

## President's Report

Another year done, and what an amazing one it was! It feels like every year we are accomplishing more and more, and that has been reflected in the following reports from the fabulous group of volunteers who made it happen.

To begin, we would be nowhere without our amazing team of the Artistic Committee. They work hard all year to put together an unforgettable season, organize enriching workshops and bring those sparks of ideas to life. Thank you Kim MacMillan, Laura Demulder and Julia Body. You are a dream team!

Looking back on our MainStage season, we put on three wonderful and completely different productions. Starting off with "Treasure Island" we found ourselves at sea with Jim Hawkins, Long John Silver and pirates galore. This diverse cast spent hours learning stage combat, stage fighting and creating memorable characters. In the winter we took a trip to rural Saskatchewan and met the characters of the Richard's family. Audiences were rolling in the aisles for this Canadian play. Finally, "Outside Mullingar" had us falling in love and reaching for the tissues as we followed the story of Anthony and Rosemary. The thing that was a constant through all the productions was the welcoming of new actors and crew into the Shuswap Theatre family. Welcome!

"Outside Mullingar" was our entry into the Okanagan Zone Festival, which took place at Powerhouse Theatre (Vernon) this year. These wonderful hosts brought a week of exciting theatre to the North Okanagan and an experience that will not be easily forgotten by the cast and crew, and all those who attended. This cast and crew came together to prove the saying "the show must go on" after many bumps and unexpected surprises. After a beautiful performance, we were delighted to discover we won many awards! Congratulations to the Cast and Crew of "Outside Mullingar" on Runner Up for Best Performance, Best performance by an Actor in a Male Role to Oliver Becker, Best performance by an Actor in a Supporting Female Role to Eileen Podanowski, Best Set Decor to Laura Demulder and Wendy Hunter, Best Newcomer to Liz Willms and Backstage Cooperation! Ozones is never about the awards, It was an amazing week of wonderful shows, making new connections and building our skills as artists. It's not about the awards, but sharing a collective love for telling stories on the stage.

It was another busy summer with Theatre on the Edge (TotE) in it's new time in June and Musical Youth Summer Program (MYST) taking over the space for three weeks in July. TotE, which celebrated its 10th season, was presented in collaboration with the Salmon Arm Arts Centre. It brought in new, diverse voices with some local favourites. It was a fabulous festival and one that everyone needs to experience. MYST students were hard at work, learning all about how theatre happens, presenting an enchanting version of "Peter Pan jr" to full audiences! This talented bunch of young actors showed us why they are the future of theatre.

There is always something going on, outside of the MainStage productions. Laughing Gas Improv is still going strong and is always looking for new members. The addition of Play Reading Club has become one of the most fun evenings of the month. To hear a play spoken out loud, followed by deep discussion has allowed us to explore plays in a new way. I highly recommend checking it out. Our continued community involvement are always highlights, such as Trick or Treat Trail, Unplug and Play, Salmon Arm Pride Project, and the Salmon Arm

Fair Parade. However, participating in more and more takes a toll on our dedicated volunteer base. We are in need of people who are willing to jump in and take a lead with any of these events. This is a trend we are seeing across multiple departments. Our need for Producers, Stage Managers, and those in Technical and Designer roles is one that continues to be a struggle. 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), Winston Lee-Hai (Treasurer), Bridgid Hall (Secretary), Laura Demulder, Meredith Rusk, Susan MacMillan, Peter Molnar, Meaghan Delaney, Maggie Chafe. I also send a special thank you to Winston and Peter who are both stepping down from the Board. Peter, after many years serving on the board, and having served in many different capacities in that position, and Winston who brought many important and important changes to our financial reporting and how that reflects who we are as a society.

Thank you. No matter how many times I say it, it never feels like enough. I cannot wait to see what our 48th season brings and here's to what happens next!

Nedine Scott

Shuswap Theatre Board of Directors