

Kaleidoscope Theatre Productions

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Kaleidoscope Artistic Director Announces His Departure to Launch Television Production Company

Kaleidoscope Theatre is announcing the departure of Artistic Director Leslie D. Bland. Because of long planning cycles, Leslie gave notice of his intention to leave his position to the board of directors on October 7, 2009. He will continue in his duties with Kaleidoscope to the end of this calendar year and will direct Kaleidoscope's December main-stage production.

Leslie leaves with mixed emotions. "I've loved working with Kaleidoscope, and I'm thrilled with what we have accomplished since I started as AD at the beginning of 2001, but ten years is a good length of time, and the moment has arrived to move on to new opportunities."

During his time as Artistic Director, Leslie has led a renaissance of Kaleidoscope's programming and profile in the community following the company's time of troubles in the late 90's -- setting attendance records for local in-house productions, garnering both critical and audience acclaim for his directorial efforts, winning and being nominated for awards, and touring its productions nationally and internationally. His favourite productions with Kaleidoscope include *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, *Disney's Aladdin*, *Animal Farm*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Hobbit*, *Gold Mountain Guest*, and *All the World*.

"Leslie has contributed so much to Kaleidoscope over the past ten years. We greatly appreciate all that he is doing to ensure continuity and stability for Kaleidoscope during this transition", says Yvonne Sharpe (Board President). "On behalf of all the members of the Board, I wish Leslie every success with his exciting new venture."

Leslie has established Less Bland Productions Inc., a locally based television production company, which has entered into a broadcast partnership/ license with CHEK Media Group, to develop local content with local talent for local, national, and international broadcast/ distribution.

"I am tremendously excited about this next chapter of my career," says Bland. "We have four productions in various stages of development, including a situation comedy of my own creation *Designer Living*. We have a solid business plan, and have already raised close to half of our budget. We are now in the midst of bringing more investors on board. There's been wonderful serendipity to the launching of the production company. We are looking forward to marketing our projects both nationally and south of the border."

Since 1998, Leslie has also been a part-time Sessional Instructor at the University of Victoria. He continues to teach Acting, Public Speaking, and Theatre Appreciation in the Department of Theatre.

A national search for a new Artistic Director for Kaleidoscope Theatre will take place during September and October.

For more information on Kaleidoscope Theatre or to schedule media coverage, please contact Annalyn Richardson at (250) 383-8124 or marketing@kaleidoscope.bc.ca

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