



For  
General  
Public

## STAGE NORTH THEATRE SOCIETY AT A GLANCE

July 2016

### MORE THAN STAGE PRESENCE

Stage North is a volunteer non-profit society dedicated to promoting quality, community theatre through production, education and performance. Approximately 80-100 members each year produce 4-5 shows, learn technical skills and help other community organizations in staging productions. Stage North offers:

- learning opportunities for teens and adults.
- technical skill development in lighting, sound, set construction and costume creation.
- personal growth and confidence building.
- exposure to career opportunities (particularly for youth).
- community involvement.
- team cooperation.

### IN THE BEGINNING

In 1977, Brian Parsley was the initial Stage North theatre director as the first drama educator at the newly-formed Fine Arts Department of Northern Light College (NLC). Brian combined the energies of the then-active Workshop Players with the long history of playwriting and production in the Peace Country to create an educational and training theatre company. Stage North continued to grow after NLC could no longer keep theatre on the curriculum in the mid 80's. Over the past 40 years, Stage North has produced 180 shows and assisted community organizations with additional productions.

### SETTING THE SCENE

The North Peace Cultural Centre is the main performance venue for Stage North productions. The 413 theatre provides a professional theatre facility for local actors and for the audience. Audience members come from as far away as Fort Nelson, Dawson Creek and even Grande Prairie, Alberta. Stage North rents space for rehearsals, set construction, costume and prop storage from a generous, community-minded patron of the arts. Located right outside of the City limits, The Space allows easy access for all area residents to take part in theatre activities.

### A ROLE FOR YOUTH

Youth programs are important to the future of Stage North. Improvisational theatre began in the '90's and continues to attract teens and young adults to theatre. Some shows are chosen specifically for children to be performed with children which attracts families as members of

Stage North. The first summer school for students was established in 2011 encompassing many aspects of acting and production including technical training in set construction, lighting, sound and costume design. Promotion and marketing is also part of the training elements of theatre.

Stage North has invited back to town accomplished thespians, who have successfully made theatre their career, to teach and mentor new Stage North members. Professional actor, director and educator John Kirkpatrick and actor Josue Laboucane grew up in Fort St. John and got their first taste of theatre on the Fort St. John stage. Chalene Scott and Ted Sloan, both theatre graduates have returned often to teach workshops, summer school and technical theatre training.

#### **BEYOND THE STAGE**

Helping the community is one of the mandates of Stage North. Members assist in technical requirements for staging other community productions for the Community Resource Centre, School District #60, Canada Day, Miss Fort St. John Pageant, Child Development Centre, SUCCESS and municipal and corporate conferences. Stage North is a member of the Fort St. John Community Arts Council and the Fort St. John and District Chamber of Commerce. Stage North offers the loan of costumes to the Fort St. John North Peace Museum and school plays. As a member of Theatre BC, Stage North has made the trek to the annual Mainstage for many years with a winning play from the Peace River Zone.

#### **ONLY WITH COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Stage North relies on the generous support of the community to meet the \$120,000 budget each year. Ticket sales for productions and community-minded businesses and individuals generate the funds for Stage North to deliver quality theatre to the North Peace. Thanks to the Fort St. John Community Arts Council and BC Gaming for additional support.

#### **OPEN TO ALL**

With little or no experience, theatre enthusiasts are welcome at Stage North to be on stage or behind the scenes. Stage North is open to all ages and all skill levels. Professional and semi-professional thespians have graced our stage and our members strive to learn from them. Auditions are held in the late Spring/early summer for the coming season.

#### **STAGE NORTH THEATRE SOCIETY**

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