

Front of the Line

Fall 2016

Metro Theatre is more than a season of entertaining plays for our patrons to enjoy. Behind the vision of "promoting the theatre arts on non-professional level", Metro provides a vehicle that exposes young people to the art and craft of theatre, adds to their experience and expertise with modern facilities and equipment, and has become a place that our actors, designers, technicians, and stage managers can explore their passion at any stage of their lives.

Metro serves the wider community by being a well-equipped performance stage for a variety of productions from School graduations and Christmas concerts, and theatre and dance school celebrations or Corporate Meetings, to other Production Companies that need affordable performance space within Vancouver. And not just the Theatre and Stage Space, Metro's infrastructure includes a separate rehearsal, construction and storage space that services the wider Theatre Community as well as Metro's own season of shows.

To be sustainable for 53 years Metro has had to be very careful with its finances. With its increased complexity, regulation, and cost Metro has had to adapt. Changing technology and "Green" initiatives has reduced expenses and increased efficiency in many areas.

Although our patrons still contribute to about 65% of our revenue in the way of ticket and subscription sales, to balance its budget Metro's income has had to diversify to other sources and giving more reliance and sales from the concession, bar and other sources including.....

YOUR DONATIONS

As a non-profit charitable society, Donations make an enormous contribution to Metro's sustainability in providing a performing arts space for our members and to the wider community. This year we are pleased that with

the generous contributions from our patrons in the form of individual and legacy donations, we were able to:

- upgrade our sound system with a newer “state of the art” computer and software, the
- installation of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) for the safety of our audience,
- and the start of Phase one of the “Light Up the Face of Metro” to update the street front façade of the theatre.

Metro is pleased to have become such a treasure to its patrons and to receive such generosity. It is these Donations that allow Metro to adapt and modernize.

VOLUNTEERS

Our legions of **dedicated volunteers have committed an astonishing ONE MILLION HOURS of time**, in order to present it's 500th show this season (Sense & Sensibility). On stage, backstage, or in the Front of House it is the volunteers that have carried the load in Metro's 53 Seasons. Many of our volunteers fill positions in one, or more of these areas

The Metro Board of Directors: Elected through the AGM (Sept. 28th,2016) this team of dedicated volunteers is responsible for Metro's governance and its season of shows through play selection, production management, and budgeting through monthly Board meetings and committee work in addition to working throughout the season on production tasks including directing, acting, stage management, and design. VIP Members (including subscribers) are eligible to vote at the AGM.

Production and Backstage Volunteers: The majority of the **2500 volunteer hours taken to mount a Metro show** is committed by this team. The **director** anchors the production and heads the creative team months before casting and rehearsals begin. The **designers** of sets, lights, costumes, and sound create and set up the visual, audio and technical aspects for the audience to experience, while the **Actors** rehearse with the director and **stage managers** for more than 75 hours. We have a crew of dedicated **Strike/Setup** people that are ready to spend a day moving a set that has taken some 60 hours to build and paint at the Metro Shop to the stage or striking the outgoing set in preparation for the next production. Once on the stage, the set up continues into technical rehearsal with a

Backstage Show Crew and the Actors providing another 60 hours for the 13 performances, dress and technical rehearsals.

The FOH Volunteers are the front line for patron services. Every Metro Performance and shows that Metro hosts has a team in the Front of House to greet our guests, take tickets, manage the concession, and generally keep our patrons comfortable. On duty an hour before curtain and during intermission this team dedicates 2-3 hours to the performance.

This dedicated Metro Team is always recruiting new members that wish to contribute to sustaining Metro's cultural legacy. Ask us how by emailing admin@metrotheatre.com or calling the Box Office 604 266 7191

IN THE WINGS

Metro Theatre is pleased to open our **54th Season** with the comedy **HAYWIRE** on stage **September 17th to October 8th**.

Bookseller Alec Firth is having an affair with his assistant Liz, and has craftily organized things so that he can go on a romantic holiday with her - without his wife Maggie becoming suspicious – or at least that's what he thinks. His hopes are quickly thwarted as each of his family member's present potential obstacles to his getaway plan. Alec's attempts to resolve his problems and escape with Liz only lead to further complications. His life is indeed going Haywire.

The **METRO THEATRE AGM** is on Wed. **Sept 28, at 7:30 PM.**

You may only attend this event and vote, if you are a Metro VIP member. (Membership is \$20 per year, but is included if you are a season subscriber) *Memberships are sold in the lobby on the night of the AGM.* (If you bought your VIP membership after Sept. of last year it will be valid until the date of purchase.)

We are pleased to welcome the Royal Canadian Theatre Company's Production **IT WAS A DARK and STORMY NIGHT** to our stage October 20-22.

TICKETS for **ROBIN HOOD and MARION**, this year's Christmas Pantomime go on **Sale October 1st**. Written by Catherine Morrison, this large production is already in rehearsal. Join the rollicking adventures of Robin of Locksley and his merry band of outlaws in Sherwood Forest by cheering the Dames and booing the Baddie. Performances are December 15th, 2016 thru January 7th, 2017.

Stay TUNED

Our **500th Show** is Jane Austen's **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**.

We have several special events planned around celebrating this awesome milestone.

Please keep checking the website and our social media accounts for regular updates and watch your inbox for a special edition newsletter. We would love to hear stories about how you and yours have been involved with Metro Theatre over the 500 shows - email media@metrotheatre.com