

VENABLES THEATRE

ENGAGE • PERFORM • ENJOY



Annual Report 2018-2019

Oliver Community Theatre Society

Report prepared by Leah Foreman – Theatre Manager, Tom Szalay – President,
Wendy Newman – Past President

Annual Report

July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

In five short years the Oliver Community Theatre Society has made great progress in achieving a high level of community engagement and acceptance. This year saw changes in many aspects of the Theatre from staffing and operations to attendance and ticketing. The Society continues to support our established users and drive forward new initiatives in order to continue the success of the Theatre.

Marketing and Ticket sales

Our new logo has been created with the help of a consultant. The logo has been added to all of the Theatre's marketing materials as well as to the wall in the lobby. This new look is another step towards solidifying our brand recognition and having a familiar symbol for our promotional material.

Our website and online presence have helped spread the word that our Theatre is the place to present and attend quality entertainment in the South Okanagan. This is being achieved by keeping all online content up to date and easy to navigate.

Ticket sales sold through the Theatre box office saw a massive increase this year. We sold 9906 tickets compared to 4717 last year. This increase was due partly to more sold out shows and to SOSS and The Dance Studio using our service for the first time. Both groups were extremely happy with the outcome and will be using it again in years to come. The rest of the increase was due to more ticketed events being presented at the Theatre and the success of the Venables Theatre presentation series.

Our e-mail list has grown by 800 addresses to 2,400 individuals. Our customer ticket account database list is now 3,100 accounts, which is 1,100 more ticket buyers than last year. The people that make up these accounts are 41% Oliver, 21% Osoyoos and 5% of other communities in the School District. There is also 14% from Penticton leaving 19% tourists and other regions.

There was a reduction negotiated in our cost of ticketing this past year, which will allow us to keep our ticketing fees to user groups at a competitive rate. User groups are inclined to use our local box office and not look elsewhere at large corporate ticket agencies.

Lobby Services

The Society was successful in applying for a Liquor Primary Licence. This licence will reduce costs of running the concession by avoiding the need to obtain individual event licenses and by allowing the Theatre to maintain a product inventory and take advantage of discount hospitality pricing. New procedures and reporting for concession usage have been established.

The concession was repainted and upgrades were made to help with Licence requirements and guest services. In connection with obtaining a liquor license, the Theatre now has a PST number for the collection and reporting of PST on liquor sales.

Performance and Stats

The theatre was in use for 165 days this year. 73 were public performances and the other days were private events, rehearsals and set-up. Close to 16,000 people attended these events.

Local user rentals jumped by 45%. More people are choosing to hold their events here as the area realizes the potential of the Theatre. The very successful Venables Theatre Presentation Series is also part of this increase. More usage from the local dance studios increased the number of Children and Youth performances.

Rental Category	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
SD 53 "Reserved"	34	39	34	31	33
Local users	19	36	33	38	55
Children and Youth	11	16	18	17	22
Commercial Renter	3	4	7	11	12
Lobby events, tours and meetings	5	26	34	29	28
SOSS "Last Minute" Rehearsal and class blocks	36	58	31	26	15
Total blocks used	110	182	160	153	165

There was a drop in the last-minute bookings from SOSS. This was due to the full school assemblies no longer being held in the theatre because of enforced fire occupancy limits.

Board, Staff, Volunteers and Membership

The board continues to be very active. Linda Nunes stepped forward to be on the board of directors. Andrea Furlan, Brad Fossett and Jennifer Busmann all departed at different points during the year. At year end, our board membership stands at six of a possible total of eight.

Deb Martin left as Theatre Manager in November and an extensive search to hire a replacement was launched. Leah Foreman was hired in April and is responsible for all aspects of operating the Theatre. Leah works closely with the board of directors in order to fulfill the goals and projects of the Society.

Aimee Grice continues to be a valuable member of the staff with the roles of box office coordinator, marketing, promotions and house management. There were two part-time Box Office assistants hired in order to assist the house manager on event nights. It was necessary to have two people in this position due to the very sporadic nature of the events and to ensure coverage for all shifts.

The Society continues to have a very active volunteer roster with a total of 25 volunteers. Volunteering at the Theatre is a sought-after role. The waitlist for volunteers is now two years as volunteer retention is at an all-time high.

Technical Equipment and other Acquisitions

We have added a few more essential pieces of equipment to the theatre. To our lighting equipment we have added four more lights and two more light stands with bases. To our communication equipment we have added three headsets for backstage communication.

Upgrades were made to the artist's dressing rooms. One restroom was converted into a shower and a communication system was put in place allowing two-way communication between the control room and the dressing room. Both local and touring performers appreciate these additions that help make their time in our theatre a more enjoyable experience.

The original seat numbers on the backs of the seats was deteriorating. New seat numbers were installed by Outreach Neon.

Financial Management

The year ended with a small financial surplus due to staff absences for part of the year as well as additional sponsorships, rentals and ticket sales. The Society feels that as the Theatre ages there are many upgrades and repairs that will be required. In order to assist with the payments of some of these upgrades the Society created a capital reserve fund. One of the projects identified for future consideration is replacement of the carpets.

Presentations by the Society

The 2018/19 presentations by the Society were a huge success. A total of seven shows were presented with an attendance of 1,500 people. Four of these shows were the Family Showtime Series where we saw a significant number of younger community members enjoying quality arts programming outside of school functions.

The Society was able to secure a grant from the BC Touring Council for a total of \$8,430. Sponsorship was also acquired from Coast Hotels, Tinhorn Creek Winery and Munday Media. This assisted in bringing in professional artists while still keeping our ticket prices reasonable.

Community Engagement and School Relations

This year the Venables Theatre housed a District wide arts festival which saw over 500 students from throughout the district performing on our stage. There was also a visual art gallery set-up in the lobby. Due to the success of this multi-disciplined show there are plans to make it an annual event.

Our Theatre was also used for a professional group called the Bohemian Ballet who performed for the students from Tucelnuit Elementary School.

The Theatre hosted a creative residency with Shay Kuebler Radical System Art from Vancouver. The group rehearsed their upcoming touring show and provided the community with a free performance. It also created opportunities for local artists, dancers and SOSS students to engage with professional contemporary dancers through classes and open rehearsals. During these open rehearsals local arts groups and SOSS students were invited to sketch, photograph and witness the creative process behind creating a professional dance piece.

Looking Forward

The upcoming year is set to be another very busy year. For example, while last year September saw no commercial rentals there are four bookings this coming September.

The Society's presentations for this coming season is expanding to ten individual shows. The family series will see Charlotte Diamond, Dufflebag Theatre, Samajam, Will's Jams and Uzume Taiko. The dance presentations are Red Sky Performance's *Trace*, Canada's Ballet Jorgen's *Anne of Green Gables the Ballet* and Hiromoto Ida's *A Birthday Present for Myself*. Also being presented is Mike Delamont's comedy show, *God is a Scottish Drag Queen* and Blues artist Angelique Francis.



List of the 2018-2019 Season Public Events Oliver Community Theatre Society

Thursdays from July 5 – Sep 20
SUMMER STRETCH SERIES



Drop in stretch class in the theatre lobby hosted by Doulandie

Friday July 6th & Saturday July 7
OKANAGAN GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Peacock Dance Productions and Dance Vibe Productions
dance competition



Friday July 13th
SIP STRETCH AND SAVOUR

A couples stretch class hosted by Doulandie, included wine and
Appetizers



Thursday August 2nd
VAN-ANG NGUYEN PIANO RECITAL

Piano recital in the theatre lobby



Friday August 10th
BEER BENDING & BACON

A couples stretch hosted by Doulandie with beer and
Appetizers



Friday August 17th & Saturday August 18th

OLIVER AMBASSADORS PAGEANT

Speeches, dresses and tiaras! Local and visiting ambassadors.



Saturday October 6th

NEARLY NEIL

Neal Diamond tribute presented by Sonic Flower Entertainment



Wednesday October 10th

ALL CANDIDATES FORUM

Local government candidates answer questions prior to election



Friday October 12th

MARC ATKINSON TRIO with CAMERON WILSON

Juno Award winning multi-instrumentalist/composer/
arranger/producer presented by the South Okanagan Concert Society



Saturday October 20th

ROD & THE MODS

Rod Stewart Tribute presented by Sonic Flower Entertainment



Friday October 26th

FRED PENNER

A Venables Theatre presentation, part of the Family ShowTime Series



Saturday October 27th
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

A full-length ballet performed by Ballet Kelowna,
presented by Venables Theatre



Sunday November 4th
THE CONTENDERS

Valdy and Gary Fjellgaard with special guests Blu and Kelly Hopkins



Tuesday November 13th
SOWK LIBERAL RIDING ASSOCIATION

Reception in the theatre lobby with Federal Liberal Candidate
Connie Denesiuk



Friday November 16th
DOUBLE DOUBLE DUO

Kornel Wolak (clarinet / piano) and Michael Bridge (accordions / piano)
Part of the South Okanagan Concert Society Series



Saturday November 17th
CELEBRATION OF CARING HANDS

Fundraiser for the Desert Valley Hospice Society in the theatre lobby



Sunday November 25th
HOLLY JOLLY OLIVER

A community Christmas concert hosted by the Oliver Community
Arts Council



Monday November 26th

BRETT KISSEL

An lively concert with the popular country artist presented by Invictus Entertainment



Wednesday November 29th and Thursday November 30th

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

A Tuc-el-Nuit elementary school production with Missoula Children's Theatre



December 7 – 9

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

A live radio play of the classic story presented by SOAP Theatre



Thursday December 13th

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

An evening of food and drink to celebrate the hard work of the Theatre's volunteers as well as volunteers from the community



Tuesday December 18th

O CHRISTMAS TEA

A Christmas comedy presented by James and Jamesy



Thursday December 20th

ONCE ON A HOUSETOP

Afternoon and evening performances of a fun Christmas musical by the fine arts students of Oliver Elementary School



Friday December 21st
CHRISTMAS CHAOS

The annual fun-filled Christmas variety show created and performed by students of Southern Okanagan Secondary School



Friday January 18th
NIGHT MOVES

A tribute to Bob Seger and CCR presented by OM Oliver Music & Entertainment and Sonic Flower Entertainment



Friday January 25th
ALEX ZERBE: THE PROFESSIONAL ZANIAC

A Venables Theatre presentation, part of the Family ShowTime Series



February 1-3, 8 & 9
BEYOND THERAPY

A comedy by Christopher Durang, presented by SOAP Theatre



Friday February 15th
DUO FORTIN-POIRIER

4 hands, one piano! Presented by the South Okanagan Concert Society



Friday March 1st
SLEEPING BEAUTY – DUFFLEBAG THEATRE

A Venables Theatre presentation. Part of the Family ShowTime Series



March 7 – 9
MAMMA MIA

A musical featuring the music of Abba! Presented by the Southern Okanagan Secondary School



Sunday March 17th
COMPETITIVE SHOWCASE

The dancers of The Dance Studio in Oliver perform for a local audience in preparation for competition



Friday March 29th
O-CELLI

What's better than one Cello? How about 8! Presented by the South Okanagan Concert Society



Tuesday April 2nd
SPIRIT OF OLIVER AWARDS

The announcement of the nominees for the annual volunteer Recognition awards



Thursday April 4th
GUIDED TO SAFETY

Michael Hingson shares his inspirational story of survival. Presented by the Valley Congregational Church



Friday April 5th
A NIGHT WITH THE KING

A one man multi-media tribute to Elvis presented by OM Oliver Music and Entertainment and Sonic Flower Entertainment



Saturday April 13th
RUBBERBANDance – VIC'S Mix

A Venables Theatre presentation of the acclaimed Montreal
Dance Troupe



Monday April 15th
LOUISIANA HAYRIDE

The 10th Anniversary of the popular country tribute show



Saturday April 20th
HIT AFTER HIT

George Canyon, Charlie Major and Doc Walker. Presented by
Invictus Entertainment



April 26 – 28, May 3 & 4
LAWRENCE AND HOLLOMAN

A comedy by Morris Paynch, presented by SOAP Theatre



Wednesday May 1st
SHOWCASE OF TALENT

Local youth perform in the theatre lobby, presented by the Oliver
Community Arts Council



May 7th and 8th
BROADWAY BEAT

A musical featuring popular hits from Broadway musicals performed
By the Oliver Elementary School fine arts club students



Friday May 10th
AXÉ CAPOEIRA

A Venables Theatre presentation. Part of the Family ShowTime Series. Brazilian music, acrobatics and dance!



Tuesday May 14th
PARKS CANADA INFO SESSION

A report on the recent survey in the theatre lobby



May 19th – May 24th
EPILOGOS CREATIVE RESIDENCY

Shay Kuebler Radical System Art takes over the Theatre in preparation for their upcoming tour with a free public performance on the 24th



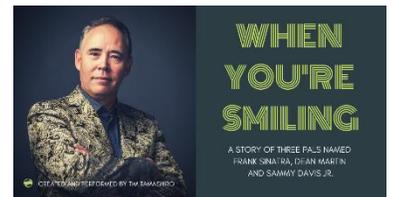
Saturday May 25th
THE BOSS

A tribute to Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band presented by OM Oliver Music & Entertainment and Sonic Flower Entertainment



Wednesday May 29th
WHEN YOU'RE SMILING

Frank. Dean. Sammy. Presented by CBC Radio's Tim Tamashiro



Sunday June 2nd
DEREK EDWARDS

The comedian brings the laughs to Venables with his show titled "Alls I'm Saying"



June 14th & 15th

DANCE THROUGH THE DECADE

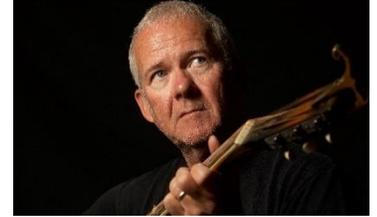
The year and performance for Dance Oasis Studios in Osoyoos



Tuesday June 18th

MURRAY MCLAUCHLAN

The Juno winning singer and song writer shares his folkly classics



Wednesday June 19th

BOHEMIA BALLET

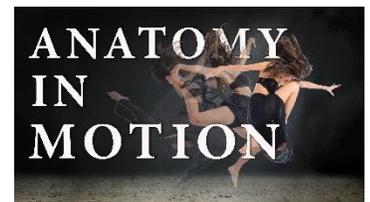
SD53 and Art Starts team up to bring this great show for the students of Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary



June 21 - 23

ANATOMY IN MOTION

The year-end performance for The Dance Studio in Oliver



Monday June 24th

SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY PRESENTATIONS

Students from Southern Okanagan Secondary School receive Scholarships and bursaries



Saturday June 29th

SIMPLY QUEEN

A tribute to Queen starring Rick Rock. Presented by OM Oliver Music and Entertainment and Sonic Flower Entertainment

