



ABCDE FOCUS  
Summer 2023



## President's Message

I'm sure you are all as ready as I am to hang up the costumes, wrenches, clipboards and scripts for the summer. A well-deserved break is in store for all of us after another busy year in the drama classroom. Being back to all things pre-pandemic has been both so exhausting and so exciting! I'm guessing most of us spend a fair bit of time in the summer reflecting on our year past and planning for the year ahead. In this season's newsletter we hope that you will find much inspiration from show photos, articles and festival reports. Much has happened this year with ABCDE members and students around the province.

Congratulations to all of the scholarship winners. ABCDE has been fortunate to forge some great partnerships through our Conference and our Festival, opening up multiple scholarship opportunities for our students. ABCDE is also in a position where we can offer scholarships to students in both tech theatre and performance, and also support up and coming drama teachers with our new TEDI scholarship.

We had a wonderful bunch of Youthwright submissions again this year, adjudicated by Omari Newton and Amy Lavoie. All three selected plays were able to present at the NTS/BC Provincial Drama Festival. Congratulations to all of those students and teachers!

Our two big provincial Drama Festivals, NTS Drama Fest and Goodwill Shakespeare Festival were outstanding this year! So many happy teachers and students headed back to their schools inspired and excited for more drama! Congratulations to all of the Festival organizers and presenters for yet another year of fabulous learning and playing opportunities!

These things all happen because of the hard work of your ABCDE executive and I find myself once again feeling so very grateful for this amazing team of people! Much love and gratitude to Lana O'Brien, Brian Billo, Colin Plant, Gord Hamilton, Christine Knight, Zelda Coertze, Coco Roberge, Sharmila Miller and Laurie Lorge. And of course a shout out to Sharon Conrad and Katie Everson who continue to work so hard on our behalf! If you ever have questions please reach out to one of us... we are here to help.

Over and above the fabulous opportunities for your schools and students, the ABCDE is your BCTF representatives working hard on your behalf with the Ministry of Education. As many teachers around the province are wondering about, and some working on, new arts based Indigenous Education courses to meet the new grad requirements, we have been looking into what this entails. We have been informed of the rigorous process that the ministry would like to have around the creation of these courses and so we have been able to get the BCTF executive committee to advocate for us to have such a course created at the ministry level. We have been working in partnership with the dance, music and art PSAs on this work.

We are also busy planning your fall PSA conference, Under the Umbrella, happening this coming October at Arts Umbrella on Granville Island. We look forward to seeing you all and meeting some new drama teachers at the annual ABCDE conference!

Until then, I hope your summer plans help you to relax, rejuvenate and get ready for another great year in theatre!

Sincerely;  
Heather Lee  
President, ABCDE



## The ABCDE has lost a friend

Lawrence (Larry) Paul Bauer, 79 of Vancouver B.C., son of the late Robert Lawrence Bauer and late Dorothy Estelle Bauer (née Harper) of Moncton N.B. passed away suddenly in Vancouver on Wednesday, 14th June 2023.

Larry began his teaching career in St-John N.B.. From there he took up a teaching position in Wabush Labrador, where he stayed for two years. In 1970, Larry journeyed west to Osoyoos B.C. in the Okanagan, taking a teaching position at Osoyoos Elementary & Junior Secondary school and later at the new Osoyoos Secondary School. In 1983, Larry began teaching at the Talmud-Torah School in Vancouver B.C., until his retirement in 2006.

While teaching French, Drama, and Theatre at Osoyoos Secondary, Larry mounted one-act plays and had his students participate in drama festivals and productions—some being selected for the Provincial Drama Festivals. Drawing on his professional Ice Capades experience, Larry also taught figure skating to youth ranging in age from pre-teen to teen. At the end of each year his students would stage ice skating productions, delighting local audiences.

In his years at Talmud-Torah, teaching French, Theatre & Drama from primary to grade seven, Larry staged and directed many drama productions, including musicals (working with Jill Davies and Alison Bennett). Larry's students always looked forward to theatre and drama class. He was highly respected throughout his career at this school by staff, students, and parents. One of Larry's more notable students was comedian and actor, Seth Rogen, now a successful celebrity on stage and screen in Hollywood. Larry shared many stories about Seth's emerging creativity, comic genius, and acting talents during his formative years.

During his teaching career and even after retirement, Larry and his partner, Robert acted as coordinators and organizers of seven annual Drama Conferences sponsored by the Association of B.C. Drama Educators (ABCDE). These occasions were enriching and educational and always a highlight for the secondary and elementary school teachers—especially the Drama and Acting teachers.

Throughout his life, Larry also had a great love of music, and was a talented, self-taught pianist—playing by ear. He had a distinct and appealing singing voice, able to perfectly harmonize with other singers.

Over the years Larry and Robert welcomed many people into their West End, Vancouver home for dinners and gatherings. The couple were especially known for their annual, fully-decorated 'Valentine's Delight' parties hosted over 25 years. They welcomed couples and singles for warm, lively fellowship in the celebration of love, with a lavish spread of delicious foods: hors d'oeuvres on a buffet table replete with Larry's famous Caesar Salad, 'imported' Honey Baked Ham, wines and the famous Valentine's punch (with a kick), and desserts—sometimes Key Lime Pie or Larry's Cheesecake, but always the Rainbow & Valentine's Delight sheet cake.

After retirement from education, Larry and Robert went on numerous cruises with Celebrity Cruise Lines visiting Alaska, the Caribbean, Panama Canal, South and Central America, and Hawaii. They found the cruise experience exciting and educational—opening them to various areas of the world and giving them an opportunity to meet people from around the world, some of whom became friends and with whom they stayed in contact with over the years. Larry also maintained close contact with his teacher colleagues, friends, and family across Canada, the US, and South Africa.

In 2019, Larry experienced a setback to his health, suffering a stroke which was not impairing. Due to high blood pressure, his kidneys were affected which ultimately led to life-sustaining kidney dialysis in early 2022 and lasting until his passing in June 2023.

Larry was a truly caring, kind, thoughtful and giving person, and a devoted son. Each summer, Larry would return to Moncton, N.B. to support his father and mother until their passing, caring especially for his mother who suffered a stroke in 1989.

As one of his teaching colleagues shared ..."Larry was an incredibly warm, creative, and considerate man—always full of great stories and much laughter." A friend said, ..."Larry was a role model to them, with such a good attitude to life and its challenges."

Always concerned about the well-being of others, caring especially for his partner in life, Robert Morgan, Larry will be deeply missed by all who knew him—and most of all, by his beloved partner, Robert



Highlights from Mamma Mia  
Smithers Secondary, Smithers



## ABCDE Executive 2022-2023

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## Congratulations to our 2023 ABCDE Scholarship winners

### Performance Scholarship

Amina Niyazov (she/her) has recently graduated from Dr Charles Best Secondary in Coquitlam. Throughout her time at Best she has put a lot of focus onto expanding her musical theatre knowledge and abilities throughout projects both in and outside of school. Around the community, she has been involved in You're a good man Charlie Brown (Charles best) The Music Man (Lindbjerg Academy) Snow White the panto (Metro theatre), the Artsclub Musical theatre intensive (2022) and more. In September she's moving to Ontario to Study performing arts and is aiming to earn a Bachelors in Musical Theatre and a certificate in Marketing. As she's graduating, Amina's very grateful for the valuable guidance from her knowledgeable teachers so far and she's looking forward to learning more in her next step.



### Production/Technical Scholarship

Maeve Ballance is a graduate of WL Seaton Secondary (SD 22) in Vernon BC. In the fall, she is attending Vancouver film school for the four month acting essentials program. Following that she will explore her options in acting, and in costume design, which are her two passions! She is absolutely delighted to receive this award not only as validation for her hard work but also as it will help her in her very expensive educational journey.



Newsletter submissions: If you want to share show photos, lesson ideas or have an idea for a write up, please contact Christine Knight at [Christine.Knight@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:Christine.Knight@sd72.bc.ca). We'd love to hear from you.

## Recycling the Musical

Drama teachers often do the same musicals at the high school level, and collaborating with another drama teacher is the way to get the most production bang for your buck. Here is one way two drama teachers worked together, even though they were in two separate regions of the province.

Gordon Hamilton of Brookwood Secondary in Langley sourced out a community theatre production of Sponge Bob that wanted to offload their sets and costumes, but the cost to buy was prohibitive for a high school production. He contacted Laurie Anne Lorge of Vernon Secondary who he knew was doing the show later in the year. Lorge was able to budget a portion of the overall cost for her smaller production and together they figured out a way to transport everything from the Okanagan, to Langley, and back again.

Hamilton, a gifted set designer and artist, added considerably to the production, creating unique costume pieces like oversized boxing gloves for Mr. Krabs, and gorgeous glow in the dark sea sculptures. Needless to say, his company's production was a visually stunning success, wrapping up in early March – just in time for Laurie Anne Lorge in the Okanagan to get the set pieces. But how were they to transport it all? Moving vans, of course, are much too expensive. Neither Hamilton, or Lorge had a vehicle large enough to transport the multitude of props, sets and costumes. Fortunately, the answer came from a mutual colleague who had moved her daughter from the Okanagan to the coast using a Home Depot small cargo van. For a reasonable daily fee (no mileage) the van can be rented and requires no special license to operate. This was a great solution to the problem. Then all that was left was to organize a road trip!

These kinds of innovative solutions can only be achieved with teachers reaching out to other teachers. In the end, working together made both productions better as Hamilton had time to add to a collection, could save a bit of money, and Lorge benefited from the improvements Hamilton made.

Don't hesitate to post on the ABCDE Facebook page or send a message to our listserv via [colinplant@shaw.ca](mailto:colinplant@shaw.ca) if you have props, sets or costumes to share, or if you are looking for these things for your next production!



Vernon Secondary



Brookwood Secondary

# W.L. Seaton's ALICE



I knew when starting this journey, I wanted to put a new and unique spin on this old nonsensical story. I wanted it to relate to the students in this company as well as the greater audience. Most of the text comes straight out of Carroll's novel, but in this Wonderland instead of shrinking and growing, Alice changes gender presentation, fitting perfectly with the Caterpillar's iconic question, "Who are you?" This is a question most of us struggle with throughout our lives. As in Carroll's book, we change and grow, question and wonder, get curious about things, figure them out, and move on to new things. In our show, genders and pronouns are fluid. The inhabitants of Wonderland embrace the "queerness" of it all without concern! My hope is that, as a community, we too will learn to embrace the wonder of all the differences around us. We can all learn to see, listen, love, and respect everyone regardless of how they dress or the pronouns they use. We don't have to agree, but we do need to be respectful. The White Rabbit warns Alice not to be rude because, "It doesn't work down here." If only that were the case everywhere. ~ Lana O'Brien, W.L. Seaton



## B.C. National Theatre School DramaFest 2023

From May 4-7, 260 Theatre students, their teachers, workshop leaders, adjudicator, and invited guests gathered in New Westminster to participate in the DramaFest, which was an incredible Drama Camp experience!

We were honoured that Douglas College Theatre Department once again welcomed us for all our theatrical activities, and the Inn at the Quay was our host hotel. We offered 15 different workshops, 11 productions, 4 food trucks, 3 late-night social events, 3 side quests, 2 exclusive Teacher/Chaperone events, a Festival App, and innumerable opportunities to meet, share, play, and revel in the magic of theatre.

The atmosphere was positively electric as everyone was so appreciative to be at a LIVE DramaFest!

**Mark your calendars for DramaFest 2024 from May 2-5 in New Westminster.**

Contact Sharon Conrad at [theatre.garden@yahoo.ca](mailto:theatre.garden@yahoo.ca) if you'd like to participate in a Zone Festival.

**Tarn Blakely Highland Secondary School B.C.  
NTS DramaFest Scholarship Recipient**



TARN is from Highland Sec. in Comox (Ms. Lisa Williams, sponsor Drama teacher) I am incredibly grateful to receive this year's B.C. National Theatre School DramaFest Scholarship. I have poured so much of my energy and love into theatre and being recognized for my dedication is an incredible feeling and a tremendous honour. In theatre, I found my first real community. To be affirmed in this way is beyond my dreams.

This fall, I will be attending the University of Victoria for Theatre and Sociology. After university I hope to find or create a career that allows me to join theatre and social work to create positive social change. I want to create spaces for people to heal and perform the way I have been given the freedom to do in my local theatre.

# B.C. NTS Drama Festival 2023 AWARDS

Student/Production	School	Award
Sophie Borthwick (The Perfect Christmas)	Brookwood	Outstanding Writing and Directing
Winnie & Jack's Adventures Until the End of Time Company	Brookwood	Outstanding Exploration of Humour by the
Mack McCormack (Winnie & Jack's Adventures...)	Brookwood	Outstanding Exploration of Diversity through Storytelling
Kainen Churko	Brookwood	Outstanding Adaptability on the Lighting Board
Interrupting Vanessa Company	Caledonia	Outstanding Ensemble Performance by the
The Cast of Interrupting Vanessa	Caledonia	Outstanding Clarity of Diction
Johanna Hecker (Interrupting Vanessa)	Caledonia	Outstanding Operation of the Lighting Board
Work in Progress Choreographed, and Performed by the Company	Frank Hurt	Outstanding Piece of Devised Theatre Written,
Concord Floral	Highland	Outstanding Choral Work within an Ensemble
Concord Floral	Highland	Outstanding Soundscape
Bella Nybo (Concord Floral)	Highland	Outstanding Lighting Board Skills
The Hallmarks of Horror Company was clearly having fun	Langley Fine Arts	Outstanding Ensemble Performance where the
Onyx Schwengler (The Hallmarks of Horror)	Langley Fine Arts	Outstanding Lighting
Sofia Lopez (The Hallmarks of Horror)	Langley Fine Arts	Outstanding Sound Design
We Close at Nine	Okanagan Mission	Outstanding Risk Taking by the Company
Ben Anderson (We Close at Nine)	Okanagan Mission	Outstanding Writing, Directing, and Performing
I'm Fine	Riverside	Outstanding Piece of Devised Theatre on Mental Wellness
Cat Weisner (I'm Fine)	Riverside	Outstanding Eye for Lighting Design
Lockdown	St. George's	Outstanding Ensemble with Sensitivity to the Subject Matter
Tian Yi Cheung	St. George's	Outstanding Lighting Board Skills
That Funny Feeling during the pandemic	W.J. Mouat	Outstanding Writing that powerfully reflects our experiences
Frank Hurt	Wayne Fairhead Spirit of the Festival Award Recipient	



## Good Will Shakespeare Festival – 2023

The 20th anniversary “Shakesfest” was held in Vernon from April 20-22. 256 delegates from J.L. Crowe (Trail), Kalamalka (Vernon), J.V. Humphries (Kaslo), K.S.S. (Kelowna), Lucerne (New Denver), O.K.M. (Kelowna/Mission), Pinetree (Coquitlam), P.V.S.S. (Armstrong), Rosslund Summit (Rosslund), Urban Academy (New Westminster), V.S.S. (Vernon), and W.L. Seaton (Vernon) gathered to celebrate and create together.

Our amazing workshop leaders and keynotes were Cameron Fraser-Monroe, Mariel Belanger, Danielle Krysa, Susan Bertoia, Alan Marriott, Brian Tate, Jordan Davies, Aaron Quibell, Amy Cuthberston, City Dance Studio (Heather and Jens), Kayleigh Mace, Gordon Hamilton, Robyn Sheppard, and Eryn Kleyh.

As always, the students came away from the three packed days of theatre, music, dance, and art instruction, feeling grateful and forever changed from the experience. More than one student expressed how “life changing” the festival was for them.



Zombie Prom - Terry Fox Secondary, Port Coquitlam

This is a great show for beginners and experienced performers alike. The 50's inspired score of all original music is catchy, clever, and so much fun! Director Zelda Coertze highly recommends it!



Alice in Wonderland - Westview Secondary, Maple Ridge

This was the first production at Westview in many years, and they are very excited to start rebuilding their theatre program.





Highlights from *All the Time in the World* and *Xanadu* by Colquitz Middle School, Victoria



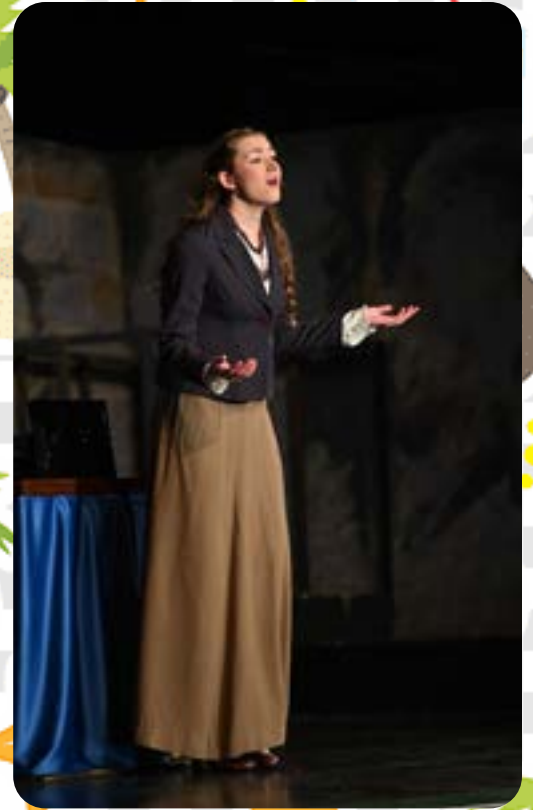


Highlights from  
The Addams Family  
Brooks Secondary, Powell River



Highlights from  
Macbeth  
Moscrop Secondary  
Burnaby





NEWSIES Carihi Secondary, Campbell River  
Carihi lost this show in 2020 when Covid hit, but brought it back this year. The Grade 12s got closure on a show they were part of in 2020 and the rest of the cast got to see what all the fuss was about!





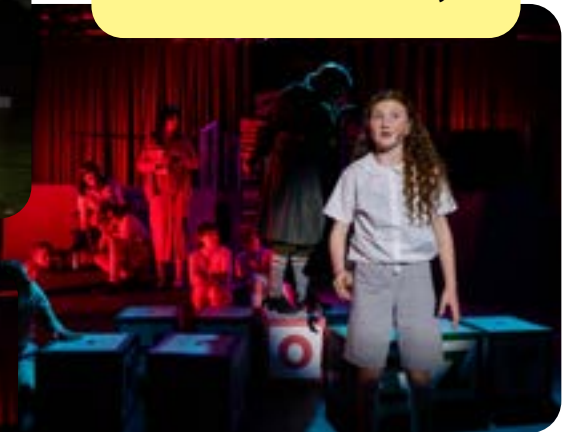
Highlights from  
**GREASE**  
Garibaldi Secondary  
Maple Ridge





**Highlights from  
MATILDA**

**GP Vanier, Highland and  
Isfeld Secondary Schools,  
SD71 Comox Valley**



Have a GREAT summer!