



Announcing The Great Community Talent Search *Drayton Entertainment launches Province-wide Competition*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Do you have a secret talent? Can you play a unique instrument? Are you funny? Can you balance a ball on your head while solving a Rubik’s cube? Bring it on! Audiences have seen tons of talent on stage at the various Drayton Entertainment theatres over the years, and now the not-for-profit charitable arts organization is turning the spotlight on the community in search of the top unique talents in Ontario!

From juggling, magic, and weird tricks, to dancing, singing, comedy, and more, **The Great Community Talent Search** is a chance for non-professional people of all ages across the province to share their hidden talents. The competition is open to both solo and group submissions as long as the participants are not professional performers.

“We are excited to shine a light on the amazing and interesting talents in our various communities across Ontario,” says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. “This is a wonderful opportunity for us to highlight people who may never have had the chance to display their secret talent. I think we are going to be in for some fun surprises!”

Interested participants will have to act fast because video submissions are only open from now through Wednesday, October 6. Videos must be no longer than 4 minutes and can be submitted through an online form. The talent videos will be reviewed by the Drayton Entertainment team and the Top 9 competitors will be selected. The finalists will come to the **Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge on Saturday, October 16** to perform their talent on stage and have it recorded by a professional film crew. Each of the Top 9 contestants will have their talent video shared as part of a special Drayton Entertainment digital series airing later this fall leading up to an online audience vote for the winner in December.

The winning contestant will receive a Golden Ticket Package, which includes tickets to shows at all five Drayton Entertainment locations in 2022, plus dinner and accommodation for an overnight stay in the area surrounding each venue.

The Great Community Talent Search is open to non-professional people of any age who reside in the province of Ontario. Parent or legal guardian consent is required for submissions from participants under the age of 18.

For more details about the talent search including rules of participation and the online submission form, please visit www.greatcommunitytalentsearch.com.

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About Drayton Entertainment

Drayton Entertainment is an award-winning, not-for-profit charitable organization (12591 1313 RR0001) operating seven live theatrical venues in five unique Ontario locations – the original Drayton Festival Theatre in Drayton, Huron Country Playhouse (Mainstage and South Huron Stage) in Grand Bend, King’s Wharf Theatre in Penetanguishene, St. Jacobs Country Playhouse and Schoolhouse Theatre in St. Jacobs, and the Hamilton Family Theatre in Cambridge.

With over 400 artist contracts issued annually, Drayton Entertainment is one of the largest employers of professional artists in the country – across all artistic disciplines. The organization’s sustainable theatre model has emerged as a powerful force for culture and tourism in Ontario and has been recognized by the office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario as well as the Ontario Innovation Excellence Awards.

Drayton Entertainment produces 18 productions annually, resulting in over 800 individual performances per season across its 7 stages. In 2020, before the onset of the pandemic, the professional theatre organization was on track to reach a paid attendance record of 275,000, with an anticipated economic impact of \$82.8 million, positively stimulating many tourism and hospitality businesses in communities throughout Ontario. The company continues to follow government and public health guidelines for indoor gatherings and is working on reopening plans for the late fall of 2021 or early 2022.