



THEATRE AURORA

Annual General Meeting – President's Report

June 4, 2023

As we gather for this year's Annual General Meeting, I am honored to present the President's Report on behalf of Theatre Aurora. Despite the challenges we faced, our theatre has proven its resilience and adaptability, continuing to be an essential part of our community's cultural fabric. We have much to be proud of, and I am delighted to share some of our highlights.

Our stage has been graced by four outstanding productions this year. We had to unfortunately cancel one production, "A Nice Family Christmas" because of lack of volunteers, we had the privilege of presenting the Ontario, if not Canadian, community theatre premiere of "Fun Home", an impactful portrayal of "The Diary of Anne Frank", a poignant performance of "Mother of the Maid", and we concluded our season on a lighter note with the hilariously endearing "Glorious! The True Story of Florence Foster Jenkins, the Worst Singer in the World". The success of these productions is a testament to the talent, dedication, and passion of our incredible team.

In terms of board changes, we bade a sad farewell to Gerri Sefi, our VP Finance, while warmly welcoming Navil Bajina as a new board member. Vicki Tompkins resigned her post as Marketing Director due to relocation but has graciously stayed on as a marketing committee member, offering her valuable advice. We are grateful to Lori Suffern for stepping into the role of Marketing Director, and we couldn't be happier with her contributions. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Sergio Calderon, who stepped down as Artistic Director after many years of nurturing our theatre.

Our partnership with Newmarket Bingo continues to be fruitful, and from April 1, we've increased our involvement to garner even more revenue. This partnership, along with others, including rentals from Broadway North, the Aurora Cultural Centre, and Marquee, has proven invaluable in helping us put on our shows and keep our lights on.

A key focus of the year was community engagement. We successfully promoted the theatre at today's Aurora Street Fair and three Aurora Farmers' Markets. These efforts are crucial for broadening our audience base and fostering local support.

We are aware of the challenges we face in attracting volunteers, a crucial backbone of our theatre. We have, however, started to see a return of our beloved volunteers, to whom I extend my deepest gratitude. Our productions and initiatives would not have been possible without your unwavering support and dedication.

Thanks to a grant from the Trillium Foundation, we were able to make significant improvements to our theatre's infrastructure. We installed a brand new Accessible All Gender Washroom and upgraded the lighting and flooring in our lobby, ensuring our theatre remains a welcoming, inclusive, and comfortable environment for all.

In reflecting on our communal spirit, we must acknowledge the success of our two member gatherings this year. The festive holiday season and St. Patrick's Day events were not just opportunities for camaraderie and celebration, but also occasions for us to extend our hands in solidarity to others in our community. Both events were organized as fundraisers, and I am delighted to report that they were extremely successful. It is heartening to see our community come together, not only in appreciation of the arts, but also in support of those in need. These events embody the spirit of Theatre Aurora, underlining our commitment to the community we serve and reinforcing our belief that when we uplift each other, we all thrive.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for every member of our Theatre Aurora community. From our board members, volunteers, and performers to our audience members and partners, thank you for your support and dedication. Our theatre is a testament to the power of collective effort, and I am confident that the coming year will bring us even more reasons to celebrate.

Respectfully submitted.

Neill Kernohan
President