

Elsa Bolam to leave Geordie Theatre Productions after 25 years

Dean Patrick Fleming to take over as company's Artistic Director

Montreal, Qc. October 12, 2005 - Geordie Theatre Productions announced today that Elsa Bolam, the company's Founding Artistic Director, has decided to step down at the end of the 2005/06 season. The Geordie Board of Directors has approved the appointment of Dean Patrick Fleming as succeeding Artistic and Executive Director.

Dean Patrick Fleming, co-founder of ASM Studio Montreal, has already worked extensively for Geordie Productions as actor, stage manager, director and assistant to the Artistic Director. A graduate of Concordia University's Theatre Program, Mr. Fleming has acted in over sixty film, television and theatre productions, one of the earliest of which was Geordie's production of *A Promise is a Promise*. He has also directed productions in many Montreal theatres including *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* at Place des Arts, Woody Allan's *Play It Again, Sam*, at the Saidye Bronfman Centre, five seasons of Tricycle Productions' Theatre for Young Audience tours, several productions at Hudson Village Theatre, including the current production of *Apple*, and Geordie's production of *Robinson Crusoe* last year.

Over the last twenty-five years, Ms. Bolam's artistic vision and leadership has shaped the company into one of the major arts organization in the Montreal area. Incorporated in 1980 and well known in the field of Theatre for Young Audiences, Geordie's school touring troupe presents approximately 300 performances each season across Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick. The company has also toured across Canada and the United States. In Montreal, Geordie presents an annual three-play subscription season for families. Each season the company reaches an average audience of 88,000 people.

Ms Bolam said: "Founding the company has been a wonderful adventure which I wouldn't have missed for anything. I have thoroughly enjoyed the collaboration with our local artists, and it has been a great pleasure to create imaginative worlds for young people, especially for those in small and isolated communities."

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