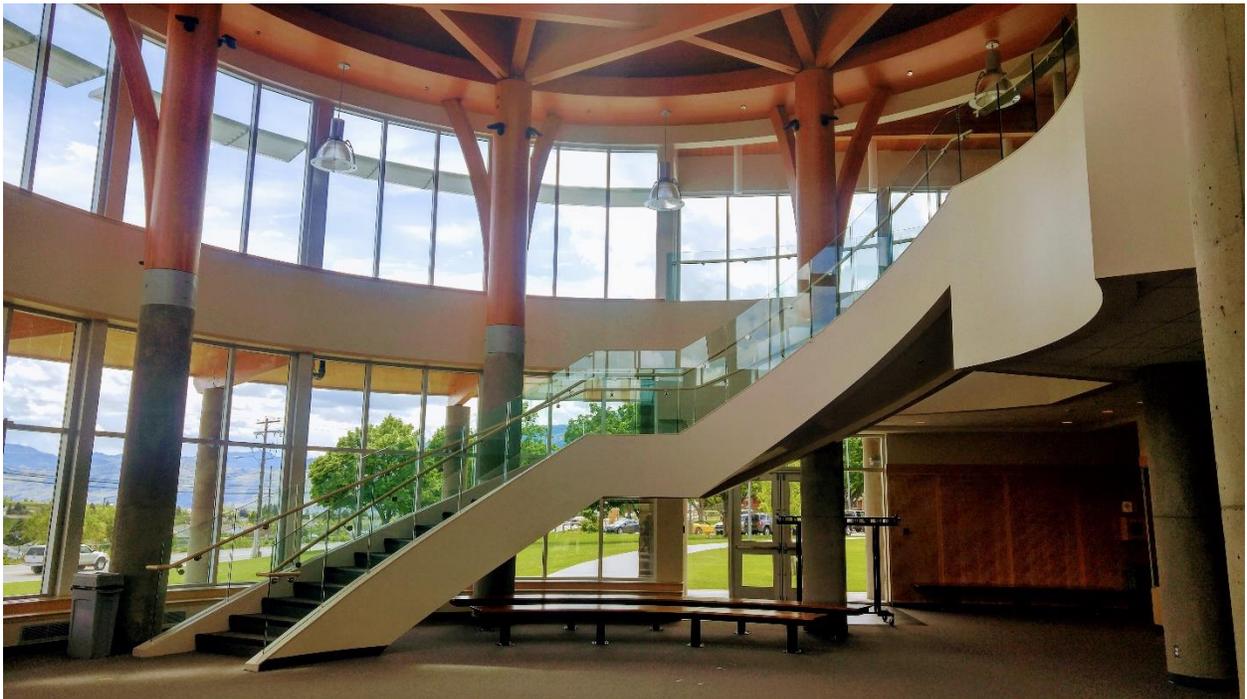


# OLIVER COMMUNITY THEATRE SOCIETY

2016/17 Annual Report



# Annual Report for Year

July 1, 2016 - June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

The year has seen many changes, challenges and successes for the Oliver Community Theatre Society. What is unchanged however is the delight in welcoming new performers and patrons to the theatre and to hear them express their amazement at the beauty of the building. For performers, the space and stage is inspiring, and it brings out the best they have to offer. They are eager to return. The patrons appreciate both the comfort of the building and the quality and variety of the performances.

This has been a year of solidifying our Society's organization along with the administrative procedures and policies. Though there have been changes at both staff and board level, the Society has continued to raise the profile of the Frank Venables Theatre as both a rental facility and a venue for the community. Patrons, both locally and from around the province, come for great entertainment or to host an event of their own.

## **Board, staff, volunteers and membership**

The AGM was held in October and Tom Szalay took over as President. Wendy Newman stayed on the board in the new position of Past President. Midge Wyse, Bob Park, Grant Strozuk and Andrea Furlan remained in their positions and the Society welcomed Jennifer Busmann and Brad Fossett as new members of the board. Gordon Hahn replaced Grant Strozuk in February 2017.

Deb Martin started as the Interim Theatre Coordinator in September. The responsibilities of this position include communication with all user groups for bookings and contracts, attendance at all performances and events, and liaising with the Board of Directors and School District on all aspects of managing the facility. Deb has a Bachelor of Music, a Certificate in Performing Arts Management and experience operating a small theatre in Vancouver. Deb was informed in June that her interim appointment would be confirmed as an ongoing manager position starting July 1.

Aimee Grice began work in August in the new position of Box Office Coordinator. The responsibilities of this position include customer service, publicity and promotions for both rentals and presentations and attending shows to sell tickets at the door. Aimee also takes care of the theatre website and social media sites, and does the volunteer recruitment and scheduling. The hours for this position were increased in January to 20 hours a week for box office sales plus attendance at shows.

Volunteer recruitment continues on an ongoing basis. We enjoy having a strong core of dedicated and experienced people working to keep our patrons safe and contributing to an enjoyable night at the theatre. Volunteers scan tickets, usher and work in the concession. A volunteer appreciation evening was held in December.

Society membership fees have been reduced to encourage membership and participation.

## **Marketing and Online Tickets**

The online ticketing program, TixHub, has been crucial to sales, allowing all customers the ability to purchase tickets online at their convenience. In addition, the box office has been open three days a week for five hours at a time to facilitate in person and over the phone sales for people not comfortable purchasing tickets online.

As of June, there were over 1,240 patron accounts in TixHub. The distribution for the Theatre’s email newsletter is over 1,150. Each new patron is asked if they would like to receive the newsletter and the response is mostly positive. The average online sales versus in-person or phone purchases varies by the demographics for the particular show, but is approximately 54% online and 46% in person or by phone.

The website, [venablestheatre.ca](http://venablestheatre.ca), is easily navigated and is kept updated to be informative, dynamic and attractive to viewers. In addition, there is a Frank Venables Theatre Facebook page, and an Instagram and Twitter account have recently been set up.

### Performances and stats

This year had 75 public events out of a total of 160 bookings, up from 60 in 2015-16. The audience count for the year came in at just over 14,500, an increase of 1,800 people over the previous year. In addition, there were hundreds of performers, volunteers, staff and technical crew making the shows happen.

Overall, we’ve experienced only a small increase in public use throughout the year. We had anticipated this, knowing that last spring’s intensive week-long theatre festival was not an annual event. Surprisingly there was also a slight decrease in SD53 bookings, despite their increased allocation for the year. This is partially due to the decreased theatre use by the SD music educators. SOSS’s “Last Minute” bookings were also down substantially this year due to the spring musical going on stage before spring break, shortening by a month their rehearsal time. Lobby bookings were up this year in part owing to the BC Children’s Hospital “Festival of Trees.” Also, a new rental rate for the lobby was introduced to encourage bookings for private, non-commercial recitals and receptions. We are pleased to note that there has been a healthy increase in out-of-town/commercial bookings from 3 and 4 the previous years to 7 bookings in 2016-17.

<b>Rental Category</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
SD 53 “Reserved”	34	39	<b>34</b>
Local users	19	36	<b>33</b>
Children and Youth	11	16	<b>18</b>
Commercial Renter	3	4	<b>7</b>
Lobby events and Tours	5	26	<b>34</b>
Community meetings	2	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Total public use</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>129</b>
SOSS “Last Minute” Rehearsal and class blocks	36	58	31
<b>Total blocks used</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>160</b>

This following chart indicates the number of performances this year by category and the average audience attendance. It does not include rehearsals, film screenings, parties or meetings.

<b>Average Audience size</b>	<b>Number of Performances</b>	<b>Average Attendance</b>
FVT Presentations	3	262
SD 53 - Students on stage	16	253
Children and Youth	11	207
Commercial/Out of Town	7	200
Local Users	16	190
Lobby performances – public	2	56

The “Live on Stage” illustrated list of our public activities this season is attached to this report.

### **Technical Equipment and other Acquisitions**

The need to acquire a synthetic Marley dance floor for dance events became urgent and one was purchased in June. A Marley floor provides a safe, non-slip surface for all genres of dance and protects the stage floor from damage caused by tap or point shoes. The Marley can also be put down if sets or gear are being used that might cause damage to stage floor. More lights were also purchased to start the collection needed for side lighting on the stage for dance and other performances.

In addition, the Society purchased the two condenser microphones needed to complete the hearing aid loop. The condenser microphones pick up acoustic instruments and the spoken voice, allowing for enhancement if needed, and the ability to put acoustic sound into the hearing aid loop. The hearing aid loop was installed last season to enable patrons using hearing aids to have sound broadcast directly to them.

A cover structure or “garage” was built by the SD53 staff in the backstage storage room to protect the Concert Society’s Yamaha piano and create additional storage above.

Another much-appreciated upgrade was installing additional light switches to allow the stage work lights to be operated from the control room. This resolves a deficiency in the initial building design.

### **Presentations**

Oliver Community Theatre Society presented three very different shows this season. Comedian Lorne Elliot was the first presentation in the fall. Ballet Kelowna returned in the winter to perform 150 Moves, a show featuring new works by Canadian choreographers and composers in honour of Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The spring show was Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada’s Phantom of the Opera, a co-presentation between the Company and the Society. The two ballet performances were tied together in a marketing package called “The Gift of Dance” to encourage advance sales.

### **Community Engagement and School Relations**

Local residents Marion Trimble and Sally Franks initiated a fundraising campaign following the passing of Agnes Sutherland, who was a well known and loved pianist, accompanist and teacher. Their goal was to purchase a baby grand piano for the Theatre lobby in memory of Agnes, with the intent of making the lobby available for small recitals and performances. The campaign was a huge success, raising over \$10,000 from more than 60 donors, and in December a Petroff piano was purchased from a family home on Fairview Drive. The Society is thrilled to have this beautiful piano, and the lobby has been the venue for a “Piano Welcome Party,” the Oliver Community Arts Council “Showcase of Young Performers”, two commercial rentals, and one private piano recital.

New this Christmas season was the hosting of the Children’s Hospital Festival of Trees in the lobby. Seven trees were decorated by local businesses, and visitors were encouraged to make a donation and vote on their favourite tree. The lobby was open for tree viewing many evenings during the festival.

At the request of the School District, the number of free reserved bookings was increased to accommodate the need for Professional Development sessions and other non-student related uses. The elementary schools use the Theatre for their musical rehearsals and shows. Tuc-el-Nuit works with

Missoula Children's Theatre to rehearse and present a show at the end of September and Oliver Elementary presents both a Christmas and Spring Musical.

SOSS presents a large-scale musical each year that requires many rehearsals. Students are involved in all aspects of the production, including the sound and lights. The Society was pleased to welcome a Grade 12 student on a career experience placement to learn how to use the sound and light boards. This student worked with the volunteer technicians for the school events the fall SOAP production and shadowed the Theatre technician for some commercial rentals.

### **Financial Management**

Financially, the Society has seen a significant gain in earned income, much of this is the result of healthy ticket sales to our presentations, a full-year of ticket service charges as well as an increase in commercial rentals. Overall operational, presentation and technical equipment costs have also increased leaving us with just over \$8,000 surplus for the year. This surplus, as has been noted in previous years, is to be held in a projected three month's operational reserve.

### **Looking Forward**

The Society Board of Directors has plans to bring in a consultant for some forward thinking strategic planning and development sessions this fall. In addition, recruitment of board members continues.

There is a wide range of rental bookings for the upcoming year with our "regulars," the South Okanagan Concert Society, South Okanagan Amateur Players and a host of other local groups and organizations. The Society has entered into agreements to present three events again this year. The first is the one-woman play "Jake's Gift" in October. Ballet Kelowna will return in February with "Elles, Extraordinary Dance Created by Women" and Flamenco Rosario will perform "La Monarca" in April. The BC Children's Hospital "Festival of the Trees" will be going ahead again this Christmas season and the Society is looking forward to participating in the Oliver "Light Up" festivities in November. The Presentation Committee is already planning and looking for shows to bring in in 2019 and beyond, with a special interest in continuing to present professional dance companies, and a desire to bring in quality entertainment for children.

The Society has requested a sub-lease from the Regional District of the Okanagan Similkameen as it is required for future grant applications and to apply for a liquor license from the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch. The intent is for the Society to take over almost all operations of the concession and have wine and beer available at most performances. A business plan for the concession is in process.

Report prepared by:

Tom Szalay, President, Board of Directors

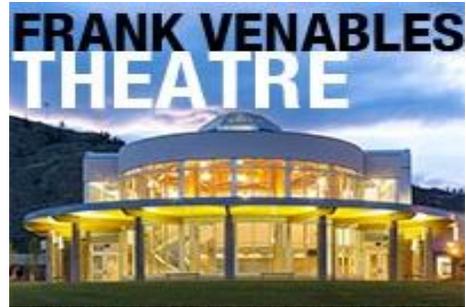
Wendy Newman, Past President

Deb Martin, Theatre Manager

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# LIVE ON STAGE

*List of Public Events  
2016/2017 Season  
Oliver Community Theatre  
Society*



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Saturday July 9th - 7:30 pm  
The Canadian Bluemoon Ventures Ltd presents  
**A Night with Elvis - If I Can Dream**

From 'Down Under'..... Australia's own MARK ANTHONY - one of the top 5 in the world!

Mark Anthony is internationally known and recognized by Elvis Presley Enterprises as one of the top Elvis Tribute Artist in the world, having won numerous awards and contests. Frequently traveling the globe, Mark performs at numerous events, festivals, and in his own production shows every year.

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The Oliver Ambassador Committee  
Invite you to attend the:

## **Oliver Ambassador Program**

Come join us for one or two evenings of presentations and ceremony, leading up to the coronation of Oliver's Ambassadors for the 2016-17 season.

**Speech & Personal Presentations**  
**Friday, August 19th, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Awards & Coronation Ceremony**  
**Saturday, August 20th, 6:30 p.m.**

Photo: Ambassadors Sumeet, Gavin & Ishika





Sunday September 25 - 7:30 pm

**Direct from Las Vegas!**

## **RAT PACK**

**FIRST CANADIAN TOUR**

Come join Frank, Dean and Sammy on their first ever Canadian tour. You may have seen the rest but you have never seen the best tribute direct from the Vegas strip. Relive the timeless songs laughs and gags, as the trio along with their live band and showgirls take you on a ride through the glitz, glamour, and songs of the golden era of music. In Frank's eternal battle cry... "Let's start the action!"

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Friday September 30th- 1pm & 7pm

**Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary School and Missoula Children's Theatre presents**

## **ALICE IN WONDERLAND**

Take a wondrous trip with Alice, the White Rabbit and a host of others as the Missoula Children's Theatre and more than 50 TUC-EL-NUIT elementary school students present ALICE IN WONDERLAND. This original musical production is part of the Missoula Children's Theatre's unique international touring project.



Friday October 7th - 7:30 pm

Presented by Global Village B&B for the MS Society

**Thrill on Blueberry Hill**

## **KENNY WAYNE**

**A Fats Domino Musical Tribute**

The Legendary Blues and Boogie Woogie piano master Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne is hailed by LIVING BLUES magazine as "an artist bringing the piano back to the front ranks of contemporary Blues."

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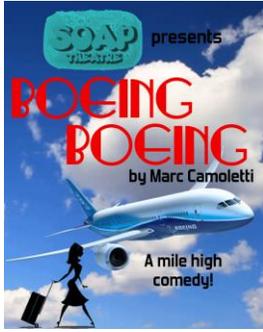
Saturday October 22nd - 7:30pm

**Frank Venables Theatre presents**

## **LORNE ELLIOTT COMEDY SHOW**

Canadian born LORNE ELLIOTT has performed from Newfoundland to New York City, from Los Angeles to Australia and points in between. Lorne started performing in 1974 as a folk musician in East Coast Canada. At the same time he kept writing fiction as well as songs, monologues and one-liners. The outcome of such a training is a very special show of comedy and music, totally original, entertaining, foolish and uplifting.





Thursday October 27 - Saturday October 29

**SOAP Theatre presents**  
**BOEING BOEING**

written by Marc Camoletti

Bernard has the perfect life, but he had better wind his watch and take a second look at those airline timetables, or else he may have some explaining to do to his fiancées. One man, three fiancées. What could possibly go wrong?

Thursday November 10- 7:30

**LOUISIANA HAYRIDE**

Fall Tour Spectacular

Join the incredibly talented cast of the Louisiana Hayride Show as they pay tribute to the iconic live radio program, The Louisiana Hayride.



Friday November 11  
SOCS presents

**QUARTANGO**

With Two Dancers

Classically trained musicians come together to explore their passion for tango on piano, violin, double bass and bandoneon. Accompanied by two tango dancers, Quartango has charmed audiences around the world.

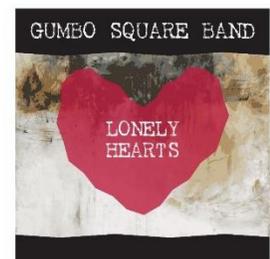
Tuesday November 15- 7pm

**Take 5 International presents**

**GUMBO SQUARE BAND**

**Lonely hearts Foundation Fundraiser**

The Gumbo Square Band consists of musicians who have come together from all over the world. The band has very generously agreed to perform their music for a fund raising event for the Lonely Hearts Foundation





Saturday November 19 - 7pm  
**Desert Valley Hospice Society Fundraiser**  
**CELEBRATION OF CARING  
HANDS**

Enjoy lovely wines from Maverick Estate Winery and delicious nibblies prepared by Medicis as you view the wide variety of items on the Silent Auction tables and the ever popular Bake Tables at the Desert Valley Hospice Society annual fundraiser event. The live auction of select items is always a highlight.

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Saturday November 26- 7pm  
**ROSÉ REVOLUTION**

Please contact the Oliver Osoyoos Wine Association for tickets and more information.



Saturday November 27 - 2:30pm  
**Oliver Community Arts Council and  
Frank Venables Theatre present**  
**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT**

Come and and join the community for this jolly event featuring many of your friends and neighbours! Quizzes, prizes & goodie bags. Soloists, choirs, dancers and more.

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Friday December 2 - 7:30  
**SERGEI & NIKOLAI SERATOVSKI**  
**Presented by South Okanagan Concert Society**

Acclaimed Russian-Canadian pianist, Dr. Sergei Saratovski has formed a dynamic four-hand piano duo with his younger brother, Nikolai Saratovski, an award-winning pianist from Moscow, Russia.





Sunday December 4 - 7:30  
Goodnight Gracie presents  
**KEN LAVIGNE CHRISTMAS**  
MUSICAL ROADSHOW

Audiences will enjoy traditional and modern Christmas tunes and so many favourites from Bing Crosby to Andrea Bocelli!

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Wednesday December 7 - 7:30

Medici's Gelateria and Coffee House presents  
**QUARTETTE**  
A Joyful Celebration

A unique blend of Christmas music with trademark harmonies in a show that is truly reverent. An evening with Quartette is always magical and oh so amazing. Come have one of those!



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**CHRISTMAS**  
**CHAOS**

Tuesday December 13 - 7:00  
Southern Okanagan Secondary School Drama  
Department presents  
**CHRISTMAS CHAOS**

A rousing kick-start to the holidays performed by our local high school drama students.

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Thursday December 15 - 6pm

Oliver Elementary School presents  
**THE LIGHTS OF JINGLE BELL HILL**

Join the children of Oliver Elementary School as they perform their yearly Christmas Concert under the direction of Lori Martine.



November 25 - January 4  
**FESTIVAL OF TREES**

5:30 - 8pm daily  
Frank Venables Theatre is delighted to be a host venue for the annual Festival of Trees. Enjoy some Christmas cheer and vote for your favourite tree. Voting is by donation to the BC Children's Hospital.

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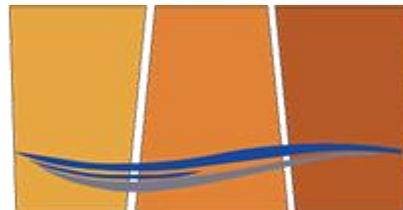
Friday January 20 - 8:00am

## **SOUTH OKANAGAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**Annual General Meeting**

8:00am to 8:30am - Coffee, muffins, registration

8:30am to 9:30am - Annual General Meeting



**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
South Okanagan**



Friday January 27 - 7:30

## **REMI BOLDUC JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

**Presented by the South Okanagan Concert Society**

The Remi Bolduc Jazz Ensemble will perform a tribute to Dave Brubeck. Bolduc is one of Canada's best jazz saxophonists. Breathtaking precision, magnetic stage presence and dazzling virtuosity, energy and spontaneity are his trademarks. He will tour with guest pianist Francois Bourassa.

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Friday & Saturday, February 3 & 4 - 7:30

## **DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER**

**Presented by SOAP Theatre**

It has been more than ten years since Bernard and Robert reunited in Paris. The times may have changed, but Bernard has not. When his plans to get Jaqueline out of the house for the weekend fall apart he is going to need help explaining the presence of his mistress.



Sunday February 12 - 7:00pm

## **BALLET KELOWNA'S 150 MOVES**

**Presented by Frank Venables Theatre**

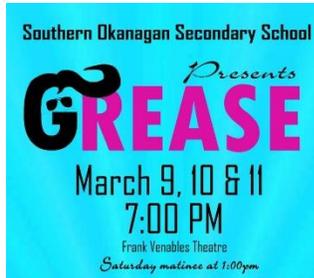
Ballet Kelowna celebrates Canada's 150th Anniversary with fresh and exciting classical and contemporary dance and music.

Friday February 24 - 7:30pm

## DUO CONCERTANTE

Presented by the South Okanagan Concert Society

Duo Concertante features Nancy Dahn on violin and Timothy Steeves on piano. Reviews refer to their "artistry, poetry and impeccable technique" and the excitement of "grace and fire... fury and repose".



Thursday March 9 & Friday March 10 - 7pm  
Saturday March 11 - 1pm & 7pm

## GREASE: THE MUSICAL

Presented by the Southern Okanagan Secondary School  
Drama Department

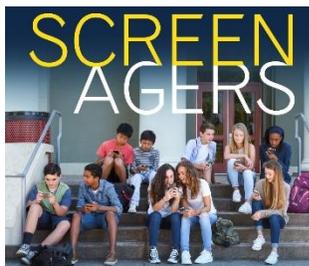
Come on out to see the students of the Southern Okanagan Secondary School drama department bring this fun musical to life!

Tuesday March 14 - 6:00pm

## AGE OF LOVE

A movie screening presented by  
Interior Savings Credit Union

A funny and touching documentary that follows the adventures of 30 seniors who sign up for a first-of-its-kind speed dating event exclusively for 70 to 90 year-olds.



Wednesday March 15 – 6:45

## SCREENAGERS

Growing up in the digital age  
Presented by Interior Savings

Through surprising insights from authors and brain scientists solutions emerge on how we can empower kids to best navigate the digital world.

Friday March 17 - 6:00pm

## 2nd ANNUAL COMPETITION SHOWCASE

Presented by The Dance Studio

A collection of routines performed by the studio's most dedicated dancers. In preparation for competition, the dancers will take the stage and showcase what the dance studio has to offer



Wednesday March 22 – 7:00

## ALL CANDIDATES FORUM

Hosted by the South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce

A lively evening of debate and dialogue with Incumbent, MLA Linda Larson of the BC Liberal Party and Colleen Ross of the BC NDP Party; candidates of the Boundary-Similkameen riding.

Wednesday March 29 – 7:00

## GOOD ROCKIN' TONIGHT

Piano and Song starring Rod Russell

If you grew up listening to the fantastic music of the 50s, 60s and 70s, you'll LOVE this show!



Sunday April 2 - 7:30pm

## SULTANS OF STRING

Presented by Medici's

Thrilling audiences with their genre-hopping passport of Celtic reels, flamenco, Gypsy-jazz, Arabic, Cuban, and South Asian rhythms, fiery violin dances with kinetic guitar, while bass and percussion lay down unstoppable grooves.

Wednesday April 19 &  
Thursday April 20 - 7:00

## DISNEY- THE MOVIES; THE MUSIC

Presented by the Oliver Elementary School Fine  
Arts Club

Come on out to see the students of the OES fine arts program share their talents on the stage under the direction of Lori Martine.

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Sunday April 23 - 2:30

## MY CANADA

Presented by the Sage Valley Voices and Oliver  
Elementary School Canadiana Chorus

Join us in a celebration of Canadian musical memories.  
The Sage Valley Voices and the Oliver Elementary

School Canadiana Chorus along with special guests will perform a selection of Canadian music. The choirs are under the direction of Lori Martine.

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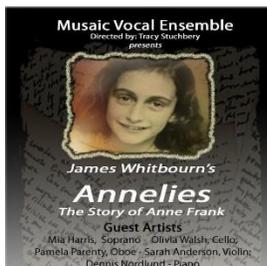
Tuesday April 25 - 7:30

## PHANTOM OF THE OPERA - THE BALLET

Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada

Inspired by Gaston Leroux's 1910 novel, Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada's PHANTOM OF THE OPERA is a captivating story which evokes timeless themes and images of outcasts, love, and the power of obsession.

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Friday April 28 - 7:30

## ANNELIES - THE STORY OF ANNE FRANK

Presented by Musaic Vocal Ensemble

Annelies is beautiful, it is emotional, it is sometimes frightening and often very intimate. The work straddles the achingly fine line between the horrors of the war and the hopeful and creative spirit of the young Anne.

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Wednesday May 3 – 7:00

## SHOWCASE OF TALENT

Youth Recital

Oliver Community Arts Council presents the talented youth of Oliver in the theatre lobby. See the Agnes Memorial piano in action!



Friday May 5 & Saturday May 6 – 7:30

## SINCE YOU LEFT US

Presented by SOAP Theatre

SOAP Theatre presents this hilariously dysfunctional comedy which is sure to have you rolling in the aisles.

Sunday May 28 – 1:30

## SPIRIT OF OLIVER AWARDS

Presented by the Town of Oliver

Join us as the Town of Oliver recognizes its outstanding volunteers.



Wednesday June 7 – 7:00

## A FOREVER FROZEN STORY

Presented by Tohu-Bohu Productions

Discover the whole new family show created by Tohu-Bohu Productions. Enjoy an amazing and interactive large-scale musical in the world of Hans Christian Andersen's fascinating tale.

Friday June 9 & Saturday June 10 – 6:30

## ME AGAINST THE MUSIC

Presented by Oasis Dance Studio

Year end show featuring the dancers of Oasis Dance Studio in Osoyoos.





Friday June 16 & Saturday June 17 – 6:00  
Sunday June 18 – 2:00

## **ARE WE THERE YET**

**Presented by The Dance Studio**

A Great Family show that will have you dancing in your seats!  
Dancers aged 2-adult showcase all the skills learned and mastered  
throughout the year with dance routines designed specifically for them!

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Saturday June 24 – 7:00

## **SONS OF THE PIONEERS**

**Presented by Old Rivers Western Productions**

A two-hour crowd pleaser. Enjoy cowboy classics with instrumentals  
and harmonies performed by top notch musicians.

