

ABCDE

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Message from Lana O'Brien , President:

Seasons Greetings to all! Many of you are either just wrapping up or are in the midst of major fall productions, or one act play festivals, or seasonal classroom offerings and concerts...not to mention trying to prepare for the holiday feasting, entertaining, and most importantly—some well earned down time!

I am thrilled to be working on the ABCDE Executive again, and I look forward to the challenge of trying to fill the shoes Colin has graciously filled for the past four years as our illustrious leader. As one of the few PSA'S in the province that is actually growing, we are looking forward to continuing with the very successful YouthWrite competition and the Sears Drama Festival. Additionally, we are putting together an INCREDIBLE October 2013 PSA Conference in the OKANAGAN. Plan ahead and watch for details and deadlines for this inspiring opportunity.

I am thankful the political climate is a little healthier (albeit tenuous) than last year. I hope that all of us are continuing to find a positive balance of work and play, while advocating ferociously for drama and theatre programs in our schools.

I look forward to having a chance to talk to each of you over the course of the next few months so that I can get your input on how you would like your ABCDE Executive to best support you.

Wherever you find yourselves this season, I wish you continued success, good health and inspired creativity in the new year.

Cheers, Lana O'Brien

2012

ABCDE EXECUTIVE

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Email: sconrad@sd35.bc.ca

We are looking forward to serving our members. Please contact us if you have any concerns, questions, or submissions in the way of lesson plans or drama games.

Best Wishes for a bright and happy holiday.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the ABCDE offers one \$750 scholarship to a grade 12 student entering a post-secondary institution further pursuing their Theatre training. The winner MUST be a student of an ABCDE MEMBER. Sadly over the years, there have been several students who would have won except that their teacher was not a member. If you want to support that student who is intending to pursue further training, why not suggest they apply for the ABCDE scholarship? Please make sure that you have your membership up to date.

Information about the scholarship can be found at www.bcdramateachers.com and then by clicking on the scholarship link.



ABCDE TEACHER AWARDS

ABCDE has three awards which it can give out annually.

DRAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR is for a practicing teacher and ABCDE member. It may go to anyone who teaches K-12 and incorporates Drama in and beyond the classroom, such as touring shows to other schools, going to see other people's theatrical work, having professionals in the school working with students, etc.

DRAMA IN EDUCATION

This award is for a member of ABCDE who has shown outstanding work in the field of Drama as an excellent teacher with students, an advocate of the arts, and as a facilitator and / or teacher of other teachers.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

This award is for an individual who is an advocate for Drama in BC schools and whose work reflects the policies and goals of ABCDE. This award could go to administrators, university instructors, community members, parents, professional individuals and companies. Please consider nominating a worthy Drama Educator in BC.

For more information or to nominate a teacher, please go to www.bcdramateachers.com and click on ABCDE Member Teacher Awards.

Deadline for nominations is September 30, 2013.

For more information contact Colin Plant, ABCDE Past-President at colinplant@shaw.ca

NOTES FROM THE PAST-PRESIDENT

Hello. Congratulations to Lana O'Brien and the new executive. I am looking forward to the next year working with this dynamic group. One role I serve within the BCTF currently is the Chair of the PSA Council Steering and Agenda Committee, which 33 PSA Presidents attend. One of the issues that is dear to my heart is professional development and the leading provider for Pro-D should be PSAs. As such, I made a motion that was supported by our ABCDE Executive in November and is being explored at PSA Council this year that would see every BCTF member receive one complimentary PSA membership of their choice. This is not something that will happen quickly and there are many challenges facing this initiative, but I am trying hard to see that this idea is thoughtfully considered, costed out that supported. I will keep you up to date. If you have any thoughts about this, please feel free to email me at colin-plant@shaw.ca



Supporting Statement to ABCDE Motion at the AGM regarding future graduation requirements including BOTH Fine Arts and Applied Skills

The Association of BC Drama Educators (ABCDE) recognizes that reviewing graduation requirements is a valuable exercise as the world is changing and revisiting what a student needs out of their schooling is important to maintaining a relevant public school system. The ABCDE believes that BC students need to be exposed to academic, technical, and artistic educational activities at school.

In our opinion each component is equally important and therefore we advocate that students graduating require both a Fine Arts and Applied Skills credit to graduate from secondary school. The idea that a student only takes academic courses to graduate will result in a student who is less well-rounded.

The creative and innovative ways in which the Fine Arts encourage students to process information are methods which will help students respond to similar challenges in the real world when they graduate. Students who are able to express themselves will be ready to effectively participate in a modern workplace where the jobs undertake are changing as society changes.

We also believe that students need to have Fine Arts training in order to become better citizens who learn to appreciate different cultures and societies. The Fine Arts are perfectly suited to help young people become informed and ready to participate in a developing BC and Canadian society. A public school system without Fine Arts will result in a student who is missing a significant part of their education and social development.





Youthwrite 2012

Youthwrite is a playwriting opportunity sponsored by the
Association of British Columbia Drama Educators
for all secondary students in British Columbia.

Submissions will be assessed by a respected Canadian playwright.

Top scripts will be invited to attend and perform at the

B.C. High School Drama Festival

May 2-5, 2013 at Douglas College

<http://www.bcdramateachers.com/provincial-drama-festival.html>

Guidelines for Submission:

- ❖ **The sponsor teacher MUST be an ABCDE member in good standing at the time of submission.**
- ❖ Plays must be one act, any style, and on any topic
- ❖ Scripts must have been written between **Jan. 2012 – Dec 31 2013**
- ❖ Scripts written in the previous year will be accepted from students who have graduated, with proof of their registration in a secondary school during 2012
- ❖ Keep the cast requirements small and have few, if any, scene or set changes
- ❖ Use the official cover page provided by your teacher
- ❖ Scripts should be in final draft form, spell checked, and camera ready for printing
- ❖ Establish your own rates for royalties
- ❖ As a condition of entering this contest, the ABCDE has first printing rights for your script and will publish it in an anthology
- ❖ Each school may enter two scripts only
- ❖ A \$15 reading fee must accompany applications and scripts (*Make cheques payable to ABCDE*)
- ❖ Entries **MUST** be submitted electronically in PDF format (read only) by January 15. (the read only ensures the script cannot be changed)
- ❖ All Entries should have an attached application to help with tracking the scripts.
- ❖ Payment and forms must arrive no later than January 31.

Send your script by...

E-mail the script and application to: Sheri Eyre at seyre@sd35.bc.ca

You can then mail hard copy of the applications and your reader fees to:

Sheri Eyre

Youthwrite B.C.

106-45770 Spadina Ave

Chilliwack BC V2P 1T6



Youthwrite 2012

Application Form

This form must accompany each entry.

Name of play:

Playwright:

Home Address:

Home Phone:

Personal E-mail:

School:

School Address:

School Phone:

School Fax:

Sponsor Teacher:

Teacher's E-mail:

I am a current member of the ABCDE (Sponsor teacher's signature):

Enclosed is a \$15.00 reading fee:

I _____ (*playwright's name*) give permission to ABCDE to publish my play _____ (*title*) in their 2012 Youthwrite anthology. I realize they will only publish this material and will not be in any way responsible for this material or in the collection of royalties. I realize that the following performance permission will be directed to me personally and I will be the sole granter of performance rights.

I would like the following message to accompany my play:

Caution: Professionals and Amateurs are hereby warned that

_____ written by: _____ is subject to royalty. It is protected under Copyright Law. Inquiries regarding performance rights and royalties should be directed to:

_____ (your name)

_____ (your full address here)

The fee for a single production of this play is \$ _____

Add any other restrictions here:

Signed: _____

Here are the amended Zone and Provincial Festival Rules. Most of the “new” rules in blue font have been unwritten for decades in our Festival system or just assumed for their common sense. We thought it was time to put them in writing. The format is also new and much easier to access information at a glance. - Sharon Conrad

BCDE ZONE & PROVINCIAL DRAMA FESTIVAL RULES 2012-2013

A. PARTICIPATION

A1 There must be a minimum of four schools producing shows in the Zone Drama Festival.

A2 The cast and crew of each production will be grade 8-12 students from one secondary school.

A3 All students involved in a school production must be registered as students at the school for at least one semester of the school year in which the production is entered in the festival.

A4 The volunteer director of a festival play (zone/provincial) must be, or must be sponsored by a bona fide current BCTF and ABCDE member from that production’s school.

A5 A school may enter a maximum of two productions into a Zone Festival, however each entry must have a significantly different cast and crew.

Only one production from a school in a Zone Festival may move on to the Sears B.C. Drama Festival.

A6 Teachers and students are responsible for the good behaviour of the members of their company according to the guidelines established by the Zone Festival host school and the Sears B.C. Drama Festival.

A7 All live musicians must be eligible student participants from the production’s school.

A8 Each production must provide sufficient crew members to run the production such as a Stage Manager, Lighting Board Operator, Sound Board Operator, and Stagehands. In the event that a production does not have qualified student crew members to operate the lighting and sound boards of the host theatre, the theatre’s technical staff may assist.

A9 Each school will be responsible for their own costs. This includes any damages incurred to equipment, property, or persons at the Festival.

A10 Organized curtain calls are permitted and encouraged.

B. TIME LIMITATIONS

B1 Productions shall have a running time of not less than 15 minutes or more than 60 minutes.

B2 Each production will receive equal technical time at the host theatre/performance venue.

B3 The Festival Stage Manager is responsible for the official timing of all productions. Timing will begin with the first cue given by the production’s stage manager and will end with his/her last cue. The curtain call is not counted as part of the time allowance.

C. SCRIPTS, RIGHTS, AND ROYALTIES

C1 Choice of material (content and language) is the sole responsibility of the participating school's administration.

C2 Performing rights, royalty payments, and/or letters of permission relating to each production are the responsibility of the producing school. A statement that such payments have been made and permission granted will be required by the Festival

Host/Coordinator in advance.

C3 Neither Sears Canada, Inc., nor the Sears British Columbia Drama Festival will accept legal responsibility for any violation of copyright by a school participating in the festival.

C4 Self-contained or self-explanatory single acts or scenes from longer plays may be entered provided permission has been obtained from the publisher or author.

C5 Festival programs must contain warnings for such things as: smoke, fog, strobe lights, gun shots, explosions, strong language, mature content, other live or recorded sound which may prove hazardous to health or well-being etc.

C6 A correct and complete list of cast and crew is required for the Festival program. This must include all acknowledgements relating to script, performance rights and adult assistance. Indicate the difference between student and adults by Mr., Mrs., Ms, Miss, or Dr.

C7 A script or written text must be provided for the adjudicator in advance.

D. SETS

D1 Scenery must be safely set-up in 10 minutes and struck in 5 minutes.

D2 Each production must be self-contained and provide all their own scenery, costumes, props etc. unless other arrangements are made with the host theatre or other schools. These arrangements must not give the participating production any outstanding advantages not available to other schools.

D3 Arrangements for pre-building and touch-ups for set preparation ahead of scheduled technical rehearsal time will be made at the discretion of the Festival

Stage Manager.

D4 Technical specifications for Zone Festivals and the Sears B.C. Drama Festival will be made available to the participating schools.

E. LIGHTING AND SOUND

E1 The host theatre will provide the basic technical support of light and sound.

This is usually a general wash and access to sound equipment.

E2 A limited number of "Specials" (individual lights to focus on areas of the stage) will be available to each participating production depending on the limitations of the host theatre.

E3 Additional lighting or sound equipment used by a production must be set-up during the Technical rehearsal time, and must not interfere with other productions in the Festival.

E4 Microphones may not be used to amplify speech for individual productions.

They may be used for special effects only (as a prop for a radio announcer, for a musical number, backstage voice-over, or a performer with special needs who requires an amplifying device.

E5 Pre-show ambient or mood music or sound may be used only if it is followed by a definite “first cue” for the purpose of timing.

F. ADJUDICATION

F1 Each production will receive a 5 minute public adjudication and a 30-60 minute private adjudication.

F2 Adjudication will be based on the general excellence of a production.

F3 Decisions of adjudicators are final.

F4. Zone Reps must make adjudicators and all festival participants aware of the General Criteria for Adjudication prior to the Zone Festival.

G. GENERAL CRITERIA FOR ADJUDICATION

One of the objectives of the ABCDE is to promote Drama Education by supporting, encouraging and developing dramatic activity, interest, and knowledge among children and youth in British Columbia.

If the adjudication is to reflect this objective, adjudicators should possess as many of the following qualities as possible.

G1 Knowledge: Adjudicators should understand...

-the needs of adolescents;

-the objective and nature of the Festival;

-the history and elements of drama and theatre;

-the elements of drama-in-education and theatre-in-education;

-the following concepts: author/playwright and dramatic intent, production techniques to address dramatic intent, production integrity in terms of dramatic intent;

-the written and spoken language of a production.

G2 Skills: Adjudicators should be able to...

-communicate (read, write, speak, listen) to a general audience at a public adjudication, to adolescents and their adult supervisors at a private adjudication, and in the language of a production.

- encourage participants to explore (looks at things in different ways), stretch (intellectually, emotionally, physically), grow and develop;
- deal with the needs of groups and individuals positively, respectfully, and constructively;
- provide unbiased, constructive criticism.

G3 Values, Beliefs, Behaviours: Adjudicators should...

- value learning, growth, development;
- believe in the Festival and its main objective;
- believe in adolescents and their potential;
- reflect integrity, tolerance, open-mindedness, sensitivity and understanding, honesty, flexibility;
- value creativity, risk-taking, equability, questioning, exploring, reflecting, and excellence.

Rubric

An adjudication rubric created by the ABCDE is available to adjudicators if they wish to use it.

Zone Reps can provide a copy.

H. EXPECTATIONS OF ADJUDICATORS

H1 Read/prepare for adjudication the “scripts” of the productions in advance of the Festival.

H2 Attend all performances of the productions at the Festival.

H3 In a team adjudication situation, all adjudicators will attend all performances.

H4 Deliver a short public adjudication following each evening (session) of theatre.

H5 Deliver a detailed, specific private adjudication to each performing group. It is important that this adjudication be constructive and positive.

H6 Adjudicators will confer with Festival Stage Managers regarding the selection of suitable recipients of technical awards.

H7 Adjudicators will confine awards to those available in the Festival.

H8 Normally, adjudicators will award all awards available, however, if the adjudicators feel that the calibre of the productions does not warrant this, the adjudicators will consult with the Festival Coordinator before such a decision is made.

H9 Select one “Representative” and one “Alternate” production based on the general excellence of the productions.

H10 Inform the Zone Rep of their selections no more than 48 hrs. after the completion of the Zone Festival.

NOTE

The “Representative” production will be invited to the Sears B.C. Drama Festival to present their production. The “Alternate” production will also be invited to the Sears B.C. Drama Festival, but as a non-performing group. In the event that the “Representative” production is unable to attend or perform at the Sears B.C. Drama Festival, then the “Alternate” production will be invited to present their production from the Zone Festival.

◆ The final deadline for Zone Reps. to send the Zone Festival Report to the Provincial Festival Coordinator is Monday, Mar. 4, 2013 in order to gather the information necessary for the Sears B.C. Drama Festival.

THREE WAYS to PARTICIPATE in the SEARS B.C. DRAMA FESTIVAL

May 2-5, 2013 at Douglas College in New Westminster

1. 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, 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

2. 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.

Contact Sheri Eyre (Youthwrite Coordinator) at seyre@sd35.bc.ca

3. 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.

ABCDE ZONE REPS and ZONE DISTRICTS 2012 – 2013

Zone 1 - Northeast - Jennifer Baloc, North Peace Sec., Fort St. John jbaloc@prn.bc.ca

Zone 2 - Northwest - Alison O'Toole, Prince Rupert Sec. kieval@citytel.net

Zone 3 - North Central – Erin Baker, Nechako Valley Sec., Vanderhoof ebaker@sd91.bc.ca

Zone 4 - Kamloops - Lori Jane Froese, Kamloops School District Office ljfroese@sd73.bc.ca

Zone 5 - North Okanagan – Lana O'Brien, W.L. Seaton Sec., Vernon lobrien@sd22.bc.ca

Zone 6 - South Okanagan - Lori Grant, Princess Margaret Sec.,Penticton lgrant@summer.com

Zone 7 - Rocky Mountains - Emilio Regina, Selkirk Sec., Kimberley dregina@telus.net

Zone 8 - Kootenays - Robyn Sheppard, L.V. Rogers Sec., Nelson rsheppard@sd8.bc.ca

Zone 9 - Hope/ Mission – Brian Billo, W.J. Mouat Sec., Abbotsford brian_billo@sd34.bc.ca

Zone 10 - North Island - Pamela Schwarze, Dover Bay Sec., Nanaimo pschwarze@sd68.bc.ca

Zone 11 - South Island - Alan Penty, Victoria High apenty@shaw.ca

Zone 12 - Langley - Sharon Conrad, Brookwood Sec. sconrad@sd35.bc.ca

Zone 13 - Surrey - Craig Wrotniak, North Surrey Sec. wrotniak_c@sd36.bc.ca

Zone 14a - Pomo/Poco/Co - Coco Roberge, Riverside Sec., Port Coquitlam nroberge@sd43.bc.ca

Zone 14b – Burnaby/New West - David Wallace, Burnaby South Sec. david.wallace@sd41.bc.ca

Zone 15 - North/West Vancouver – David Beare, Handsworth Sec.,North Vancouver dbeare@nvsd44.bc.ca

Zone 16 - Vancouver - Julie Bond, Kitsilano Sec. jbond@vsb.bc.ca

Zone 17 - Delta - Greg Dennett, Seaquam Sec. gdennett@deltasd.bc.ca

Zone 18 - Richmond - Linda Watson, A.R. MacNeil Sec. lwatson@richmond.sd38.bc.ca

THE ZONE REPRESENTATIVE (a voluntary position) is responsible for:

- ensuring that all teachers sponsoring productions in their Zone Festival are current members of BCTF and ABCDE at the time of their festival and forward.
- ensuring that all participating teachers and students know and follow the rules of zone festivals.
- maintaining communication with Sharon Conrad and Yvette Dudley-Neuman, the Provincial Festival

Coordinator

- keeping Sharon informed of all Drama festival activity in their particular Zone.
- reporting the outcome of their Zone Festival to the Provincial Festival Coordinator immediately upon the completion of that festival.

And you thought there was nothing at the end of this December newsletter. Well since it's December, and it's the season of giving, I will leave you with a game that might be new to some of you, or maybe it's a game that you know and you haven't played it for a while. At any rate, I won't keep you in suspense any longer. "Merry Christmas!"

PRISONER AND GUARD (From Arts On The Move)

Good for Grade 2 upwards. Mildly physical. Improves concentration and teaches names.

An odd number of participants are needed - teachers can always join in! Put chairs in a circle. Ask participants to get into pairs, one person sitting on a chair and their partner standing behind them. One person will be left standing behind an empty chair. Discard all other chairs not being used. Those sitting down are the 'prisoners'; those standing behind them are the 'guards'. Any guard with an empty prison, i.e. no prisoner sitting in front of them, must try to fill it by calling the name of one of the prisoners seated. That prisoner then tries to escape to the new prison by making a mad dash for the empty chair in front of the guard who has just called his or her name. The guard standing behind the prisoner trying to escape must try and stop this by tapping the prisoner lightly on the shoulder or back. If the guard manages to tap his or her prisoner before he/she escapes, then the prisoner remains, if, however, the guard misses, then the prisoner is free to go to the new prison. There will now be a new guard with an empty prison and he or she must call out the name of a prisoner sitting down - it can be the same one but, preferably, someone new - to try and fill the empty prison in front of them. Guards must stand at all times a little way behind their prisons, with their hands behind their backs. Prisoners must sit firmly on their chairs and not perch on the edge! The game should continue until it builds up a bit of speed and everyone has had a 'turn' and then swap the children over, to give new guards and prisoners a go.

Please watch out for anyone not being chosen and don't let the game run for too long or they'll get bored.

December Newsletter by Martha Parker