

Shuswap Theatre 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."

Technical theatre encompasses all areas of production from sets to costumes and props to the more commonly associated sound and lights. 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 had an exciting update to its equipment this year as we moved from an analog mixing board to a digital one. This has exponentially increased our ability to support our shows and expand our creative capacity. We hope you can hear the difference.

Our Lighting department continues to hold up with its classic equipment while knowing that it won't last forever. For many reasons, it is becoming increasingly important that we set our sights on adopting industry standard LED lighting fixtures. To do this, we plan to invest in new equipment in stages beginning with our general house wash which works the hardest on any given show. To help fund this costly venture, the "**Brighter Futures**" fundraising campaign has begun, we hope you will consider donating directly to this needed update.

Projections and second screen media were not featured heavily in designs this year, though visiting shows stunned audiences with their projection capabilities on better equipment. This may mean that our current projector is a limiting factor for our space and something we will be continuing to evaluate as a shifting priority.

Our set department does a fantastic job building our shows, with materials often being donated by generous lumber supply yards or private members. Our storage is at capacity and is kept in good order by our head of Scene Shop, Bob 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. This year we acquired a "runner" for our ceiling masking. Drapes 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 paint near them or put tape on them.

Alongside our dedicated returning members, we had several new helpers in the booth and behind the curtain again this year, including continued participation from youth, and some well deserved wins at the Ozone festival. Education and Inclusivity are priorities in the theatre and within this department and our hope is that anyone who is curious feels supported and safe to volunteer. 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". While some theatre experience is helpful it's not necessary to get started. 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.

Much like our performers, 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 sauce 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!