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fina macDonell **2015 SILVER TICKET AWARD WINNER**

Toronto, June 22, 2015 – Master prop-builder **fina macDonell** was presented with the **Silver Ticket Award** at the **36th Annual Dora Mavor Moore Awards**, held Monday evening, June 22, 2015 at Harbourfront Centre's WestJet Stage in Toronto.

Since 1980, the Silver Ticket Award has been bestowed upon an individual who has excelled in their own career while also nurturing the development of Canadian theatre. Presented by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA), the Silver Ticket Award is given to a person selected by a committee of previous winners, and it entitles the recipient to a lifetime of theatre tickets to any TAPA member company production.

Ms. macDonell's love of theatre began at a young age, when her parents began taking her to Winnipeg's Rainbow Stage and the Manitoba Theatre Centre and she became completely smitten. She has worked in almost every aspect of theatre, from Box Office to Director, but "came home" when she devoted her time to building props. Over the course of her 30+-year career, she has worked on all kinds of productions – from small fringe theatre shows to multi-million dollar lavish musicals.

For almost three decades, Ms. macDonell has been a partner and builder at The Rabbit's Choice where her credits building props in Toronto range from *Phantom of the Opera*, *Ragtime*, *Fosse*, *Showboat*, *Aspects of Lov* and *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for Live Entertainment; and *Miss Saigon*, *Sound of Music*, *Hairspray*, *Crazy for You*, *Jane Eyre*, *Tommy* and *Mamma Mia* for Mirvish Productions. Selected Broadway credits include *Scarlet Pimpernell*, *Spamalot*, *Ragtime*, *Fosse*, *Showboat*, *Woman in White*, *Sunset Blvd.* *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Producers*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Experiment with an Air Pump*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*, *The Wild Party*. For Disney Theatrical – *Tarzan*, *Aladdin*, *Little Mermaid*, and *The Lion King*. Select international credits range from *Sunset Blvd.*, *The Lion King*, *Showboat*, *Ragtime* and *The Producers* in Australia to *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Producers* and *Kiss Me Kate* in London, U.K.

She also spent seven seasons as Head of Props/Builder at Young People's Theatre and another five at Theatre Plus. She has also built props and puppets for Theatre Passe Muraille and Canadian Puppet Festivals.

As an actor/puppeteer, she has worked with Patchwork Players in Manitoba and Caravan Stage Company in B.C., as well as with Theatre Passe Muraille, the National Arts Centre, and Canadian Puppet Festivals in Ontario.

Ms. macDonell has always felt it important to pass on her craft to the next generation to continue to make the magic she literally makes on stage. Co-op and outreach students work alongside her, immersed in her considerable knowledge and generosity as she mentors them to become the next wonderful artisans of the theatre.

The Dora Mavor Moore Awards are administered by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). In addition to the Doras, other programs and services provided by TAPA include: T.O. TIX - Toronto's Official One Stop Ticket Shop at Yonge-Dundas Square and online at www.totix.ca; Toronto's Official Theatre Guide; hipTIX, offering \$5 tickets to students between the ages of 14 and 29; citySPECIAL; the Commercial Theatre Development Fund; and the Travel Retreat Initiatives Program - TRIP. For more information visit www.tapa.ca and www.totix.ca.