



Above right: Producing Artistic Director (in green) with audience member and actors Howard Dai, Viktor Barkar, Michael McIntyre, Marc Anthony Williams, Bailey Soleil Creed.

2020 Report from Producing Artistic Director Renée Bucciarelli

Needless to say, 2020 has been a challenging year for City Stage New West. Our **SIPS 'N SCRIPTS** series at the Anvil Centre. was cancelled due to covid 19. The series was to be part of our third annual "Bringing Back the Living Room" initiative, a reading series free to the public, where professional actors perform, supported by audience interactive programming. The series was inspired by the ideas of Canadian Indigenous author Richard Wagamese, and has been supported by a City grant and the Anvil Centre. Cancelled: *THE MADWOMAN OF CHAILLOT*, by Jean Giradoux (scheduled for May 22) and *WAR OF THE WORLDS*, adapted by Howard E. Koch from H.G. Wells' original novel (scheduled for October 16), both slated to be at the [Anvil Centre](#). See graphic at right, by Fiona Goldberg.

In an effort to pivot and bring cheer to the community we serve, City Stage New West applied to re-target funding from the City by broadcasting and publishing online archival footage of a workshop performance of **STUMP CITY STORIES!** Due to Covid 19, special permission was granted by Canadian Actors Equity and the Union of British Columbian Performers to move forward with this project on our limited budget. We hoped the joy of the musical and its tales of resilience will lift hearts once again during these challenging times, as we all--to quote the musical--try to "imagine the future [we] dream of...now".



This Ovation Award-nominated musical by George Ryan was commissioned in 2009 as our contribution to New West's 150th celebration. It was featured news on CBC radio, [Omni TV](#), in Sing Tao Daily and locally. In 2010, it was brought free of charge to over 1500 New Westminster students. A professional cast album was made in 2015 as a cultural legacy gift to the City. A remarkable cast (the late Broadway actor **Sean Allan**, **Damon Calderwood**, **Dora Brooks**, and **Jeremy Lowe**) depict lives and events in New West since 1858, including in New West's Yi Fao district, once British Columbia's largest Chinatown. It launched for **Canada Day 2020**, as part of the City's online celebrations, and can still be seen at the link above (or via Youtube, our website).

Guest speakers and local historians **Wayne Wou**, **Arwinder Kaur** of New Westminster's Sukh Sagar Gurdwara, **Oana Capota** of New Westminster Museum & Archives, and **Gavin Hainsworth**, co-author with Katherine Freund-Hainsworth of *A New Westminster Album* joined artistic director Renee Bucciarelli and Board members for a live-streamed chat about New Westminster's diverse communities, and to answer audience questions. As part of this project, a [History Resource List](#) of diverse New West stories, videos, texts was compiled and posted on our website, reflecting our mission to "strengthen respect for Canadian diversity".



Above top, right to left: Board Director Dan Jankowski, Producing Artistic Director Renee Bucciarelli, Vice President Callyn Dorval, Board Director Ruby Campbell. Middle row: Board Director Nelson Ellis, guest historian Gavin Hainsworth, Board Director Howard Dai, Board Treasurer Pansy Jang, guest historian Arwinder Kaur, Board Director Kris Kuruneri. Right panel, top right corner: guest historian Oana Copota; bottom row: guest historian Wayne Wou.

City Stage New West is currently on 'hold', waiting the pandemic out. We can't bring our much-anticipated free A Christmas Carol to the public at the Anvil again this year, but to honour our members and supporters, we've planned an invitation-only zoom
HOLIDAY TODDY & TEA-TIME SUNDAY
 December 6th, 4 pm PT [7 pm ET]
 Details at www.citystagenewwest.org

City Stage New West expresses its heart-felt gratitude for the City, the Arts Council, and our members and supporters who have helped us meet our challenges during this unprecedented year.

Renée Bucciarelli, Artistic Director
 For the Board of City Stage New West

Photo at right: Actors/musicians Cindy Kao, Michael McIntyre, Howard Dai, Callyn Dorval in our A Christmas Carol at the Anvil Centre last year

