



THEATRE AURORA

Annual General Meeting – President's Report

June 20, 2022

The year for Theatre Aurora has been, as the last couple of years have been, incredibly busy while navigating this new world.

Shows

It's been immensely gratifying that even with the last parts of the pandemic continuing, Theatre Aurora has mounted three shows and partnered with Queensville Players to have another show in our theatre. All three have been well-received with different levels of attendance. We're looking forward to a full season of shows next year!

Youth

In our last few shows, we've had young people step up to be on stage and off. I've been very happy that young people in our community are interested in the theatre, and we have created a Youth Advisory Council which will meet from time to time to discuss further involvement by young(er) people in our theatre.

Vision and Mission

Last year, Theatre Aurora created its Vision and Mission, and worked on its Strategic Directions.

Vision

Theatre Aurora commits to creating and maintaining a vital, inclusive, independent, and self-sustaining organization that is:

- A creator of challenging, engaging, relevant, and entertaining theatre;
- To provide opportunities for development in theatre arts; and
- An Arts trailblazer in York Region.

Mission

We cultivate creative and artistic opportunities for members of the community in order to deliver challenging, accessible, and meaningful theatre to inspire and entertain our audiences.

Partnership with the Society of York Region Artists

For *Lonely Planet* and *No Exit*, Theatre Aurora partnered with SOYRA to have original art in the lobby. This was well-received and will hopefully continue.

Sponsorship Committee

This past year, we had a small Sponsorship Committee which looked at better ways to engage our members and achieve sponsorships from the community. I would like to thank Sonya Grundy, Gerri Sefi, Lori Suffern, and Vicki Tompkins for their help.

Resignations

In the past year, we lost long-time members from the board and welcomed long-time members of the theatre back to the Board. I thank those who helped guide us through the pandemic (Jason Silzer, Shawn Rocheleau, Lori Moritz, Maria Puigbonet, and Steve Knoxx) and want them to know that we appreciate all they did for the theatre. In January, we welcomed Julie Foster, Nick Butler, and Barb Jones to the Board, and I want to thank them for stepping up in the theatre's time of need.

General Meeting

In January, Theatre Aurora had a General Meeting to celebrate the past six months at the theatre, to address the resignations from the Board, and to fill the vacant positions. The membership heard one proposal from the membership to remove the entire board (which was defeated) and the Board heard the concerns. A Code of Conduct was created for the Board and was adopted. Volunteers were requested for a Membership Committee to review the theatre's membership policies, but no volunteers came forward. The Board also retained a volunteer mediator and offered mediation to any member who wished it.

Newsletters

Lori Suffern took on newsletters this year, and I would like to thank her for her diligence and great writing ability!

Thank You

I would like to thank all our volunteers during the year (too many to list and I'd be afraid of missing someone). The **only** way our theatre stays open is because of you. I'd also like to thank our Board – our theatre weathered the pandemic and kept going because of your dedication. You are my heroes.

Moving Forward

I truly hope that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, and that theatres of all kinds can stay open and be confident that the shows will go on.

Respectfully submitted.

Neill Kernohan
Interim President