

Okanagan Zone Report

This was a busy year for Shuswap Theatre and the Okanagan Zone as we were honoured to host this year's Drama Festival! We welcomed 3 theatre groups from May 19th through 23rd. The theme was "Small Stage, Big Drama." Each night featured a different theatre's production, followed by a coffee critique adjudication by Kathryn Shaw the next morning. There were productions from Shuswap Theatre, Asparagus Theatre, Powerhouse Theatre and South Okanagan Amateur Players. The festival came in under budget and even made a small profit! A huge thank you to the festival co-chairs Susan MacMillan and Laura Demulder, the department heads and everyone who stepped up to volunteer.

'The Virgin Trial' faired very well, winning 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. Congratulations to the whole cast and crew! Powerhouse Theatre won Best Production and represented the Okanagan at MainStage Festival in Fort St. John.

Our representative to Ozone is Amanda Maygard. There was good representation from Shuswap Theatre members at the meeting held during Ozone, with many taking on committee and board roles. The newly elected board consists of Carrie Shogan from South Okanagan Amateur Players as Chair, Nedine Scott from Shuswap Theatre as Vice Chair, Richard Kerton from Powerhouse Theatre as Treasurer and Cara Nunn from Powerhouse Theatre/Asparagus Theatre as Secretary. Ozone Festival 2026 will be in Oliver.

Goals that came out of the meeting include increasing membership, bringing back the pre-festival traveling adjudicator and finding ways to award the Ozzie and scholarships.

The next meeting will be October 18th, hosted by Powerhouse Theatre.

Submitted by Nedine Scott