



## THEATRE AURORA

### Annual General Meeting – VP Productions Report

June 20, 2022

This year has been both challenging and exciting as it marked the re-opening of our doors and a welcome return to live productions. The 3-show season, *Isolation Blues*, was a departure from our usual 5 productions, due to the uncertainty surrounding the ongoing pandemic. It was a year in which all involved were called upon to be extremely flexible.

After having been shut down since the closing of *The Tempest* in March 2020, we opened with the comedy, *Kitchen Witches*, on October 28<sup>th</sup>, directed by Kay Valentine and produced by Neill Kernohan. Our patrons were thrilled to be back, and it was wonderful to hear the theatre filled with laughter once again. Although we stayed with distanced seating for this production, there were several sold out performances.

Our second production of the season was to have been *No Exit*, directed by a newcomer to Theatre Aurora, D. Jay Elektra, and produced by Judi Cragg. The show was cast, and rehearsals began via Zoom in December. But the original dates were not to be, as theatres were shut down once again in January. The cast and crew, after much discussion, decided on new production dates of the first two weeks of June. They settled into weekly Zoom rehearsals and we all crossed our fingers! More on this to come.

Due to the extended closure, there was some thought that we might lose our third show all together, but eventually things began opening up and so we forged ahead. *Lonely Planet* opened on May 5<sup>th</sup>, was directed by Sergio Calderon and produced by Judi Cragg. With a significantly shorter rehearsal period than usual, the cast and crew put forth a gallant effort, and produced a moving and honest piece of theatre. Although the audiences were smaller than we would have liked, those who did attend were extremely positive in their reviews.

Finally, after almost 7 months, *No Exit* was able to move into the theatre and opened on June 2nd. We were so grateful and pleased that all but one of the cast members and all of the crew were willing and able to stick with us for that long. Once again, audiences were small, but our theatregoers appreciated this thought-provoking, tense performance, which proved, very clearly, that “Hell is other people.”

In the fall, we collaborated with The Queensville Players on their production of *Steel Magnolias*. Their usual performance location had not yet re-opened, and because of their association with members of the board, they approached us. Our space was

available and so our rehearsal and performance facilities were offered to them. It was a very successful and positive experience.

The **Youth Program** is now open for registration. The summer camp is scheduled for July (2 week sessions for each age group), the Fall session starts on September 17<sup>th</sup> and the Winter/Spring session begins on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Check our website for more detailed information and please let your friends and family, with children aged 10 to 18, know about it!

**Our 2022/2023 season** promises to be a fabulous one! We are already looking for producers, designers, stage managers, and crew! If you are interested, please email Judi at [productions@theatreaurora.com](mailto: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!

***Mother of the Maid*** - October 20 to October 29, 2022

The story of Joan of Arc's mother, a sensible, hard-working, God-fearing peasant woman whose faith is upended as she deals with the baffling journey of her odd and extraordinary daughter.

***Nice Family Christmas*** - November 24 to December 3, 2022

In a sequel to A Nice Family Gathering, it's Christmas Eve and a young newspaper reporter, on the brink of being fired, has been assigned a last chance story about a typical family Christmas - his family.

***Fun Home*** (musical) - January 26 to February 4, 2023

Alison, a lesbian cartoonist, struggles to untangle her complex relationship with her deceased father. Moving between past and present, Alison relives an unusual childhood growing up in a funeral home, her sexual awakening and questions about her father's secret life.

***Diary of Anne Frank*** - March 2 to March 11, 2023

The memoirs of this young Jewish girl, forced to hide for nearly two years to escape Nazi persecution, are an essential part of how we remember one of the darkest periods of our human history.

***Glorious!: The True Story of Florence Foster Jenkins, the Worst Singer in the World*** - April 20 to April 29, 2023

In 1940's New York, the performer who everyone wanted to see live was Florence Foster Jenkins, an enthusiastic soprano whose pitch was far from perfect.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Cragg  
VP Productions