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SPRING EDITION

Editor: Martha Parker



<http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.nea.gov/about/40th/images/joffrey.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.nea.gov/about/40th/>

In May 1913, the lobby of the Théâtre Champs-Élysées in Paris was also over-poweringly hot. Yet the city's most glittering figures - Picasso, Cocteau, Proust, Ravel and Debussy - still went to the theatre that night.

They wanted to witness the premiere of The Rite of Spring, written by Igor Stravinsky and choreographed by the great Russian dancer Vaslav Nijinsky. The music assaulted their ears. Stravinsky had experimented with ferocious stamping rhythms and set them against each other so that they clashed unpredictably. The choreography shocked the first-night audience with its daring modernism, ripping up the rulebook of classical ballet with its heavy, savage movements. One of the dancers later commented, "With every leap we landed heavily enough to jar every organ in us." Most shocking of all was the subject matter of pagan rituals and the barbaric sacrifice of a young virgin"

(<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/features/bbc-drama-about-stravinskys-riot-of-spring-469209.html>).

Message from the president

“Spotlight On”

Happy Spring to all of you! I am introducing a new segment for the newsletter in this issue called "Spotlight On," and I have used my own school as an example.



I would like to see every school drama program spotlighted over the next few years so that we all might have a better sense of connectedness about what we are each doing in isolation (some more isolated than others) in our schools. I look forward to reading about all the other programs in the province. You can forward your spotlight directly to mparker01@sd68.bc.ca. Please include a brief blurb about your programs and 2 or 3 picture examples of your work. Please send the text as a word document.

If you have just finished a major production - Congratulations!! If you are in the middle of one - Keep breathing!! If you are about to open - Break a leg!! In this busy season, don't forget to advocate for your program, especially when students are busy with course selection for the 2013-14 year. Drama education is VITAL in our schools and critical in the development of the whole being - as you know.

With the Provincial election coming up in May, please don't lose sight of the fact that we need a major political change in BC. Use this opportunity to "**Take 5**" people to the polls with you so that we can ensure we elect a government that fully supports sound education practices and funds them appropriately. Concurrently, the BCTF continues our "Year of Action" in the fight to restore the stripped language to our contract. This month's focus is on restoring specialist teachers to every school. And, let's face it...we are all specialists! Please use our ABCDE website and the BCTF website, as well as this newsletter, to stay informed, to communicate with parents, and to advocate for yourself and your programs.

I wish you good health, and happy teaching.

Lana

Spotlight on....WL Seaton Secondary School

Where:

Vernon, BC

Theatre:

27th Street Theatre

Programs:

Drama 8, 9, 10

Stagecraft 10, 11, 12

Theatre Production (non-musical)

Musical Theatre Production

History:

30+ year history of producing quality theatre productions

Facility:

The theatre is a black box theatre measuring 40' wide by 64' long. The stage left wing measures 20' x 27'. When in the Proscenium mode, the stage area is approximately 34 feet wide and 30 feet deep with a back-stage cross. The stage is a sprung wooden floor, covered by a ¼ inch thick masonite surface. The theatre has a full complement of black drapes: upstage traveller, boarders, and legs, as well as a cyclorama. There is a surrounding catwalk at +16' and 2 FOH bridges to provide safe access to hanging positions. 3 LX's over the stage area are flown in by hand winches and accessed by step ladder for final focus. Also, there are other unique multiple hanging positions typical of a black box theatre. Equipped with 10 fly lines with a flyable height of 10 feet, using a rope suspension and pin rail system, there exists many interesting theatrical possibilities.

Website: <http://www.sd22.bc.ca> (look for **27th Street Theatre** on the Home Page.)

Teacher: Lana O'Brien lobrien@sd22.bc.ca

Current Production: *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* - May 22-June 1, 2013



Treasure Island—December 2012



The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

ABCDE Zone Drama Festival Results

Zone 2 – Northwest

Drama Teacher: Rick Jones

Alternate production: The Chair Play by Alan Haehnel School: Smithers Sec.
Drama Teacher: Heather Lytle

Zone 9 – Hope/Mission

Outstanding production: The Last Moon by Eufemia Fantetti School: Maple Ridge Sec.

Drama Teacher: Paula Zentner

Alternate production: Life Line by Douglas Craven School: Hope Sec.
Drama Teacher: Jon Polishak

Zone 10 – North Island

Outstanding production: Check Please by Jonathan Rand School: G.P Vanier Sec.

Drama Teacher: Lori Mazey

Alternate production: A Point of View by David Campton School: Dover Bay Sec.
Drama Teacher: Ward Norcutt

Zone 13 – Surrey

Outstanding production: Doubt: A Parable by John Patrick Shanley School: Southridge Sec.

Drama Teacher: Jennifer Kelly

Alternate production: High School Sucks: A Cinderella Story by Rick Hip-Flores School: North Surrey Sec.
Drama Teacher: Craig Wrotniak

Zone 14a – Pomo/Poco/Coquitlam

Outstanding production: Grim by Shanda Walters School: Riverside Sec.

Drama Teacher: Nicole “Coco” Roberge

Alternate production: The Miracle Worker by William Gibson School: Archbishop Carney Sec.
Drama Teacher: Charles Harris

Zone 15 – North/West Vancouver

Outstanding production: The Letter, The Lovers and the Lucky Sardines by the

Company School: West Vancouver Sec.

Drama Teacher: Judith Hogan

Outstanding production: Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead by Bert V. Royal

School: Howe Sound Sec. Drama Teacher: Janice Carroll

Sears B.C. Drama Festival is May 2-5 at Douglas College in New Westminster

There are three ways to attend the Festival:

Be selected as the Representative or Alternate Production in your ABCDE Zone Drama Festival.

The Representative (Outstanding) Production from each Zone Festival will be invited to present their show on the Provincial Festival stage. The Alternate Production will be invited to attend the Provincial Festival as non-performing delegates. In the event the Representative (Outstanding) Production is unable to present their show, then the Alternate Production will be invited to present their own show on the Provincial Festival stage. Contact your Zone Rep. or Sharon Conrad (Zone & Provincial Festival Liaison) at sconrad@sd35.bc.ca

Be selected as an Outstanding Playwright in the Youthwrite Playwriting Competition.

If you are selected as one of three Outstanding Playwrights in this ABCDE playwriting competition, you will be invited to bring a full production of your play to be presented on the Provincial Drama Festival stage.

Apply to attend as Non-Performing Delegates

As a non-performing delegate you will have the same festival experience as the performing delegates without the responsibility of performing. You will pay the same fee as the other delegates and take part in all of the Festival activities.

Contact Yvette Dudley-Neuman (Provincial Festival Coordinator) at yvettedn@telus.net to apply now!

All students attending the Provincial Drama Festival must be supervised / chaperoned by an ABCDE Drama Teacher/Member.

Looking forward to seeing you there,

Sharon Conrad

Youthwrite 2013 Update

submitted by Sheri Eyre

Youthwrite is a yearly student playwriting competition sponsored by the ABCDE. This is an opportunity to celebrate our students who are striving to find their own unique voices through scriptwriting for the stage.

Each year these submitted scripts are then given to a professional writer for feedback. Three plays are then chosen by the Play-reader as “Outstanding” and those plays are then invited to perform at the Sears ABCDE Drama Festival.

We had a total of 16 scripts entered this year. As well, were fortunate to have Dave Deveau as our Play-reader.

Dave Deveau is an award-winning writer and performer whose plays and operas have been produced across Canada and in Europe. He is best known for his critically-acclaimed play, “My Funny Valentine” which won him the *Sydney Risk Prize* for Outstanding Original Play by an Emerging Playwright, and was nominated for the *Oscar Wilde Award* for Best Writing and the *Jessie Richardson Award* for Outstanding New Play. “My Funny Valentine” recently closed in Dublin, and will be remounted at Vancouver’s Firehall Arts Centre in February, followed by a fall 2013 production in Johannesburg, South Africa. Past productions include: the musical, “Homecoming King” (*Ovation Award*), “Out in the Open” (Green Thumb Theatre), “Tiny Replicas” (*GayVancouver’s Top 10 Productions of 2011*, now in development as a feature) and “Nelly Boy” (Zee Zee Theatre). Dave has written the libretti for two short operas for Toronto’s Tapestry New Opera Works and just premiered his latest as part of Tom Cone’s, The Opera Project (with composer James Coomber) titled “*Unnatural*.” He is currently working on commissions for Zee Zee Theatre, Sociable Films, and Theatre la Seizieme. Dave is the Playwright in Residence for Zee Zee Theatre and is currently curating Human Library for the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival. His latest plays “Tagged” and “Celestial Being” will both premiere as part of Green Thumb Theatre’s 2013/14 season. The French translation of “Celestial Being,” entitled “Extra-Celeste” will premiere with Theatre la Seizieme in 2014.

Youthwrite 2013 (cont'd)

Dave volunteered his time to carefully read and respond to all 16 applicants. After careful consideration, the three outstanding plays Dave chose are:

“Etta” by Paige Mader
Howe Sound Secondary
Sponsor Teacher: Janice Carroll

“The Impetuous Mind” by Robyn Marsden
D.W. Poppy Secondary
Sponsor Teacher: Amber Inglis

“Van Gogh: Before the Legacy” by Jin Young and Jasmine Chen
Aspengrove Secondary
Sponsor Teacher: Jill McElwain

(in alphabetical order by title)

ABCDE would like to thank Dave for his insightful and generous feedback to all of the entrants.

It is so inspiring to see student playwrights and supportive teachers working together to produce a collection of notable student published plays.

DRAMA BITS AND BYTES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Youth Plays Competition for Students

It's that time again. It's the third annual New Voices One-Act Play Competition for young playwrights. Open to young writers (19 and under) worldwide, it's an opportunity to win great prizes that include cash, Final Draft and Great Dialogue software, and the best prize of all, publication with YouthPLAYS! The deadline is May 1st. Full guidelines are on their website at <http://www.youthplays.com>

UBC Summer Institute in Drama 2013 Summer Institute

Drama Education Across/Beyond the Curriculum
July 22-27, 2013 | UBC Vancouver Campus

This summer institute examines how drama can enhance learning experiences in multiple contexts and disciplines. The course engages all educators seeking creative approaches suitable for learners of all ages, levels of ability, and cultural or linguistic backgrounds.

By combining hands-on drama-based strategies with academic literature, this institute promotes engagement with learners through cognitive, kinesthetic and socio-emotional approaches.

REGISTRATION

Register by: Monday, June 17

Visit <http://pdce.educ.ubc.ca/Drama2013> for details.

LEARN MORE

Help promote the program. Download and share the poster.

Web: pdce.educ.ubc.ca/Drama2013

Contact: Jo-Anne Chilton (604.822.3999)

DRAMA BITS AND BYTES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

DRAMARAMA

Vancouver has continued with its tradition of Dramarama!

This year, our topic was Shakespeare! Bard on the Beach was enlisted to supply 4 instructors who held different workshops in Voice, Movement, Text and Character.

Each participating school brought about 10 students. Students mixed into groups to take two of the four workshops offered in the morning. There was time to socialize during a break, a requisite pizza lunch, then the four workshop leaders worked with new assigned groups to produce a monologue together. The results when presented two hours later were breathtaking!

Participating teachers got to go to the workshops, had a meeting, laughed and enjoyed the day. We do it on a Pro-D day and have the best of all worlds.

Rather than hold a one-act festival, we have the opportunity to see each other's work at our own venues. We send our posters to each other and go to as many of the shows as possible. It allows flexibility in scheduling and eliminates the expenses of travel, set delivery, TOC times.... We are very fortunate in being able have transit access to each other's schools.

We look forward to getting out to Douglas College and seeing some shows during the Provincials, although that week is the most popular for producing musicals in our zone!

Julie Bond

DRAMA BITS AND BYTES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Offer from Rodger Barton

A huge bouquet of thanks goes out to Rodger Barton, author of Shakespeare Out Loud series, for his generosity in sharing his valuable resources with educators.

He has decided to make a contribution and set his Shakespeare Out Loud series as a free offer to educators. Free pdf downloads for the 12 plays, Shakespeare Out Loud series, are now available online. www.shakespeareoutloud.ca The full series is bookmarked for easy searches. The scripts are student/actor friendly and production-tested.

His plays include,

Hamlet, King Lear, Henry V, As You Like It, The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, Julius Caesar, The Tempest, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Much Ado About Nothing.

Rodger Barton recently facilitated workshops at ABCDE conferences. He has also traveled to Nanaimo to present his educational one act performance to a group of highschool students at Nanaimo District Secondary School.

Barton's one man show engaged and captivated his youth audience. Rodger's ability to appeal to teens and provide a rich and detailed background of cultural and societal values of Shakespearean England was indeed very impressive. Rodger Barton is available for large school bookings and small group workshops. If you are interested in booking Roger, please contact him at his website above.

Last year, I ordered a class set of Rodger's Shakespeare Out Loud version of Macbeth for my English 11 students. A third of my students were ELL and found it very difficult to read and understand Shakespeare's traditional text. Rodger's version of Shakespeare's Macbeth enabled all of my students to understand the plot and all of its complexities with greater ease.

Please take the time to leave a response and thank Rodger Barton personally for his offer. - Martha Parker

DRAMA BITS AND BYTES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

NOT HOLDING THE CLIPBOARD by Kathleen Everson

I thought she was joking. Honestly, when my former teacher/mentor/ university costume shop guru suggested that I and several of my fellow alumni allow her to use her newly attained Masters in Directing to bring Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano* back to the annual Director's Festival at our Alma Mater, I thought she was joking. So, I agreed of course.

It was no joke. So, with my favorite note taking pencil in hand, dressed in black stretchy things, I went to the first rehearsal in years where I wasn't holding the clipboard.

I've got to tell you, being directed isn't easy. I am learning that. In fact, I am learning a lot. Here are the things I am going to take back to the classroom with me, when I am, once again, the one giving notes.

Being Off-Book:

Ohhhh how many times have said bad words under my breath when the date for being off-book comes and goes and we still have scripts in hand. But, ahem, I had rehearsal today, and, ahem, I didn't know all of my lines. It is hard. WAY harder than I remember.

I'll remember that.

Focus:

We laugh. A lot. We get the giggles and do funny voices and talk out of turn. We are, I realize, every bit as bad as those darn kids. The thing is, it is really fun to be in a play. It is a PLAY after all. We need laugh breaks.

I'll remember that.

Vision:

I had an idea of what the stage would look like, what our costumes would be, how our relationship would unfold on stage...but it isn't up to me. All of my and my fellow cast mates' energy and creativity go into creating the director's vision. What a privilege to have people do that for you. I'll remember that.

Trust:

It is not easy to put yourself out there, to be bold, to let it all hang out with gusto. Yet we ask our students to do that everyday, tell them what to change, and have them do it again. What brave beings, to trust in the process and in the person that guides it.

I'll remember that.

It has been an incredibly rewarding, silly, important time.
Now, go do it.

DRAMA BITS AND BYTES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Online Membership Form by Colin Plant

Very soon the BCTF will join the online world of paying for things online! One example of this will be PSA memberships. The BCTF is in the final stages to launching the online PSA membership renewal.

For years Drama teachers have been frustrated because if they did not attend the annual conference they did not automatically have their membership renewed. Instead you had to print off and mail/fax in your membership renewal. Now you'll be able to go to the www.bctf.ca site and you'll be able to renew using a secure online payment system. Progress!

PLAYCARDS: (Contributed by Colin Plant)

In my Drama classes I require students to read plays every month as part of their coursework learning. Afterwards, I require them to fill out a PLAYCARD I have created. A semester at my school is five months and I have each month's entry worth 2%, so reading plays adds up to 10% for the reading of plays. I explain this activity by suggesting it helps assess the following Grade 11 Theatre Performance PLO: "demonstrate understanding of theatre styles in selected cultures and historical periods"

Here is the condensed form of my PLAYCARD. Feel free to copy/adapt/improve.

MR. PLANT'S PLAY CARD

PLAY TITLE:

PLAYWRIGHT:

FIRST PERFORMED? PUBLISHED?

NUMBER OF CHARACTERS, SIZE OF ROLES, MALE AND FEMALE, EXTRAS, OTHER?

WHAT MAKES THIS PLAY UNIQUE:

WHERE IS THIS PLAY SET AND WHOSE CULTURE IS FEATURED?

WHAT IS THE PLOT:

MAIN THEMES: (Ideas the playwright is really writing about)

WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS PLAY?

WHAT DID YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT THIS PLAY?

DRAMA BITS AND BYTES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Opportunity for students

Subject: Drama Scholarship

Our company is offering a new scholarship for \$500 to one exceptional in the fine arts. Because this is a new scholarship ,I wanted to get the word out to as many students as possible. As such I wanted to see if you had a way to send out the information to your drama teachers so students can know and apply. I have included a PDF with all the details, but the deadline to apply is May 15th.

To apply—visit <http://www.inviteright.com/scholarship2013>

DRAMA BITS AND BYTES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Get Connected—Links for Drama Teachers

Let's Get Social

The ABCDE is online! Come join us and get social!

Links from Colin Plant

WWW: www.bcdramateachers.com

Twitter: @BCDRAMATEACHERS

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5767477522/> or search for ABCDE on FACEBOOK

Make your own trivia sheets at <http://trivia.theatrefolk.com>

More links from Lana O'Brien

Green theatre blog:

<http://theatreideas.blogspot.ca/2008/03/model-make-it-sustainable-scenery.html>

<http://www.theatrelinks.com/set-design/>

<http://actorsfoundry.com>