

Technical Department - Annual Report	Submitted by: Ann Skelhorne housetech@shuswaptheatre.com theatreshuswap@gmail.com
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The Technical Department at Shuswap Theatre endeavours to support performances at the highest quality possible towards the society's mandate, "To enrich the lives of community and theatre members through diverse and inspiring live entertainment."

As always, each show this past year brought with it its own technical challenges for our small venue with some fabulous results and even a few Ozone awards. With safety as a priority, our department continues to look for ways it can improve and support productions, teach skills, nurture artists and increase possibilities for innovation and expression. In a smaller theatre like ours, it's important to retain the flexibility of the space while expanding the possibilities. Repairs, re-stocking, and maintenance are done as needed and we are always looking to increase our capacity.

Our Audio Department has had many updates over the past few years and continues to find ways to improve the audio experience at Shuswap Theatre, both for audiences and performers. While our venue is a much preferred intimate space for rentals, our current equipment is designed for and best suited to theatre performances, and smaller musicals, including the popular summer youth arts program MYST.

Our Lighting department continues to hold up with its classic equipment AND there is plenty of room for expansion in this department. While we eagerly look to the future of LEDs, it's important to remember what a great learning opportunity it is for new technicians to have our current lighting system. A hybridization of the two over the next few years will increase our flexibility of expression. Please consider donating directly to this needed update.

Projections and second screen media are increasingly being integrated into shows, in our own mainstage productions as well as MYST, TotE, and rentals. Our current projection set-up is adequate but there is much room for improvement as the technology continues to advance. For now our design team prefers to experiment with a variety of rental equipment until we know more about how we choose to use this technology to enhance storytelling within the art form in our space.

Last year's update to our control booth computer has allowed creative technicians to work swiftly with audio, projection, special fx, and even lights all in one.

Our set department does a fantastic job to build our shows, with materials often being donated by generous lumber supply yards or private members. We have a lot of great builders on our team and there's always room for more. Let us know if you'd like to join this team. Our sea can storage unit is at capacity and is kept in good order by our head of Scene Shop, Laura DeMulder. More storage would be ideal for retaining standard sized flats, risers, stairs and furniture.

Our Masking Draperies (Blacks) are in good supply, although ever aging. Blacks are cleaned and re-sprayed for flame retardation as needed as per fire code. As always, if you are working in the theatre while blacks are hung, be careful when handling these curtains and please **never** put tape on them. Curtains are hung and taken down by show production or building management only.

Alongside our dedicated team members, we had several new helpers in the booth and behind the curtain over the past year, including continued participation from youth, and some well deserved artistic wins at the Ozone festival. Education and Inclusivity are priorities in the theatre and within this department. If you see a Crew shirt you'll know who they are.

Our Technical department is always looking for new members to join "The Crew".

Technical Theatre is for you if... you like the idea of making theatre but don't always want to be on stage, you are tech savvy, love creative problem solving, are smooth under pressure, work well on a team, and enjoy sitting around in the dark wearing black and being part of the magic.

While some theatre experience is helpful it's not necessary to get started and you can learn at your own pace and capacity. In order to best support our productions, technical & crew volunteers are asked to make a dedicated time commitment as per the production's unique needs and in agreement with the producer. You may have transferable skills or could just be curious how the magic is made and a willingness to join in. If so, check out all our departments and shows on the website, be sure to sign up as a volunteer with one or more of our seasonal productions or contact me directly.

Thanks for another great year!