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‘THE BEST FOOLING’: REVEALING STORIES OF EARLY CANADIAN THEATRE, SHARED BY A STAGE DIRECTOR WHO LIVED THEM

(WOLFVILLE) -- 24 AUGUST, 2017. Like No Other Press today announced the publication of Michael Bawtree’s ‘**THE BEST FOOLING: Adventures in Canadian Theatre**’.

Michael Bawtree gave us an absorbing picture of his early life in the UK in the first volume of his memoirs, *As Far As I Remember* (2015). Now, in **THE BEST FOOLING**, he shares his life as a new immigrant to Canada in 1962, and a career that sees him in his first fifteen years busting out as an actor, a book critic, a playwright, educator and stage director, with long stints in Stratford, Toronto and Vancouver as well as the USA. He gives us an intimate and unflinchingly honest portrait of some of the major figures in the early golden years of Canadian theatre, of the ups and downs of his personal life and of his brave, idealistic and sometimes impetuous career.

Bawtree has been an active player and pioneer in Canada’s cultural life for more than fifty years. In British Columbia he founded the theatre program at the birth of Simon Fraser University. He served as Arts Planner at the Banff Centre in Alberta, and as founder and director of Banff’s internationally recognised Music Theatre Studio Ensemble. He worked for seven years at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Ontario, as dramaturge, playwright, stage director and director of Third Stage, and finally as Associate Director. He founded COMUS Music Theatre in Toronto with Maureen Forrester. He served as a much-loved director of drama at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and while there co-founded and for four years directed the Atlantic Theatre Festival. He is also known for his frequent portrayals of Nova Scotia’s 19th century hero Joseph Howe, and is the award-winning author of a young person’s novel, ‘Joe Howe to the Rescue’. In 2002 he was awarded the Queen’s Jubilee Medal for services to the community.

Early readers have praised Bawtree’s new book for its intimate picture of theatre ‘behind the scenes’, for its ‘searing honesty’ and its ‘fine and witty writing’. The book retails at \$25.00 and can be ordered direct from our online shop at www.likenootherpress.ca, or from your local bookseller.

