

September 2011
Editor: Erin Garcia



ABCDE FOCUS

Association of British Columbia Drama Educators Newsletter

**Drama Conference
Presenters**

Special Hotel Rate!

**AGM and Elections
Lesson Ideas**



Message from the President

Greetings and Happy New Year! Despite it being 3/4 of the way through the calendar year, the start of school always feels like a celebratory time to me. This year despite being in Job Action, I am still trying to find the joy in teaching that I suspect we all share. This bargaining year will be a time when we will be facing difficult challenges but we will achieve our goals by sticking together and fighting for what we believe is right. And fair.

On the ABCDE front it is the time of year when our PSA programs get running again. October brings our exciting annual conference. This year we are at SFU Woodward's in downtown Vancouver. Online registration is once again available and I hope that people see this year as a great time to become involved in their PSA. We also will be sponsoring our Youthwrite playwriting competition as well as begin the exciting journey to our annual provincial festival being held in May.

This year I suggest you take advantage the benefits of being an ABCDE member or subscriber. Send out a call for help on our list-serv. Start or attend an LSA meeting (Local Specialists' Association). Attend the conference and make year-long connections. The PSA can be a catalyst for your development as a Drama teacher. But it only will be if you get involved.

It is a bit early to announce any firm celebratory plans, but next year marks the 45th year of ABCDE! And while nothing is 100% confirmed, we are working with our Art and Dance teachers to host an exciting tri-discipline Pro-D conference in October 2012!

As I sit here typing this message I am thinking about the productions I have planned for this year. I am both excited about the opportunities and nervous as I am not 100% sure how we will be effected by the job action.

However, I know that like a theatre production, things will come together and will work out. I just do not know how yet.

I hope your Drama program is one that fills you with pride, optimism and appreciation from your students. I am very appreciative of the work that BC's Drama teachers do with their students. Thank you for working with our children and sharing your love of Drama.

Sincerely,

Colin

Colin Plant
ABCDE President

Do you have something to say?

Something to share with your fellow members of the ABCDE? Or just a burning desire to be published? Please send your articles, letters, photos, lesson plans, ideas, etc. to the ABCDE to go into the newsletter.

colinplant@shaw.ca

Cover photo: Erin Garcia

Annual General Meeting

Your vote counts!

Executive Elections

Each year the ABCDE hosts its AGM at the fall conference. During the AGM an election occurs where we elect members to serve on the ABCDE executive.

This year we will elect:

- 3 members at large,
- a communications director (newsletter editor and website co-ordinator)
- a secretary,
- a treasurer, and
- a vice-president.

The president is elected every second year to serve a two-year term. Colin Plant was elected at the 2010 AGM so there will be no president election. The position of past-president is also on the executive.

Please consider being a part of the ABCDE executive. These volunteer positions are filled by those people who help ensure the programs of the ABCDE continue to operate and flourish. We need people who are willing to serve their colleagues. The good news is that your expenses to attend meetings are covered.

If you have any questions about serving on the ABCDE executive, please feel free to contact current president Colin Plant at colinplant@shaw.ca

Nominations can be made from the floor of the AGM, but if you already know you want to run for the executive, please feel to inform Colin at the address above.

Sincerely,

Colin
Colin Plant
ABCDE President

Constitutional

Update

Notice of Proposed Constitutional Change at 2011 AGM

As per our ABCDE constitution, notice is hereby given to the membership that at the 2011 ABCDE AGM the executive will put forward a motion to change the constitution of ABCDE. The BCTF executive committee, upon review of our constitution (they approve all Constitution and subsequent changes), has asked us to clarify the language surrounding members/subscribers in the ABCDE.

A staff member of the BCTF was able to make suggestions as to how to do that. Below you will find the CURRENT version of Article 1 of our Constitution and a PROPOSED version of Article 1 of our Constitution. The quick synopsis of this proposed change is that it is required by the BCTF so that we clarify membership/subscriber status. It does clarify that student teachers are members of the ABCDE and can vote.

At the AGM, this motion will be debated and will be voted upon. It will require approval by three-quarters of the present members. If the ABCDE membership does approve the motion, then it will go to the BCTF executive committee for final approval. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact President Colin Plant at colinplant@shaw.ca

Constitutional Update continued...

CURRENT ARTICLE ONE:

Article 1 - Membership

The membership year shall be for 12 consecutive months from the date the application is processed by the BCTF.

1. ACTIVE - Active membership shall be open to any person who is an active member of the BCTF upon payment of the appropriate PSA fee. An active member shall be entitled to vote and hold office.

2. ASSOCIATE - Associate membership shall be open to any associate member of the BCTF upon payment of the appropriate PSA fee. An associate member shall be entitled to vote and to hold office in the PSA for positions other than president, vice-president, and representative to an outside agency.

3. STUDENT ASSOCIATE - Student Associate membership shall be open to any student enrolled in programs of study in university/college programs leading to certification as teachers upon payment of the appropriate PSA fee. A student associate shall be entitled to vote and to hold office in the PSA positions other than president, vice-president, and representative to an outside agency.

4. RETIRED - Retired-teacher membership shall be open to any honorary-associate member of the BCTF, upon payment of the appropriate PSA fee. A retired-teacher/honorary associate member shall be entitled to vote and hold office in the PSA for positions other than president, vice-president, and representative to an outside agency.

5. HONOURARY-LIFE - Honourary-life membership may be conferred by the PSA. The honorary-life member's eligibility to vote or hold office depends upon his/her BCTF-member status.

6. SUBSCRIBER - Subscription is available to an institution or person who is not a regular, associate, student, retired, or honorary-life member. A subscriber shall not be entitled to vote or hold office. The subscription year shall be for 12 consecutive months from the date the application is processed at the BCTF.

PROPOSED ARTICLE ONE:

Article 1 – Membership

MEMBERS: Membership in the PSA shall be open to all categories of BCTF members. The membership year shall be for 12 consecutive months from the date the application is processed by the BCTF. Reduced fees shall be available for students in university/college programs leading to teacher certification, teachers who retired from active membership in the BCTF, and teachers teaching on call (TTOCs).

SUBSCRIBERS – An institution or person who does not hold any form of BCTF membership can subscribe to the PSA for a fee. A subscriber shall not be entitled to vote or hold office. The subscription year shall be for 12 consecutive months from the date the application is processed at the BCTF.

Scholarship

FIONA McINTYRE 2011
Scholarship Winner

Thank you for selecting me for the scholarship. It feels so wonderful to have the support of the Association of BC Drama Educators as I begin my education in the Fine Arts. Beyond assisting in paying next year's tuition, knowing that I have the support of my province's drama educators has given me the confidence and motivation needed to take on the next four years while learning and growing as an artist. I'm so thankful for your support! I will be attending Montclair State University in New Jersey studying Musical Theatre.



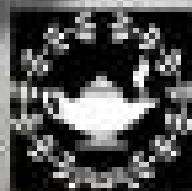
Fiona

Fiona was a student of Shanda Walters at Heritage Woods Secondary in Coquitlam.

Association of British Columbia Drama Educators
presents

**“A Stage in Your Life”
2011 Drama Conference
October 21-22**

SFU School for the Contemporary Arts
Vancouver, B.C.



ABCDE Conference on Oct. 21-22, 2011

Presenters and Workshops

For more information and registration visit:

www.bcdramateachers.com



Matthew Harrison:

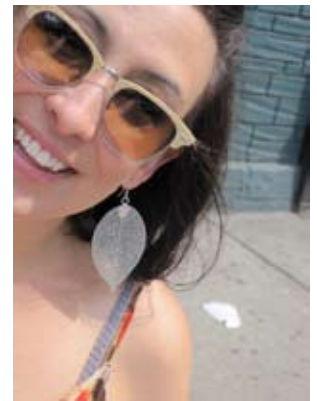
Creative Professionalism for the Professional Creative

Matthew is a coach and teacher in both Los Angeles and Vancouver. He has forged careers and honed professionals in their craft – on set and in class – for over twelve years, by giving actors the machinery necessary for success: clear directives, solid tools, and a fresh and profound acting technique. Working at acting schools and studios since 1996, Matthew has developed a distinct and comprehensive technique and a professional philosophy that has evolved into what is now known as the ACTOR'S FOUNDRY.

Nicole 'Coco' Roberge:

Animating Public Spaces: Presentation and Performance Opportunity for Conference Delegates!

A local teaching artist, graduated with an M.A. (Performance Studies) from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in 2010 and her new daily gig's at district #43's Riverside Secondary School (River's Edge Theatre). Not one to sit still, in the past year she has worked in development for Place des Arts and for Shift Performing Arts, choreographed for Theatrix, produced her first short feature, shot an episode of a Quebecois reality show, staged a surrealist takeover of Port Moody's city hall, presented for the American Society for Theatre Research and trained a hundred 6-year olds wearing red clown noses. She has a passion for collaboration, cross-genre pollination, communitas and public affection. In June 2011, Ms. Roberge debuted a one-woman show called "Come Cuddle Me".



Kerry Robertson

An Introduction to Drama in the Elementary School Classroom & Chairs

is a retired drama teacher with over 25 years experience behind her. Throughout her career she has been on the ABCDE executive and on the BC Drama Curriculum Revision Writing committee. She also received the ABCDE Drama Teacher Award. For the past three years, she has been the artistic director of the Tin Pants Theatre Company at the McLean Mill National Historic Site. Kerry resides in Port Alberni and continues to be passionate about Drama and Education.

Alistair Cook

Improvisation and Cdn Improv Games

This National Artistic Director is a 19-year veteran of improvisation, Alistair has produced, directed, taught and performed every style of improvisation across Canada. Alistair has been producing the Canadian Improv Games in BC for the Past 17 years and Nationally for the past ... like a long time. The National Director is responsible for the General Artistic and Administrative management of the Canadian Improv Games. Alistair Cook has been performing, instructing, consulting and directing improvisation for audiences and companies across Canada, the USA and Europe for almost 20 years.



companies across Canada, the USA and Europe for almost 20 years.

Kitty King

Drama Games with Purpose

is a retired Drama teacher with 23 years of experience in the Surrey School District. She favors a Drama program that is physically active and encourages students to communicate by using the whole body. Workshops for both Elementary and Secondary teachers have included Drama Games, Clowning, and Playbuilding.

Michael Bean

Teaching Screen Acting to Kids/Teens

is a working actor, and the owner and head coach at Biz Studio, one of Vancouver's most established professional training programs for young actors, with clients shooting this summer on local projects like MR. YOUNG, LEVEL UP, CLUE and FRINGE. His book "Confidence on Camera: A Handbook for Young Actors" is a go-to for local talent agencies orienting new clients, and is included in the course pack for several university-level drama programs.

Elise Forier Edie

Rasaboxes: Teaching Young People to Be Athletes of the Emotions

is an Associate Professor of Theatre Arts at Central Washington University, where she teaches classes in stage movement, acting and children's theatre. A professional playwright and director, she is a founding member of DogTown Theatre, in Ellensburg Washington.



Darold Roles

Looks 10, Dance 3: Blocking a Musical Theatre Solo



Artistic and Education Director, Canadian College of Performing Arts is thrilled to be working as the new Artistic and Education Director of the Canadian College of Performing Arts. He originally hails from Alberta where he earned a Bachelor of Education in Drama (U of A) and a MFA in Theatre – Directing (U of C). His successes in the professional theatre and post-secondary education field include work as a director, choreographer, performer, producer, writer, teacher and respected administrative leader. He was a co-founder and co-Artistic Director of KOMPANY! a professional song and dance company that toured across North America, Europe, Japan and Australia from 1979 – 2007. His work with KOMPANY! and as a freelance artist in Edmonton, AB earned him numerous Sterling Award nominations for Outstanding Musical, Best Choreography and Cooperative Production. He has adjudicated major Provincial dance and theatre festivals and presented

Master Classes throughout Western Canada. As a director/choreographer he has received rave reviews for hundreds of smash hit shows including; Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, A Chorus Line, Chicago, Footloose, The Crucible and Edward Albee's The Goat or Who is Sylvia?

Rodger Barton

Shakespeare Out Loud

UBC, Bristol Old Vic Theatre school, 7 season with the Stratford Festival, 4 seasons at the Shaw Festival, a lengthy professional acting career, tons of bad TV, teaching at The National Theatre School, University of Windsor, George Brown College, hundreds of private students and hundred of HS artist-in-the-classroom visits. Thousands of Shakespeare Out Loud texts sold, likely more photocopied. Several teacher conferences. Full professional resume on website.

Zach Browman

Alexander Technique

Zach is a graduate of AMDA in New York. He began studying the Alexander technique because of his difficulties breathing during meditation as a Buddhist monk, and went on to study the technique as a student and teacher with some of the world's most renowned practitioners.



Jonas Basom

The Complete Classroom Management System for Game-Based Learning and Creative Expression

Winner of the Bravo Award for Outstanding Arts Educator of California, is the creator of The Drama Game File, a teacher curriculum program for all ages, adopted by New York City and by schools and universities across the USA and Canada. Jonas is a consultant presenter who trains both theatre and non-theatre teachers in the art of teaching and integrating drama across the curriculum. He is also an adjunct professor teaching arts education courses for the University of Phoenix and Pepperdine University.

Paul Gelineau

Teaching Stage Combat? Are you Nuts? - A Teachers Guide

Fight Master, Paul, has created violence and taught stage combat at most major theatres and acting training institutions in Canada. He is the first Canadian Fight Director to receive an award or his choreography, and since 2002 has been nominated 11 times for his choreography. He holds a MFA in Directing, served as the President of Fight Directors Canada from 2000-2004, and Fight Master. Paul Gelineau, has created violence and taught stage combat at most major theatres and acting training institutions in Canada. He is the first Canadian Fight Director to receive an award (Elizabeth Sterling Hayne Award) for his choreography, and since 2002 has been nominated 11 times for his choreography. He holds a MFA in Directing, served as the President of FDC from 2000-2004, as Artistic Director of Keyano Theatre from 1999-2008, as is the first AD and founder of Theatre Kingston. He is an honorary Fight Director with BADC and a Fight Director Ex-Officio with the Society of American Fight Directors. as Artistic Director of Keyano Theatre from 1999-2008. He is currently the Fight Director for West Side Story at the Vancouver Opera.



David Neal

Christie Lites Technical Workshop

has over 20 years experience in professional stage lighting. David worked for Westsun Vancouver, a major theatrical supplier for over 14 years as Sales Manager and Project Manager. David has been with Christie Lites for the past 8 years. He has project-managed theatre lighting and drapery installations from \$1000 to \$1,000,000 in theatre, schools, churches, casinos, museums, tv studios and other entertainment venues throughout Canada. David brings his 'on the job' experience using new technology and explains the usage and how it works in easy-to-understand 'lay-man' terms.

Scott Swan

Scenes From Impulse to Action

Scott has been a professional theatre director, teacher and actor for over thirty years. He was born and raised in B.C., an educated at the University of B.C. (in Honours Economics, English and Theatre) and the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (where he received his Masters in Directing). Among other credits, he was the founding director of Northern Light Theatre in Edmonton and the Artistic Director of Festival Lennoxville in Quebec. He has directed in most of the major regional theatres of Canada including: The Shaw Festival, The National Arts Centre, Centaur Theatre (Montreal), Manitoba Theatre Centre, The Citadel Theatre (Edmonton), Alberta Theatre Projects (Calgary), The Vancouver Playhouse and The Bastion in Victoria. He has won numerous awards for his work and has had two shows optioned for Broadway.

As a teacher, he was the Director of the Vancouver Playhouse Acting School from 1987-1991, as well as instructing and directing at UBC, UVA, and the Banff Centre. He founded Seacoast Theatre Centre fifteen years ago to further develop his vision of the work.

THE ST. REGIS HOTEL



With 65 guestrooms, the St. Regis Hotel's sleek interior design and crisp tailored look will create the perfect atmosphere for the discerning business traveller. The newly renovated St. Regis Hotel is positioned within Vancouver's central business district and is close to SFU, BCIT, Pacific Centre Mall, the Canada Line, Skytrain, Robson Street, UBC Robson Square, the Convention Centre, fine shopping choices, and excellent restaurant selections.

Amenities and services at the St. Regis Hotel include 32" flat screen TVs, fluffy guest robes, Italian Acca Kappa bath products, multi-media hubs, windows that open, room service, in house massage, laptop size safes, and coffee makers in every room. The rate for the "ABCDE" conference is \$149.00. All rates include:

- FULL breakfast (eggs cooked to order, bacon sausage or ham, hash brown potato, fresh fruit salad and pastries, Belgian waffles etc.)
- ALL internet
- FREE GLOBAL Long Distance
- FREE bottled FIJI water
- ALL local calls/faxes and 1.800#'s

Please call The St. Regis Hotel at 1.800.770.7929 or email info@stregishotel.com to make a reservation.

You must mention the "ABCDE RATE" and you must make reservations before **October 1st, 2011**. After that date you will be offered the best available rate. These rates are available between October 19 thru 23rd, 2011.

Lesson Ideas

Drama in Education

Out of the Theatre and into the Classroom

Drama activities can be a great way of building knowledge outside the theatre classroom. Many of us drama educators teach other courses, whether English, Modern Languages, or the full gamut in Elementary School. It's time we brought drama in education into these other spaces! Here is one example...

Horseshoe Counting Game in the Spanish 9 classroom

This is a modification of an Improvisational Warm Up Game. Students stand in a horseshoe formation. Number the students off in order, moving clockwise around the horseshoe. Of course this is the Spanish class, so the numbers are “uno, dos, tres, etc”.

Student “uno” begins by saying his number and then the number of someone else in the group.

“Uno, catorce” (1, 14)

Then student 14, continues and says her number and a new number “Catorce, dos”

To make it more challenging:

1. You can't say the number of the person standing beside you
2. You can't say the number of the person who said your number
3. Throw in a rhythm that players have to say their number with the beat

When a student makes a mistake, they step out of the line and move to the end of the line, probably #27 or so. Then everyone else shifts to fill in the gap, and their numbers shift as well.

This is a very low risk way of getting students comfortable with speaking the target language in class. You can throw in funny things to say when a student makes a mistake, in the target language.

Also, you can sneak in more Spanish. When everyone gets confused and doesn't know what number they have, which happens a lot!, then you can get each student to say: “Yo tengo uno.” “Yo tengo dos.” “Yo tengo tres” (“I have one, I have two, I have three”) The students are using the verb “to have” in an authentic communication manner!

Erin Garcia



Got a great lesson idea to share?

Send it to the ABCDE to go in the next newsletter. colinplant@shaw.ca

List-serv

Keep Communicating

Hi again everyone,

I just wanted to send out the following reminders regarding the list-serv:

- 1) If you want something posted, please send info to colinplant@shaw.ca
- 2) If you simply click REPLY to any email from "List Owner -ABCDE" it will NOT be read.
- 3) Our list-serv is moderated (meaning you submit items for posting) because we DO NOT want SPAM being sent to you.

If you have any questions, please contact me; via colinplant@shaw.ca

Website

Colin

We have a new website! Be sure to bookmark us...
www.bcdramateachers.com

A Friendly Reminder

If you are unable to attend an ABCDE conference this year, don't forget to renew your membership. The PSA application form is available in this publication and online at <http://www.bctf.ca/PSAs/~PSA-ApplicationForm>.

Membership

Why Join?

1. **Newsletters.** You get our awesome, new and improved with more colour and photos, newsletter, which also includes information on what's happening in drama around the province as well as interesting lesson ideas.
2. **Youthwrite.** You have the opportunity to submit two scripts to "Youthwrite" which offers six students from around the province the opportunity to have their work published and the opportunity to showcase their script at the BC Drama Festival in May.
3. **Drama Festival** You have the right to participate in regional festivals with the opportunity to represent your zone at the Provincial Drama Festival in May.
4. **Scholarships,** ABCDE offers a scholarship to graduating students each year. The Drama teacher must be an ABCDE member for the student to qualify.
5. **Curriculum.** ABCDE has regular meetings with the Ministry of Education and input in the writing of curricula and the approval of resources. We try to represent the wishes of our members.
6. **Conferences.** ABCDE offers a major conference each year where teachers can learn new ideas and renew their enthusiasm.
7. **Connections.** Through its web page, ABCDE offers a network of professionals in theatre who too often work alone and are unappreciated by their colleagues and administration. You can post inquiries and offer suggestions to other drama teachers.

ABCDE Executive

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Please keep in touch with us and informed as to what is happening in the Province. Let us know when you have any suggestions for our organization. What can we do to help you and serve you better as one of our members?

Advertising space available

contact Gordon Hamilton at ghamilton@sd35.bc.ca

1/8 page = \$60
1/4 page = \$75
1/2 page = \$125
Full page = \$250

