

## **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

On behalf of my fellow board members, I am happy to welcome everyone to the 33rd annual ACT-CO Gala. I thank you for being a part of what ACT-CO views as both a celebration of the current theatre season and a salute to Central Ontario community theatre at large. While some will be fortunate to be awarded recognition in specific areas, this evening is really a chance for all of us to reflect upon and appreciate what everyone has collectively been able to accomplish over the past year. When we consider what our groups have contributed to their communities, it is clear everyone is a winner.

Congratulations to all members of ACT-CO, those recognized tonight with Thea Awards and to all who help create and nurture community theatre everywhere.

We hope you enjoy your evening!

*Mark Nathanielsz, President*

## **THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MESSAGE**

It is impossible to have an event like the ACT-CO Festival without the tremendous commitment of all of our Festival Committee volunteers: our category liaisons (Harry Lavigne for Comedies, Cam Lund for Musicals, and myself for Dramas), our awards coordinator (Mark Nathanielsz) and our scheduler (uh, me again.) Thanks to all of the Board members for working with your liaison groups to ensure smooth adjudication nights. Thank you to our adjudicators for approaching their work professionally and passionately. And finally, thank you to everyone who participated enthusiastically in Festival.

*Brandon Moore, ACT-CO Festival Chair*

## **A MESSAGE FROM THEATRE ONTARIO**

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!

I firmly believe theatre to be a celebration of life. In this celebration, whether backstage or in the limelight, we all share the laughter, the drama, as well as the blood, sweat and tears. I was introduced to the celebration that is theatre as a child, and have since had the honour of working on productions at both WODL Festivals and the Theatre Ontario Festivals. What wonderful memories! Now serving as President of Theatre Ontario, it is an honour and privilege to welcome each and every one of you to Festival 2009.

Go ahead... Celebrate!

*Richard Poore,, President - Theatre Ontario*

