

Board of Directors

boardpresident@langhamtheatre.ca

President: Vacant

Vice-President: Anton Brakhage*

Secretary: Dawn Schell

Treasurer: Bill Huzar

Members-at-Large 2020:

David Elendune*

Members-at-Large to 2021:

Don Keith and Rosemary Jeffrey

Past President: Toshik Bukowieki

*term ends November 2020

Production Chair 2020/22

Jon Scheer (Sylvia Hosie, Asst. Prod. Chair)

Langham Court News is published 11 times a year. **Deadline for submissions is the 22nd day of the month preceding the month of publication.** Send submissions to Kathy Macovichuk at newseditor@langhamtheatre.ca

For newsletter address changes or deletions, send them to the General Manager at gm@langhamtheatre.ca

Box Office and Administration

250-384-2142

boxoffice@langhamtheatre.ca

Costume Loft Rentals and Donations

250-384-2025

costumeloft@langhamtheatre.ca

General Inquiries

gm@langhamtheatre.ca

Membership

membership@langhamtheatre.ca

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props@langhamtheatre.ca

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Introducing Langham's TMO

Colleen Blunt, nee Maguire (she/her, they/them) is a queer theatre professional who was born and raised by a colonial family on Lekwungen territory. Colleen has recently taken on the newly created position of Transitional Manager of Operations (TMO) at Langham Court Theatre. The duties of this position include many of those assigned to the General Manager (GM) role, such as operations management as well as facilitating the transitional opportunities Langham has undertaken during the current pandemic.

You may know Colleen as the Manager of The Costume Loft, or as a volunteer costume designer and actor. Working with the HR Committee and Board

of Directors, Colleen chose the title of TMO based on the fact they do not intend to hold onto this position of community leadership and influence. Part of Colleen's personal antiracist work is to give up positions of power to those who are too often overlooked in Victoria, namely IBPOC persons. During her contracted time with

Langham, their intention is to ensure it is a safe position to offer to the greater community. She is honoured and privileged to be able to do this work at this time and is thankful for the unique position they hold within Langham's community. "In every crisis there is an opportunity, and it is ours to decide how we embrace that change".



Langham AGM Info

At the Annual General Meeting scheduled for November 8, 2020, the following positions need to be filled by election: **President, Vice President** and two **Members-at-Large**.

In addition, due to the Treasurer's desire to stand down one year early in his term, the position shall be filled by election at the General Meeting or by appointment by the Board should the position remain vacant.

The Society Bylaws outline the duties of the members of the Board.

The **President** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Society and is responsible for supervising the other directors in the execution of their duties. They serve as Chair at Board meetings, presides at general meetings of the Society, an ex officio member of all committees of the Society, a signing officer of the Society, and normally remains on the Board as immediate Past President during the term, or consecutive terms, of the individual who succeeds them as President.

The **Vice-President** assists the President, assumes the duties and powers of the President during the President's absence, and is a signing officer of the Society.

Each **Member-at-Large** is responsible for chairing one of the regular or optional standing committees of the Society; and is responsible for such duties as are

Continued on Page 2...

COVID-19's Impact on Theatre

Submitted by Ariel Glidden

In these strange and stressful times, it can feel like we have lost so much of how life was. We can feel like we are alone in our struggles. We are not alone. Everyone feels lonely and sad for the way of life lost in times of quarantine, especially in the theatre community. Here's what some other local theatre companies have been doing since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Up island, the **Chemainus Theatre Festival** normally produces six main-stage shows and a Kidzplay in the summer, which were cancelled back in March. Like many theatre companies, a Crisis Relief Fund was established to support the theatre through the financial difficulties the Corona virus has brought on.



In Vancouver, **Bard on the Beach** would have been wrapping up their 31st season of Shakespeare. After cancelling this year's performances, they announced that their season line-up is intended to grace their stages next year. They also uploaded videos on their websites about theatre to keep connected to their community.



The **Belfry Theatre** is another company who has embraced the digital medium for creative production. Many video and online events, such as play readings, are scheduled for the fall.



For both the **Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival** and the **Victoria Operatic Society**, 2020 marked anniversaries, 30 and 75 years respectively. Both companies announced their celebrations would be postponed till next year.



In Fernwood, **Theatre Inconnu's** season started strong, with their well-attended first show closing just prior to the quarantine. Two of their past productions, *Peace Dancer* and *One-Man Hamlet*, have been uploaded onto their website for public enjoyment since the season couldn't happen as planned.



Theatre SKAM's outdoor SKAMpede Festival went ahead in July with a few new regulations in place to limit exposures. The number of tours were limited each day and tour bookings were required. Their theatre school has also opened for business with safety procedures in place according to the official guidelines.



Another company making outdoor theatre is **Kaleidoscope Theatre for Young People**. At the end of August through to the beginning of September, *Gruff*, a retelling of "The Billy Goat's Gruff", travelled to different parks around town.

Just like all of these companies, **Langham Court** must figure out how to move forward and, though we cannot make theatre together right now, we can create, share and learn in other ways. We can, and will, get through this time by staying connected while being apart.

Langham AGM Info

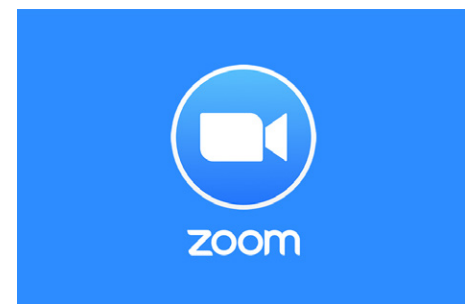
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assigned to them by the Board, with their consent.

The regular or optional standing committees are **Education Committee**, the **Finance and Fund Development Committee**, the **Membership and Volunteers Committee**, the **Human Resources Committee**, the **Strategic Planning Committee**, the **Play Selection Committee**, an **Archives Committee**, a **Constitution and Bylaws Committee**, and a **Publicity Committee**.

The **Treasurer** is directly responsible to the Board for administering the financial affairs of the Society, is responsible for the maintenance of proper accounting records in respect of all financial and other transactions of the Society, for the collection of all monies payable to the Society, for the banking of the Society's funds, for the payment of the Society's accounts, for rendering financial statements and other financial information to the Society or the Board, as required, and for the preparation of the Society's financial records for its annual examination.

In addition, they may, as the Treasurer deems appropriate, delegate the specific performance of the duties, as outlined to the Manager, but the Treasurer remains ultimately responsible for the execution of those duties. The Treasurer is ex officio a member (normally the Chair) of the Finance and Fund Development Committee, and is a signing officer of the Society.

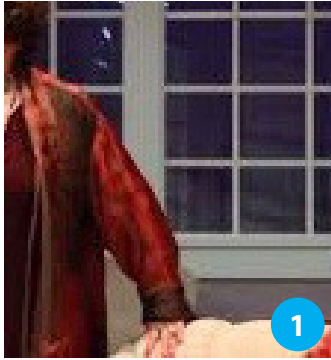


The AGM will be held on Sunday, November 8 at 2 p.m., via ZOOM. The address will be available closer to the meeting.

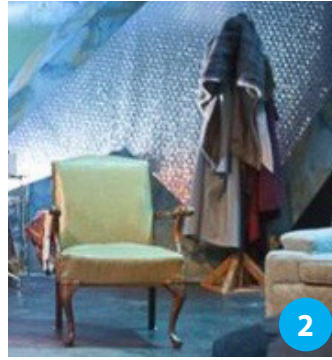
Can you guess which Langham production these photo snippets came from?

Test Your Knowledge

Answers can be found on Page 5.



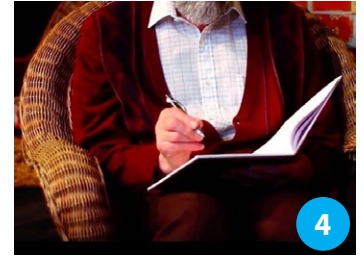
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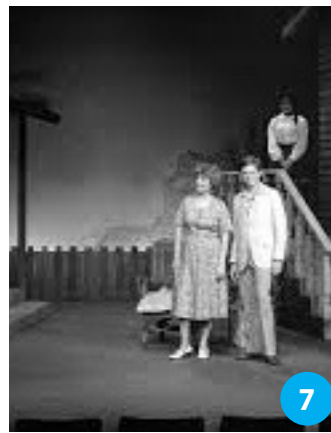
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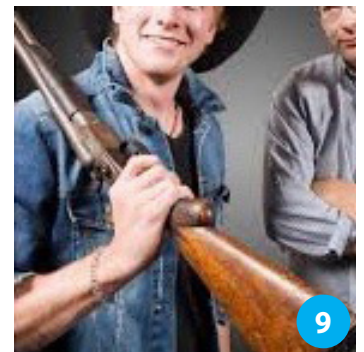
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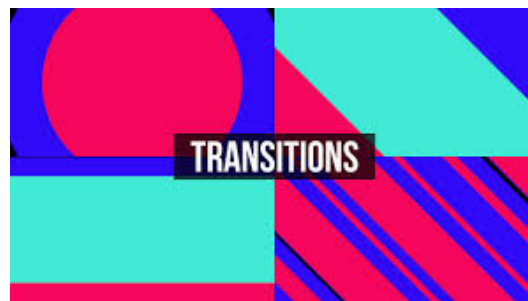
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Transition Committee is Up and Running

Submitted for Dawn Schell

The purpose of this committee (from our draft Terms of Reference) is as follows:

- Advise the Board of Directors (BOD) how to use our resources (building and expertise) to build or strengthen connections to the community. In the immediate short term with COVID-19, this means outreach to networks that need support that we can provide. In the longer term, this will mean helping build the relationships for these connections to continue.
- Review Mission, Vision, Mandate, and Values draft statements provided by the board.
- This committee will review how we have, by action or omission, kept those



wishing to create theatre here from doing so. These will include (but are not limited to) volunteer intake, volunteer support and orientation, and how productions roles are filled.

- This committee will review instances where we've deviated from our stated values, and provide recommendations

on how to make improvements going forward. The BOD recognizes that these will include setting new procedures and norms at the theatre, and therefore will require long term and deliberate work by everyone involved.

We are open to revising these documents, renaming the committee/working group, adding members, hosting workshops, learning about new resources/approaches. In short, we are open to ideas to make this transition process work.

The date of the first meeting is Sunday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Please contact Dawn Schell if you're interested in joining (dmschell@protonmail.com).

Report on Langham's Facilitated Townhall Session

Submitted by Colleen Blunt

On September 26, 2020, the Board of Directors hosted a facilitated townhall session online through Zoom. The discussion was led by Ella Stolk-Iachetti and Cam Tipping as facilitators and was moderated by Colleen Blunt, our Transitional Manager of Operations. The session was attended by over 50 people including current Langham members and volunteers as well as those from our greater community.

Four categories were identified by the facilitators as jumping off points of discussion. Those categories are:

- **Own up:** For which mistakes should Langham take responsibility publicly?
- **Clean up:** What systems are in place that harm our community members? When do people feel unsafe at Langham? How do we ensure the play selection and audition process is an equitable one? Do we need more accountability from our Board members, production chairs, staff members, and volunteers in positions of power? What systems no longer serve Langham or the surrounding arts community?
- **Why:** Why are the answers to these questions important to us? Why does Langham need to change, and why now?
- **How:** What are the answers to these questions? How do we enact these ideas into lasting change?

We have summarized the opinions expressed in this session in order to inform our membership who couldn't attend, and would like to share that summary here. Please be aware these summarized statements are not necessarily a representation of Langham or Board opinion and were instead shared by our community at large.

- We talk a lot about the rich storied history that Langham has and while this is a wonderful place, it's a place with a lot of problems
- It is time for bold, swift action
- Langham has a wider reputation for being a closed shop – that's been going on for a long time

- We can reimagine Langham Court Theatre – we need a greater definition of what that means
- Keep the many volunteers who love and cherish this community
- Many members do not know what makes Langham "unsafe"
- We have to acknowledge the harms of our past, specifically the anti-black racism that has happened at Langham
- We need to open our doors to be more diverse
- We need to consult BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) folks on how we are having that conversation. Everything ties into it – it's not just as simple as having a play that has Black roles. It is cyclical and systemic.
- Langham Court Theatre Society's lack of acknowledgement of past harms is the antithesis to the value of integrity
- There are so many limitations at Langham that limit people's involvement – not friendly for folks with disability
- Lots of BIPOC are not included right now, and that is because the space is already not safe for marginalized people
- Constantly have to be asking "who is not in the room?" if we are going to be relevant
- Impression of what Langham represents does not align with the morals of many of the people we are trying to get involved or that of current membership
- It's a rather large clique and that's what our appeal was in "White English" theatre – this must change to keep up with what our community needs and wants

- Opportunities for youth are a necessity, we should actually advocate for youth; theatre is a safe space and it's a lifeline for lots of kids
- Marginalized communities deserve a place to have an active role in their art, and to choose their art; we can seek out those people and those stories to be a part of Langham
- Have we looked at how people identify themselves who work here, who watch shows?
- We need to rethink our model of community theatre and rethink our structure from the ground-up
- Actively pursue board members that reflect our wider community – age, race, gender, culture, etc.
- Reach out to organizations whose members are new to Victoria
- Have BIPOC folks in leadership
- Blind casting whenever possible
- Call for drastic change – current board resign and complete name change
- Cut Langham's season down to three or four shows, allowing room for more shows from outside communities
- Further pursue grants and other forms of funding to offset a reduced season
- Host workshops to educate our membership about antiracism work
- We can rely on strengths while going in a different and new direction
- This is a time to not just pause what we're doing but to stop what we're doing to reimagine what this theatre can and should be

Working with the Transition Committee, the Board of Directors looks forward to incorporating the views and opinions expressed during the Facilitated Session into the ongoing work of ensuring Langham is a welcoming community arts hub. We welcome additional perspectives, so please do not hesitate to reach out. Email your ideas to comms@langhamtheatre.ca.

Town Hall Meeting



Good Times on the Langham Stairs!

Submitted by Wendy Merk

On October 4, Theatre Carpe Diem did an outdoor reading of my new play *Fantasy and Reality*, for a small but very appreciative audience. It was a gorgeous sunny day and the actors looked very picturesque arranged on the Langham Court Theatre stairway. Participants were (left to right, top to bottom row) Kevin Stinson, David Conway, Penny Costen Pitcher, Pippa Catling, Lisa Gould, and Gloria Snider.

Thanks to Colleen Blunt for making this event possible!



Theatre Inconnu Celebrates

Submitted by Clayton Jevne

In case you had not heard, Theatre Inconnu's production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* won two Victoria Critic's Awards:

Best Director: Kate Rubin | Best Actor: Finn Kelly

We are so excited for this recognition of the hard work and dedication that went into this production. It was a short season, but significant!

We also thank YOU for coming out to support this show, and all the others.

We hope to see you soon!



Linda MacNaughton and Wendy Henderson taking the opportunity to cull our massive collection.

PHOTO QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Rope
2. The Girl in the Goldfish Bowl
3. Calendar Girls
4. Proof
5. The Memory of Water
6. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead
7. Picnic
8. Blithe Spirit
9. The Melville Boys

What's on the Community Theatre Radar

Submitted by Merry Hallsor

St. Luke's Players has been hosting Picnics in the Park throughout the summer – maximum 16 people, social distancing. We bring our own chairs and picnic lunch, and play theatre games. It's been great to get together. Thanks to Janine Longy and Heather Lee for organizing these events. SLP also organized four readings of panto scripts on Zoom, with some characters complete with homemade costumes!

LOST (Lawyers on the Stage Theatre) are planning three play readings this fall. They are renting St. Luke's Church Hall and using all the COVID-19 protocols. So far, there are a maximum of 20 people participating.

The Nanaimo Theatre Group is mounting a one-man show in October with 17 performances. They have worked diligently to prepare The Bailey Studio to allow this to happen. All seats will be sold in advance. There will be no intermission and no use of the lounge and/or bar. The show is double cast and double crewed, so the teams will alternate shows.

Canadian Play Thing has hosted many play readings using Zoom over the summer. Hosted by Janet Munsil, this has been most successful and interesting. Emerging playwrights from across the country have had their works read.

