

ABCDE FOCUS

SUMMER 2016 Newsletter



President's Report

June 22 2016

I cannot deny it feels good to type the words "year-end report" as we reach June 30th and I start to think about summer plans. This past year has been a success for the ABCDE, both in our regular PSA activities and our advocacy around the ministry's new curriculum. But there is another year coming and now we will need to work to ensure the curriculum trial year is successful for members.

The first item I'd like to comment upon is the appreciation I have (and hope you do as well) for the executive of the ABCDE and the work they do on behalf of the membership. In particular our long-serving treasurer Gordon Hamilton must be acknowledged for the work he does on our two biggest initiatives, the annual conference and the provincial festival. It is also important to acknowledge what two retired Honorary Membership recipients do for the organization. Linda Beavan ran our YouthWrite contest and Sharon Conrad was the liaison with the executive for the provincial festival. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the year's activities of the ABCDE.

The advocacy we did on behalf of BC Drama Educators has proven fruitful as the Ministry of Education has decided to continue to create curriculum and offer the variety of courses that currently existed in the Drama area of the Fine Arts curriculum. While initially only Drama 10, Drama 11, Drama 12 were proposed, we were able to convey the importance of the variety of our course offerings and the need for the ministry to write curriculum and not require teachers to create locally-developed (or BAA) courses.

This past year we have been seeing the trial year of the K-9 curriculum which will become the new official curriculum this September. Next year will see the draft Grade 10-12 curriculum being trial run for 2016-17. This is complicated somewhat by the fact we do not have these draft curricula for each course available yet. Please know your PSA is aware of the need for adequate implementation time and that the needs of not only our students, but also our teachers must be met with the new curriculum.

This October our Pro-D conference will return to the Okanagan, and in particular, Kelowna. I'd like to thank host Ryan Grenier of Okanagan Mission Secondary School for allowing us to meet and learn and celebrate together in his school. Keep your eyes on our list-serv to ensure you get the registration info as soon as it becomes available. (And yes, a party bus is being arranged to get us up there.)

A final thanks to you, the Drama educators of BC, for the work you do with our students. It fills me with great pride to think of the hundreds (thousands?) of performances and innumerable hours that our teachers work with children each year in BC. To paraphrase King Henry from Henry V in his St. Crispin's Day speech:

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers (and sisters)." Have a great summer.

Sincerely, ~ Colin Plant



Gulf Island
 Secondary School,
 Saltspring Island, BC

Pinocchio &
 A Midsummer
 Night's Dream



TEACHER AWARDS - Do you know a teacher that has gone above the call of duty to provide amazing theatre experiences for their students? Do you know of an individual or business who has striven to support the performing arts in your community?

It is never too early to start thinking about recipients for our three ABCDE member awards - Drama Teacher of the Year, Drama in Education, and Distinguished Service. More information and application forms are available on our website at www.bcdramateachers.com



Seaquam Secondary School - The Three Musketeers

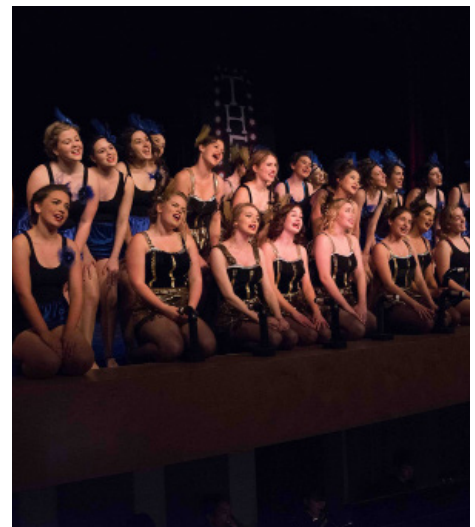


Highland Secondary School,
Comox, BC - Crossing the Bar

If you have show photos you
would like to share with the
membership, please email
them to Christine.Knight@sd72.bc.ca



Claremont Secondary School, Victoria, BC - Crazy For You



2015/2016

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UBC has set their season for next year, and as usual students are \$5 each with teachers & chaperones free. They are happy to organize an Introductory Workshop & Tour for both Acting and Design/Production students. Check out their website.

theatrefilm.ubc.ca



Join us for another stellar season in 2016/17

Edward II

Christopher Marlowe

September 29-October 15, 2016

TELUS Theatre,

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Beckett 16

UBC Alumni

November 3-November 5, 2016

Frederic Wood Theatre

Love and Information

Caryl Churchill

January 19-February 4, 2017

Frederic Wood Theatre

Naked Cinema III

Tom Scholte

January 30, 31, 2017

Norm Theatre

Les Belles Soeurs

Michel Tremblay

March 16-April 1, 2017

Frederic Wood Theatre

NEW for next year: **special parking rates for season subscribers!** For more information about all our programs please visit our website:

UBCTHEATRE&FILM

theatrefilm.ubc.ca



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Magee Secondary School
Vancouver, BC - Legally Blonde



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Carihi Secondary School, Campbell River,
BC - Cinderella, Broadway Edition



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Woodlands Secondary School, Nanaimo B.C.

Programs:

Drama 8-12

Musical Theatre 9-12

Improv team - CIG

New York tour

Facility:

Woodlands has a large stage with a wall that opens onto the gym. The upstage wall of the theatre backs onto the cafeteria space which we use as dressing rooms. Woodlands is one of the schools that is closing this year, drawing the curtain on 60 years of productions.

Productions:

Class plays

Annual Senior Drama Christmas play

Check, Please! - Drama fest one-act

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Teacher:

Kelly Barnum



All about NIRDFEST - North Island Regional Drama Festival - Zone 10

One of the largest Zone festivals in our province happens on Vancouver Island. Schools from Ladysmith, north to Port Hardy, get together each February to share their one-act plays, get adjudication from professionals in the theatre industry, participate in workshops and share in a weekend immersed in the love of theatre. The weekend also includes NIRD Fringe, a talent show in a studio setting that is the highlight of most NIRD weekends. Our last festival took place at John Barsby Secondary School in Nanaimo, and hosted 16 schools, with 260 kids, and 12 shows over three days. The festival is not a competitive atmosphere, but rather a celebration of theatre. While one show is ultimately chosen to represent our zone at the Provincial Drama festival, that announcement is made via e-mail, after the festival closes, to keep the focus on learning and sharing, rather than winning or losing. Those of us in Zone 10 look forward to NIRD each year, not only for our students, but as a way to re-connect with our other island colleagues, and re-energize for the second part of the school year. We get inspired by the work we see our colleagues do, and get refreshed from the experiences that remind us all why we do what we do. It is always a highlight of my year!

~ Christine Knight

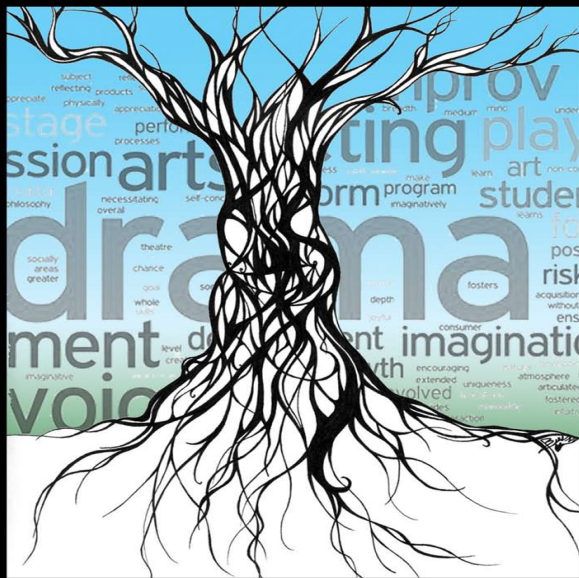


If you have any questions about NIRDFest, or about starting up a Zone festival in your area, contact Christine at Christine.Knight@sd72.bc.ca.



Association of British Columbia Drama Educators
presents

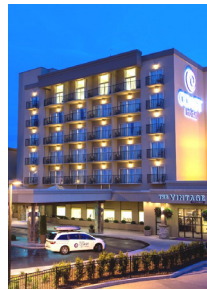
Know Your Roots



**2016 Drama Conference
October 21-22**

**Okanagan Mission Secondary School
4544 Gordon Drive, Kelowna, BC, V1W 1T4**

for more information please contact Gordon Hamilton or Katie Everson
email: ghamilton@sd35.bc.ca or keverson@sd35.bc.ca



refreshingly local™

Features Include: convenient location in the heart of the city • minutes from the Kelowna International Airport • free parking • full service • 24 hour check in •

The Coast Capri Hotel is truly a city landmark. Located in the heart of the Okanagan Valley, just blocks away from Lake Okanagan, the Coast Capri Hotel boasts true "full service" accommodation.

185 freshly appointed guestrooms - most with balconies, complimentary WiFi, on site dining, courtyard pool and patio, gourmet coffee bar and on premise shopping and spa services are just a few of the features guests can enjoy at the Coast Capri Hotel.

Planning a meeting or convention? Kelowna's Coast Capri Hotel is your dependable choice. Only 15 minutes from the Kelowna International Airport, the Coast Capri Hotel offers over 16,600 square feet of meeting space featuring a newly renovated ballroom, drive in accessibility and an abundance of free parking. With over 25 years of experience, our banquet and catering professionals provide top-notch service for a truly unrivaled experience.

On Site Services and Amenities

- full service
- complimentary WiFi
- ample, no charge car and bus parking
- fitness facility, outdoor heated pool and hot tub
- fridges in all guestrooms
- HD televisions
- 24 hour business centre
- Vintner's Grill
- Cap's Liquor Store
- CoffeeCopia Gourmet Coffee Bar
- Beyond Wrapure Urban Day Spa
- "Winners" located next door at Capri Centre Mall



**2016 ABCDE FALL CONFERENCE
ASSOCIATION OF BC DRAMA EDUCATORS
AT THE COAST CAPRI HOTEL**

October 20 - 23 2016

Comfort	\$99	single/double
Superior	\$99	single/double
Premium	\$129	single/double

Rates exclusive of local tax, PST and GST

To Book Your Reservation:
Hotel Direct: 250.860.6060
Toll Free: 1.800.663.1144

Ask for the
2016 ABCDE Fall Conference Rate
Group Number GFC20142
Rooms will be held until
September 20 2016

For Further Information:
Diane Wetherill, Director of Sales
d.wetherill@coastcaprihotel.com
t. 250.860.6185 x 2240
tf. 1.877.203.1640

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Sears BC Festival Report 2016

Festival Title: Going Through Another Stage

At this year's provincial festival, held again at Douglas College in New Westminister, BC, we had 253 delegates from 16 different schools all over the province. Over the three nights of shows we had 8 performances (1 Youthwright show, and 7 regional plays.) Our amazing Adjudicator Alan Morgan gave public and private adjudications to the students, and they were inspirational and thought provoking. Students also participated in workshops offered over the 2 days, and a superhero costume theme dance, and had a great time. Several students also received Sears BC Drama Festival Scholarships:

- Heidi Wismath from Hope Secondary (Teacher: Jon Polishak) received a \$1000 Scholarship
- Max Beertema from Hazelton Secondary (Teacher: Barbara Janze) received a \$500 Bursary
- Dayna Hoffmann from North Surrey Secondary (Teacher: Craig Wrotniak) received a \$500 Bursary

All other awards have been posted on the Sears BC Drama Festival Website: www.searsbcdramafest.com

Thank you to all the sponsors: Sears, Douglas College, VFS, Union of BC Performers, VanArts, and Christie Lites.

Next Year's Festival will be April 27 – 30, 2017.



Colquitz Middle School, Victoria, BC - Lion King Jr.

2016 ABCDE Scholarship winner : Congratulations to Kate Yahn, from South Delta Secondary School.



“It excites me to imagine a career in drama and theatre. At the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts in Toronto this fall, I want to grow as a performer, and discover my potential. Thank you to the Association of BC Drama Educators for their scholarship support in contributing to make this possible.”



Dover Bay Secondary School,
Nanaimo BC - Into the Woods



Abbotsford Christian School -
Curious Savage & Catch Me If You Can



Lesson ideas - Start up activities

Here are some fun activities that work on the first few days of classes, when you are just getting to know each other

Yielding traffic (awareness game)

“Yielding” is a concept in theatre that applies to both physical movement as well as working with others in a group setting. Physical yielding, obviously pertains to making sure you are in your own space on stage, or aware of the location of others in the room, without getting in the way. Yielding to ideas and groups is more along the lines of sharing ideas in a productive way, and letting other peoples’ ideas come to the forefront sometimes, and putting your ideas aside until another time. An activity that demonstrates that is “traffic”.

Students stand in a circle. Ask them to imagine walking a path in the classroom that includes twists and turns and walking across the space. Give an example of a path they might walk...for example, walk in a large circle, then across the room, then turn right, take three steps, and return to where he/she started. They will all have different paths. Once they have all got one in their head, tell them to walk slowly along their path, and then return to the start. They will all go at once. Some may collide. Some may dodge a near collision. Discuss that after the first try. Who tried to dodge people? Who just plowed through without stopping? Who slowed down? Then tell them to do the path again, but walk a bit faster...and this time try to avoid a collision at all costs...meaning they **MUST** yield if they come to an “intersection” at the same time as someone else. Again, discuss what happened. Finally, have them do their paths again, but this time **RUN**. Again, discuss it.

What you will find is that some kids **ALWAYS** yield, some kids **NEVER** yield, and the ones in the middle will do a bit of both. I then discuss how that all relates to working together in group situations.

What you are striving for is a group that is aware of the concept of sharing ideas in a fair and productive way.

3-2-1 scenes

Students partner up. You will call out some character relationships, and when you say **GO**, the whole class will act out their mini-scenarios at the same time. It’s really loud, but great for a junior class where some students may still be nervous about performing to an audience.

Some examples:

Movie star and fan	Teacher and student
Reporter and Elvis spotter	Teacher and Principal
Reporter and UFO spotter	Best friends
Parent and child	Police officer and speeder
Person and dog	Long lost friends etc.

Some of the character pairs lead directly to a negative interaction, such as “teacher/student”, or “parent/child.” Younger students sometimes create mini scenes that include a lot of yelling or shoving. After a scene like that, give them the same pairing, and have them explore the positive side of the relationship.



British Columbia
Teachers' Federation

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? On-line 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

#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 send an email to Colin Plant at colin-plant@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