

2012 Peace River Zone Theatre BC

Festival Chair Report

AGM May 19, 2012

The response from the invitation letters to all Theatre Groups in the Peace River Zone resulted in the entry of four (4) plays into the 2012 Peace River Zone Theatre Festival, May 15th – 20th, 2012. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, the Director of one of the plays had to withdraw. We were left with three (3) plays which allowed the Festival to proceed. Stage North entered two plays, Hockey Mom, Hockey Dad and Death and the Maiden. The Spectacular Chair Factory, a new theatre group, entered Dog Sees God. We were delighted when the North Peace Secondary School theatre program entered two (2) Showcase plays to be performed on closing night, prior to the Awards Ceremony.

The Festival Committee, Blair Scott, Pam Laventure, Sue Popesku, Dave Truscott and Dale Hillman met monthly to coordinate all aspects of the annual Festival. I would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work in bringing the Festival to fruition.

We were honoured to have Josue Laboucane, former Fort St. John resident who had gone on to a successful acting and directing career in professional theatre, accept our invitation to adjudicate this year's Festival. All participants in the Festival benefited from the knowledge, expertise and wonderful advice that Josue had to offer. His adjudications were very professionally done and welcomed by all, especially the coffee critiques the day after each production. Josue also put on an Acting Workshop for the participants and general public, in the afternoon of the closing day. The workshop was very well received and proved very worthwhile to all who attended. Hopefully we will be able to have Josue return for future Festivals.

The productions took place at the North Peace Cultural Centre from May 16th thru the 19th, with Hockey Mom, Hockey Dad launching the Festival, followed by Dog Sees God and Death and the Maiden. Following the North Peace Secondary Showcase plays on closing night, Josue announced and presented the Awards in twelve (12) categories, including Best Production, which will be going on to compete in the annual Mainstage Festival in Kamloops this July. A breakdown of the Award winners will be submitted to the Board and to Theatre BC as soon as possible. Our adjudicator, Josue Laboucane held a workshop for the winning play on the Sunday after Festival to help prepare the play for the Mainstage Festival competition in Kamloops, the first week of July.

We were honoured to have Vance Schneider, Executive Director for Theatre BC, attend this year's Festival and show support for all the efforts put forward by the Peace River Zone and participants in providing quality theatre to Fort St. John and surrounding area. Thank you Vance for being a part of our Festival.

We ended the Festival on Saturday May 19th with a Social at Whole Wheat & Honey, a popular venue in Fort St. John. It was well attended and we had great comments about the Festival on the whole. All in all the Festival was a success and we look forward to next year where we expect more entries from the theatre groups within the Peace River Zone.

Dale Hillman
Festival Chair