

Royal City Musical Theatre Company Annual Report for the Arts Council of New Westminster

Like other theatre companies and artistic groups in the New Westminster Community, RCMT was deeply crippled by Covid-19. The lockdown of 2020 meant the last-minute cancellation of our major musical production 'Crazy for You'. Our organization was extremely caught off guard by this and found ourselves in severe financial hardship. It was heartbreaking to have to cancel the show after months of preparation invested by the talented cast, artistic team, production team and volunteers. It was equally heartbreaking for our audience who had already purchased tickets in anticipation of enjoying another fabulous Royal City Musical Theatre show.

Much of the remainder of 2020 was spent by the RCMT Board and Producer working feverishly to resolve the financial hole the company was now in from having to cancel 'Crazy for You'. Thanks to the generous support of many of our ticket holders, some of this financial pressure was relieved. Many ticket holders offered to donate the value of their tickets to RCMT while some ticket holders offered to hold onto their tickets as a credit to be used for a future RCMT production. People can be wonderful and Royal City Musical Theatre is so thankful for these supporters who offered this assistance.

As 2020 continued and with the talk of Vaccines, RCMT was optimistic that we could return to the Massey Stage for the Spring of 2021. Sadly, it became evident our major musical production would not happen for the Spring of 2021. In the meantime, RCMT was the recipient of grant money from the City of New Westminster and at the same time new, a opportunity appeared for RCMT to entertain their audience.

In December 2020, "Sinatra: Home for the Holidays" was produced by RCMT in collaboration with Side Door Productions, featuring RCMT alumni Dane Warren and Mandy Rushton along with members of the Bruce James Orchestra. The show was recorded live on the Massey Theatre Stage and streamed to ticket holders. This was a first for RCMT, moving from a live theatre audience to streaming performances into their audience's homes. Thanks to the City Grant Money this event was made possible.

In 2020 RCMT took the important step of establishing the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force. The EDI Task force is composed of RCMT Alumni, who reflect diversity and are tasked with providing recommendations on how our company can improve to be more inclusive and sensitive in terms of equity and diversity.

As 2021 progressed the health restrictions imposed upon live theatre and events continued. Given the tight financial restraints RCMT found themselves in, the decision was made to hold tight until the restrictions would relax enough to permit RCMT to produce a show that would be financially viable. 'Crazy for You' was shelved, the sets and costumes stored and the hurry up and wait game began.

Finally, with audience capacities lifted and vaccine passports in place, RCMT finds itself in a position to move forward with planning a musical production for 2022. We look forward to

making an announcement in the coming weeks regarding a show that will surely delight and exceed our audience's expectations. Additionally, RCMT's AGM will be held on November 24th. Thank you to the generous support from our volunteers, donors, and audience who have helped keep RCMT going during this pandemic. We are excited to continue in our decades long tradition of providing quality musical theatre in New Westminster.