

# ABCDE FOCUS Winter 2018/2019



## President's Message

Well it seems we have all hit the ground running since the Christmas break! Some of you will be relieved to have your big productions wrapped up, others will be basking in the excitement of the shows that are around the corner, and others are just beginning the process. Please share with us on our Facebook page and let us know when you have a show coming up! If you have completed your production, send us some photos. And by 'us' I mean our fantastic executive! We had a small turn over at the AGM this year, but largely you have the same dedicated group of drama teachers working hard on all our ABCDE initiatives. Thank you Lori Mazy for your time last year. We will miss you at meetings but look forward to working with you again. Colin Plant continues on as our past president, Lana O'Brien as the vice-president, Katie Everson as the secretary, Jenn Ohlhauser as the treasurer, Christine Knight as the communications director, and Zelda Coertze and Ryan Grenier as members at large. We also officially welcomed back Gordon Hamilton as a member at large.

Since our last newsletter we have had our fall conference and once again I'm very impressed with the hard work and dedication of Katie Everson, Gordon Hamilton and the rest of our executive in pulling this together! It was so amazing to connect with everyone again and learn and play together. Our executive is discussing some exciting new changes for the upcoming fall conference. We will keep you posted as this unfolds! In the meantime, if you are looking for ways to connect, or things to do, we will not disappoint... check out some of these great options:

**Youthwright:** Do you have students involved in script writing? Have you considered entering ABCDE's Youthwright? Jenn Ohlhauser is heading this up again this year! The deadline to submit plays and reading fees is January 22nd at 3:00 pm. If you need more information please visit <http://www.bcdramateachers.com/abcde-youthwright.html>

**Shakespeare Fest:** Lana O'Brien has graciously taken the helm of the Goodwill Shakespeare Festival from Linda Beaven and it continues to thrive in Vernon BC. This is another great opportunity for you and your students and is open to anyone in the province! I have many times traveled all the way from Smithers and it was well worth the trip for the experience and learning! Go to <http://goodwillshakespeare.ca/> or contact Lana directly for more information (250) 542-3361 ext 2227 or Email [info@goodwillshakespeare.ca](mailto:info@goodwillshakespeare.ca)

**Zone Festivals:** Four of our zones have completed their festivals and four are yet to happen. An adjudicator in each zone will invite a school to present their play at the provincial festival. If you are not in an area with an active zone but would like to start one, please contact us. We would love to support you in making that happen.

**Provincial Festival:** I would like to remind you that you can attend the National Theatre School Provincial Drama Festival as a non-performing delegate. In other words, if you aren't selected as a Youthwright play presenter or as a zone festival representative you can still attend with your students! This is an amazing festival with top quality theatre instruction for both you and your students, as well as a showcase of some of the best work happening in drama around the province. The next BC Drama Festival is happening at Douglas College, New Westminster BC on May 2-4. Please go to our webpage for more information to register. <http://www.bcdramateachers.com/bc-drama-festival.html>

All of these opportunities, as well as scholarships and communications, are available only to current members of the ABCDE! "I count myself in nothing else so happy as in a soul remembering my good friends!" I look forward to seeing you all again!

Heather Lee





Fall conference, once again, was a great success, and so much fun. Thanks to VFS for a great venue.



## ABCDE Executive 2018/2019

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Congratulations to Ryan Grenier from Okanagan Mission Secondary School in Kelowna. He is this year's recipient of the ABCDE Drama Teacher of the Year, award, given at the Fall conference in October.



Congratulations to Gordon Hamilton from Brookwood Secondary in Langley. He is this year's recipient of the ABCDE Distinguished Service Award, given at the Fall Conference in October.





Highland Secondary drama students, from Comox, along with their Drama teacher Lisa Williams, are excited to be heading to Provincial Drama festival this spring. Their show [epistolary] was chosen as the top show at the North Island Regional Drama Festival in November. It was a much deserved win, as Lisa's plays are consistently strong. Her plays have been chosen as the alternate for the past two years, and finally she, and her students, got the top pick. It is also, quite possibly, the first time that a Highland play has ever been to the Provincial festival, which makes the selection even sweeter. Way to go Lisa!

Congratulations Highland Drama Department!



## LESSON IDEA

A few years back at one of our ABCDE conferences I picked up a complimentary copy of the text "Drama Works" published by Emond Montgomery Publications. A performance challenge lesson I found in this text, that my students and I have had lots of fun with, is the "Vocal Collage". Here is the lesson as written in the text:

### CREATING A VOCAL COLLAGE

A vocal collage is a vocal presentation based on a theme or subject that you construct using a variety of sources. Your vocal collage must include the following:

- a definition
- a list of synonyms or related words
- a famous quote or saying concerning the subject
- a poem or limerick
- a line or section from a play written by Shakespeare
- a tongue twister
- a selection of prose from a novel or film
- a selection of prose from a non-fiction work
- a selection from a song
- sound effects

Creating:

Possible themes or subjects are:

- peer pressure
- humankind's impact on the environment
- dreams

Why do the sources that you selected interest you as a basis for drama?

Try to weave together all the components so that your collage works as a unified vocal presentation.

Use repetitive words, phrases, sounds, and rhythms to transition from one excerpt to another.

\*\* Note: I had my classes create a movement score to go along with the vocal collage and we presented them as a performance piece. \*\* ENJOY!!

Heather Lee - Smithers Secondary



## What do you do during your Show's Run?

At W.L. Seaton Secondary's 27th Street Theatre, in Vernon, BC, we like to train our students to run the show completely without our assistance. We hand the show over to the stage manager (almost...I still do warm up...just can't let go completely!) and then sit back and let them work. It is always so gratifying to watch the crew check the lights for burned out bulbs, run sound cues in pre-show, and do mic checks, repair broken set pieces or props if necessary, and prepare the stage for the show. Meanwhile, the actors are a-buzz in the dressing room doing hair and make-up, and the front of house kids are greeting our patrons and helping them to their seats.

So...what do I do while all this is going on? Well, depending on the show, sometimes I watch and enjoy from my perch in the corner of the catwalk. But, most often I am re-setting my office back to zero to get ready for the next semester and the next productions. In fact, as I write this, I have just finished cleaning off my desk. Tonight is the 4th show of CINDERELLA: A Country & Western Pantomime and it has taken me 3 days to get the desk back in shape. Tonight, I'll probably watch part of the show, but I also need to tackle the filing cabinet. Almost all my resources are digital now, and it's time to go through all the paper resources that have accumulated, and pair it down. My goal is to scan one copy of the things in there, and store them digitally as well. We'll see how that goes.

As second semester begins to rise on the horizon, I am extremely excited to begin work in the Theatre Company and Stagecraft classes on Elephant's Graveyard by George Brant. I paid the royalties during Wednesday night's show. I'm getting things checked off the to-do list. OH! That reminds me - I still need to apply for the rights for next year's musical. Maybe that is what I'll do tonight! Good things it's Show Time!! I get SO MUCH DONE! And it feels so good.

Lana O'Brien - W.L. Seaton Secondary, Vernon







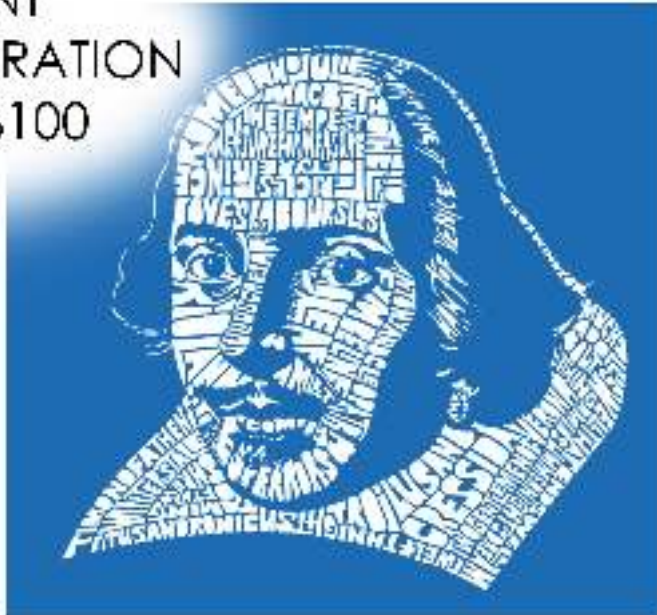
CINDERELLA: A  
Country & Western  
Pantomime

WL Seaton  
Secondary



# GOODWILL SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

STUDENT  
REGISTRATION  
FEE = \$100



APRIL 28, 29, 30

3 DAYS OF WORKSHOPS

WITH SPECIAL PERFORMANCES @  
THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

VERNON, BC

[www.goodwillshakespeare.ca](http://www.goodwillshakespeare.ca)

## WORKSHOPS:

ACTING  
MAKE-UP  
IMPROV  
CHARACTER BUILDING  
DANCE  
ACTING for TV  
MUSIC  
WRITING  
& SO MUCH MORE!!!

For more information on this festival go to the website

[www.goodwillshakespeare.ca](http://www.goodwillshakespeare.ca)





# Become who you truly are.

## Vancouver Film School is Offering Aspiring BC Actors \$30,000 in Scholarship Funding

Help BC drama students take the next step towards a career in Acting for Film & Television by encouraging them to apply for the ABCDE Scholarship with Vancouver Film School (VFS). Scholarships are for enrollment into the 2019/2020 school year at VFS for either their Acting for Film & Television or Acting Essentials programs.

### Scholarship Breakdown

- One Full Tuition Award for the Acting Essentials Program (\$7,500 value)
- One \$10,000 award for the Acting for Film & Television Program (12 month program)
- Two \$3,000 awards for the Acting Essentials Program
- Two \$3,000 awards for the Acting for Film & Television Program (12 month program)

### Scholarship Details

- Applications are open for high school grade 12 students from across British Columbia
- Scholarships are only open to BC residents and each applicant will provide an audition and application for consideration and review by the ABCDE and VFS.
- Application deadline closes on February 15, 2019.
- Winners will be selected based on creative potential and any obstacles they've had to overcome prior to applying.



Help us spread the word.  
This is an opportunity students don't want to miss.

## Deadline to submit is February 15, 2019

For full scholarship details and to apply visit: <https://vfs.edu/scholarships/abcde-scholarship>

Visit the website to apply: <https://vfs.edu/scholarships/abcde-scholarship>



North Island Regional Drama Festival  
2018, held at Vancouver Island University





## 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.

