

ARTISTIC COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

The Artistic Committee continues to work hard putting together entertaining and thought-provoking theatre for our patrons.

The 2024-2025 season kicked off with a production of Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" directed by Daniel Hall. The show was very well received, playing to sold out audiences. It also brought in some new actors to the theatre.

In February, the Norm Foster comedy, "Halfway There," directed by Frank Manning, enjoyed a great run. Again, it was a combination of new and returning actors.

We finished our season with our Okanagan Zone festival entry of "The Virgin Trial" directed by Elizabeth Ann Skelhorne. Festival took place here in our very own theatre. The show garnered a number of awards including Best Supporting Actress, Best Newcomer, Best Props, Best Sound Design, Outstanding Achievement in Lighting Design, Outstanding Achievement in Set Design, Outstanding Achievement in Directing, and Runner-Up for Best Production.

Our Christmas offering last year was a staged play reading of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" directed by Julia Body.

A directing workshop led by Liz Hobbs was well attended with thirteen participants. The workshop took place over three days and covered script analysis, table work, working with actors, etc.

The Artistic Committee also continued another season of play reading evenings. This again saw new people in the theatre. We read a variety of genres. Due to the success of these evenings, we will be doing this again in the upcoming season beginning on October 29th.

The committee has assembled an exciting new season for 2025/26. We will begin with the musical "Into the Woods" to be directed by Daniel Hall. Rehearsals are underway with the large cast. The winter production will be directed by Laura Demulder and is a hilarious slapstick comedy called "Ripcord". This play was read in the play reading group last season with laughter all the way through. The spring production, our festival entry, is "The Book of Will" to be directed by Julia Body. This is a comedy/drama which we will be read by the play reading group in October.

The committee has written an explanation of how we choose the plays for the season which can be found on our website (<https://shuswaptheatre.com/choosing-plays>). There will be an acting workshop for beginners called "Acting Basics" on October 5th and 6th. We have already received a number of registrations. We are looking forward to another great year in the theatre.

Respectfully submitted: Julia Body, Laura Demulder, Kim MacMillan