

Proposals for Planning Production Chair(s)

Season 2020-2021 Season 2021-2022

Elected term: AGM November, 2018 to June, 2022

(1) PRODUCTION CHAIR NOMINATION

Jon Scheer, Production Chair and Sylvia Hosie, Assistant Production Chair

Nominated by Colleen Maguire Seconded by Quinn MacTavish

Qualifications

Jon (active with the Victoria Theatre Guild since 2008) has an undergraduate degree in theatre and over 60 years experience on stage and off in Canada and the US as director, stage manager, and actor. Since moving to Victoria in 2006, Jon has been involved in 37 theatrical productions with eight different organizations, sixteen of which have been at Langham. He served four years as Langham Court's Treasurer plus an additional five years as bookkeeper giving him an insight into how artistic and financial decisions impact each other.

Sylvia has a degree in Education with a major in English, graduating from UVic with distinction. After 50 years in the professional theatre as performer, director, choreographer, adjudicator & producer, with 17 of those years establishing the Performing Arts Dept. at Claremont Senior Secondary, Sylvia was nominated as a 'Woman of Distinction' in The Fine & Performing Arts for both teaching & mentoring students. She began her career in 1961, as a teenager, on the Langham Court stage in the comedic & infamous British Music Hall Summer Review, The Smile Show. She is very happy to spend part of her retirement back at Langham Court Theatre.

Sylvia has played at least 50 characters in her career and has been responsible for well over 150 productions either as director, choreographer, performer or mentor. Her adventures in theatre have taken her east across Canada, south to New York state & other American destinations, & north to Siberia, Finland & the USSR. Sylvia has served for three years as Member-at-Large on Langham's Board in addition to serving on the boards of The Greater Victoria Music Festival and the Four Seasons Musical Theatre.

Vision

Jon and Sylvia believe that Langham's long history gives it a unique position in Canadian community theatre. The 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Seasons will be Langham's 92nd and 93rd and a wonderful opportunity to do something special to celebrate some of the best of Langham's past while looking towards the 100th season. They envision a season which mixes remounts of some very successful previous productions along with plays never before produced at Langham. Potential titles from our past drawn from our second and third decades might include Present Laughter, The Women, The Miracle Worker, and Critic's Choice. Shows never before produced at Langham might include such titles as Jerusalem, The Humans, Where's Charley, and Wind in the Willows.

Jon and Sylvia also look at this three-year Production Chair term as an opportunity to consider innovations to Langham's seasons in order to support the continuing evolution of Langham as a current and vibrant part of Victoria's theatre community. While continuing to develop a six play

season, they want to consider the pros and cons of changing the theatre's calendar. This could mean the shift of the sixth play to a late June start or even into July. This schedule would allow additional time in between productions, appeal to a "tourist" audience with the last show of the season coming more into the summer, and leave room for the possibility of shifting openings to avoid conflicts with other theatre groups. It might provide additional time to offer holdovers without a dramatic impact on our subsequent productions. This idea has been mentioned in the past but still holds potential for further discussion. Given the success of Boeing Boeing in the summer of 2014, the right summer show has huge audience potential. There is very little evening entertainment in the region during the summer months, other than the Shakespeare shows, and Victoria gets thousands of tourists to draw on. (The Smile Show, that happened at Langham in the 1960's and 70's and Capital Comedy that happened at the MacPherson in the 1980's, were very successful because of tourists.) Another possibility might be switching to a five play winter season and a light very amusing summer production. Yes, it would mean rearranging summer events, but we don't need to do things the way we do them just because that's the way we've been doing it!

Jon and Sylvia recognize the importance of the various workshops which have been produced at Langham over the most recent couple of seasons. They will support their continuation as one way to fill the need to develop new skills among our membership that will be needed to maintain the high level of quality performances Victoria has come to expect from us.

Play Selection Process

While the titles already mentioned could be a starting point for developing the full seasons, selection would not be solely the choice of the Chairs. The goal will be to create two balanced seasons that will be welcomed by our current audience while having potential to attract new patrons. There should be a blend of quality comedy, drama, mystery and musicals representing older titles and newer plays never before performed at Langham or even the Victoria area. Cast size and composition will be considered to provide a range of opportunities in number, sex, and age as reflected specifically by our membership and the Victoria performing community. Ultimately, the goal will be to create two quality seasons that aim to appeal to our audiences in expectation of selling 70% or more of the available seats.

Suggestions from the membership will be solicited to be reviewed by a play selection committee that would be composed of directors, actors, past production chairs, designers, technicians, builders, and audience members. Those interested in being part of this committee will be asked to suggest a play for possible inclusion and to draft a brief proposal for how their play reflects the broader goals of audience appeal and cast composition.

Another possible step in the process will be to solicit the input of our audience members, especially our subscribers. This idea would give them the opportunity to select an "Audience's Choice" play to be included in each season - thereby giving them a stronger sense of investment in the season and in Langham.

We believe these proposals offer potential for growth and innovation, a further celebration of Langham as we continue the countdown to the 100th Anniversary of Langham Court Theatre in 2029.

(2) PRODUCTION CHAIR NOMINATION

CHAD LAIDLAW

Nominators: Alan Penty, Roger Carr

Qualifications: I'm a Life Member of Langham, have served four terms on the board, served on the reading committee for three seasons, have a very broad experience in producing shows at Langham, worked directly with our patrons as Box Office Manager, have broad experience with Victoria artists and audience as a Front of House / Technician for Fringe Festival, critical experience with Showbill and Culture Vulture, marketing and production experience with co-founding hapax theatre.

Vision: Langham is a wonderful institution that I would love to see continue to grow, both within the membership and "internal" community, and as part of the broader theatre community. To me, that means encouraging people to come in and fall in love with the place, and the passion for the work we do. At the same time, it means challenging ourselves, and embracing a "good enough is not good enough" philosophy behind our productions, to constantly improve ourselves as artists and community members. My seasons would embrace the rich history we have as a community producing classic theatre, while finding newer works fitting with our membership and patrons that give us an opportunity to stretch our muscles as an organization and produce community theatre that is a cut above the rest.