

ARTISTIC COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2025-26

The Artistic Committee meets regularly to put together a season of plays and workshops that will benefit our membership and entertain our patrons.

The 2025-2026 season began with the musical *Into the Woods* directed by Daniel Hall. We continue to sell out our shows when we present a musical and *Into the Woods* followed this trend.

In February, Laura Demulder directed the comedy, *Ripcord*. The cast included actors new to our theatre. This show was a resounding success with more sold-out houses.

The season wrapped up with our Okanagan Zone Festival entry of *The Book of Will* directed by Julia Body. Festival was in Oliver and a huge thank you to everyone involved in taking a large show so far for festival. The show had a successful run at our theatre and also received a number of awards in Oliver including: Best Director, Best Actor, Best Backstage Cooperation, Best Lighting Design, Runner-Up Production. Our own Susan and Kim MacMillan received The Ozzie Award in recognition of long-time service and contribution to community theatre in the Okanagan Zone.

Our Christmas show this year was a variety show including music, poetry and improv. Everyone involved had a great time and the audiences were very appreciative.

Our play reading evenings continued to be well attended and enjoyed by all involved. We will continue to meet on the last Wednesday of the month starting in September.

We are so excited for our 2026/27 season. We feel we have put together something for everyone. We start with *Fiddler on the Roof* directed by Daniel Hall. This is our 50th season anniversary and Shuswap Theatre performed *Fiddler on the Roof* in our first season in 1978 at the old JL Jackson school gym. It is exciting that one of the actors in our 2026 season was also in the original production. The winter production is an irreverent, fun take on Sherlock Holmes titled, *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson, Apt 2B* to be directed by Julia Body. Our spring show and festival entry will be *The Drowning Girls* to be directed by a first time director, Amanda Maygard. This is a dramatic play based on the true events of George Joseph Smith and the murders of his three wives.

We offered a workshop called, "Acting Basics" in October. We had a great turnout. We are offering a costume workshop to be given by Ellen Gonella, September 25th.

Kim MacMillan stepped down from the Artistic Committee and we would like to thank him for his time and tireless work on this committee. Amanda Maygard is the new member of this committee.

Submitted by: Julia Body, Laura Demulder and Amanda Maygard – Artistic Committee