

Massey THEATRE

Executive Director Report 2018-2019

Massey Theatre Society ended its fiscal year a strong organization, with a progressive and productive leadership environment of staff and board working harmoniously to make contributions in the arts and community wellbeing. I am keenly aware of the strength and creativity of the current staff and Board and grateful for the ongoing hard work and personal effort of Lynn Radbourne. The staff exude such passion for the two theatres which are, most certainly, critical tools of our community's self-expression and artistic aspirations. I thank them for always rising to challenges and for being so very capable in each of their own areas.

We have completed another year of significant growth in the achievements of the theatres. We stepped solidly into new complementary program areas to generate offerings on the stages and elsewhere. Now working with artists and organizations in residence, we partner more with community activators and agencies, and enable long standing partners to expand their offerings. This means more and new day to day opportunities for community members and has resulted in more artistic creation. It is evident in the numerous Indigenous performances, exhibitions and gatherings available; and joining in to increase PRIDE in the community with increased queer arts and community gatherings. With Savage Production Society and Massey's Artist in Residence Allan Morgan we provided unique experiences and connected in new ways with the community. Residencies assist MTS in artistic development and public engagement while MTS lends its resources in support of new artistic works. A win win. The need for the arts and artists in day to day life is essential as we navigate complex social issues and must listen deeply in order to do so. We are very glad to be working directly with artists more through these residencies.

A wide array of performances and cultural activities for all ages can be found at both Massey and Anvil Centre Theatres. Not only have road house / rental activity levels at both theatres increased but we are hosting more sophisticated performances. In response, operational staffing at Massey has grown and funds have been raised to complete significant theatrical systems upgrades. Technology is an important aspect of theatre presentation today and we are acting to keep the theatres current in their capabilities. The upswing in volume of work is expected to continue for the next five years as renewal of Massey is undertaken and the Anvil Centre Theatre program moves from fledgling to established. Managing growth, change and risk all simultaneously with fluctuating resources will continue to present challenges we must navigate.

To guide us in the complex transitions ahead we have a suite of practical plans in the works. We are fortunate to be working with a small but mighty team of sectoral experts and functional specialists to renew systems and complete these plans within the next year. We look forward to the next era of exciting and diverse performing arts to come.

Jessica Schneider,
Executive Director



*MTS Executive Director Jessica Schneider
Photo by Andres Markwat*

Massey Theatre Society Permanent Staff

Executive Director

Jessica Schneider

Administrator

Minna Nikula

Audience Services Coordinator

Patrick Forde

Technical Director

Stephen Jackson

Technical Director

Shawn Sorensen

Head Technician

Jordan Boivin

Administration and Bookkeeping

Ronda Yuen

Box Office Assistant

Reg Pillay

Plaskett Gallery Curator

Andree St. Martin

Placemaking Initiatives

Julian Legere

Partnership Initiatives

Erin Jeffery

Accessibility Champion

Aaron Pietras

Board Chair Report 2018-2019

Where do the years go? Another year has passed and as we continue to support our wonderful theatre, it goes with some challenges.

Last year we saw a growth in not only bookings for our "grande dame", but audiences as well. Our regular clients as well as new ones did an outstanding job of ensuring the theatre was alive and vibrant – with shows booked every month – some long runs, others shorter, but all to entertain the public.

Our Board and staff worked hard with the City to ensure there was just as great an experience at the Anvil Theatre as at the Massey.

Going forward into our 2019-2020 year, we are trying very hard in our relationship with the City to ensure both the Massey and Anvil Theatres flourish and grow, while maintaining a high standard of entertainment.

Kudos and appreciation go out to Jessica and her staff for doing such an outstanding job at both theatres. Things remain challenging at times, but through it all, they have shown a professionalism that is unparalleled – a huge thank you to you!

I appreciate the confidence the Board has placed in me for the past four years as their Chair. Sometimes it has been challenging, but mostly its been a wonderful experience as we look forward to a new season with new challenges.

Proudly,
Lynn Radbourne, Chair
Massey Theatre Society



MTS Board Chair Lynn Radbourne

MTS Board of Directors 2018-2019

Lynn Radbourne-Chair
Edward Downing-Vice Chair
Lorne Hill- Treasurer
Haymen Leong- Secretary
Colin Jones- Director
Gabor Gastonyi- Director
Patti Goss- Director
Sunshine Gudlaugson- Director

The Massey Theatre Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Province of British Columbia, the Vancouver Foundation, the City of New Westminster and the Government of Canada.



The stage setup for the Mushtari Begum Festival. Photo by Stan Marr



Liz Alfonso Dance Cuba

Amazing Moments and Artistic Achievements

Read about some of the wonderful experiences in another year in the life of Massey Theatre and Anvil Centre Theatre. Here are but a few:

Massey Theatre

- The innovative producers of *Fight with a Stick* Performance created the Jessie Award nominated *A Vista* on the Massey stage. The work celebrated the hemp fly system utilizing an archive of painted backdrops in large part from the sets of the annual musicals produced by Royal City Musical Theatre over its 30-year history
- MTS produced *Celebration 50: Say It Loud, Gay is Proud* acknowledging the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots and the Canadian government taking its first legislative steps towards decriminalizing homosexuality in Canada. Celebration 50 was an opportunity to reflect, remember, renew and celebrate as we kicked off our Under the Rainbow year of LGBTQ2+ programming
- The *Mushtari Begum Festival of Indian Classical Music and Dance* returned for an eighth magnificent year. New Westminster treasures Cassius Khan and Amika Kushwaha continue to grow and inspire us with the festival and now Cassius Kahn is facilitating our new classical music series, Global Tea Room
- Royal City Musical Theatre celebrated 30 years of spectacular musical theatre productions with one of their most ambitious productions to date, *Singin in the Rain*. Don't miss *Crazy for You* in April 2020
- Our partnership with Savage Society continued to shift access and visibility for Indigenous culture in the theatres and beyond. Last year featured art exhibitions, *Jeremy Dutcher*, several must see Indigenous play readings and community gatherings



Dean Brody



Jeremy Dutcher

Amazing Moments and Artistic Achievements

Massey Theatre cont...

- **Lighting and audio systems renewal** was funded by MTS fundraising efforts, the Province of BC and Government of Canada. This will allow us to elevate production quality while saving time and money for all users. It allows our technical team to respond more quickly to innovation and attracts more diverse productions, users and partners
- Our Massey Unlimited program continued to expand. Partnerships include New Westminister Family Place programs with **Family Place Plaskett** and **Baby Talk**, plus the SD 40 Aboriginal Education program and Women on Wednesdays
- We shared space with the Lord Kelvin Aboriginal program for a family **Pow Wow** gathering for families complete with a workshop with dance **Jessica McMann** and two Pow Wow regalia making sessions to get the kids ready for it
- When Polaris Prize winner Jeremy Dutcher performed **Wolastoqiyik Lintuwakonawa**, at the Massey Theatre, many young Indigenous language speakers attended. After the performance, the sounds and words of these lands from before colonialization were spoken. Sometimes tentatively, often emotionally, languages were shared. It was very clear the power of restoring language is a key to Indigenous healing and resurgence and the role of artists in inspiring and encouraging those efforts
- **The Flame New West** launched in the Plaskett Gallery providing an ongoing new storytelling series for New Westminister
- Hundreds gathered at Massey Theatre to say goodbye and celebrate the remarkable **Tony Antonias**. We received and will carry many gifts from our dear friend Tony. Tony was a great champion for the arts in New Westminister and we miss him daily



Massey Theatre lighting on display



Dancers of Damelahamid during Coastal Dance Festival

Amazing Moments and Artistic Achievements

Anvil Centre Theatre

- Anvil Centre was activated with *Winter Celebrations*, a ten day festival of arts and winter magic
- MACHiNENoiSY's ambitious site specific work, *Fragile Forms*, was a 360 degree building wide contemporary dance performance developed specifically for Anvil Centre
- Janice Bannister at *Laughter Zone 101* established a new comedy series for Anvil Theatre elevating new voices to the stage
- *Coastal Dance Festival's* five intensive days of Pacific Northwest Indigenous dance shared human spirit and ancient storytelling
- Savage Society received a production residency for *White Noise* by Taran Kootenayoo which was shared with enthusiastic audiences in two performances. Look for the show to return in a future full production
- *Romance Relationships and Rights*, a community engaged performance creation, confronted misconceptions about adults with intellectual disabilities and challenges audiences to think differently about how we value, respect and support self-advocates' rights to romance and intimacy
- Hosted multi Emmy award winner *Ed Asner* for an exclusive visit to British Columbia with his show, *A Man and his Prostate*
- We now host six distinct performance series as well as exciting special events each year



Spirit of Hungary 1848

In 2018-2019, Massey Theatre Society worked with the following organizations for artistic collaborations, presentations, productions and more. This work brought hundreds of individual artists to the stages and attracted nearly 100,000 audience members to the theatres

3D Entertainment
Aga Khan Ismaili Council
Apadana Entertainment
Archbishop Carney Graduation
Artists Emerge Dance
Artists Response Team
Arts Club Theatre Company
Arts Council of New Westminster
Arya Entertainment
BC Labour Heritage Centre
Boucher Institute
Buzzermedia Shadmehr Aghili
Church of Christ
Community Living Society
Company B Swing Band
Coquitlam Alternative Basic Education Graduation (CABE)
Dancers of Damelahamid
Dances for a Small Stage
De Danaan Irish Dance
Diocese of New Westminster
Douglas College
ECCW Elite Challenges
Empire Universal Entertainment
The Flame New West
Fraser River Discovery Centre
Good Pitch Vancouver
Grand Ensemble Chorus
Hanson Canada Graduation
Ronnie Dean Harris
Hungarian National Dance Company
International Guitar Night
Influential Sports – VanCity Showdown
Jaguar Music
James and Jamesy
Jeremy Dutcher – Polaris Prize Winner 2018
Joshua Beamish Move The Company
Josh Hite and Fight with a Stick Performance
Kalavishkar Theatre
Kids in Motion Dance Co.
Last Door Recovery Society
Laughter Zone 101
Leigh Brandt Muscle Classic
Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba
LTC Ventures
Maple Leaf Singers
MACHiNEN0iSY Performance
Momentum Youth Arts
Moon Coin Productions
MOSAIC
Mushtari Begum Festival – Indian Classical Music & Dance
Music Box Academy
New Westminster Aboriginal Education Program
New Westminster Cultural Crawl
New Westminster Family Place
New Westminster Pecha Kucha Society
New Westminster Pride Society
New Westminster Public Library
New Westminster Secondary School
New Westminster Secondary Musical Theatre Program
New Westminster Symphony Orchestra
The Other Guys Theatre Company
Pacific Coastal Dance Festival
Pangburn Philosophy – Sharon and Bram
Patrick Street Productions
Port Moody Dance
Pulse Dance School
Quayside Voices
Queer as Funk
Recovery BC
Rejimon Gopalakrishnan Music
Richmond Children’s Theatre
Rockit Boy Productions
Royal Canadian Theatre Company
Royal City Musical Theatre
Royal City Swing
Royal City Youth Ballet
SAM Productions
Savage Production Society
SD40 Schools
SFM Products
The Stage New Westminster
Star Talent Dance
St. Thomas More Academy
Terpsichore Dance Festival
Théâtre la Seizième
Tribu Productions
Tri City Dance
UBC Centre for Inclusion
UBC Theatre Department
Umac Express
Up Close Recital Society
Urban Academy
Vancouver Korean Women’s Choir
Vancouver Persian Network
Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
Vancouver Welsh Men’s Choir
Vancouver Youth Choir
Wealth Retreat – Kevin O’Leary
Winter Harp
Women on Wednesdays
Zee Zee Theatre / Peach Cobblah