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To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to nominate Donovan King for this year's Siminovitch Award in Directing. I have known Donovan for several years now, I can attest that he is a talented and dedicated member of our theatre community and a top-notch theatre director – in more ways than one. King is well-known as a director in many areas; his trademark is the molding of theatre to his various projects. On the stage he has directed dozens of top-quality shows in many cities and countries, has garnered critical acclaim in the media, and won awards (eg. the MECCA for *Call Me*). In the arena of education he has developed collective-creations and directed countless children, teens, and university students. He has directed theatre to train the police, in tourism, and in all sorts of other areas. In the fields of experimental theatre and theatre activism King has, in my mind, excelled the most. With the goal of re-tooling the theatre for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to empower communities and challenge oppression, he has used his skills as theatre director to facilitate many critical arts projects. An impressive theatrical oeuvre that includes several 'arts democracies' has emerged in the last few years: *Car Stories*, *The Lysistrata Project*, BND performances, *Invisible Theatre in Code Orange NYC*, the anti-war *Quartier des Contres-Spectacles*, and now the *Infringement Festival* (to name a few).

Combining theory, directing, and dramaturgy, Donovan King has most certainly advanced Canadian theatre in recent years through his body of work and the generous sharing of his theatrical theories and practice. King's directing and facilitation inspires people, and I have seen many younger artists and activists flock to him, looking for (and finding) inspiration. Being a strong leader with a history in various directorial positions, King succeeds in activizing theatre artists, and theatricalizing activists. As a highly talented theatre director and one of the most passionate and critical voices on the Canadian theatre scene, I have no hesitation whatsoever in nominating Donovan King for this year's Siminovitch prize in Directing. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



David Fennario

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