

ARTISTIC COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

2023-2024 was a busy season for Shuswap Theatre.

Our fall production was Ken Ludwig's Treasure Island directed by Julia Body. The large cast included experienced and novice actors. Because of the physical nature of the show, we brought in professionals to do a combat workshop. The workshop included how to deal with contact of any kind on stage and sword fighting. They also helped with choreographing scenes that involved the full cast. It was really good to see so many families attend the show. The show was recommended for children ten and up. We also did a relaxed performance which was very successful. The set for this show was absolutely incredible and included a ship and a tropical island. Amazing costumes contributed to the completely beautiful experience.

In the winter spot, we presented the Canadian play, Dry Streak directed by Howard DeLong. The cast included new actors and people who returned after an extended absence. These actors showed great ensemble work. This delightful comedy was very popular with our audiences who enjoyed the prairie references and identifiable characters.

We finished our season with our O-Zone festival entry, Outside Mullingar directed by Kim MacMillan. Again, the cast was made up of people new to Shuswap Theatre. This heartwarming comedy/drama was well received by our audiences as well as having an amazing showing at festival in Vernon. Due to illness, the director of the show became an actor. Everyone involved showed an amazing ability to adjust and pull together to ensure the success of the show. The cast and crew of this solid show received awards which included: Runner Up for Best Production, Best Performance for Leading Male Role, Best Female Supporting Role, Best Set Décor, Outstanding Newcomer and Backstage Co-operation Award.

The committee put together our 2024/25 season which includes, Agatha Christie's, The Mousetrap in November directed by Daniel Hall. The show is well into rehearsals and again, involves actors new to our stage. The winter production is Norm Foster's comedy, Halfway There directed by Frank Manning. Our spring show and Okanagan Zone Festival entry is The Virgin Trial by Kate Hennig and directed by Elizabeth Ann Skelhorne.

The 23/24 season saw the Artistic Committee begin a play reading evening once a month. Everyone is welcome and can read or just listen. The plays chosen to read have included scripts that we are going to produce and scripts that may or may not be considered for our company. These play readings will continue during the 24/25 season.

The role of the Artistic Committee includes organizing workshops that will help further our skills and provide opportunities to our members to learn about the art of theatre. We are providing a Directing Workshop with Liz Hobbs on October 4th, 5th, and 6th. We currently have eleven participants.

Respectfully submitted: Julia Body, Laura Demulder, Kim MacMillan