

2021-22

ANNUAL REPORT



theatre:
CALGARY

Stafford Arima, Artistic Director

WELCOME

For the 2021-22 season, we used the slogan “Reignite the Stage” to describe and promote our lineup of plays. But in many ways, the ‘reigniting’ was for more than just a theme and words on a brochure. The true reigniting was happening all around us, all season. Yes, Theatre Calgary was back...but we were also ready to try some things that were new.

The summer of 2021 gave us a chance to reimagine what we could do with our Shakespeare by the Bow program. This resulted in our emerging artists heading out on the road to Calgary parks, communities, and even backyards, under the banner of Shakespeare on the Go. Prior to the start of our season, we brought an array of talent to our stage for the very first time in 18 months with *TC Returns*. This was a new venture that provided an opportunity for local artists, our stage crew, and our admin team to bring our theatre back to life and light a creative fire that had been dormant for far too long.

Our 2021-22 season took us on a ride from *BOOM YZ*, to *A Christmas Carol*, to *Steel Magnolias*, and finally the rocking *Million Dollar Quartet*. The energy our organization created was felt by not only by our audiences, but by the artistic community, and across the city. The reigniting didn’t stop at just producing four plays though. Engaging our audience in our programming for the future by way of “Calgary’s Choice” was a chance for not only our audiences, but all theatre-lovers in Calgary to vote on a show they wanted to see next season. While only one show could win, this engagement with Calgarians gave us a look at what other work might be possible for the future.

While much of the reigniting was seen through our work on the stage, there was a great deal that happened behind the scenes too. A year ago, our administrative staff were deeply impacted by the hardships suffered from the 2020-21 season. I am proud of our leadership team who have diligently worked to bring our staffing levels back up, and integrate so many new and energetic people to our organization. There has truly been a resurgence and re-ignition of creativity and culture through all facets of our theatre.

Our upcoming 2022-23 season excites me for many reasons. Not only are we back to a full season of six shows, but we continue to look for new and innovative ways to tell our stories, and share with you the magic of live theatre. The board and staff of Theatre Calgary are thrilled to welcome you back to our stage, where we will once again entertain you, and energize your soul!

Craig Senyk
CHAIR, THEATRE CALGARY SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Like language, all forms of art are means of expression. A theatre going experience is one of those unique art forms where an interactive, living experience is what defines the art. The messages or narratives within a play or musical may be historic, fictional, political, literal, factual, or abstract. However, the purpose of theatre storytelling is not to simply communicate a message or a story, but to elicit an emotional response – to move, touch and inspire. As Theatre Calgary finds its way post-pandemic, I feel a tremendous amount of elation for the future of the theatregoing experience at our theatre. Theatre Calgary will continue to create a space for theatre and experiences that are entertaining or perplexing, pleasing or astonishing, informative or mind-numbing, challenging or inspirational – or all the above! That’s the power of theatre art: it will always be a highly personal, subjective, ravishingly polarizing, and deeply personal experience meant to be shared.

Stafford Arima
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The 2021-22 season continued to feel the impact of COVID-19 on our ability to produce work. Despite the hardships that many of us have faced, Theatre Calgary was still able to engage, inspire, and bring joy to many. Telling stories through live performance has the unique ability to build kinship and community and we look forward to continuing that work. We are grateful to all, patrons and ticket holders, whose continued support of Theatre Calgary and our mission. It is only through your incredible loyalty that we can grow and thrive.

Maya Choldin
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MISSION

TO STIMULATE, PROVOKE, AND DELIGHT THROUGH AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMING CREATED TO IGNITE LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.

VISION

TO STAND AMONGST THE BEST THEATRES GLOBALLY AS A LEADER IN INNOVATIVE, IMPACTFUL, AND DIVERSE PROGRAMMING.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

IN THE SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION, THEATRE CALGARY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT WE LIVE, WORK AND CREATE ON THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY (SIKSIKA, KAINAI, PIIKANI), THE TSUUT'INA, THE ÎYÂXE NAKODA NATIONS, THE MÉTIS NATION (REGION 3), AND ALL PEOPLE WHO MAKE THEIR HOMES IN THE TREATY 7 REGION OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA. THEY WERE THE ORIGINAL OCCUPANTS OF THIS LAND AND CONTINUE TO BE HERE TO THIS DAY. THEATRE CALGARY IS GRATEFUL TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT IN THIS TERRITORY.



2021-22 PRODUCTIONS

This past season saw us make a triumphant return to the Max Bell Theatre stage as we once again welcomed Calgary audiences back in to our space. With a smaller season consisting of four shows, in addition to additional special presentations, our stage, artists, and company was reignited with a new creative energy.

The summer of 2021 saw us continue our commitment to providing opportunities for young emerging artists as we, along with The Shakespeare Company and Hit & Myth Productions, took our Shakespeare by the Bow on the road. Under the banner of 'Shakespeare on the Go', we presented an adaptation of **The Comedy of Errors**, but with three different casts of three actors each. Our three casts make their way separately to numerous Calgary and area parks, Brookfield Residential communities, Calgary Public Library branches, Heritage Park, and more unique locations. It truly was a new and safe way to get our summer Shakespeare program back outside, and in the community, so this annual Calgary tradition could be enjoyed once more.

As a warm-up prior to getting back on the Max Bell stage, we took part in two very special initiatives. In early September, we partnered with Calgary Pride and Big Art for their *Big Pride* celebration and presented **Theatre Calgary Sings for Pride**. The show featured eight talented local artists going all-out on an array of popular musical theatre hits. This was a great opportunity to get ourselves and our artists connected with the community and spirit of Calgary Pride.

In October, we turned the lights back on the Max Bell Theatre stage, and presented **TC Returns**, which also featured numerous local artists of different disciplines coming together to celebrate our return to live theatre. From ballet to musical theatre to spoken word to modern dance, *TC Returns* was a wonderful opportunity for our artists, company, and audiences to come back together, and prepare for an exciting season ahead.

Our season got started in October with a bang, as we welcomed back Rick Miller for the world premiere of **BOOM YZ**, the third instalment in his popular *BOOM* series. The technical wizardry, humour, and insightful look at history that Miller brings to his shows once again captivated our audiences and electrified our stage. Next, our holiday tradition of **A Christmas Carol** returned, but with a slightly different look. For 2021, we presented a live version of the three-person abridged script (that was filmed and presented in 2020), using two different casts who alternated performances. This return of *Carol* was a welcome opportunity for families to reconnect with a live performance and Theatre Calgary. Additionally, we brought the 2020 online version of *A Christmas Carol* back for a limited time in December, giving audiences unable to join us in the theatre a chance to experience the tradition and connection of this show. In 2022, we brought the funny and heartwarming **Steel Magnolias** to our stage. Featuring a diverse cast of Alberta actors, and an entire female creative team, this show filled our stage with humour, tears, and a reminder of how an entertaining night at Theatre Calgary feels. We then closed out our season with the likes of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins in **Million Dollar Quartet**. After being put on hold from 2020, this show finally hit our stage, and the end result was a wild show full of music, nostalgia, and energy that stayed with audiences after they left the theatre. Congratulations to actor Devon Brayne (Johnny Cash) for being awarded the Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy or Musical for his performance.

In late-March 2022, our **TD Page to Stage New Works** program focused on the continued development of *Awowakii* by Sable Sweetgrass Katoiyissa. This family drama, about the resilience of the Blackfoot Matriarchy, was first workshopped as part of the 2021 festival. We are pleased to continue to explore and develop this work, and have exciting hopes to program it in an upcoming season.

2021-22 PRODUCTIONS



JULY 31 -
AUGUST 29,
2021

SHAKESPEARE ON THE GO — THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

BY William Shakespeare
ADAPTED BY Reneltta Arluk and Barry Bilinsky
DIRECTED BY Reneltta Arluk



OCTOBER 19 -
NOVEMBER 7,
2021

WORLD PREMIERE — BOOM YZ

WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND PERFORMED BY Rick Miller
PRESENTED BY Kidoons and Wyrđ Productions in
association with Theatre Calgary and the
20K Collective



NOVEMBER 30 -
DECEMBER 24,
2021 - LIVE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY Charles Dickens
ABRIDGED ADAPTATION BY Geoffrey Simon Brown
DIRECTED BY Stafford Arima
ASSISTANT DIRECTED BY Jane MacFarlane

DECEMBER 2-31, 2021 - ONLINE (2020 PRODUCTION)



MARCH 8 -
APRIL 3, 2022

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

BY Robert Harling
DIRECTED BY Valerie Planche



APRIL 26 -
MAY 22, 2022

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

BOOK BY Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux
ORIGINAL CONCEPT AND DIRECTION BY Floyd Mutrux
INSPIRED BY Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins
DIRECTED BY Thom Allison

ENSURING THEATRE IS INCLUSIVE FOR ALL CALGARIANS

Theatre Calgary is focused on ensuring theatre is accessible to all Calgarians. We are passionately committed to fostering an environment of diversity and inclusivity, ensuring people from all walks of life, financial incomes, beliefs, and orientations feel that they have a place to come together and enjoy live theatre. We believe the arts has a huge part to play in developing access for these diverse audiences.

We looked to our community partners to help us build the bridge and strengthen ties with the community to ensure these audiences have access and feel welcomed when coming through our doors.

In 2021, a ticket-discount program to honour our healthcare workers was initiated and was funded by the generous support of **EFW Radiology** and **Mayfair Diagnostics**.

“At Mayfair, our employees are at the heart of what we do,” said Mayfair Director of Marketing June Diment. *“We appreciated being able to honour them and other health care workers for their hard work with access to Theatre Calgary’s wonderfully diverse programming.”*

We also embarked on a pilot project with **BMO Bank of Montreal** that focused on accessible tickets for new Canadians. Through this partnership, and BMO’s relationships, we were able to welcome new Canadians from the Immigrant Women’s Association and Immigrant Services Calgary through our doors, many for the first time.

“Live theatre offers an enriched understanding of our diverse society,” says John MacAulay, Regional President, BMO Bank of Montreal. *“Through support of the New Canadians’ Access Pilot, we hope to grow the audience and future fan-base of Theatre Calgary by removing barriers to accessibility.”*

\$40 under 40 ticketing was also introduced during the 2021-21 season, enabling young families, recent graduates and university students opportunities to enjoy live theatre. Those that have faced financial barriers, now had a new opportunity to attend with their families and friends.

Relaxed performances provide access to people living with autism or those with young families, or other conditions that prevent them from attending regular scheduled performance. The performances would not be possible without the support of our valued sponsors like **CWB Wealth Management**.

“Art has the ability to impact all of our lives,” says Matt Evans, President and CEO of CWB. *“We’re grateful to Theatre Calgary for creating an accessible space in our community to bring art to those who may not otherwise have an opportunity to be touched by it. We’re pleased to be Theatre Calgary’s accessibility sponsor and support this spirit of inclusivity, a value we hold sincerely at CWB Wealth Management.”*

Thank you to our generous Corporate Partners who help make these accessible programs possible.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Theatre Calgary is very thankful to our strong and loyal group of donors, sponsors and funders. Thanks to your generosity, our 2021-22 season brought four exceptional plays to you and over 20,000 guests. For many, these plays were a social outing with friends and family as well as an opportunity to take a break from daily life and enjoy live theatre again. Performing arts is a livelihood that many in your community thrive and depend on. Your contributions are supporting hundreds of artists working on and off the stage. You are giving these artists the chance to continue to do what they love!

While supporting the work of hundreds of artists during the season, your donations are also allowing many to see theatre for the first time. Theatre Calgary’s accessibility program is an important component to what we do, and it is very special for us to be a part of an introductory experience for an audience member to their first performance.

To each and every one of you – Theatre Calgary and its board, staff, artists, and volunteers would like to say THANK YOU!

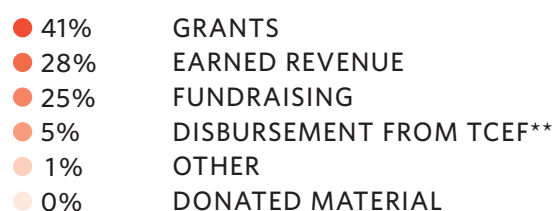
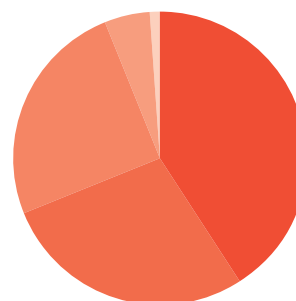


2022 Artistic Champions event honouring Al Osten & Buddy Victor’s contribution to Theatre Calgary.

2021-22 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS*

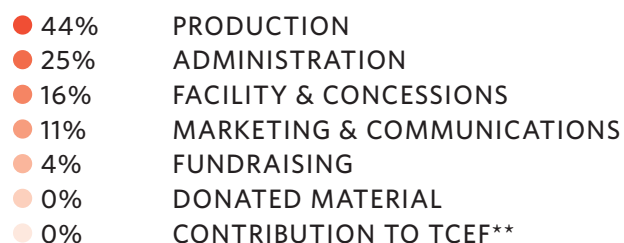
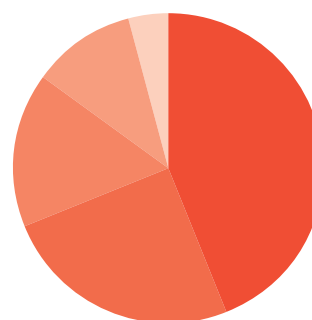
REVENUE

	2020-21	2021-22
EARNED REVENUE	232,000	1,824,276
FUNDRAISING	2,003,007	1,623,143
GRANTS	2,739,166	2,733,111
OTHER	34,918	78,414
DONATED MATERIAL	0	0
DISBURSEMENT FROM TCEF**	333,348	363,095
TOTAL	\$5,342,639	\$6,622,039



EXPENSES

PRODUCTION	1,033,943	2,860,513
FACILITY & CONCESSIONS	774,879	1,046,515
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS	422,071	708,142
ADMINISTRATION	1,475,759	1,605,268
FUNDRAISING	393,018	297,661
DONATED MATERIAL	0	0
CONTRIBUTION TO TCEF**	0	0
TOTAL	4,099,670	6,518,099



EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$1,242,969	\$103,940
--	--------------------	------------------

* THEATRE CALGARY SOCIETY CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2022
 ABOVE RESULTS ARE NON-CONSOLIDATED AS THEY EXCLUDE THE RESULTS OF THE THEATRE CALGARY ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION.
 ** THEATRE CALGARY ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

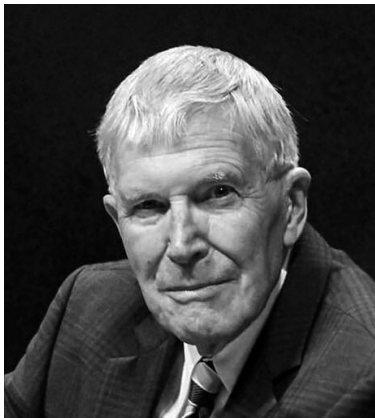
BOARD & FOUNDATION

SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Craig D. Senyk, **CHAIR**
Tricia Leadbeater, **VICE CHAIR**
Joy Alford, **CORPORATE SECRETARY**
Brian Giang, **AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**
Kate Abbott, **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR**
Kelly Bernakevitch
Stephen Curran
David Lui
Cherry Ma, **ARTISTIC COMMITTEE CHAIR**
John MacAulay, **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR**
Nairn Nerland
Chadwick Newcombe
Margo Randles, **PAST CHAIR**
Catherine Samuel, **HR COMMITTEE CHAIR**
Dr. Norman Schachar, M.D.
Maggie Schofield, **FACILITY COMMITTEE CHAIR**
Carol Shmygol, **MARKETING COMMITTEE CHAIR**
Kirsty Sklar, **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**
Edith Wenzel
Ward Zimmer

ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Emily Houtt, **CHAIR**
Margo Randles, **VICE CHAIR**
Ward Zimmer, **SECRETARY/TREASURER**
Andrew Bateman
Kelly Bernakevitch
Ellen Chidley
Chris Lee
Chadwick Newcombe
Alex Osten



CHRISTOPHER NEWTON

On December 20, 2021, we were heartbroken to learn of the passing of our founding artistic director **Christopher Newton**, 85. He was an artist who brought a maverick sensibility to our city and our stage. From Theatre Calgary to the Shaw Festival, his legacy across our country will live on for generations.

"I first met Christopher in 2017 when he and his husband, Nicholas came to Calgary to celebrate Theatre Calgary's 50th anniversary on the opening night of Sharon Pollock's play *Blow Wind High Water*. I'll never forget the roar of applause from the audience when Chris took the stage. It was deafening. Chris' words were simply profound. He reminded us that *"In order to achieve success, you also have to allow for failure."* He ended his speech by acknowledging how much support Theatre Calgary has received over the decades from the city. *"Thank you, Calgary, for letting us create here."* It is Theatre Calgary that owes Christopher a colossal thank you. Without his originating vision, we would not be here 54 years later. He created a bar that is impossibly high, but one that he and his artistry jumped over with grace and strength. It goes without saying that Theatre has lost a titan. Good Night Sweet Prince."

- Stafford Arima

We send our hearts and love to Nicholas, Christopher's family, and everyone in our community who had the opportunity to work and learn from him.

Production Photo Credits: All photos by Trudie Lee except where noted. Page 1: Steven Greenfield, Eric Wigston, Kale Penny, Steven Jackson Jr., Michael Vanhevel, Devon Brayne in *Million Dollar Quartet*; Page 4: Tenaj Williams, Allison Lynch, Katie McMillan, Ryan Maschke, Samantha Currie, Dallas Hayes-Sparks in *TC Returns*; Page 5 (top) The cast of *TC Returns*, (clockwise from top left) Hannah Wigglesworth, Sarah Ord, Hannah Kerbes in *The Comedy of Errors*, Rick Miller in *BOOM YZ*, Marshall Vielle, Karen Johnson-Diamond, Allison Lynch, Jamie Tognazzini, Vanessa Leticia Jetté, Mike Tan, Haysam Kadri in *A Christmas Carol* (live production), The cast of *Million Dollar Quartet*, Allison Lynch, Norma Lewis, Patricia Darbasie, Katelyn Morishita, Donnon Root in *Steel Magnolias*; Page 6: Artistic Champion event photo by Jeff Yee; Page 8: Christopher Newton photo by Jeff Yee. For full cast and creative teams for these shows, visit: theatrecalgary.com/archive

theatre: CALGARY

Theatre Calgary is a professional non-profit theatre company and a resident of Arts Commons, operating out of the Arts Commons Max Bell Theatre.

It is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and operates within the jurisdiction of the Canadian Theatre Agreement. Theatre Calgary employs technicians under a collective agreement with the I.A.T.S.E.

Theatre Calgary
220 9th Ave SE
Calgary, AB, Canada
T2G 5C4

theatrecalgary.com
+1-403-294-7440

2021-22 SPONSORS & PARTNERS

PRODUCTION & SEASON SPONSORS



COMMUNITY & IN-KIND SPONSORS



MEDIA PARTNERS

