



# CRANBROOK COMMUNITY THEATRE

Since 1964

## Acting Out

### Theatre Restoration Project Approved by Province

Board of Director meetings: April 27 & May 25	
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#### Shape of a Girl by Joan McLeod Postponed

Based on the new circuit breaker restrictions and the need to get numbers down to keep everyone healthy, safe, and hopefully back in the theatres soon, "The Shape of Girl" by Joan MacLeod will be postponed until the fall of 2021, and will become the premier production of our 2021/22 Season.

The cast and crew have been working on this show since January, meeting virtually, and following COVID-19 protocols when meeting in person from a safe distance.

We will be unveiling the amazing poster soon! Make sure to follow us on Facebook for the poster reveal. Stay tuned for more information and new show dates. In the meantime, stay calm and stay safe!

Cranbrook Community Theatre Society (CCT) is bursting with appreciation and pride since learning of their successful application for funding that will significantly improve the interior of the theatre they call 'home' on the upper level of the City-owned Studio Stage Door heritage building in Cranbrook. "We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. We feel so blessed to have been included in the group of award winners. All we can say is 'thank you', although mere words are not enough," expressed Peter Schalk, CCT President.

Out of the sixty-eight approved projects province-wide, two are in Cranbrook and only three were theatres. The work will commence this summer and be completed before year end. It involves total removal and replacement of the old lathe & plaster walls and ceilings, the flooring materials, and electrical wiring while preserving the heritage look with appropriate finishing features. New insulation will be added to further improve the energy efficiency of the iconic centu-

ry-old structure. The Theatre Proper Restoration Project will not only result in a more beautiful auditorium environment, but also improve sustainability of one of our City's most treasured heritage properties.

Schalk indicated that it has been a hard year for theatre and the arts in general, with many projects cancelled, theatre unwatchable, and that tears that have been shed over a community that has not been able to get together. "CCT members view the project's funding approval as encouragement that the future will be brighter. We look forward to once again working with the Province of BC and Heritage BC," added Schalk.

When asked what this means for community theatre, Jennifer Inglis, CCT's current Production Manager on their Board of Directors gave this reply, "This theatre is a well-loved and used space by CCT, the community, and visiting artists. The restoration means theatre, music, and the arts will continue with enthusiasm and optimism for many years to come." Heritage value of the Studio Stage Door building comes from its historical beginnings as a Masonic Temple and continues to enrich

the citizens of Cranbrook and wider East Kootenay area with its aesthetic, cultural and social contributions. It has been a vibrant part of downtown Cranbrook for decades with hundreds of community theatre productions, numerous community programs and private cele-

#### Trust Tech Grant Widens Door to the World

If you are an educator, performing artist or arts organization, by now you have dabbled or full-on embraced streaming video to reach your students or audience. A global pandemic has prompted many of us to become more innovative and reliant on digital applications, and the internet in general, to stay connected and do business.

Although Cranbrook Community Theatre Society (CCT) has always been about presenting live in-house theatre, they recognized the advantage of digital equipment and the game changer it could be for their theatre productions as well as other local and non-local user groups of the theatre venue in Cranbrook's Studio Stage Door heritage build-

*Continued page 2*

ing. The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) agreed and has awarded CCT with funding through the Non Profit Tech Grant. Funding will enable the purchase of technical equipment and accessories needed to improve sound, lighting design, and to stream their plays to viewers locally and around the world. Letters of support came from R.E.A.L.M. (Realize Empowerment Access Life to the Maximum), two local musical performing artists; Pretty for the People and Maddisun, and LOCALS, an organization that has presented local performing artists in the Stage Door venue for more than twenty-five years. CCT's Board of Directors has confirmed that the \$3000 donation received from LOCALS in 2020 will go towards the technical equipment project.

The timing of the approved funds fits perfectly with the recent announcement that the Stage Door Restoration project, funded by the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is going forward this year. "What amazing synchronicity; to have received funds to purchase the necessary sound and streaming equipment upgrades to complete our soon to be restored theatre and tech booth," expressed Marnée Bellavance, CCT's volunteer Technical Director.

Indeed, CCT Society members have much gratitude towards CBT, since it was their Covid Relief Program that inspired CCT's first attempt at live streaming a play six months ago when in-house audience numbers were reduced by Provincial Public Health Orders inside the eighty-three-seat theatre. Almost, *Maine* by John Cariani, directed by Michelle and Bob McCue, was successfully live streamed to more than two hundred in October 2020 thanks to CBT funding and CCT member, Jordan Nering of Artistic Media Productions. Viewers watched from the Canadian cities of Calgary, Vancouver, and Toronto, as well as Florida and Arizona in the United States, and across the world in Japan and Germany, demonstrating the ability to widen the door to world audiences.

Should the pandemic continue to restrict in-house seating, people will still be able



Volunteer Tech Director, Marnée Bellavance

to enjoy and support local arts, in the comfort of their own home regardless of where they live. Once the pandemic is behind us, the new technology will augment the venue's audience capacity and potentially grow audiences for all venue users, improving access to Cranbrook arts & culture.



**Own a Piece of Theatre History**

*A few theatre lights are still available for your home theatre or rec room decor. All are in working condition and able to be plugged in to a regular outlet.*

**\$25/Fresnel \$50/spot**

*or make an offer for a package deal. Includes safety cable and clamp.*

**Contact our Tech Director, Marnée**  
*volunteercranbrook@gmail.com for more information or call 250-426-2490 to express your interest.*

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**Quote for the day:**

*"Honest to God, this is the absolute best kind of moment. The auditorium lights are off except for ones over the stage, and we're all bright eyed and giggle-drunk. I fall a little bit in love with everyone."*

*Becky Albertalli, American Psychologist and author of Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*

**Abbott Family Donates Tickets to New Generation of Theatre Lovers**

Following in their father's generous footsteps the ABBOTT siblings, Louise, Greg, Becky, and her husband Bret, have donated their combined Patron theatre tickets to Mount Baker Secondary School drama students for the CCT core season.

MBSS Drama teacher, Mary Hamilton, will distribute the four tickets to each show to deserving students. The usual three shows in a core season has been hampered by the pandemic, but CCT will extend the ticket offering to next year's students.

