

President's Report

As last season comes to its official end, it is a welcome reminder of all the amazing things we accomplished this past season. The following reports hit on just some of the many highlights and achievements from the past year, and reflect just how much we accomplish through the amazing work of our volunteers. I will let those reports speak for themselves and try not to stray too far.

Every season begins well before September, with our amazing Artistic Committee who work hard all year to put together an unforgettable season, organize workshops and coordinate other productions outside of the MainStage shows. Did you know you can find out more about the play selection process and how the AC works on our website? Be sure to check it out. It is very thorough and informative. Thank you Kim MacMillan, Laura Demulder and Julia Body. You are a dream team!

Our three MainStage productions this past season once again offered a wide variety of offerings and a little something for everyone to enjoy. "The Mousetrap" had audience members asking 'who did it' right till the very end. "Halfway There" had us breaking the winter blues through comedy and heartwarming friendships, and "the Virgin Trial" kept us on the edge of our seats. The things that stand out most to me from the past season was the high quality of each production, and how many new actors, crew and volunteers we welcomed into the Shuswap Theatre family. A huge congratulations to the cast and crew of "the Virgin Trial" on all their success at Ozone and bringing home 8 awards!

It was an honour to host the Okanagan Zone Drama Festival this year, and to welcome our theatre friends and new patrons to our theatre. Our new façade, fresh coat of paint in the lobby areas, and a massive tidy and cleaning brigade made our space shine. A massive thank you to the co-chairs Susan MacMillan and Laura Demulder for heading this mammoth event, to board members Bridgid Hall, Meredith Rusk, and Amanda Maygard, Kim Macmillan, and Leanne Brintnell for taking on the roles of department heads. Another thank you goes out to the many volunteers who stepped up to make sure the event was the success it was.

It was another busy summer with Theatre on the Edge (TotE) for the second time in June and Musical Youth Summer Program (MYST) taking over the space for three weeks in July. TotE, was presented in collaboration with the Salmon Arm Arts Centre, a relationship we continue to grow and strengthen. It has brought in new, diverse voices with some local favourites and a unique festival that more people need to experience. MYST students were hard at work, learning all about how theatre happens, presenting an electrifying production of "Beetlejuice jr" to appreciative audiences! These shows are not just for kids, they are productions that

everyone can enjoy. 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. We are always looking for more opportunities to be more engaged in our community and bring theatre to everyone.

One thing that you might notice in the reports is the same names over and over again. We love all our volunteers, no matter their commitment level, but we need more people to step up in leadership roles. Individuals who are willing to take on events, sit on committees or mentor. 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.

The unsung heroes of our organization, our Board, deserve the largest of thank you's. This group works tirelessly, taking on tasks big and small to ensure our organization runs effectively and efficiently. They always go above and beyond to make sure we can continue to bring live theatre to our community. Every year I continue to learn from each and every one of them, from the skills, knowledge and voice they bring to the table. THANK YOU to Howard Delong (vice-president and money finder extraordinaire), Bridgid Hall (Secretary), Matthew Bannister (Treasurer), Amanda Maygard, Meaghan Delaney, Maggie Ryan, Meredith Rusk, Laura Demulder and a special thank you to Susan MacMillan who is stepping down.

I cannot wait to see what our 49th season brings and thank you for another amazing year.

Nedine Scott

Shuswap Theatre Board of Directors