



MASSEY THEATRE SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2015
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2014 – 2015 AT A GLANCE

We successfully completed a very exciting 65th anniversary season of activities, a busy year in the theatre, and the opening of the Anvil Centre Theatre last year. We managed to carry it all off while still achieving a small financial surplus. The anniversary included a number of activities including:

1. The launch of the Massey Theatre Kid networking project
2. The Take 65 Massey inspired film making competition – winner Will Clements, prize 13" MacBook Pro with retinal display
3. Homecoming : These Glorious Years Gala June 14, 2015 – nearly 100 performers including some very high caliber guests was performed for nearly 700 audience members. It was a very memorable evening
4. Great Pairings : Eyes on the Future performance October 4, 2015 – over 35 performers performed for 150 audience members in experimental pairings of art forms and material. It was a wonderful community building activity and a quality artistic exploration
5. A retrospective exhibit of painter, Joseph Plaskett's works was presented between May and August which attracted many visitors and was appreciated by art fans and community members
6. A Massey Theatre replica puppet theatre was constructed as a community outreach tool
7. Archival activities have been launched with many hours of interviews filmed and recorded, a history booklet published and an upcoming planning project to deliver the Massey history into the City archives.

MTS also produced the Momentum Youth Arts Festival once again, programmed by a number of dedicated youth with professional support. And, we presented and cop-presented a few concerts which brought additional distinct, quality programming to the theatre for the community. Programming support was required and we were fortunate to be able to enlist former Arts Council NW Executive Director Andree St. Martin to assist in that area through a part time position.

Client groups continue to achieve increasing success in attendance and artistic quality. Of particular note, the NWSO held its ambitious 100th anniversary concert in March at which time they performed Beethoven's 9th Symphony very admirably with over 200 performers and over 900 in the audience. It was gratifying to see the NWSO take on such a momentous celebration and music selection as a community orchestra.

Our current operational situation is still uncertain as the School District awaits funding and project approval for the high school replacement. But last year, we were able to convert the termination clause of the lease agreement to a one year notice of closure versus an expiry requiring regular renewal which had proven difficult to achieve in a time frame which would assist the Society in appropriate planning in the event of a closure.

In August last year, the Society signed a five year agreement with the City of New Westminster as operator of Anvil Centre Theatre. The impact of the contract has required the addition of a second seasonal assistant technical director from our former auxiliary pool in order to meet the demands of both theatres' activities.

In response to a new and refreshed strategic plan, we have added part time support in ticketing and administration. These will support both an increase in rental, services and programming activities and the fulfillment of a new three year strategic plan.

I am pleased with the added operational capacity we are developing and with the consistent and positive contributions of the Society's exceptional staff. I am personally very grateful to the outgoing Directors Anne Wilson Unger, Lach Heron and Peter Corless. Lach and Anne served for nearly a decade each and gave a tremendous amount of talent and energy to the Society. Thank you.

Going forward, the Society will continue to contribute to the community in new and evolving ways. Our endeavors are well advised and supported by a skilled and dedicated Board of Directors.

Thank you!