

ABCDE FOCUS WINTER 2017

President's Message

I am very pleased to be drafting my first letter as the new president of the Association of British Columbia Drama Educators ABCDE!

Our executive had a chance to meet recently and we are excited for the year ahead. There is nothing like being in a room together with other passionate drama teachers! We had a chance to follow up on some business from the AGM and debrief our amazing fall conference! Many thanks again to Gord Hamilton and Katie Everson and other members of our executive for your hard work in making the conference at VFS happen. The executive is already planning for next year! We would like to reach out to teachers of film and tv and connect them with our fall conference next year. If you know someone in this teaching area please have them contact me at Smithers Secondary School (hlytle@sd54.bc.ca).

We have posted out on the ABCDE facebook page asking what you like most about being a member of ABCDE and what we can do for you. If you have not yet had a chance to reply, please do so. We would love to hear from you. For those who have replied to our question the resounding response so far seems to be that people appreciate the opportunity to connect with each other. On this note I would request that you please take a moment and send us pictures of what you are doing. We would love to feature a picture of your theatre space on the ABCDE website. Perhaps you have a fun lesson plan or some show photos that you could send in to Christine Knight (Christine.Knight@sd72.bc.ca) for the next newsletter. We love those! And don't forget to share on the ABCDE facebook page, on social media with #abcde, or on our list serve. In the meantime we all look forward to Jenn Ohlhauser's Warm Up Wednesdays! If you have an idea for Warm Up Wednesday please email Jenn (@Johlhauser@wvschools.ca).

I very much look forward to the year ahead, to hearing from you and connecting with you all! In the meantime I'm sure we are all resting after the Christmas season performances and getting prepared for upcoming spring shows. Break legs! And don't forget to take some time for you and your family over the holiday.

Heather Lee,
President
ABCDE



British Columbia
Teachers' Federation

ABCDE
Executive
2017/2018

PRESIDENT

Heather Lee (SD #54)
hlytle@sd54.bc.ca

PAST PRESIDENT

Colin Plant (SD #63)
cplant@sd63.bc.ca

VICE PRESIDENT

Lana O'Brien (SD #22)
lobrien@sd22.bc.ca

TREASURER

Jenn Ohlhauser (SD #45)
johlhauser@wvschools.ca

SECRETARY

Katie Everson (SD #35)
keverson@sd35.bc.ca

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Christine Knight (SD #72)
Christine.Knight@sd72.bc.ca

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Ryan Grenier (SD #23)
ryan.grenier@sd23.bc.ca

Lori Mazey (SD #71)
lori.mazey@sd71.bc.ca

Zelda Coertze (SD #43)
zcoertze@sd43.bc.ca



Thank you again, Gord Hamilton, for serving for over 20 years on the executive! You will be missed at all the meetings. Gord assures us that next year, at the conference, he'll be doing ALL the workshops he can. In the meantime, he's going to enjoy this new bit of free time!

ABCDE Teacher Awards



Two BC teachers were presented with ABCDE teacher awards at our October Conference.

Christine Knight, from Carihi Secondary School in Campbell River, received Drama Teacher of the Year, which is awarded to an individual who 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, and striving to create strong theatre with their students.

Damon Fultz, from GW Graham Secondary in Chilliwack received the Drama in Education Award, which is awarded to an individual 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.

If you know a teacher who should be recognized for the work they do, go to www.bcdramateachers.com and nominate them for one of our awards.

School District 71 and 72 secondary school drama students were excited to welcome the famous UK physical theatre company Frantic Assembly to the Comox Valley this past November. Theatre students from Highland, Vanier, Isfeld and Carihi came together at Highland Secondary to experience, firsthand, Frantic Assembly's innovative, energetic and highly acclaimed method of devising Physical Theatre. Participants worked with practitioner choreographer Jess Williams for 3 full days. They learning the unique skills and techniques used by the company. The three day residency culminated in a sharing of their work, a twenty-five minute original piece of devised physical theatre on the theme of Truth, Lies, and Facts. "I've always dreamed of a collaboration like this- it's been a career high for sure!" exclaims Lisa Williams, " This inspiring company travelling all the way to our island to work with us is a dream come true...I am Freaking Out!" Frantic Assembly may be best recognized by their movement direction in the stage adaptation of Curious Incident of The Dog in the Nighttime. Visit their website <https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/> to see stunning images and videos of their work.



Students from North Vancouver Island got to experience a once in a lifetime workshop with Frantic Assembly.

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

High School Camps

Thank you for joining us at Vancouver Film School for ABCDE Conference 2017.

We are excited to announce that VFS has officially launched their March Break camps – 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.

Schedule

Spend your Spring Break discovering 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

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

March 19-20 and March 21-22

Writing: Creating a TV Series

March 19-20 and March 21-22

Film Production: Cinematic Storytelling

March 19-20

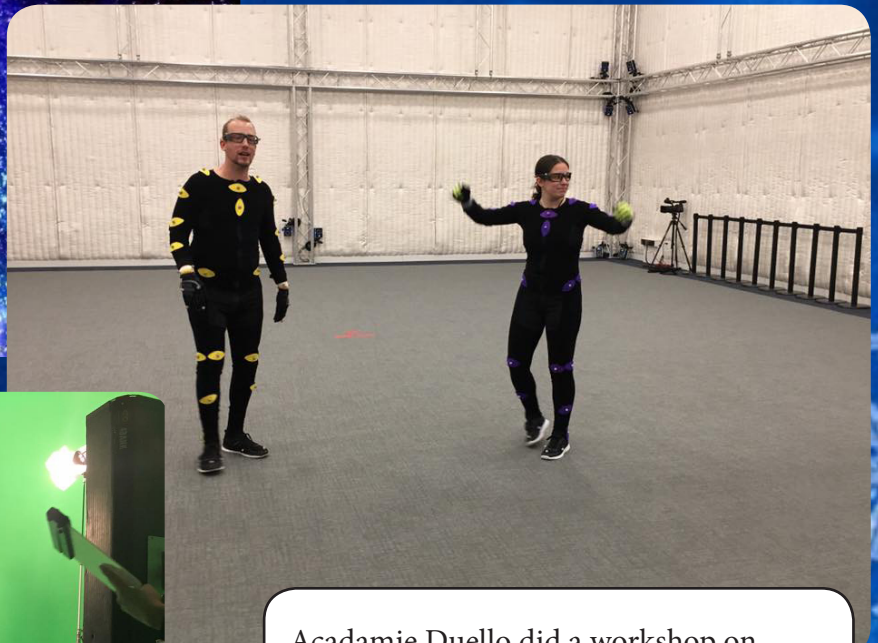
Go online to see all the workshop choices

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

The Fall Conference at VFS was a huge success. It featured fanatastic workshops in a great facility. We hope to see you there again next year!



Acadamie Duello did a workshop on sword fighting, we got to check out the Motion Capture Studio and the Green Screen room at VFS, and had some fun with masks, with Tahina Awan. So much more was offered as well.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

DOVER BAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Dover Bay Secondary School in Nanaimo has two Drama teachers sharing the load of 10 Theatre Arts courses every year. Since September of 2006, Dover Bay Secondary's Fine Arts Department has offered a Performing Arts Academy. This course is designed for aspiring actors who wish to participate in an enriched educational experience of performing arts education. The Academy program offers students, with a focus on performing, the opportunity to further develop their acting skills and knowledge in theatre and film toward a high level of excellence. We produce 7 to eleven shows per year. Each year, grade seven students audition to enter the Academy program. Typically, we have five to six academy classes, plus regular drama classes in 8, 9, and 10, as well as musical theatre, acting class, and stagecraft.

Pamela Schwarze and Ward Norcutt head up the program. They both also teach English. Dover Bay also produces a student run Musical with a full student orchestra every year. It is the first show of the year and ends before the last week before Christmas break. This year's effort was Norcutt's *Mary Poppins*. There were 41 students in the orchestra (conducted by Band teacher, Michael Irving) and 28 in the ensemble.

Ms. Schwarze will have produced or directed several shows by the end of the school year:

I Don't Want to Talk About It - by Bradley Hayward

Thank You For Flushing My Head in the Toilet - by Jonathan Dorf

All I Ever Need To Know I Learned From Being A Zombie- by Jason
and two more plays in the second semester.

Mr. Norcutt will also produce and direct two one-act plays and one full length play in the Spring.



Pictures from some of Dover Bay's past productions: *The Crucible*, *West Side Story*, and *Into the Woods*.



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

#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

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