

## House Technical Director - 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. We had yet another year of exciting, odds defying, creative designs on our stage this past year and look forward to all the next season will bring.

Our Sound 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. This is and should continue to be a priority. Our venue is a much preferred intimate space for musical rentals and our equipment is up to the task. Repairs are done as needed and we are always looking to increase our capacity.

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. We were thrilled to win Best Lighting Design at the OZone festival this year, Jim Clayton and yours truly for Concord Floral.

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. If you would like to learn how, be sure to attend **Theatre 101** this fall and 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.