

Artistic Committee – 2017-18

The 2017/2018 season was an exciting and creative season for us as we took on a tragedy (Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*), a Canadian comedy (Norm Foster's *Opening Night*), and a Canadian drama (Judith Thompson's *Perfect Pie*).

For *Romeo and Juliet*, we hired a professional director, Liz Hobbs. This proved to be a positive decision as the play was successful. Adding to the success was the fact that we had our most experienced stage managers, producers and a very capable cast and crew. In addition we had several young actors from Salmon Arm Secondary involved. We also had at least one backstage crew member from the high school. This enhanced our mandate to involve more young people in the theatre.

Our second production, *Opening Night*, had a diverse cast, including several people new to the theatre. We also had new people working in the technical areas. The key to growth is attracting new people and we continued to do this with this production.

Our festival play was *Perfect Pie*. Once again, we put on a riskier, edgier festival play which had four strong roles for women. We also had young actors involved. One of our major goals is the mentoring of all the production positions and there was some technical mentoring during this production.

As the artistic committee we have set several goals for the future. One is to establish an 18 month planning schedule which would identify plays and directors for more than just one season and we are already looking for our winter 2020 production. We had much discussion about the hiring of professional directors and felt that when we hire a director, we want a production with a larger cast, such as *Romeo and Juliet*, so that we can involve more people.

Another of our major goals is the mentoring of directors, and the continued mentoring in all areas of production. Another goal is the need to establish clear lines of communications in all productions. We have recommended that at the beginning of each production, the director goes over the "Shuswap Theatre Etiquette Agreement" with the cast and crew.

Finally, we need to continually address some of the issues which were identified last year: opportunities for mentorship in all areas of production; workshops for actors and directors; and continue with small scale projects: workshops, radio plays, staged readings.

The artistic committee has changed and grown over the past year. Frank Manning joined in the fall of 2017 and Gloria Cox joined in spring 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Body, Astrid Varnes, Frank Manning, Gloria Cox