

JULY 1

2023

2024

JUNE 30

# Annual Report

THE PORT THEATRE SOCIETY



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The Port Theatre Society honours that we are located on the traditional territory of The Snuneymuxw First Nation. We're grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and celebrate the Arts on this beautiful land. hay ce:p q a



# Message From The President



It is great to see the Port Theatre back to a more “normal” operation after several years of COVID-related disruption. Although we have not returned to full pre-COVID attendance, nearly 100,000 people came to the Port Theatre in the past year.

We kicked off the season in September with a gala event to celebrate our 25th Anniversary! What a great way to mark 25 years of excellent performances and community involvement.

There were four diverse presentations in the Discovery Series: *Lady-O*, *Scenes from the Nanaimo Indian Hospital*, *I Want to Be An Astronaut* and *Ty Koch*.

There was a full Spotlight Series, which included old favourites such as *Winter Harp* and *International Guitar Night*, as well as Ballet Kelowna’s Vancouver Island debut - *taqəš*, *Bolero*, and

*MAMBO* (one of my personal highlights).

One of the ongoing objectives of the Port Theatre Society is to engage young audiences, and 2024 saw two presentations of Theatre for Young Audiences: *TREE: A World in Itself* and two performances of *Librarian*.

Another objective is to provide leadership in the arts community and to work with and support local arts organizations. This included the *Vancouver Island Symphony*, *Nanaimo Fringe Festival*, *Nanaimo International Jazz Festival*, *Crimson Coast Dance Society*, *Nanaimo Music Conservatory*, and many others.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank our brilliant and dedicated staff and amazing volunteers who make the Port Theatre a special place to experience live performances. I would particularly like to acknowledge David Warbuton, our *Artistic Executive Director*, whose leadership and professionalism has been critical as we move forward in a post-pandemic environment.

The board and staff very much appreciate the strong support from the *City of Nanaimo*, the *Regional District of Nanaimo*, the *District of Lantzville*, the *Department of Canadian Heritage*, *BC Arts Council*, and *BC Live*.

And finally, a big thank you to all our loyal members, community partners, and patrons who continue to value the arts and support us in all we do.

Brian Clemens  
BOARD PRESIDENT  
The Port Theatre Society

# Artistic Executive Director Report



Our 2023-2024 year was about investing in artists and audiences, redefining success, and ensuring that our spaces and programming are in service of something greater— for our community, Vancouver Island, and all Canadians. We focused on **“welcome”** and the community showed up in every regard.

This past year marked one of the busiest for The Port Theatre Society. We commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Port Theatre with our closest and dearest friends, family, and partners, by celebrating all that has been achieved by those who dared to dream. We commissioned four new full-length works by talented emerging artists from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands as part of our Discovery Series. We expanded our Spotlight Series to 19 presentations, brought back our popular daytime Coffee Concerts, and delivered on our promise to bring more programming for young audiences than ever before.

We made significant progress on our strategic plan including completing a comprehensive accessibility audit and invested in professional development for staff including joining several new membership organizations. We delivered a second year of balanced operational spending while supporting many community initiatives that aligned with our priorities. We saw a strong return of audiences with over \$3M in ticket sales, and we heard from businessowners that our activity was crucial to sustaining downtown.

Finally, we took a leading role at home and abroad. This meant more collaborations including two co-productions, two co-presentations, and a series of community outreach initiatives and partnerships. We co-hosted the Anti-Stigma Community Dialogue on Community Safety, Harm Reduction, and the Toxic Drug Crisis with Nanaimo CAT and Island Health. We held the BCTC regional meeting for Vancouver Island, presented at provincial and national arts conferences, and proudly represented Canada as part of the delegations to Edinburgh and Adelaide.

All of this would not have been possible without the dedicated staff, volunteers, and board members, whose passions and love for their community and the arts always shines. We express our gratitude to our generous donors and sponsors who give to see their community grow, and for every patron who walked through our door.

David Warburton  
ARTISTIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
The Port Theatre Society

## VISION

- We see Vancouver Island as a nationally significant hub for the arts and culture and a home to thriving communities.

## MISSION

- To build and serve our community by bringing people together as a vital gathering place.
- To deliver exceptional performance experiences for artists and audiences.
- To act as a catalyst in the creation, collaboration, and development of transformative new works and talent.

## CORE VALUES

- We are compassionate, accessible, inclusive, and welcoming.
- We care deeply about our patrons, artists, donors, staff, and volunteers.
- We are a committed partner of the community in which we serve.
- We are a leader in arts and culture.

## The Port Theatre is Proud to be a Member of:

Arts BC

Arts Reach

BC Alliance for Arts + Culture

BC Live (Previously BC Touring Council)

Canadian Dance Assembly (CDA)

CAPACOA (Canadian Arts Presenting Association)

CINARS

CITT (Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology)

Gabriola Chamber of Commerce

Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce

Professional Alliance of Canadian Theatres (PACT)

Volunteer Nanaimo

# The Port Theatre shines the Spotlight on its Silver Jubilee

## 25 YEARS OF CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Niomi Pearson, SENIOR TICKET CLERK

On the eve of September 13, 2023, performers, patrons, donors, City councillors and staff, founding members, volunteers, sponsors, past and present board members, and staff gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Port Theatre.

It was an evening filled with art, music, song, dance, storytelling, and a deep reverence for the iconic downtown landmark that has not just served as a building, but has also been a symbol of creativity, a pillar of the community, a place of shared experiences, and so much more.

During his opening remarks, Artistic Executive Director, David Warburton said the event was an opportunity to celebrate the community, the extraordinary dream to build the Port Theatre, and its incredible 25-year contribution to the arts and to the city.

“The Port Theatre has been the backdrop for the trembling excitement of young and aspiring performers taking their first steps under these lights, held space as a forum for community debate, and the setting for joyful graduation ceremonies and celebrations of lives well-lived,” he said. “It has been under this roof, great and enduring friendships have been forged, multigenerational traditions kept alive, and where thousands upon thousands of people have been brought together and built cherished memories that resonate long after the theatre has gone dark.”

Dr. William Good, whose family has been involved with the Port Theatre since it first opened its doors, got the evening started with the singing of The Prayer Song, as he did with the late Dr. Ellen White during the Port





Theatre's opening in 1998.

Next, Ugandan RNB/Soul singer Agasha Mutesasira helmed the evening's performances with her captivating rendition of the Canadian National Anthem.

Speeches continued with Nanaimo-Ladysmith Member of Parliament, Lisa Marie Barron, who presented a congratulatory certificate to the Port Theatre Society. Barron spoke about being involved in theatre at a young age, being excited when the construction of the building was taking place and working with the Port Theatre through its Schools on Stage program and Theatre Angels program.

"We know that engaged, connected communities with access to Arts and Culture are healthier, happier communities," Barron said. "Clearly the Port Theatre understands the importance of everyone, regardless of income, having access to these shows."

Minister of Social Development & Poverty Reduction, Sheila Malcolmson presented the

Port Theatre with a certificate of thanks for 25 years of service from BC Premiere, David Eby. She recalled some of her cherished moments such as watching a Pink Floyd tribute after Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted.

"To sit with my sweetheart Howie for the Pink Floyd tribute band was strangely moving," she said. "And to have the whole theatre, everybody singing every lyric, and we hadn't been able to gather together for all that time. Those are the kinds of things that have happened here and so much more. I could talk all night about the impact on the community and I know other people on this stage will... we're grateful for all of you."

*Ay Lelum – The Good House of Design* led the audience on a captivating journey of music and storytelling, accompanied by Nico Rhodes and Graham Villette. Ay Lelum is a multi-generational Artist family who collaborate in making Coast Salish Fashions from their local Design House on Snuneymuxw First Nation. Sisters Sophia



Seward Good and Aunalee Boyd-Good sang *The Grandfather Song* and *Two Worlds* in both hul'q'umi'num' and English, while wearing their stunning Ay Lelum Couture featuring Coast Salish art by their father Dr. William Good and late brother Joel Good.

In his speech, Nanaimo Mayor Leonard Krog recognized the founding members of the Port Theatre, and those who were instrumental in the push to bring a community theatre to Nanaimo long before the ground-breaking shovels hit the dirt.

"What you created so many years ago has so enriched this community that it's hard to describe what Nanaimo might have been like if we didn't have this theatre for the last 25 years," Krog said. "It's hard to imagine the kind of work that it took to create the desire and the willingness in this community to seek money from all levels of government to ensure that this wonderful theatre was created. Those people deserve our unending thanks."

*Vibrant Dance Studio (Vibe)* got the room

hopping and showcased their fancy footwork representing the dance portion of the evening. Five Vibe dancers delivered a high energy, girl-power positive hip-hop routine. Of note, several of the dancers from Vibe Studios had been selected to represent Canada at the International World Hip-Hop and Popping Championships in Poland following the performance.

The mother and son dynamic duo, Joëlle Rabu and Nico Rhodes, engaged the audience with their lighthearted stories and banter. Following their rendition of *La Vie En Rose*, the duo performed *Cucurucucu* and dedicated it to the late Francine Peters, whose stunning artwork of the Port Theatre and other local landmarks has been celebrated in Nanaimo and beyond.

Musicians from the *Vancouver Island Symphony* concluded the evening's live performances on a high note with their rendition of three selections of music including Michael Giacchino's composition *Married Life* from the Pixar film *Up*.





Lastly, a special 25th Anniversary video by Knight Studios was shown, featuring archival photos and footage, compiled with storytelling and commentary from past and present staff, board members, and other passionate community members.

A celebratory post-show reception was held after the performances, featuring a cake prepared by the Vancouver Island University Baking & Pastry Arts program, and hors d'oeuvres provided by Thrifty Foods. Guests also enjoyed a special 25th Anniversary Memory Lane Exhibit in the Harmac Room, showcasing photos, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, and more, both before and after the show.

**25TH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Baxter  
Michael Guan  
Fred Jacklin  
Diana Johnstone  
Andrea Noble  
Cindy Shantz  
Jaime-Brett Sine  
Travis Sippel  
Sandra Thomson  
David Warburton  
Mya Wilson

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO ATTENDED THE  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
AND OUR SILVER JUBILEE  
SPONSORS:**

- RLR Lawyers
- Allegra Marketing & Print
- Coastal Community Credit Union
- Nanaimo News Bulletin
- Woodgrove Centre



# The Spotlight Series 2023/2024 SEASON

Andrea Noble, MARKETING & COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The Port Theatre presented 19 amazing Spotlight shows, 4 Discovery shows, plus the 25th Anniversary event. It was an extremely busy time, and we want to thank all staff and volunteers for their efforts in making the 2023-2024 Season such a success! While it was another year of recovery, our audiences grew in numbers as the season unfolded due to increased confidence in attending live performances. Patrons were thrilled to be back in the theatre and were very impressed with the quality of artists and variety of genres / styles. Even though each Spotlight event is unique, it's wonderful that the Spotlight brand is becoming more and more recognizable and talked about in our community. Total sales for our Spotlight Series and Discovery Series equalled \$249,504. With 5,787 tickets sold and 2,414 complimentary tickets given, 8,201 patrons attended a 'Port Presents' event. This is incredible growth and demonstrates the hard work and dedication of our team.



**INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT**



**sGaanaGwa - WINTER SOLSTICE**

## SPOTLIGHT – MAINSTAGE SHOWS

### THE FLAME

Sunday, September 24, 2023

### taqəš, Bolero, and MAMBO BALLET KELOWNA

Friday, September 29, 2023

### OKTOPUS

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

### MIDDLE RAGED

Friday, October 27, 2023

### sGaanaGwa - WINTER SOLSTICE

WITH SPECIAL GUEST AY LELUM – THE  
GOOD HOUSE OF DESIGN

Thursday, November 9, 2023

### WINTER HARP

Saturday, December 9, 2023

### ANDREW ALLEN: ALL HEARTS COME HOME

Thursday, December 21, 2023

### INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT

Sunday, January 28, 2024

### Hervé KOUBI: What The Day Owes To The Night

CO-PRESENTATION WITH CRIMSON  
COAST DANCE SOCIETY

Monday, February 5, 2024

### FLIP FABRIQUE - BLIZZARD

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Platinum sponsor: RLR Lawyers

### DIYET & THE LOVE SOLDIERS

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

### MADE IN ITALY

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Platinum sponsor: Helijet

### BALLETS JAZZ MONTRÉAL - ESSENCE

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

### SE:UM

CO-PRESENTATION WITH KOREAN  
CULTURAL CENTRE & NANAIMO  
INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL  
PRESENTATION

Sunday, May 5, 2024



## SPOTLIGHT MORNING COFFEE CONCERTS

### SARAH HAGEN

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

### BUWA

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

### BERGMANN PIANO DUO

Saturday, April 6, 2024

## SPOTLIGHT THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

### TREE: A World In Itself

3 SHOWS: June 4-5, 2024

### THE LIBRAVIAN

CO-PRESENTATION WITH THE  
VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL  
LIBRARY

2 SHOWS: Wednesday, June 5, 2024





**COMPAGNIE HERVÉ Koubi**

# The **Discovery Series** 2023/2024 SEASON

The Discovery Series engages talented and emerging arts from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands to advance their careers by supporting the creation of new work, mentorship with industry professionals, and to premiere their show on our mainstage.

## DISCOVERY **SERIES**



**23** NOVEMBER 2023

### LADY-O

Orith – (O'wreath)  
Vocalist, Bassist, Composer

*Lady-O* writes songs that promote a sense of well being with themes that touch upon the inner journey, our shared humanity, and sometimes just fruit. Joined by The Omen, *Lady-O* and the band are going to cook one fat groovy pocket while fusing jazz, world music, pop, and R&B.



**31** JANUARY 2024

### SCENES FROM THE NANAIMO INDIAN HOSPITAL



CO-PRODUCTION  
WITH VIU ARC

Reawakening Hul'q'umin'um', Nuu-chah-nulth and Kwak'waka Languages. Dr. Laura Cranmer of 'Namgis and Haida descent, an Indian hospital and residential school survivor, wrote "*Scenes from the Nanaimo Indian Hospital*" based on her three-year stay at the hospital as a young child.



This project responds to a rising trend where artists seeking to advance their careers are often incentivized to leave Vancouver Island, especially from the smaller municipalities and towns, for the larger civic urban centres, when these opportunities for growth should also exist at home.

Discovery addresses this issue by providing new high-quality opportunities for local artists to make and perform their work in the place in which they are from, and to ensure Vancouver Island remains a viable and vibrant hub for the arts.



# I WANT TO BE AN ASTRONAUT



CO-PRODUCTION  
WITH PACIFIC COAST  
STAGE COMPANY

*I Want To Be An Astronaut* written by Theo Soloway  
The story of an autistic young adult, Morgan, and their struggles to determine their place in the world. Inspired by the real life experiences of the autistic author, this play explores the sense of self, mental health issues, and the struggle of finding your path.



# TY KOCH

Singer, Songwriter

Ty Koch is a 24-year-old singer from Vancouver Island who performs a variety of musical genres including musical theatre favourites, crooner tunes, popular ballads, original songs with a blues vibe and vintage rock & roll! Over the last few years, Ty has been working with several artists performing and recording at theatres, and festivals including the Nanaimo Big Band Festival and on two Rise Up Reality TV Tours.

# Community Support

Nanaimo  
Conservatory of  
Music

Nanaimo  
International Jazz  
Festival Association

Pacific Coast Stage  
Company

TheatreOne

Razzle Dazzle  
Productions

Residency for Scrap  
Arts Music

Crimson Coast  
Dance Society

Nanaimo CAT

Nanaimo  
International Jazz  
Festival

Vancouver Island  
Symphony

**Total:**  
**\$47,650**

In accordance with our mission to act as a catalyst in the creation, collaboration, and development of transformative new works and talent, The Port Theatre Society provided support to the following community arts organizations through in-kind sponsorships. These sponsorships reduced rental rates, making possible the production and presentation of local work.

In alignment with our core values to be compassionate, accessible, inclusive, and welcoming, we demonstrated our commitment to the community in which we serve. As a leader in arts and culture, we had a presence at many off-site events and co-presented events in our theatre that needed our support.



# Community Outreach

Nanaimo Night Market – June 22 to Aug 31, 2023  
RockVIU – Aug 31, 2023

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at  
Oliver Woods Community Centre  
– Sept 30, 2023

Nanaimo African Heritage Society Gala  
– Feb 24, 2024

## SPOTLIGHT Outreach Activities

Facilitated and hosted a Ballet Kelowna and City of Nanaimo exchange on sustainability through Indigenous arts and culture featuring choreographer Cameron Fraser-Monroe.

Facilitated an improv workshop with comedians Geri Hall and Gary Pearson from *Middle Raged* for students at Ladysmith Secondary School.

Facilitated a jazz workshop with the artists from *SE:UM* at Wellington Secondary for high school and VIU students.

Facilitated a music workshop with the artists from *Diyet & The Love Soldiers* for students at Qwam Qwum Stuwixwulh School (grades 1 – 6).

## DISCOVERY Outreach Activities

Provided training to Port Theatre staff,

volunteers, and City staff on trauma-informed care and support in preparation for *Scenes from the Nanaimo Indian Hospital*.

## Outreach Development

Worked with the City of Nanaimo, Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals, and Pacific Coast Stage Company on safe space practices and policies for the Nanaimo Fringe Festival.

Attended the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Adelaide Fringe Festival, CAPACOA conference, Korea-Canada Connections (Canada Council), Pacific Contact, Arts Reach conference, AFP ICON, Artifax North American User Summit, and CITT/ICTS conference/tradeshow.

Joined the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and received subsidy to attend PACT's conference.

## Co-Presentation

Hosted the event *Changing the Narrative: An Anti-Stigma Community Dialogue* on May 28, 2024, in partnership with the Nanaimo Community Action Team. Funding provided by Island Health and the Nanaimo Foundation. The goal was to educate and engage the community on the current toxic drug crisis in Nanaimo.

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# Community Partners

Around Town Tellers  
Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society  
Crimson Coast Dance Society  
Federation of BC Writers

Nanaimo Art Gallery  
Nanaimo Child Development Centre  
Nanaimo Foodshare  
Nanaimo Museum  
Soul Sisters Apothecary



# Community Outreach

The Port Theatre Society provides free tickets to social service agencies in the Mid-Island area, who in turn distribute the tickets to clients who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend live performances. The Port Theatre Society is able to increase access to the performing arts and help dissolve social, physical, and financial barriers throughout our communities through the generous support of our donors.



## TICKETS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES & GROUPS:

Better At Home Program -  
Nanaimo Family Life  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central  
Vancouver Island  
Boys And Girls Clubs Of Central  
Vancouver Island  
C.M.H.A. Mid Island Branch  
Cedar School & Community  
Enhancement Society  
Cedar Seniors Drop-In  
Central Vancouver Island  
Multicultural Society  
Claytree Society  
Clements Centre Society  
Community Support Team &  
Gabriola Outreach Nanaimo Mental  
Health & Substance Use  
Connective Support Society  
Dallens Dream Team Society  
Eden Gardens  
Forward House Community Society  
Haven Society  
Hepatitis C Society  
Heron's Nest Respite Guest House  
Island Crisis Care Society  
Island Deaf + Hard of Hearing  
Centre

J. Garnons Williams Ltd.  
John Howard Society  
Kiwanis Village  
Kwumut Lelum Child And Family  
Services  
Literacy Circle  
N.A.H.S. Buttertubs Place Seniors  
Complex  
N.Y.S.A. - One Stop Youth Center  
Nanaimo 7-10 Club  
Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre  
Nanaimo Affordable Housing  
Society  
Nanaimo Association for  
Community Living  
Nanaimo Brain Injury Society  
Nanaimo Child Development  
Center  
Nanaimo Citizen Advocacy Assoc.  
Nanaimo Community Hospice  
Society  
Nanaimo Disability Resource  
Centre  
Nanaimo Family Life Association  
Nanaimo Family Resources  
Program  
Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors

Nanaimo Organization for the  
Vision Impaired (NOVI)  
NARSF Programs Ltd.  
Open Minds Open Windows  
Society  
Pacifica Seniors Lodge  
Pamelas Home Society  
Parent Support Services of B.C.  
People for a Healthy Community  
on Gabriola Society  
Port Alberni Association for  
Community Living  
Skaana Community Resources Ltd.  
Snuneymuxw First Nations  
Supporting Advocates in  
Leadership  
Take a Hike Foundation  
Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal  
Friendship Centre  
Vancouver Island Mental Health  
Society  
Vancouver Island University -  
Clemente Course  
VIHA-Mental Health-Youth and  
Family Addiction  
Youth 20/20 Can Project



**TREE: A World In Itself - Théâtre Motus**

# Sponsors, Funders & Supporters

 <p>25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPONSOR</p>	    <p>25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE SPONSORS</p>
   <p>DISCOVERY SPONSORS</p>	  <p>PLATINUM</p>  <p>SILVER</p>   <p>BRONZE</p> <p>SPOTLIGHT SPONSORS</p>
    <p>FUNDERS &amp; SUPPORTERS</p>	    <p>Supported by the Province of British Columbia</p>

# Partners

**MEDIA PARTNERS:** CHLY 101.7 FM | 102.3 The Wave | Island Parent Magazine | NAHS Magazine | Nanaimo Magazine | Nanaimo News Bulletin | Seniors Resource Directory Take 5 Magazine | **HOTEL PARTNER:** Coast Bastion Hotel



# Thank you to our Donors

Elizabeth Baxter, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

In an ever-changing landscape of grants and funding sources, fundraising is a vessel by which The Port Theatre Society can generate a steady source of revenue to cover a variety of functional necessities, from capital expenses not covered by our capital development fund to supplementing ticket prices to cover programming costs. This year was the first year in a decade that we employed a full-time Development Officer to assist with creating a fundraising program.



**Round Up Donations**  
**\$6,555**

**December Annual Appeal**  
**\$18,723**

**Endowment Fund Gift**  
**\$300**

**Sponsorships**  
**\$12,750**

**INDIVIDUAL  
GIVING IS UP  
+33%\***

**in 2023-2024, totalling**

**\$51,086**  
contributed to the  
Port Theatre Society  
Operating Fund.

*\*previous 12-month period,  
excluding legacy gifts*

# Thank you to our Donors

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

## \$5000+

Joyce Clarke

## \$1,200 to \$4999.99

DK Brown Foundation  
Great Canadian Casinos Inc.  
Sarah Ogden  
Rotary Club of Lantzville

## \$600 to \$1,199.99

L.D. Foundation  
East2west2110 Investments  
Inc  
Keith and Noreen Jeffrey  
Paul Tildsley & Neta Howard  
Jim Turley

## \$120 to \$599.99

Six (6) Anonymous Donors  
In Memory of Mrs. Hazel  
Adams  
In Loving Memory of Mr. L.  
Adams  
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Ursula Verstraete  
Elizabeth F. Vreede  
Judy Specht and Art  
Warburton  
David Warburton  
Ronalee White  
Dr. John & Christine Whitelaw

## \$20 to \$119.99

Fifty (50) Anonymous Donors  
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Laura D. Blake  
Kathryn Lorraine Bligh  
John Blum  
Bob and Dorothy Bollinger  
David Bouvier  
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Gwen Boyd  
Darwin Murray Burgess  
Edward Busse  
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Carolyn Parks  
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Stephen & Dalry Payne  
Kyle Jeremiah Potter  
Charmaine L. Raga  
Michele Rawcliffe  
John Jeffrey Richards  
Laurie Richards  
S & R Richmond  
Grace-Anne W. Risedorf  
Joan Y. Robertson  
June Ross  
Ashley Anne Rowe  
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Karen Stant  
Doug Strongitharm  
Bill & Carolyn Stuart  
Sandra Thomson  
Josie Thornton  
Ruth & Ian Thorpe  
Daphne & Bill Vater  
Eleanor & Frank Voysey  
Joann M. Walton  
Michele & Rick Weighill  
Carol Whately  
Brad & Marilyn Whitehead  
Elizabeth Wiley  
Peter Winn  
Manfred Winter  
Bob & Sophie Wong  
Brian A. Wood  
Ed Yewchin  
Patricia L. Young





# Volunteers

Greg Graham, SENIOR FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

In October of 2023, the Port Theatre welcomed 18 new recruits to add to our roster of 115 volunteers for the 2023/24 season. Working side by side with our volunteer mentors, these new volunteers are excited to be working in the Arts and look forward to assisting our patrons enjoy a full theatrical experience. Some of these volunteers have been on a wait list for a few years and are now ready to step into their role as ambassadors of the Port Theatre.

We were fortunate enough to be able to host a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon this past June, the first since 2019. We had a terrific turn-out of current and alumni volunteers and their guests. Downtown businesses supplied up to 35 prizes and the Coast Hotel Staff helped put on a wonderful event.

In the Front of House Department, we had a full compliment of Assistant House Managers – Judi Carter, Robyn Marsh and Rae Madge –

who handled many of the events presented this year. Senior House Manager Greg Graham continued to work in Administration advancing all the shows and receptions, while working day-time events.

Otherwise, we would like to point out an example of volunteer cooperation this past January when the Port Theatre presented the Discovery Series show *Scenes from the Nanaimo Indian Hospital*. The new work required a team of volunteers who would be able to react with kindness and empathy for audience members experiencing the emotional weight of institutional trauma. The 2 events of the production involved 28 volunteers and several mental health support workers who worked together to make this important story known and by raising awareness.

***Thank you to all our hardworking volunteers!***

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Betty Reynolds – VOLUNTEER

Val Duthie – VOLUNTEER

Carolyn Walker – VOLUNTEER

Greg Graham – SENIOR FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

Judi Carter – FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

Rae Madge – FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

Robyn Marsh – FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

Total Number Of  
Current Volunteers

**133**

Total Volunteers Hours  
July 2023 – June 2024

**12,976**

Total Volunteer Hours  
Since Theatre Opening

**3,034,802**

# 2024 Volunteer Service Award

The Port Theatre Society honours Kathy Faminoff as this year’s recipient of The Volunteer Service Award.

Kathy started volunteering at the Port Theatre in 2005 after being recently retired and having some time available to give back to her community. Kathy has since accumulated an impressive 2,000 hours of service. When asked about her thoughts on volunteering at the theatre, Kathy responded that it is wonderful to be inside watching a performance that magically transforms the audience’s imagination. She feels fortunate to be able to help with patron needs in making their experience at the Port Theatre a memorable one!

When not volunteering, Kathy loves to sail and spend time gardening.

*Thank You Kathy!*



Volunteer award recipient, Kathy Faminoff & Senior Front of House Manager, Greg Graham

## Acknowledgement of Merit

**6,750 HOURS**  
Judy Palm

**5,500 HOURS**  
Bessie Harvey

**5,500 HOURS**  
Betty Reynolds

**4,750 HOURS**  
Jim Gahr

**3,500 HOURS**  
Karen Orchyk

**3,250 HOURS**  
Nella Frewin

**2,500 HOURS**  
Carol Bell  
Carolyn Walker

**2,000 HOURS**  
Lisette Dowdle  
Joyce Elmore

Lorie Kalnicki

**1,750 HOURS**  
Lisette Dowdle  
Val Duthie  
Pat Work

**1,500 HOURS**  
Pat Work  
Edith Wheatcroft

**1,250 HOURS**  
Marica Benvin  
Reta Chlan  
Aileen Dobronay  
Gail Honeyman  
Christa Kurz  
Barb Sankey  
Bibi Stewart  
Lynne Yule

**1,000 HOURS**  
Sonia Billard  
Christine Craigi

Cathy Shonwise

**750 HOURS**  
Sonia Edwards  
Carole Inch

**500 HOURS**  
Bev Ford  
Susan Moretto  
June Sedola-Wiley

**250 HOURS**  
Krista Aurala  
Malcolm Cottrel  
Dave Hoy  
Donna Hoy  
Kim Lang  
Judi Lefebvre  
Helga Longmore  
Susan Mullett  
Shirley Pratten  
Joanne Tessier  
Irene Wende

**150 HOURS**  
Geri Bland  
Carmelina Burton  
Darlene Cook  
Kris Dwolinsky  
Bob Fenton  
Donna Fraser  
Larry Frieson  
Dave Hoy  
Kate Huggins  
Mel Huggins  
Trudy Jager  
Heather Lee  
Judi Lefebvre  
Elizabeth Maguire  
Maura Nelson  
Diane Reimer  
Anita Rinfret  
Joanne Tessier  
Micheal Wright

# Port Theatre Members

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Annual Membership with The Port Theatre Society provides discounts and pre-sale privileges on a great selection of events, plus a host of other benefits and savings! A yearly membership demonstrates support and appreciation of The Port Theatre Society’s mandate to stimulate and enhance artistic, cultural and economic activity of central Vancouver Island.

**Business and Group Memberships**

**27**

**Membership Revenue**

**\$2,700**

**Individual Memberships**

**1,406**

**Membership Revenue**

**\$42,180**

## Business Members

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Allegra Marketing - Print - Mail  
Acclaim Celtic Dancers Nanaimo  
Bonita Hodgson Psychic Coaching Inc.  
Carlos O'Bryan's Neighbourhood Pub  
Dr. Jennifer McKenzie  
Electrical Enterprises VI Ltd.  
Gina's Mexican Cafe  
Harbour Dance Studios  
Heath Law LLP  
Heydemann-Art of Photography  
Island Fisherman Magazine  
Island West Coast Developments  
Kelex Management  
Kwumut Lelum  
Ladysmith & District Credit Union  
Long Lake Physiotherapy

Main Street Communications  
Margaret Greenfield Accessible Housing Project Fund  
Mid Island Automotive Repairs Ltd  
Nanaimo Hospitality Association  
Pacific Biological Station Staff Association  
Pacific Rim Drain Cleaning  
Pawsitive Touch Canine Massage  
Progressive Diesel  
Rob Grey & Associates  
Silver Faks Contracting  
Soloway Law  
Spice of Life Catering  
Tempo Dance Academy  
Troller's Fish and Chips/Off the Hook  
Yellowpoint Drywall Limited



# Ticket Sales

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

## PORT THEATRE EVENTS

Total sales for events:  
**\$2,959,875**

Total number of tickets sold:  
**63,447**

Total comps:  
**7,018**

## SPOTLIGHT SERIES AND DISCOVERY SERIES

Total sales for events:  
**\$249,504**

Total number of tickets sold:  
**5,787**

Total comps:  
**2,414**

## OFFSITE EVENTS

Total sales for offsite events:  
**\$142,293**

Total tickets sold for offsite events:  
**3,797**

Total comps:  
**96**

Number of offsite events:  
**59**

Number of performances:  
**91**

### OFFSITE VENUES:

Beban Park Social Centre  
Christ Community Church  
Clay Tree Garden  
The Black Rabbit  
The OV Arts Centre  
The Queen's  
Maffeo Sutton Park  
Swy a lana Lagoon  
St Andrew's United Church  
Shaw Auditorium  
Knox United Church, Parksville



# Health & Safety

Wilson Pascoe, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

The *Occupational Health and Safety Committee* saw a period of expansion in many ways, during the 2023-24 season. More members were added, bringing our total membership to 10, with all departments represented, including our volunteers. Following the introduction of our new members, all committee members completed a 2-day “Joint Health and Safety Committee Fundamentals” training course presented by *Act Safe*, an organization that provides guidance and resources specific to the entertainment industry. This training led to several minor, but important, improvements to our committee structure and procedures.

In practical news, the committee increased the number of first aid kits in the theatre and started providing hearing tests for all staff members for the first time since the pandemic. Looking into the future, we have begun talks with *St. John Ambulance* about bringing their first aid attendants to our shows again, a service we have very much appreciated in the past. We are very much looking forward to a safe and healthy year to come!

## HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

**Judi Carter**  
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

**Bessie Harvey**  
VOLUNTEER

**Brad McAuley**  
TECHNICIAN

**Andrea Noble**  
MARKETING & COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR

**Karen Orchyk,**  
VOLUNTEER

**Wilson Pascoe,**  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**Kathy Robinson**  
TICKET CENTRE MANAGER

**Joanne Swain**  
BARTENDER

**Angela Wu**  
ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN



# Facility Report

Michael Hessler, MANAGER OF TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

## ARTIFAX AUTOMATION IMPROVEMENTS:

To improve information systems that all departments use to enact the daily tasks of doing theatre business, steps were taken to improve and upgrade existing systems to use their capabilities more effectively. With support from the Government of Canada and the Community Services Recovery Fund, the society was able to engage an external consultant and buy customization time with existing software vendors to modernize internal processes and record keeping.

## ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT:

As a subset of the priority to Explore Opportunities to improve and expand our spaces, the society engaged an external consultant to conduct an accessibility audit of the existing facility. We are proud of how the facility serves the community and were eager to see how it ranked after 25 years of use.

With financial support from the BC Arts Council, the society engaged *ABE Factors* to prepare a report to review the facility against the:

- 2024 British Columbia Building Code (BCBC) Section 3.8 Accessibility, and
- V4 Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) survey criteria.

The building was built to the standard of the day in 1998, and these modern codes are not retroactive to original work. That said, this report gives us an idea as to where the building sits for accessibility as a modern facility and acts a guide to future improvements.

While the criteria for the RHFAC were looked at, this was not a bid for certification. One of the aggregate findings of the study is that were we to be certified in our current state, the building would likely achieve Accessible Certified Status, but not at the gold level.

The report identified several recommendations for future improvements that the society will take to heart and work toward implementing.





# Meet our Team

## ARTISTIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Warburton

## ADMINISTRATION

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Elizabeth Baxter

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Lisa Desprez

MARKETING & COMMUNITY

OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Andrea Noble

BOOKING COORDINATOR

Mya Wilson

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Sydney Norby

## FINANCE

FINANCE OFFICER

Susanne Clappett

Sarah Parker

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

Angela Wu

## FRONT OF HOUSE

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

Greg Graham

FRONT OF HOUSE ASSISTANT

MANAGERS

Judi Carter

Raeanne Madge

Robyn Marsh

BARTENDERS

Dawn Burgar

Olivia Mah

Janet Marren

Maria Noel

Grace Plumley

Joanne Swain

Henryka Szado

Robyn Thompson

Kyra Van Shaik

## PRODUCTION

MANAGER OF TECHNICAL

OPERATIONS

Michael Hessler

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Wilson Pascoe

HEAD STAGE CARPENTER

Bruce McComb

HEAD OF AUDIO

Lukas Smith

HEAD OF LIGHTING

Jason Pouliot

## TECHNICIANS

Stephen Adamson

Brad McAuley

Ken Swain

Liam Worthington

Sue York

## TICKET CENTRE

TICKET CENTRE MANAGER

Kathy Robinson

SENIOR TICKET CLERKS

Niomi Pearson

Jo-Ann Tait

TICKET CLERKS

Janine Astles

Sara Fee

Jade Fleury

Anna Stecca

Sandra Wilson

## SERVICES

Allegra Marketing-Print-Mail

Aman Building

Maintenance

Farm Fresh Design

Footprints Security

Jenneson Creatives

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

Brian Clemens

### VICE PRESIDENT

Liana Appelt

### TREASURER

Nic Przada

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Michael Guan

Diana Johnstone

Manraj Manhas

Jennifer Millbank

Cindy Shantz

Travis Sippel

The Port Theatre is co-managed by The Port Theatre Society and the City of Nanaimo.



**JULY**  
2023  
Events  
**6**  
Patrons  
**925**

**AUGUST**  
2023  
Events  
**40**  
Patrons  
**795**

**SEPTEMBER**  
2023  
Events  
**17**  
Patrons  
**4,634**

**OCTOBER**  
2023  
Events  
**15**  
Patrons  
**5,812**

**NOVEMBER**  
2023  
Events  
**25**  
Patrons  
**11,514**

**DECEMBER**  
2023  
Events  
**21**  
Patrons  
**10,803**

# Theatre Activity

JULY 2023 -  
JUNE 2024

**TOTAL**  
Events  
**285**

Patrons  
**99,619**

**JANUARY**  
2024  
Events  
**34**  
Patrons  
**7,354**

**FEBRUARY**  
2024  
Events  
**23**  
Patrons  
**10,037**

**MARCH**  
2024  
Events  
**23**  
Patrons  
**11,990**

**APRIL**  
2024  
Events  
**35**  
Patrons  
**11,531**

**MAY**  
2024  
Events  
**22**  
Patrons  
**11,255**

**JUNE**  
2024  
Events  
**24**  
Patrons  
**12,969**

# Staff Announcements



**Susanne Clampett**  
FINANCE OFFICER

Susanne Clampett joined the Port Theatre as the new Finance Officer in May, bringing a diverse background in both the arts and accounting. Susanne holds a Bachelor’s in Music from UC Santa Barbara and a Master’s in Sound Recording from McGill University. She worked as a Sound Designer across Canada for esteemed institutions, including the Stratford Festival and the Vancouver Playhouse. Her journey here began in 2003 as a sound technician during the early years of the Port Theatre.

In 2009, she pivoted to accounting, earning her CPA designation in 2022. She gained experience in public practice with MNP and Roden & Associates in Nanaimo. Despite her career shift, Susanne remained connected to the Port Theatre, continuing to take technician shifts. Her return as Finance Officer beautifully merges her love for the arts with her financial skills, allowing her to reflect on how her career has come full circle.

## WE WELCOMED THE FOLLOWING STAFF:

- Janine Astles – TICKET CLERK
- Susanne Clampett – FINANCE OFFICER
- Sydney Norby – MARKETING ASSISTANT

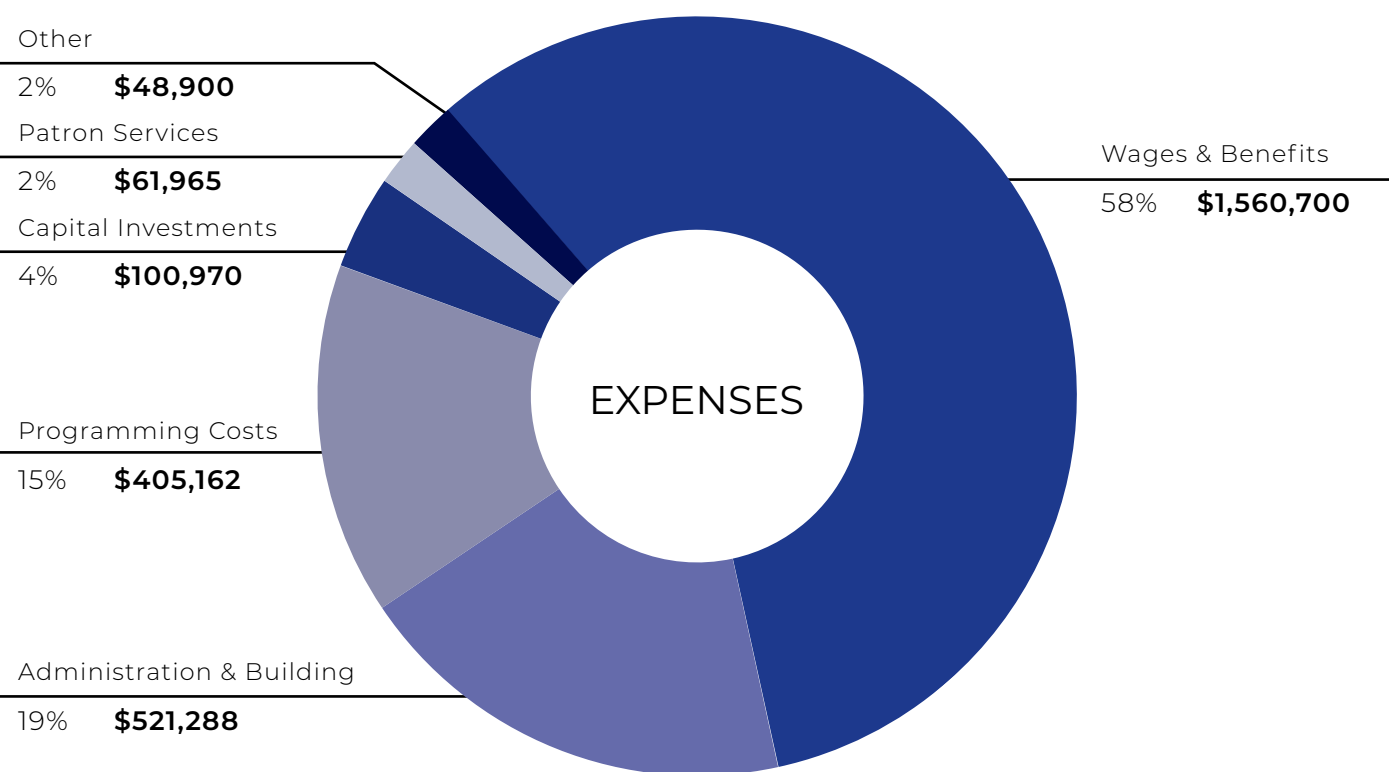
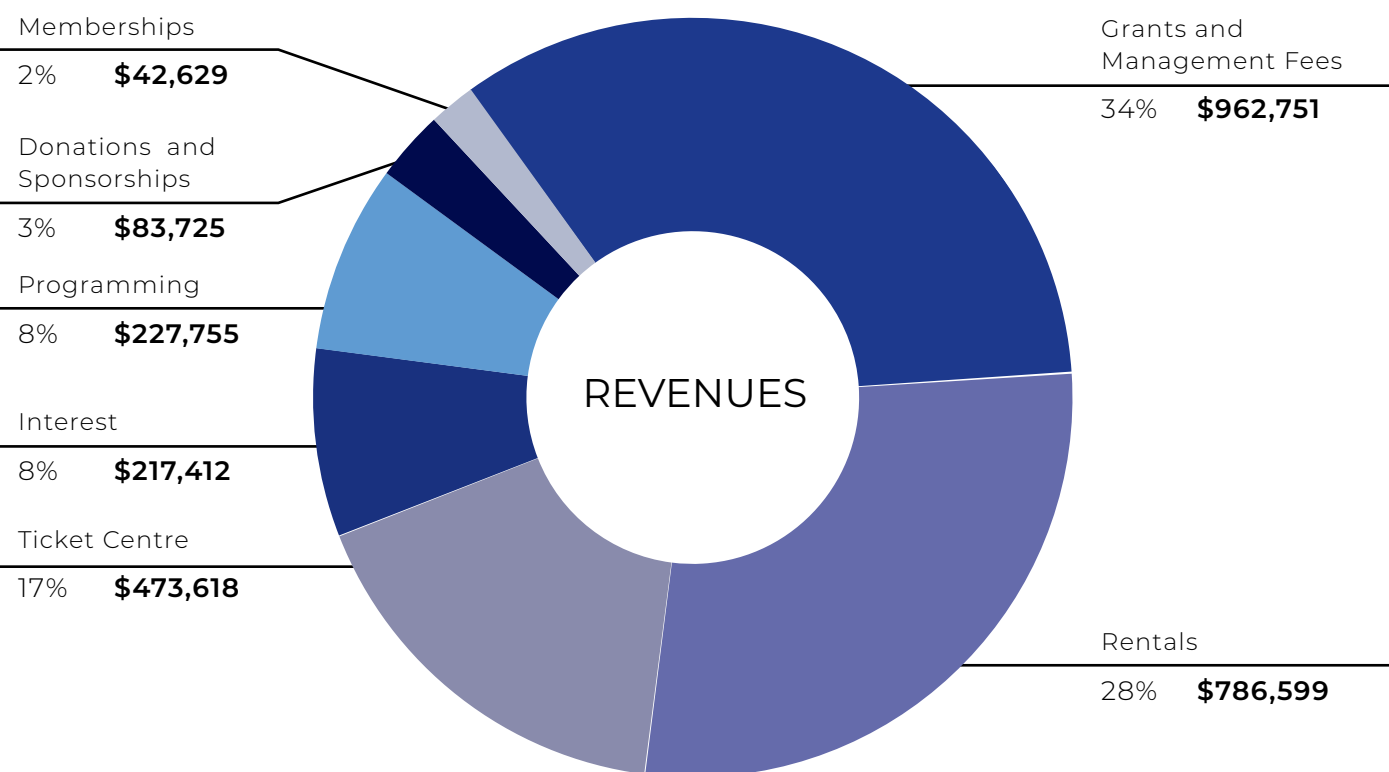
## WE SAID FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING STAFF:

- Sarah Parker – FINANCE OFFICER
- Sara Fee – TICKET CLERK





# Revenues & Expenses



# Financial Information

## THE PORT THEATRE SOCIETY

For the year ending June 30, 2024

With comparative figures for the six-month period ending June 30, 2023

### REVENUES AND EXPENSES

#### REVENUES

	2024 (YEAR ENDING JUN 30)	2023 (6 MONTH PERIOD END JUN 30)
Grants and Management Fees	\$ 962,751	\$ 423,734
Rentals	786,599	345,067
Ticket Centre	473,618	217,431
Programming	227,755	90,684
Interest	217,412	96,655
Donations and Sponsorship	83,725	17,614
Memberships	42,629	20,377
	<b>2,794,489</b>	<b>1,211,562</b>

#### EXPENSES

Wages and Benefits	\$ 1,560,700	\$ 716,785
Administration and Building	521,288	226,295
Programming Costs	405,162	101,081
Capital Investments	100,970	70,000
Patron Services	61,965	28,575
Other	48,900	59,909
	<b>2,698,985</b>	<b>1,202,645</b>

<b>Excess of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>\$ 95,504</b>	<b>\$ 8,917</b>
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### FUND BALANCES

	2024	2023
End of Period		
Studio Theatre	\$ 483,331	\$ 483,331
Contingency Reserve	311,786	311,786
Capital Development	522,350	418,612
Theatre Angels	11,159	11,159
Operating Fund	463,644	471,879
	<b>\$ 1,792,270</b>	<b>\$ 1,696,767</b>







Welcome to the **HEART** of downtown Nanaimo  
**The Port Theatre** - Hub of Arts & Culture

125 Front Street,  
Nanaimo, BC,  
V9R 6Z4

Administration: 250-754-4555  
Ticket Centre: 250-754-8550  
[porttheatre.com](http://porttheatre.com)