

COLLECTION NOTICE #3

CLIENT: Optative Theatrical Laboratories (OTL)

AMOUNT OWED: Estimated \$5000.00

PERSON/COMPANY RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT: Montreal Fringe Festival

CONTACT INFORMATION: 514-849-3378. Beer Tent located on corner of Rachel & St. Laurent streets in Montreal.

DETAILS: 10 years ago a major scandal occurred when Optative Theatrical Laboratories' show *Car Stories* was ejected from the Fringe Festival. According to Jeremy Hechtman, the Fringe Producer, the show was kicked out because OTL offended then-sponsor *The Gazette* by writing a satirical critique of their theatre critic Pat Donnelly's performance at the box office. The furious critic refused to cover any more of the Fringe festival until *Car Stories* was given the boot. Hechtman also stated that *The Gazette* had threatened to withdraw \$15,000 in sponsorship money, making it very clear that *The Gazette* was in a conflict-of-interest as both corporate sponsor and media responsible for covering the event.

Following the scandal, Jeremy Hechtman refused to pay OTL the ticket sales *Car Stories* earned for the week run before it was ejected (\$822.00) or the projected sales from the sold-out run (around \$1000), nor did he reimburse the pay-to-play "application fee" of \$253.06 which was required simply to appear in the Fringe schedule (OTL brought their own venues - cars). Mr. Hechtman has been firm in his refusal to pay artists the money they earned legitimately at his festival. Ten years later, with accrued interest, OTL figures the Fringe Festival owes the artists it defrauded in 2001 close to \$5000.00. The OTL is offering a commission of 10%, or \$500.00 to anyone who can get their money.

EVIDENCE: Documentation (attached).