



## **The *Dora Mavor Moore Awards* confirms new Presenting Sponsor, The Romano D'Andrea Foundation**

Toronto, ON (May 28, 2024) – Today, at a press conference held at Meridian Hall, the **Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA)** announced a new presenting sponsor for the *Dora Mavor Moore Awards*, The Romano D'Andrea Foundation. The *Dora Mavor Moore Awards* will now be known as the *Dora Mavor Moore Awards* presented by The Romano D'Andrea Foundation. The partnership arrangement will be a three-year term with the possibility of an extension.

"We are very proud and excited to be a lead sponsor of the 2024 Dora Mavor Moore Awards," says Romano D'Andrea, the founder of the foundation. "In recognition of the important place that the Dora Awards serve in Toronto's theatrical community, we are pleased to announce that we will be continuing our sponsorship for the next three years, and hopefully many years beyond that."

The Romano D'Andrea Foundation was established in 2019. We are committed to building a world class performing arts centre in Weston. It will be an artistic catalyst that will drive socio-economic growth, spur interest and opportunities in the performing arts, nurture a new arts ecosystem in the community, and enrich the lives of the people of Toronto.

"We are delighted to announce that The Romano D'Andrea Foundation will serve as the presenting sponsor of the Dora Mavor Moore Awards, commencing this year," stated Jacoba Knaapen, Executive Director of TAPA. "Having a dedicated partner to contribute to the sustainability of Canada's longest-running awards show, alongside a passion for theatre, represents a win-win for the community. We couldn't be happier."

Romano is an enthusiastic audience member of the Toronto theatre scene. His foundation is ready to set the stage for Weston's starring in the future of theatre in this great city.

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### **About the Dora Mavor Moore Awards**

The Doras are named for Dora Mavor Moore (1888-1979), a well-loved teacher and director who helped establish Canadian professional theatre in the 1930s and 1940s. Recognizing the outstanding achievements in Toronto's performing arts industry, the Doras honour the creators of numerous theatre, dance and opera productions annually in the following divisions: General Theatre, Independent Theatre, Musical Theatre, Dance, Opera, Theatre for Young Audiences,

Touring and Innovation. The Dora Awards became the first professional award show in Canada to be gender inclusive in 2019.

The Dora Mavor Moore Awards were founded on December 13, 1978, by a committee convened by Millie Drain. On that date, Drain and the other founders (Ann Antkiw, Ronald Bryden, Bill Glassco, Graham Harley, Leon Major, Sean Mulcahy, Peter Peroff, Heinar Piller, Susan Rubes, Pat Stewart and Sylvia Tucker), decided to institute an award to recognize outstanding achievements in Toronto theatre. Today, the Doras honour the creators and artists of theatre, dance and opera productions annually in 43 categories over 8 divisions.

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: Annual Arts Day at the City, hipTIX (offering \$10 tickets to students between the ages of 14 and 29), TAPA RBC Emerging Artists Mentorship Program (TREAM), the Ray Ferris Innovation and Sustainability Grant and the professional development TAPA Trade Series.

### **About The Romano D'Andrea Foundation**

The Romano D'Andrea Foundation is committed to building a world class performing arts centre in Weston.

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