

## Artistic Committee Annual Report for 2013-14

The Artistic Committee moved forward this year taking our mandate to guide the artistic vision of Shuswap Theatre and educate our members on all things theatre seriously. We could not be more pleased with the success of the last season, seeing *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Distracted*, and the Ozone award winning *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* bring new people and energy into our theatre.

We were challenged in finding producers in recent years and so in coordination with the Board we split the job into two parts, administration and technical, which has eased the burden of this crucial job. We hope to continue this practice in the upcoming season.

Education is ever important for our theatre to grow and last January we held our second annual *Theatre 101* workshop that welcomed people of all ages and abilities to find out exactly what we do in theatre and how a production is put together. *Theatre 101* is planned for November 1<sup>st</sup> this season to encourage new recruits to participate in mainstage productions. Brought to our attention also was the need for a Directors' Workshop and we are now pleased to welcome Michael Armstrong on September 26 – 28. Registration is now open and spots are limited.

Our most important job on the Artistic Committee is to find directors and set the upcoming season of shows. In the last year we met every 2 weeks to accomplish this task and we have now completed it! We have listened to our members and this season we are excited to have a Christmas show back in the mix! The season is as follows: *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon, directed by Julia Body; *Bah Humbug!*, directed by Paul Kirkwood-Hackett; *Two by Two (2 one-acts by 2 directors)* *Jewel*, directed by Kate McKie and *My Narrator*, directed by Ann Skelhorne; and *Pack of Lies* by Hugh Whitemore, directed by Kim MacMillan.

The Artistic Committee is also interested in expanding what Shuswap Theatre has to offer and over the past year planning has begun for the first annual *Theatre on the Edge Festival* to take place summer 2015. This will be a multiday event full of small productions sure to blow your socks off!

The Artistic Committee is planning to undergo some restructuring in the forthcoming year to better serve our theatre's needs. This will be a project that will take us well into 2015. Aidan Sparks, who has served on the Artistic Committee for the last two years is leaving us; but, we are thrilled to have Ellen Gonella taking his place and joining our table. The approaching season is sure to be a great one and the Artistic Committee will work hard throughout the year to ensure its success. As always we welcome suggestions of any kind from our members.

Julia Body, James Bowlby, Althea Mongerson and Aidan Sparks