

WAY OFF-BROADWAY WEDNESDAYS

Nov 2017
Member Report

A Weekly Underground Theatre Series by New West Arts Council Member Devon More



Way Off-Broadway Wednesday (W.O.W.) serves us fresh theatre in a casual cabaret setting, **every Wednesday at 7:30pm**, always at a postcapitalist price point: **Pay-What-You-Want**. Operating out of **The Heritage Grill's cozy Back Room Theatre**, in the heart of downtown New Westminster, W.O.W. had a very productive first year staging wild and wonderful works of performance art from storytellers, comics, poets, minstrels, and more!

After an 8-week experimental run of Devon More's own musical storytelling show, *Berlin Waltz*, in the Back Room in Nov/Dec 2016, More began hosting and curating the work of her contemporaries in January 2017. That opening month brought W.O.W. audiences the very first preview of the latest work by supreme monologist and Fringe legend TJ Dawe, as well as East Van's favourite storytelling game show *Story Story Lie*, hosted by Jo Dworschak.

By end of June, 16 unique works were presented over 25 Wednesdays, ranging from solo shows, to screenings of local indie cinema. With showtime always at 7:30pm, and admission by donation, audience members ranged from seasoned theatre-goers to those who had never seen a live play before stepping into the Back Room on a Wednesday evening.

After a brief summer hiatus, Way Off-Broadway Wednesday launched again in mid-August, and has since featured a **new show every single week** - which will add another 17 unique evenings of performance before the Christmas break. **By the end of its inaugural year, W.O.W. will have presented 42 Wednesdays, with 33 unique shows!**

Highlights of autumn thus far have included appearances by international Godfather of the Fringe - Jem Rolls, Montreal's slickest poetess - Catherine Kidd, and Canadian comedy legend and champion slam poet - Richard Lett. Shows ranged from a stand-up comic's first hand account of the War on Terror, to terrible but true tales from public transit accompanied by live improv reenactments, to Devon More's own rock'n'roll cabaret with it's game-changing Wheel of BOOM!

Much like the Fringe Festival, Way Off-Broadway Wednesday is an easy-going, inclusive space for direct connection between performer and audience: no pretense, no provisos. **Everyone is welcome**, AND welcome to offer direct patronage to the artist, according to their own means - because anything deposited in the donation box goes straight to that evening's performers.

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New Shows weekly @ 7:30pm
PAY WHAT YOU WANT
THE HERITAGE GRILL BACK ROOM. THE NEW WEST.