

# ABCDE FOCUS



# SPRING 2018

## President's Message

Happy spring everyone!

While some of us in the province are still buried in snow (with no end in sight) there does seem to be some hint that spring is in the air. I welcome the fresh and rejuvenating feeling at this time of year. This is always an exciting time for drama teachers in the province with all the year end and second semester performances in the works. On behalf of the ABCDE executive I'm sending virtual coffee, chocolate and broken legs to you all, and please send us pictures of your shows as we love to highlight the important work that you are all doing. Christine Knight puts together our newsletters and would love to hear from you. (Christine.Knight@sd72.bc.ca)

While we are two thirds of the way through the year don't forget that there are still many great things coming to you from the ABCDE. Just around the corner we have two fantastic festivals for students and teachers. Lana O'Brien is busy organizing the "Goodwill Shakespeare Festival" running April 16-18, 2018 ([www.goodwillshakespeare.ca](http://www.goodwillshakespeare.ca)) If you have not attended this festival in the past this is definitely one to put on your radar. It provides many opportunities for your students to learn and celebrate their work with phenomenal instructors. Not to mention, it's an opportunity to spend time in the beautiful Okanagan! ;)

And of course Sharon Conrad and Gord Hamilton, both past executive members of ABCDE and still working hard on our behalf, are busy with preparations for the Provincial Drama Festival running April 26-29 at Douglas College in New Westminster BC. Even if your zone does not run a zone drama festival, you can attend this festival as a non-performing delegate, but there are limited spots available and the deadline to register is fast approaching. Your students will have the good fortune to work with excited and experienced professionals, gearing them up for course selection in your drama program next year. It is inspiring for both you and your students. ([www.bcdramateachers.com](http://www.bcdramateachers.com))

Additionally you and your students are encouraged to check out the scholarship application available to students of ABCDE members, and the teacher award nominations on our webpage. We have just completed our ABCDE YouthWright Scriptwriting competition and I would like to congratulate everyone who participated in this program.

As I round out my first year as your ABCDE president I am overwhelmed by the amount of time and energy your executive, both past and present, gives on your behalf. We continue to work to provide the opportunities for you and your students. This is rewarding work and I can't imagine not having my drama teacher family. Please join me in saying thank you to everyone... perhaps the next time you hear from Colin on List-Serve, or Christine with a newsletter, or Jenn on Warm-Up Wednesday etc. As I sign off I am preparing to meet with Gord and our executive to begin planning next fall's conference! I would also like to thank all of you for your hard work with the students in your schools. If you ever doubted the difference that your work makes in the lives of young people check out the interesting links posted on the ABCDEonFacebook group page, in reference to the important work we do.

Heather Lee, ABCDE President

## Annie - Claremont Secondary School

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# Creative Break 2018

VFS High School Camps



Join us over Spring Break for two fun-filled days exploring careers in the entertainment industry!

Students in Gr. 9-12 go hands-on with industry experts to discover how VFS's one-year intensive education model can quickly launch them into an incredible career!



**VFS** VANCOUVER  
FILM SCHOOL

## March 19 - 22

Vancouver Film School's March Break Camps are filling up fast but there are still a few spots available.

Open to students in grades 9-12, these camps feature hands-on workshops led by industry professionals from Acting, Makeup, Film Production and more.

Help spread the word and give your students the chance to experience something fun this spring.

## Choose from:

**Discover what it's like to be a professional actor! Audition. Cast. Shoot: Script to Screen in Two Days**

March 19-20 and March 21-22 - **6 spots left!**

**Makeup Design: Makeup for Stage + Screen: From Trauma to Tattoos**

March 21-22 - **3 spots left!**

**Writing: Creating a TV Series**

March 19-20 and March 21-22 - **4 spots left!**

**Film Production: Cinematic Storytelling**

March 19-20 - **Sold out!**

Starting at only \$120 per workshop, this is a great way for students to spend time over the break.

Spread the word, cause seats are filling up fast.

[vfs.edu/creative-break](http://vfs.edu/creative-break)



### 2018 Northwest Zone Drama Festival Participants

February 22nd to 25th, I had the pleasure of hosting the High School Drama Festival for the Northwest Zone in Prince Rupert. This year four schools (from Hazelton, Smithers, Terrace and Prince Rupert) participated in the zone festival presenting a total of six plays over three nights. Each night after the shows we gathered for some form of informal social event, the last night being a Musical Theatre Themed Dance Party!

It is hard not to feel pride and joy when you spend four days with 75 enthusiastic theatre students and their teachers, sharing and appreciating all of our hard work, making new friends, and gaining insight and constructive feedback on our productions from an excellent adjudicator; Joan MacLean is fantastic and helped establish the fun, warm and caring tone that lasted throughout the festival.

Festival is a wonderful opportunity for drama teachers to connect with each other. In smaller towns like ours we often find ourselves working in isolation from other drama teachers so we all value the time we get to spend together at these annual events. We have a very supportive zone and we have all become friends over the many years of doing these festivals. If your zone does not currently have a festival, I strongly encourage you to reach out to your fellow drama colleagues and try to get one going. The benefits for both students and teachers are invaluable!

Alison O'Toole - Drama Teacher at Charles Hays Secondary in Prince Rupert



Prince Rupert "Heathers"  
meet Smithers "Heathers"  
at the theme dance!

Peter and the Starcatcher - Gulf Islands Secondary School



Shrek

Okanagan Mission  
Secondary, Kelowna



# Indigenous

Scholarship for Acting + Film Production

At VFS, we're proud of the many Indigenous graduates from our creative arts programs working across the spectrum of media industries, finding audiences for their work at home and internationally.

**VFS** VANCOUVER  
FILM SCHOOL

The Indigenous Ambassador Scholarship for Acting and Film Production is an exhilarating opportunity for any young actors and filmmakers in the Indigenous community who would like the chance to have some financial help with their diploma.

## Scholarship Details:

- 2 awards of fully paid tuition towards Acting for Film + Television 1-year diploma program, awarded to 1 male and 1 female recipient.
- 2 awards of 10,000 towards tuition in Acting for Film + Television 1-year diploma program.
- 2 awards of 5,000 towards tuition in Acting Essentials 4-month certificate program.
- 1 award of fully paid tuition towards Film Production 1-year diploma program

\* The VFS Indigenous Acting Scholarship will be applied towards eligible program tuition and has no redeemable cash value.

## Scholarship Deadline: April 30, 2018

To learn more about These Scholarship opportunities at VFS visit:

[vfs.edu/scholarships/indigenous-acting](http://vfs.edu/scholarships/indigenous-acting)

## Keith Johnstone in the Comox Valley

A dream came true for many improv enthusiasts this winter. Keith Johnstone, improv pioneer, came to GP Vanier Secondary in Courtenay to do a two day workshop with a group of excited teachers, students and community members. Lori Mazey had long thought about bringing the improv master to the Comox Valley, and this year it finally happened.

Johnstone spent two days guiding the participants in dozens of activities and games, so many of them familiar to readers of his books *Impro* and *Impro for Storytellers*, but still relevant and fun for everyone. Funny, sometimes forgetful, but always knowledgeable, he shared his wisdom about improv (and life) with the group. It was also an opportunity for teachers to stretch their improv muscles, and actually get up on stage, something that THIS improv coach doesn't do nearly as often as I should.

It was a great weekend, one that everyone involved will remember for a long time.

Christine Knight



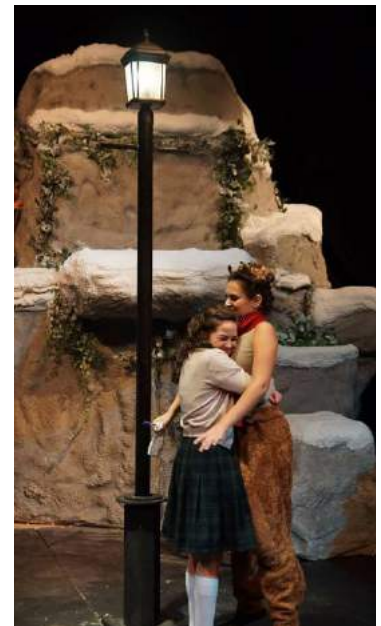
Lori Mazey and Keith Johnstone





The Lion, The Witch,  
and the Wardrobe

Abbotsford  
Christian School



# SPOTLIGHT ON... New Westminster Secondary School

The NWSS Drama Department is thriving, despite lack of teaching space, funding and an impending construction of the much anticipated new school.

Drama teachers, Traci Cave and Frances Monteleone, truly believe that a theatre is the heart of a community and they work to teach and spread the concept of “Drama Love” to their students. The classes provide a safe place for students to learn, explore and feel.

Over the years, they have increased the number of drama blocks from grades 9 through to 12 and are excited to be offering new options for the coming school year. After implementing the Musical Theatre Program a few years ago (for which students receive 8 arts credits), they are now introducing a musical theatre fundamentals course to focus on the basics of the three disciplines of acting, singing and dancing. With great interest in their Hair & Makeup club, they are seeing tremendous growth in numbers. Coming off a successful run of “Crazy For You” on the Massey Theatre Stage, they are gearing up for their annual anti-bullying presentation “Rock Solid”. This production presents original works that showcase the importance of acknowledging poor behaviours within the school community. They also have a bridging program with the local elementary and middle schools where they mentor younger students and advocate against bullying. In addition, they present original Remembrance Day plays and their annual productions of “NDub’s Got Drama”, a comedic showcase featuring the senior acting students. Traci and Frances work to include cross-curricular activities into their unit plans and work closely with the creative writing students as well. Outside of the classroom setting, they offer opportunities for students to participate in both club and competitive improv. With assistance from the NWSS drama students, Frances and Traci often teach workshops and drama camps to younger students from district schools to increase interest in their programs. They are currently gearing up for their second trip to NYC with a group of 32 students.

Drama Love is abundant at NWSS and the passion is contagious!



"Crazy For You" - New Westminster Secondary School



“Next Stop: The Pursuit of Happiness”  
- Rockridge Secondary School



“Fiddler on the Roof”  
- Brookwood Secondary



# **ABCDE NEWS!**

## **ABCDE Scholarship**

It's time to start thinking about potential scholarship applicants for this year's award. Each year the ABCDE awards a \$750 scholarship to a deserving individual who is pursuing education in theatre or technical theatre. Applications should be completed and sent in by May 31st, 2018

## **ABCDE Teacher awards**

The ABCDE has three awards which it can award annually:

**DRAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR** 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.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE** is for an individual who is an advocate for Drama in B.C. 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 etc.

**DRAMA IN EDUCATION** 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.

Please consider nominating someone deserving. Deadline for nominations for next year is September 30, 2018.

## **ABCDE Youthwright**

Thank you to the student playwrights and sponsoring teachers who submitted a total of ELEVEN plays to the Youthwright Festival 2018.

Congratulations to the top three Outstanding Play Winners:

Odd Man Out by Alyssa Formosa from Mission Secondary School, Mission, BC. Teacher: Rebecca Meyer

Moonlight Jazz in New York by Trinity Valera-Mertineit from Mission Secondary School, Mission, BC. Teacher: Rebecca Meyer

Backstage by Raine Graham from Terry Fox Secondary, Port Coquitlam, BC. Teacher: Dan Tilsley

**Please see our website [www.bcdramateachers.com](http://www.bcdramateachers.com) for information and application forms for any of our news items.**



## **Become a member of the ABCDE... a PSA of the BCTF**

#1 Do you want to join/subscribe to the ABCDE? Need to renew your membership? Online registration can be found at <https://www.bctf.ca/psa/join.aspx>

#2 Do you prefer to print off the application and mail it in? Find a link to the form at [www.bcdramateachers.com](http://www.bcdramateachers.com)

#3 Join our moderated email list-serv and connect with other Drama practitioners! Share ideas, ask for help, post info about your shows. Almost anything Drama-related goes. Anyone can read our list-serv, but only members/subscribers can post (membership has its privileges ...\*sometimes we will post FREE offers for teachers on behalf of non-members)

To join our list-serv:

Use the drop-down list to select “psa-abcde” (fortunately we are the first one in the list!).

To post a message to our list-serv, please email Colin Plant at [colinplant@shaw.ca](mailto:colinplant@shaw.ca)  
Our list-serv is moderated to avoid getting spammed.

Not sure of your membership status? Please contact the BCTF at 1-800-663-9163 and ask