WINNIPEG 25 FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

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AN AMAZING ANNIVERSARY GIFT

Record numbers get their Fringe on at 25th Winnipeg Fringe

WINNIPEG, July 30, 2012 – The numbers are in and the 25th anniversary Winnipeg Fringe was officially the biggest ever! Indoor attendance broke the 100,000 mark, with **100,621** tickets, up from **87,851** last year. Daily attendance records were broken on 10 out of 12 days. The festival featured a record **172** performing companies in an unprecedented **32** venues, with **1,459** total performances over the 12 days. There were **175** sellouts, and **$686,188** in box office revenue was returned to the performers.

"We're blown away by the support Manitobans have shown for independent theatre artists and the Winnipeg Fringe this year," Festival Producer **Chuck McEwen** says. "When the festival first began in 1988, I don't think the founders ever thought the festival would become what it is today. Hitting the 100,000 mark is a huge accomplishment for us, and we thank all those who came out to see shows. We'd especially like to thank our sponsors, the record **913** volunteers, and the **90** artist billeters, whose dedication and support made the festival possible this year."

Soaring temperatures had a slight impact on outdoor attendance and at Kids Fringe where approximately **7,232** young Fringers participated in kid-friendly activities. Bands and street performers kept the MTS Outdoor Stage, Albert Street and Arthur Street hopping from noon to midnight daily. Due to the severe storm on Sunday, July 29, the Outdoor Site was shut down early and the presentation of the Harry S. Rintoul Memorial Award was moved to the lobby of MTC's John Hirsh Mainstage.

The Rintoul Award is presented by the **Manitoba Association of Playwrights (MAP)** for the best new Manitoban play at the Winnipeg Fringe. This year's winner was **Scott Douglas** for ***The Touring Test***. He took home a crystal award, $500 from MAP and a 2013 Superpass from the Fringe. The other playwrights nominated were: Andrew Cecon, Michael Nathanson and Andrea von Wichert.

Next year's Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival will run from **July 17 to July 28, 2013**. For more details, visit www.winnipegfringe.com.

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