

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2021

Our 44th Season (20/21) was unlike any other as we faced the possibility of no theatre at all. Thanks to our adaptive Artistic Committee however, Shuswap Theatre was not left in the dark despite severe audience restrictions. From a technical perspective, productions brought fun challenges as we supported outdoor activities, online events, film and radio recordings, and even a full scale musical.

While things were often quiet this year, we took advantage of the time to clear some unwanted ductwork from the stage ceiling, leaving a little more room for lighting equipment, speakers and blacks.

Our sound department was kept busy recording and was able to acquire two new, much needed microphones to add to our modest collection. Continuing with our sound system updates from the year before, we have also purchased new speakers for both the front and rear of house.

Filming theatre has become "pivotal" this year. Early in the pandemic, our board foresaw the need for us to join a growing community of local artists with professional film equipment and editing skills. Thanks to our proactive funding committee, we were able to find the financial support to purchase a Blackmagic cinema 4k camera. Our core technicians/artists will be training on this equipment soon in the hopes that as we move forward we will be able to integrate video capture and streaming into our regular and extraordinary productions and find new ways to support theatre.

We were unable to host technical theatre workshops this year including the much loved Theatre 101, however there has been interest in creating a youtube series with brief introductory videos to create interest and familiarize potential volunteers with our theatre. With our new video equipment this may well be an upcoming project.

With safety as a priority, our department continues to look for ways it can improve, add support to productions and increase possibilities for innovation by our artists.

Learn how to run a show behind the scenes. Our Technical department is always looking for new members to join our team. If you are tech savvy, love problem solving, working on a team, and sitting around in the dark wearing black, we are the department for you! While some theatre experience is helpful it's not necessary to get started, we'll show you the ropes on the fly.

Email me at housetech@shuswaptheatre.com if you have any questions or would like to volunteer this season.

Elizabeth Ann Skelhorne
House Technical Director
Shuswap Theatre