

Technical Department - Annual Report

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As always, each show this past year brought with it its own technical challenges for our small venue with some fabulous results. With safety as a priority, our department continues to look for ways it can improve, support productions, teach skills and increase possibilities for innovation and expression. In a smaller theatre like ours, it's important to retain the malleability of the space while expanding the possibilities.

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. Repairs and maintenance are done as needed and we are always looking to increase our capacity. This is and should continue to be a priority. Our venue is a much preferred intimate space for rentals and while our equipment is designed for and best suited to theatre performances, we can only support some musical performances. Upgrading our equipment would expand our ability to host more musical events, including better supporting MYST and our own musicals.

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.

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. With some thought to the needs and challenges of our space, carefully chosen new projection equipment would spice things up. In support of this, we are pleased to have recently been able to update our control booth computer which allows us to work swiftly with audio, projection and even lights all in one.

Our set department continues to do what they must to build our shows. Materials are often donated by generous lumber supply yards or private members. Salvage of materials after a show strike is encouraged but not always possible. Our sea can storage unit is bulging at the seams and keeping it safe and orderly is a perpetual task. More storage would be ideal for retaining standard sized flats, risers, stairs and furniture. We have many skilled volunteers in this department and are always on the lookout for more.

Our Masking Curtains (Blacks) are in good supply, although ever aging. Blacks are cleaned and re-flame retarded as needed and as per code. As always, be careful when handling these curtains when they are hung and **never** put tape on them. Curtains are hung and taken down by show production or building management only.

We had several new helpers in the booth and behind the curtain over the past year, including continued participation from youth. Education and Inclusivity are priorities.

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

Our Technical department is always looking for new members to join the crew. You may have transferable skills or could just be curious how the magic is made and a willingness to join in. If so, be sure to sign up as a volunteer with one or more of our seasonal productions. While some theatre experience is helpful it's not necessary to get started. 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.