

President's Report

I would like to thank the Artistic Committee for all the amazing work they have done this year. It is no easy feat putting a MainStage Season together, as well as making sure we are furthering the artistic vision of Shuswap Theatre; be that through workshops, community outreach, or new ways of engaging our membership and community. So thank you Julia Body, Laura Demulder, and Frank Manning (who has stepped down from the committee). We welcome Kim MacMillan to the AC, which is such a natural fit.

What an amazing season it was! 3 wonderfully diverse shows by 3 amazing female directors. That is something rare in the theatre world, and I am proud to see Shuswap Theatre a leader in that field. We started off with "The Secret Garden" and welcoming back director Liz Hobbs! This stunning musical was the perfect way to start off our season. I still find myself singing the songs. "The 39 Steps" directed by Julia Body had us laughing and rolling in our seats in the winter spot. We finished up the season with "Concord Floral" directed by Elizabeth Ann Skelhorne. How exciting it was to see so many wonderful young actors working as one ensemble on stage. I am excited to say that many of those young actors are now off at different schools, pursuing education in the Fine and Performing Arts.

"Concord Floral" was also our entry for Ozone Festival, taking place in Kelowna. The festival was a wonderful experience for all our cast and crew. It was disappointed to see so few entries, but those who were there put on memorable shows. To our delight, we won many awards! We received an Award of Merit to Meaghan Delaney, Best Lighting, Best Ensemble, Best Director and BEST PRODUCTION! I am so incredibly proud of this production, the entire cast and crew, and everyone who came out to support it. Unfortunately, we were unable to compete at the Mainstage Festival, but Powerhouse Theatre did an amazing job representing the Okanagan.

This summer saw both Theatre on the Edge and Musical Youth Summer Theatre making returns. Theatre on the Edge Festival brought in 7 diverse shows over one weekend in July, and it's always such a fun and exciting way to enjoy theatre in the summer. MYST students worked hard over three weeks, learning all about how theatre happens, ending with a wonderful production of "Matilda Jr." There is so much talent to be found in the young people in our community, and I am so glad we are here to help foster it.

A main focus for the Board has been 'Operation Facelift.' Thank you to each and every person, business and organization that has supported us through this project. With the amazing work of the committee, we were able to raise the funds needed to complete the project. However, we faced many unexpected challenges, and lengthy delays. An extra shout out to Craig Massey and Howard deLong on their tireless work, endless patience and extra hours that have made this project possible.

A continuing trend is how to increase and engage our volunteer base, especially in specific areas. Our Technical and Designer roles are always in need of those who are interested in learning and sharing their skills in these departments. We also always are looking for people interested in taking on more leadership based roles, as heads of departments, organizing events, or being a part of one of our many committees. You do not have to be a Board member to sit on a committee. We welcome all those who are interested in participating and giving their time to ensure that we can continue to provide live theatre for years to come.

I would like to extend the most enormous THANK YOU to our amazing Board members who gave their time, passion and expertise this past year. They always go above and beyond to make sure we can continue to bring live theatre to our community. Thank you to Howard deLong (vice president), Sherry Bowlby (treasurer), Mary Fabian (secretary), Heather Stefanek, Peter Molnar, Susan MacMillan, Laura Demulder, Meredith Rusk and Winston Lee-Hai. I also send a special thank you to Heather and Sherry, who will be stepping down after many years serving on the board.

Thank you. No matter how many times I say it, it never feels like enough. THANK YOU! We cannot wait to see what our 47th Season holds.

Nedine Scott

Shuswap Theatre Board of Directors