

VP Productions Report

AGM 2023

During our 2022/2023 season, we continued our efforts to recover from the lingering effects of the pandemic, both with patron engagement and satisfaction and growth of our volunteer base.

Our first production of the season, *Mother of the Maid*, directed by Kay Valentine and produced and stage managed by Judi Cragg, opened on October 20th, 2022. As we did not have a set designer, the director and actors worked with a very minimalistic set. Carrying over from our previous season, audiences remained small, but the cast and crew carried on with much positivity, which was greatly appreciated.

A Nice Family Christmas, which was to be the second production of the season, unfortunately had to be cancelled as we could not find a director. An alternative play was chosen by the board, but we were ultimately unable to secure the performance rights.

Our musical, *Fun Home*, opened on January 26th, 2023. It was directed by Sergio Calderon, produced by Barb Jones, and stage managed by Amanda Cook. This production marked the beginning of patrons returning to the theatre in larger numbers.

The Diary of Anne Frank was directed by Keith O'Connell, produced by Judi Cragg and stage managed by Neill Kernohan. The production opened on March 2nd, 2023 and, despite a small crew taking on multiple roles, was a great success, playing to several sold out houses.

Our final production of the season was *Glorious!: The True Story of Florence Foster Jenkins, the Worst Singer in the World*, directed by Judi Cragg, produced by Neill Kernohan, and stage managed by Julie Foster. It opened on April 20th, 2023 and was also very successful, with some patrons even coming back to see it a second time.

A huge and heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who volunteered in any capacity (or multiple capacities!) this season! Community theatre does not happen without volunteers and you are all very much appreciated.

Unfortunately, and despite our best efforts, we were not able to re-launch the youth program this season. Although we had a full curriculum ready and instructors hired, we were ultimately unable to move forward due to extremely low registration for both the summer and fall programs. This fall, we will be trying something new...a free drama/theatre activity day held one Saturday per month for youth coming from underprivileged backgrounds. This program is still in the planning stages, so stay tuned!

Our fabulous 2023/2024 season has been announced and is already generating some buzz! We are looking for producers, set, lighting, and sound designers, stage managers, and backstage crew! If you are interested, please email productions@theatreaurora.com. We are always happy to train novices in any area. Please consider joining our team! It takes many volunteers both on stage and behind the scenes to produce the quality productions for which Theatre Aurora is known!

Anne of Green Gables: The Musical - November 16th to 25th, 2023

Book by Donald Harron

Music by Norman Campbell

Adapted from the novel by L.M. Montgomery

Murder on the Orient Express – January 11th to January 20th, 2024

By Agatha Christie

Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig

Blithe Spirit – February 29th to March 9th, 2024

By Noel Coward

On Golden Pond – April 18th to April 27th, 2024

By Ernest Thompson

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Cragg

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