

News Release

**Theatre director Sarah Conn honoured  
with 2018 Pauline McGibbon Award**

Toronto, June 26, 2018 – Ottawa-based theatre director **Sarah Conn** is the recipient of the **2018 Pauline McGibbon Award**. Sarah received the award yesterday at the **Dora Mavor Moore Awards**, presented by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts at Toronto's Winter Garden Theatre.

**About Sarah Conn**

- Sarah produces award-winning theatre and live art projects using an interdisciplinary approach. She collaborates primarily with people from outside the theatre world – from visual artists and urban planners to everyday community members.
- Her most recent work, *Trophy*, has been presented at major festivals in Canada and beyond, including the SummerWorks Performance Festival, One Yellow Rabbit's High Performance Rodeo and the Dublin Fringe Festival. *Trophy* has empowered more than 2,000 people to share stories of transformation and change.
- Sarah is currently the Artistic Associate for the National Arts Centre's National Creation Fund, which is paving the way for a new model of creation in Canada's performing arts. Previously, she was the Artistic Producer of the award-winning theatre company STO Union.
- Sarah received the 2016 Siminovitch Protégé Prize in Directing.
- She holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from the University of Ottawa.

**Quote**

"Sarah is a uniquely talented theatre creator at the forefront of the field," noted the jury. "She is forging a new path that links community-based arts and experimentation. We are excited to follow along on this journey, knowing that it's being led by Sarah."

**About the Pauline McGibbon Award**

- Established in 1981, the award honours former Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon for her support and patronage of the arts. It includes a **\$7,000 prize** and a **medal** designed by Dora de Pédery-Hunt.
- The award is presented to an Ontario-resident professional artist in the early stages of their career who has contributed to the well-being of Ontario's theatre community, displays unique talent and has the potential for excellence.
- The award is cyclical in nature: the first year of the three-year cycle, the award goes to a designer, the second year to a director, and the third year to a production craftsperson.
- The award is given each year by the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and is administered by the Ontario Arts Council.

**MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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*For more than 50 years, the Ontario Arts Council has played a vital role in promoting and assisting the development of the arts for the enjoyment and benefit of Ontarians. In 2016-17, OAC funded 1,657 individual artists and 1,098 organizations in 212 communities across Ontario for a total of \$50.8 million.*



Sarah Conn. Photo: Maria Vartanova



Still from *Trophy*. Photo: Dahlia Katz



The Pauline McGibbon Award medal, designed by Dora de Pédery-Hunt.



Official portrait of Pauline McGibbon, by Cleeve Horne.