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News Release

ALBERT SCHULTZ RECEIVES THE 2014 NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE AWARD

Award to be given at May 10 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Gala

March 26, 2014 – MONTREAL (Canada) – Canada's National Arts Centre (NAC) is delighted to announce it is awarding the prestigious 2014 National Arts Centre Award to **Albert Schultz**. An award-winning actor and director, Mr. Schultz is the Founding Artistic Director of the highly acclaimed Soulpepper Theatre Company and the General Director of the Young Centre for the Performing Arts, a performing arts, education and community outreach facility in Toronto's historic Distillery District. Mr. Schultz will be honoured during the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Gala at the National Arts Centre on May 10, 2014.

The National Arts Centre Award, presented annually as part of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, recognizes work of an extraordinary nature and significance in the performing arts by an individual artist and/or company in the past performance year.

Mr. Schultz year has enjoyed a tremendously successful year.

Last summer, Soulpepper's ambitious production of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, directed by Mr. Schultz, received such high audience and critical acclaim that it is being remounted this year.

Another Soulpepper production, the smash hit *Kim's Convenience* by Toronto playwright Ins Choi, is now on a nine-city national tour across Canada (the production played to audience and critical acclaim at the National Arts Centre in February). Soulpepper and Thunderbird Films recently announced a multi-year development and production joint venture for television, feature films and digital media: a feature film and television series based on Mr. Choi's play are currently in development.

Last fall, the *Toronto Star* called Mr. Schultz's performance in Soulpepper's production of *The Norman Conquests* (a trilogy of plays by British playwright Alan Ayckbourn) "simply brilliant."

"With its magnificent and highly successful production of Angels in America, and the national tour of Kim's Convenience, Soulpepper Theatre has had a phenomenal year, and that is largely due to Albert Schultz," said NAC President and CEO Peter Herrndorf. *"Angels in America was not only an artistic success for Albert as a director. As Founding Artistic Director of Soulpepper, he was also the driving force behind the production's financial success. His support of and investment in Kim's Convenience has meant that a new Canadian play has become a national success story—one that is currently delighting audiences across Canada. Albert's vision also includes the bolstering of the next generation of Canadian theatre artists through the Soulpepper Academy, and through the Young Centre for the Performing Arts. And finally, his abundant gifts as an actor were on full display in The Norman Conquests. It is our great pleasure to bestow the National Arts Centre Award on Albert Schultz."*

Mr. Schultz was born in 1963 in Port Hope, Ontario and was drawn to acting through his mother's community theatre work. He trained at York University and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art before joining the Stratford Festival Young Company under Robin Phillips, where he played several leading roles including a lauded turn as Romeo. Beginning in 1992, he spent three years on CBC's hit television series *Street Legal*, followed by two seasons as the lead in the

series *Side Effects*. His feature film work includes *Beautiful Dreamers*, *I Love a Man in Uniform*, *Maximum Risk*, *Balls Up*, *Under My Skin*, and most recently the lead in CTV's made-for-TV film *Shades of Black* (a biography of Conrad Black) which aired in December 2006.

As Founding Artistic Director of Soulpepper Theatre, he regularly directs and appears on stage with the company. Directorial highlights include *Death of a Salesman* (2010 & 2012), *The Crucible* (2012 & 2014), *The Time of Your Life* (2007 & 2011), *Waiting for Godot* (2004), *Idiot's Delight* (2014), *The Caretaker* (2006) and *Oh What a Lovely War* (2010). As an actor, he has played leading roles in *Hamlet* (2004 & 2005), *Uncle Vanya* (2001, 2002 & 2008), *Our Town* (1999, 2006 & 2007), *The Real Thing* (2006) and *The Odd Couple* (2008), among others.

Albert Schultz is a Member of the Order of Canada (2013). His many honours include the City of Toronto Barbara Hamilton Memorial Award, the DareArts Foundation Cultural Award, the Toronto Arts Council William Kilbourn Award, the Salute to the City Award and the M. Joan Chalmers National Award for Artistic Direction. For his work on behalf of UNICEF, he received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. He has also received honorary degrees from Queen's and Bishop's Universities in recognition of his contributions to Canadian theatre.

The National Arts Centre Award recipient, chosen annually by a jury of NAC program executives, receives a cash prize of \$25,000, an original work of art by Quebec-based artist Paula Murray, and a commemorative medallion struck by the Royal Canadian Mint. Previous recipients of the National Arts Centre Award include Sarah Polley, Denis Villeneuve, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Paul Gross, The Tragically Hip, Richard Bradshaw, k.d. lang, Rick Mercer, Marie Chouinard, Angela Hewitt, La La La Human Steps and its artistic director Edouard Lock, Cirque du Soleil, Mario Bernardi, Denis Marleau, Karen Kain, Jon Kimura Parker, Ben Heppner, Robert Lepage, Michel Marc Bouchard and Les Deux Mondes, and Gilles Maheu and CARBONE 14.

ABOUT THE NAC

The National Arts Centre collaborates with artists and arts organizations across Canada to help create a national stage for the performing arts, and acts as a catalyst for performance, creation and learning across the country. A home for Canada's most creative artists, the NAC strives to be artistically adventurous in each of its programming streams: the NAC Orchestra, English Theatre, French Theatre and Dance, as well as the Scene festivals and NAC Presents, which showcase established and emerging Canadian artists. The organization is at the forefront of youth and educational activities, offering artist training, programs for children and youth, and resources for teachers in communities across Canada. The NAC is also a pioneer in new media, using technology to teach students and young artists around the globe by creating top-rated podcasts and providing a wide range of NAC Orchestra concerts on demand. The NAC is the only bilingual, multidisciplinary performing arts centre in Canada, and one of the largest in the world.

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