



**PAUL GROSS
DONATES GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PERFORMING ARTS AWARD CASH PRIZE
TO TORONTO-BASED YOUTH ARTS PROGRAM THE REMIX PROJECT**

OTTAWA, December 8, 2009 – Canadian actor and director Paul Gross, recipient of the **National Arts Centre Award**, a special Award of the **2009 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards (GGPAA)**, has announced he will donate the Award's \$25,000 cash prize, contributed by the National Arts Centre, to The Remix Project, a youth program that acts as an arts and cultural incubator in Toronto. Young people aspiring to start careers in the urban arts sector drive the program by developing personal six month plans for success.

Paul Gross's relationship with The Remix Project began last spring when he participated in the annual Art Matters forum hosted by the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada. The Art Matters forum was presented in conjunction with the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, with some of the recipients, including Mr. Gross, in attendance. A representative from The Remix Project spoke at the Art Matters event and caught Mr. Gross's attention.

"I was interested in this project because it brings kids off the streets and into an 'incubator' for young artists and arts entrepreneurs. It gives them a creative outlet and the chance to pursue their dreams in a real way with mentoring and professional support from The Remix Project. It's a win-win for everyone," said Mr. Gross.

The donation comes at a crucial time for the small non-profit organization, currently completing work on their new home after the program's lease was not renewed at their previous location because of condominium development plans.

"This partnering of resources and dreams with Paul Gross is exactly what Remix stands for. It's a perfect example of uniting professional, credible and respected artists with emerging raw talent," said Gavin Shepard, Executive Director, The Remix Project. "Sincerely, his generosity will allow us to complete the construction of the new Remix Project which will become a home to hundreds of creative, under-served, extremely talented but vulnerable young people in the city of Toronto."

The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards are Canada's most prestigious awards in the performing arts. Each year, the awards are presented to seven artists and one volunteer for their achievements and contributions to the arts in Canada. Mr. Gross received the National Arts Centre Award, which recognizes work of an extraordinary nature and significance in the past performance year. Mr. Gross was recognized through this award for his film *Passchendaele*, a sweeping World War I epic that won six Genie Awards, including Best Picture in 2009.

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