

Sound Director Report 2015

It has been a good year for sound. This year we were fortunate enough to invest in our sound system/booth/equipment yet again.

It was my aim to make Shuswap Theatre not just a great theatre venue (which it is) but a great live music venue as well. This was not a simple feat. Our new, 20 channel Audio Snake was installed across the house, our current system was re-wired to eliminate noise and interference, and we are in the process of replacing many of our current house speakers thanks to the generosity of members and the Salmar Community Association. In addition to this, we acquired a sizable quantity of audio cables and new microphones to make us viable to the music community at large for live performance.

It should be noted, in a brief sidebar, that at Shuswap Theatre we are truly blessed. Because of the work of past volunteers and board members, we have a house with a rake (inclined seating) and we also acquired our current seating from the renovated Salmar Theatre in years past. As a result, we have (objectively!) the best-sounding venue in the city of Salmon Arm. Without this base, I, as Sound Tech, would have very little to work with, so I have nothing but appreciation for the work of those who came before me.

This mainstage season saw our system stretched to its potential. I'll not bore you with the details, (if you didn't notice it, we did our job) but suffice to say our season went incredibly well.

Our system was once again put through its paces even after our regular season during our highly successful Theatre on the Edge festival; live sound reinforcement for instruments and voice during the Cougar Annie shows, sound cues for five other productions, and a soundtrack provided inside and out during the festival – fourteen shows in total over three days. The credit should truly go to the volunteers, the Theatre on the Edge Committee, and our board of directors. (Special thanks to Jaci Metivier).

Our *coup de grace* was just prior to the Salmon Arm Roots and Blues Festival. This year during the festival Music Crawl there were eight venues chosen; Shuswap Theatre among them. However, unlike the other seven venues, which hosted (fantastic) local artists, Shuswap Theatre was asked to host visiting Festival Artists.

Gracing our stage was Red Tail Ring (Kalamazoo, Michigan), Naomi Wachira (Kenya via Seattle, Washington) and Magpie Ulysses with James Lamb (Nelson, BC). This again spoke to the confidence of other community organizations, and the quality of our house; many (including the band themselves) said that the best sounding Red Tail Ring show of the festival was at Shuswap Theatre.

Thank you all for your support this season, and if you have any ideas/questions/criticisms, please email me at m.aureliusconsulting@gmail.com .