



REPORT OF OUR ACTIVITIES 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to present a report.

Our year began with a short run of 'Snow White' at the Massey Theatre in January. During our Preview/Relaxed Performance*, the fuses in the theatre blew, and we were left in total darkness. Our amazing cast was unfazed and simply came to the front of the stage to sing our closing songs a capella as the audience stood with their phones lighting up the stage from the front. It was both the best and the worst of times! The worst because we didn't get to finish the show and the best because it was truly a magical and memorable moment for cast, crew and audience. That's live theatre for you! Always something new and exciting. For anyone not familiar with our annual panto, the script, music, lyrics, choreography, costumes, props and sets are always all original – created every year by local artists. This show is also the culmination of our annual free Youth Mentorship Programme where the youngsters we've mentored get to strut their stuff in front of a live audience.

The final show in our season 2019/2020 was Norm Foster's 'Screwball Comedy' – a Western Canadian Premiere which opened in the first week of March. We played at the Anvil Centre, moved to the Surrey Arts Centre the next week and were booked to tour to another four theatres but covid had hit hard. We saw our ticket sales dropping hour by hour as people called to cancel and ask for refunds. Then four of the venues we were to tour to were closed, and so with deep disappointment we cancelled the rest of the tour. The show is in storage though, and we will remount in 2022. We intend to bring it back to the Anvil at that point.

We do not have a 'home theatre' – we rent performance venues to present our work, and due to the continuing closure of one of our regular venues this has meant that we have had to cancel the first two shows of our 2020/2021 Season. We are hoping to come to the Anvil Centre in the spring, but at the time of writing have not yet received confirmation of performing rights for either the play we were hoping to present or the back up option in case that one wasn't available. So basically it's a 'watch this space' time for us. Or watch our social media – hopefully we'll be able to announce the spring show soon.

We do hope to be back in the fall of 2021 to open our next season, but as with everyone this will depend upon the progress of Covid 19.

For now, we wish our fellow artists good health and hope they stay safe, and send a wish for them all to survive this difficult time.

*A Relaxed Performance is specifically designed to accommodate those with intellectual or other challenges, to enable all members of the community to be able to enjoy live theatre.