event.

Hospitality chair Brian Fralic is working hard behind the scenes to bring entertainment to a new level this year. This year's nightlife begins with Festival Club at the Liverpool Curling Club with performers DJ Cam, Charlie A'Court and Hal Bruce tearing up the stage. But the entertainment doesn't end there. Partiers who don't want to turn in when the lights go out can keep the good times rolling with Late Night Jamming at Lane's, courtesy of Lane's Privateer Inn.

"We know that Liverpool is a wonderfully welcoming town, but we do tend to wind things down relatively early here," says Fralic. "The thing is, many of our visitors are only here for a short time, and they want to make the most of their visit to Nova Scotia. Late Night at Lane's will give our visitors a place to keep socializing after the rest of us have gone home to bed."

Fralic and his hospitality committee are also planning an upscale Gala Night, to be held after Sunday evening's Closing Ceremonies. This year's Gala will be held at the Best Western hotel, one of the festival's many generous sponsors, and will feature great food, a cash bar, and spectacular entertainment.

To encourage youth involvement, LITF has two special initiatives for young people this year. The first is a scholarship for one local student to attend drama camp at the Astor Theatre over the summer. Started in 2009 as a pilot project, the scholarship was awarded to Adrienne Allison from Liverpool High School last year, just near the end of the school year. This year, the scholarship will be awarded during the festival.

The second youth initiative will give local students a chance to attend the festival while honing their critical thinking skills. The project will allow up to twenty high school and junior high students to attend selected plays and then submit written critiques on the performances.



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More exciting news—an LITF mascot will be debuting at this year’s festival! Sure to be a hit with kids and adults alike, “Jester Fish” will make his first appearance at Saltscapes Expo in Halifax at the end of April, and will be making friends around town throughout LITF itself.

Though only one Jester Fish will be walking around town, an ambitious art project aims to put plenty of Jester Fish on display around Liverpool. Volunteer craftsman Rick Gilbert is providing art students at local schools with wooden cut-outs of Jester Fish to decorate as they wish, and the finished pieces will be displayed throughout Liverpool’s downtown core. In addition, each volunteer who is billeting an international delegate will be given a likeness of Jester Fish that they can proudly display on their front lawn as an identifying mark.

To top it all off, festival organizers are encouraging everyone in Liverpool to download and print out the festival’s logo, and then put it in their windows for the duration of the festival to show their support. The logo is available at [litf.ca](http://litf.ca) via the “Download Jester Fish” button (or can be downloaded directly at [www.litf.ca/jesterdownload.htm](http://www.litf.ca/jesterdownload.htm)). Kids can even colour in a line drawing of the fish. Organizers hope that the printed fishes, in addition to the Jester Fish art project and lawn markers, will help show our performers and out-of-town visitors how much Liverpool supports this incredible international theatre festival.

LITF is pleased to welcome the world to Liverpool to celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2010. Look for more exciting news about the festival as the date draws closer, or visit our website at [www.litf.ca](http://www.litf.ca) for more information about the festival.

Tickets are available soon through the Astor Theatre box office, by phone at (902) 354-5250, or online at [www.astortheatre.ns.ca](http://www.astortheatre.ns.ca).

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