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## **4th Line Theatre Welcomes Beau Dixon as an Artistic Associate**

**Millbrook, ON...** 4th Line Theatre is excited to announce that award-winning Canadian actor, writer and composer/musician Beau Dixon has joined the theatre as an Artistic Associate. Dixon will assist 4th Line in further developing its inclusivity and diversity initiatives and strategies. 4th Line Theatre's objective, with Dixon's assistance, is to establish a talent bank of racialized artists; uncover local racialized stories; and liaise with racialized community partners. Dixon's research, and the relationships he forges during this project, will aid in future artistic programming and play development. Dixon's deep ties to Peterborough and area will allow him to delve deeply into the issues of inclusivity and diversity, to ensure lasting strategies for the theatre.

Managing Artistic Director Kim Blackwell explains, "I am thrilled to welcome Beau back to 4th Line. He has a long and rich creative history at the theatre. When I decided to create a formal strategy to address inclusivity and diversity at 4th Line, Beau was the first call I made, to ask for his input."

Blackwell continues, "Beau is one of the busiest actors in this country, having strong associations with Stratford, Shaw, Tarragon, Soulpepper, Neptune and many other theatres from coast to coast. The pandemic's effect on Beau's career in the short term, has allowed 4th Line to access his expertise and creative energy."

Dixon most recently collaborated with 4th Line as the playwright of *Bloom: A Rock 'n Roll Fable*, produced at the theatre in July 2019 and directed by Kim Blackwell. *Bloom: A Rock 'n Roll Fable* was developed as part of the theatre's New Play Development Program. He has appeared as an actor/musician in several past 4th Line productions, most recently playing Elijah McCoy, in Andrew Moodie's *The Real McCoy*, as part of the 2013 summer season.

Beau Dixon states "I'm excited to be joining the 4th Line team as an Artistic Associate, because it will allow me to contribute to bringing new stories and ideas to Peterborough's artistic community, while giving me the opportunity to discover and research untold stories found within the racially diverse communities around the theatre. I will explore the creation of new forms of

storytelling and share other people's history, that have been embedded in the Peterborough and Kawartha region for centuries.”

Stay tuned to the theatre’s website and social media platforms for updates and exciting announcements about 4th Line Theatre’s upcoming 2021 season.

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## Biographies:

**Kim Blackwell**, Managing Artistic Director, 4th Line Theatre

Kim is a veteran 4th Line director/producer. 2020 marks her 26th season with 4th Line Theatre where she has directed 25 productions including 13 world premieres. Selected credits include: Artistic Director (2014 - Present), Artistic Producer (2009 - 2014), Artistic Associate (2001 - 2009), directing: *Bedtime Stories and Other Horrifying Tales* (2020); *The Fool of Cavan: A Christmas Caper* (2019); *Bloom: A Rock 'n Roll Fable* (2019); *The Other: A Strange Christmas Tale* (2018); *The Shadow Walk of Millbrook* (2018), *Who Killed Snow White?* (2018); *The Hero of Hunter Street* (2016); *The Bad Luck Bank Robbers* (2015, 2016); *The Real McCoy* (2013); *Queen Marie* (2012); *St. Francis of Millbrook* (2012); *The Berlin Blues* (2011); *The Right Road to Pontypool* (2009, 2010); *Schoolhouse* (2007, 2008); *The Art of Silent Killing*; *That Summer, Crow Hill, The Cavan Blazers, Attrition, Gimme That Prime Time Religion* and many development workshops. She was nominated for the John Hirsch Award for Directing Excellence in 2009 (Canada Council) and 2014 (Ontario Arts Council). Kim was inducted into Peterborough’s Pathway of Fame in September 2016.

**Beau Dixon**, Artistic Associate, 4th Line Theatre

Beau is a self-taught, multi award-winning Actor, Composer, Playwright and Sound Designer. Selected theatre credits: *Ghost Quartet, Road To Paradise* (Crow's Theatre); *Marjorie Prime, The Father* (Coalmine Theatre); *The Colour Purple* (Neptune Theatre); *Hamlet, Harlem Duet, Next To Normal* (Tarragon Theatre); *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, 27 Club, Secret Chord* (Soulpepper Theatre); *Mockingbird* (NSTF/Factory); *Don't Dress For Dinner* (Thousand Islands/WCT/Gateway); *Farewell, My Lovely* (Vertigo Theatre/Arts Club Theatre); *Motherf@#!er With The Hat* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *As You Like It/ Titus Andronicus* (Canstage/ Shakespeare In High Park); *Othello* (Mysterious Entity); *The Real McCoy* (4th Line Theatre). Selected writing credits: *Bloom: A Rock 'n' Roll Fable* (4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre) *Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story* (Lunchbox Theatre/ Festival Playhouse/ Thousand Islands), *From Here To Africville, Once A Flame* (Factory Theatre), *Other People’s Heaven, Freedom Bells* (Heritage Pavilion Stage). Nominations and awards: Two Dora Mavor Moore Awards (Best New Play, Best Individual Performance), Betty Mitchell nomination for Best Male Performance for his one-man-show, 'Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story'. He also received two Toronto Critic's Award (Best ensemble for Ghost Quartet, and Male lead in a musical for Passing Strange) and a Dora Award nomination for Best Leading Male in a Musical for *Passing Strange* (Obsidian Theatre/Musical Stage Co.) In 2011, Beau was inducted into Peterborough's Pathway of Fame for his leadership in the arts. He is also a KM Hunter Award Finalist for 2016. He has three recorded solo albums under his name. [www.beaudixon.com](http://www.beaudixon.com)

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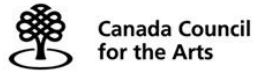
Attached Photos:

1. Kim Blackwell
2. Beau Dixon

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