



THEATRE AURORA

Annual General Meeting Productions Report

June 21, 2021

Having been appointed to this position in the throes of the pandemic, there has been relatively little activity when it comes to my portfolio.

PRODUCTIONS:

During my tenure, we have seen the cancellation of an entire regular season. While this was unfortunate, there was no other option, and time was therefore spent on preparation for our reopening.

We did create online content, the **One Voice** project, which was spearheaded by Sergio Calderon and Neill Kernohan. This series of short, one-person plays were directed and performed by Theatre Aurora members, and released online for paid viewing. While the viewership of the series was not what we had hoped, the production value and performances were solid, and all our Theatre Aurora members deserve to be commended for their excellent work.

Now that we are, at the writing of this report, in Phase 1 of Ontario's Reopening Plan, we have moved forward with a smaller Mainstage season to facilitate reopening the theatre in a prudent and safe way.

The shows proposed by Artistic Director Sergio Calderone all have small casts, limited set requirements, and most importantly, have digital performance rights. We anticipate a strong reopening.

That season is as follows:

Kitchen Witches by Caroline Smith

October 28 - November 6, 2021

Producer: Neill Kernohan; Director: Kay Valentine

No Exit by Jean-Paul Sartre

January 27 - February 5, 2022

Director: Jason Silzer

Lonely Planet by Steven Dietz

April 21 - 30, 2022

Director: Joey Ferguson

We are currently searching for production teams for the shows.

We also have several options for future seasons; the potential for revisiting some of the plays from the cancelled 2020-21 season is there, and the Board has passed a "future" season slate.

Youth Program

I am pleased to say that the Board has worked this year to make the Youth Program one of Theatre Aurora's Core Programs along with our usual Mainstage season. This allows our dedicated Youth Program staff to plan knowing that their programming is a priority for our theatre, and for the community.

Leaders Jo-Anne Pulfer and Adeen Ashton have provided fantastic online programming for our youth members, who have adapted and flourished in the online environment. A variety of guest artists, all prominent members of the Canadian arts industry, have visited us virtually to share their knowledge with our students.

As the province reopens, we look to move carefully back to in-person learning, and to more robust inclusion and integration of our youth program participants into the mainstage productions we undertake in the future.

Going Forward

This coming year will be a good opportunity for us to rework our rehearsal and performance practices to ensure that we are more inclusive and equitable, and more accessible to all members of our community. Besides planning for a full season in 2022-23, we will also be looking at all of our production practices and protocols, and looking to expand our talent base of both performers and backstage creators and crew.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Rocheleau
VP, Productions