

ARTISTIC COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – September 2019

The 2018/19 season was a successful one. We began the season with “Odd Jobs” written by Frank Moher and directed by guest director, Danielle Dunn-Morris. This three-hander drama provided a lot of laughs and heart. We saw some new faces to Shuswap Theatre in this production.

Our Christmas production was a co-production with Salmon Arm Secondary School. Santa’s Zombie Apocalypse was directed by Gloria Cox and was performed exclusively by high school students. It was a great experience for both the students and Shuswap Theatre members who were involved with the production. Both Mrs. Cox and Shuswap Theatre felt this was a rewarding collaboration. There is potential for another such collaboration in the future. This was a great way to introduce young people to Shuswap Theatre and make them feel welcome and comfortable in our theatre.

Our winter production was the drama “Trying” directed by Kim MacMillan. This was a two-hander. It was a great production with wonderful performances and an incredible set. It was very well received by our audiences.

Our spring production was “Lend Me A Tenor” directed by Julia Body. This production was our entry in the Okanagan Zone Festival that took place at Shuswap Theatre. It was very well received and won a number of awards at the final banquet including best director, best actor, best supporting actress. Eugene Leveque, set designer extraordinaire, mentored Loretta Shipmaker and Nikki Webber. This was an amazing experience and much was learned by these talented ladies. Scotty McLean from Powerhouse Theatre did a set painting workshop in conjunction with this play.

Our past season also resulted in a number of new members working on productions. We continue to look for opportunities for mentorship and involving young people in Shuswap Theatre Productions.

The 2019/20 season has been announced. We are very excited about our fall production of “Wizard of Oz” directed by James Fagan Tait. Casting was done in June with a remarkable 50+ people turning out to audition. The cast includes children, teens and adults. This production will run from the end of November into December, so there will not be a separate Christmas production. Frank Manning will be directing the winter production, “Red Plaid Shirt” and Julia Body will be directing the spring production, “The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble”.

We are currently planning our 2020/21 season.

Respectively submitted by Julia Body, Astrid Varnes, Gloria Cox, and Frank Manning