

Festival 2009 Interim report

May 31st 2009

Two weeks ago, the event we started planning for 15 months ago ended. From the opening reception, with Max Keeping and Bill Teron and the Kanata Symphony string quartet, to the Awards brunch - it was an overwhelming success. Even the trees on the patio bloomed on cue!

We have had numerous congratulations, including many personal ones from the participating groups, T.O. EODL and individuals. also thanking us for our hospitality, great organization and smooth running of the Festival.

Many stated it was the best festival yet!

(Next year's festival chair has put in a request that I take the entire team to London ON to run Festival 2010 for them!)

Chris Worsnop our adjudicator, was an important factor in the success of the Festival; his insight, knowledge, charm and sense of humour were a delight.

There were four great productions, interesting enlightening adjudications, workshops and playreadings. A tour of Ottawa and the tulips was provided by Dorothy Shaw.

- Refreshments were provided each day for - morning and afternoon for events,
 - Green room and lunches for participating casts and crews numbers large and small.Over 40 on the first day to 12 on the last. HappyHours'.
- Carol Hussey opened Box Office at times during the day for visitors convenience.
- All day and every day Wendy Wagner and Robert Fairbairn were busy with their cameras recording the daily happenings around the theatre.
- Chairs were moved in endless succession from rehearsal room to the foyer and back again throughout the day. The Rehearsal room decor was changed daily from ' lunch time cafe' to after show ' Happy Hours' and then back again.
- Tickets sold - 1,248 for performances
 - 424 Happy Hours
 - 192 Awards BrunchFestival T shirts were sold at every opportunity day and night
- We had Sponsorships totaling approx. \$12,000
- Advertising revenue \$ 925.
- Many donations of food from local merchants. (and a food donation from one of our subscribers)

Our financial report is not complete at this time, but looking at the numbers . I certainly think we will be in the black.

Eighteen months ago I said if we had enough enthusiastic members agreeing to host the festival I would be willing to chair the committee. I crossed my fingers and decided that we go ahead. The rest is history. I was certain we could do it and do it well. It was a chance to share our wonderful playhouse with other groups, and also a small payback to T.O. who has helped us over the years with many grants for training workshops.

A post event meeting, this week provided informative feedback from the committee. We found areas that could have been improved and recommendations for future hosts, which will be forwarded to T.O. for their Festival Guidelines.

Choices were made, that in hindsight, we would alter.

Overall, more positives than negatives.

The general consensus was that it was hard work and time consuming, but we enjoyed every minute of it and would like to do it again in the future

If there is one negative comment to all of this - it would be that there appeared to be little interest shown for the Festival by many of the membership, once we decided to go ahead. Only about 50 members of Kanata Theatre participated or even attended the shows. Those who did not participate, missed a great learning experience in the free informative adjudications, workshops and playreadings. and also missed a week of wonderful productions and interaction with the many interesting members of other community theatre groups.

All week there was a buzz of excitement from the well attended adjudications in the mornings and the workshops through until the end of the 'Happy Hours'. The participating groups were delighted with the expertise and help of the backstage crews, the comforts of the green room and the hospitality and refreshments. And of course the opportunity to perform in such a great facility.

In summation, this Festival was possible because of :

- The very dedicated and talented committee who volunteered and have from day one completely supported me, and my vice chair Gwen, during this past year in the many decisions that had to be made.
- Also their help and the help of those energetic and enthusiastic KT members who worked such long hours during festival week to ensure its success

I feel honoured and proud to have led this festival team in producing a HAPPY, UPBEAT and MEMORABLE EVENT

THE RESULTS FAR EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS!

We have certainly put Kanata Theatre and the Ron Maslin Playhouse on the map for Community Theatre in Ontario and been told that we have set the bar very high for future festivals.

A final report will follow at a later date.

Respectfully submitted.



Dorothy Beak
Chair, Festival 2009

Kanata Theatre Box Office Report May 31, 2009

The 2008/2009 season has been a very busy one for Kanata Theatre.

We had 2649 subscribers for the past season which is 75% of capacity. Our subscriptions were down 58 from the previous season.

As of 7:00 o'clock on Sunday May 31 we had assigned 2247 subscription seats or 63% of capacity. Since we are a month ahead of last year and this figure does not include all the change requests or new subscription requests I think we are in pretty good shape.

During the past year we put 17, 222 "bums in seats". this includes 14,107 for our regular plays; 1449 for "Just So"; 1160 for the Theatre Ontario Festival and 598 for "Honk". We sold 19738 tickets in total.

One of the major changes during the past six years has been the acquisition of Box Office software so that we can print our own subscriptions.

The past six years have been at various times: challenging, frustrating, but most of all enjoyable. I appreciate the support that has been given me by the Kanata Theatre Board and the Kanata Theatre Membership. Also, many thanks to all those who have worked with me during the past six years. We have had a blast!

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Quirt

Director, Box Office Operations