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Stephen Drover to Step Down as Artistic Director of Rumble Theatre

Vancouver, BC – Rumble Theatre’s Board of Directors has announced that Artistic Director Stephen Drover will be vacating his role to join the Arts Club Theatre Company as its new Associate Artistic Director. Effective May 28, 2018, Drover will work part-time at both Rumble and the Arts Club. His final day at Rumble will be August 31, 2018, following the completion of Rumble’s Tremors festival.

Drover joined Rumble in January 2012 and spearheaded many exciting initiatives during his tenure. He established Rumble’s adaptation program with an eye on creating contemporary Canadian plays based on classical texts. That program has seen great success in its short history, highlighted by Hiro Kanagawa’s *Indian Arm* winning the 2017 Governor General’s Literary Award for Drama. He also formalized Rumble’s mentorship program, creating the popular Living Room series—a casual community-building event that joins emerging and professional artists in conversations about theatre—and refocusing Tremors, Rumble’s festival of emerging talent, as a training ground for individual artists.

“My six years with Rumble have been an array of milestones and I am immeasurably proud of the work we’ve done,” says Drover. “During my time here we developed a robust program for the mentorship of emerging artists, commissioned remarkable new adaptations, and produced some really fantastic shows. I’ll miss working with this wonderful staff in the best artist-run building in Vancouver. And I can’t wait to see what’s next for the company.”

“Stephen has steered Rumble through a fantastically productive period for Rumble, shepherding successes like *Indian Arm*, and *The Society for the Destitute Presents Titus Bouffonius*, reimagining and reinvigorating our Tremors festival, and building our community through our mentorship programs,” says Board President Mat Brechtel. “While we are very sad to see him go, we’ll look forward to continuing to enjoy his positive influence at an only slightly greater distance.”

Rumble Theatre’s Board of Directors will announce plans for a recruitment process this summer.

CONTACT

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ABOUT RUMBLE THEATRE

Rumble Theatre produces contemporary plays from the Canadian and world repertoire, commissions and produces new Canadian adaptations of outstanding stories, and fosters

meaningful interactions between emerging and established artists. Founded in 1990, Rumble has served as a vital member of the Vancouver theatre community and generated productions of great courage and audacity, including *The Society for the Destitute Presents Titus Bouffonius*, *Indian Arm*, *Clark and I Somewhere in Connecticut*, *Blackbird*, and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. The company has produced or presented over 76 critically acclaimed shows, including 20 world premieres, and received numerous honours, including 52 Jessie Richardson Theatre Award nominations.

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