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**Canada's Largest Theatre for Young Audiences
Impacted by Education Sector Uncertainty**

YPT student programming and season now at risk

Toronto, Jan. 22, 2020 - [Young People's Theatre](#) (YPT) has made the difficult decision to cancel several performances of the upcoming production of *Jungle Book*, place 22 performances on hold, and is now assessing the remainder of the YPT season. This unprecedented move comes in response to uncertainty in Ontario's education sector and restrictions on student field trips, potentially impacting 20,000 student attendees.

As North America's oldest professional producer and presenter of theatre for young audiences, YPT has a 54-year history and mandate of curating theatre and programming that supports Ontario's school curriculum. Students ages 5 to 18 make up 70% of the theatre's audience.

"The impact of sector unrest on students, our core audience, and on YPT – a charitable organization – is staggering," said Executive Director Nancy Webster. "We're unique as a large-scale performing arts institution in that we create programming specifically for school audiences. It's at the centre of what we do."

The remaining shows in YPT's 2019.20 season are also at risk, said Webster.

"We started to feel the effect in early December when school sales for *The Adventures of Pinocchio* came to an abrupt stop. With the majority of school groups now unable to book and attend performances, we've assessed the potential revenue loss for YPT at a minimum of \$250,000."

Should this situation continue indefinitely, YPT is reviewing the impact on the contracts of approximately 100 artists, staff, crew and artist educators. In the meantime, in an effort to provide children the opportunity to experience *Jungle Book* outside of school hours, YPT has added seven public performances on weekends and during March Break. The new performance schedule can be found online at youngpeopletheatre.org.

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