

2015-2016
Report to the Membership
First City Players



Community Theatre for
Ketchikan, Alaska
December 13, 2016



Annual Meeting
and Report to the Membership
Tuesday, December 13, 2016
July 2015 - June 2016

Board of Governors

Officers

President	Michelle Short
Vice-President	Glenn Brown
Secretary	Lynn Jorgensen
Treasurer	Katherine Tatsuda

Members-at-large

Matt Armstrong	Chris Baca (resigned)
Jack Finnegan	Jeff Fitzwater
Jim Guenther	Greg Karlik
Chris Newbill	Lori Orlovski

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

December 13, 2016

Dear First City Players Members;

First City Players functions, plays, works, produces, even exists because of the people who give their time and talents to this organization. It really is all about the volunteers. It always has been and as long as I work here, it always will be. First City Players really does some pretty lovely work. We aren't Broadway, we aren't even Perseverance Theatre; but as far as community theatre goes, we are pretty darn good. The reason we are? The volunteers.

Take for instance our Divas/Divos fundraiser. That event, while supported by the FCP Board and Staff, is completely produced, planned and performed by volunteers. It makes the mind boggle thinking of the hours upon hours put into this event this year by volunteer producer Sharolyn Kroscavage. She started planning for this event about a year ago and is already coming up with ideas and plans for next year.

Then there are Brian Curtis and Barbara Morgan. This pair have had a hand in every set for the past three years, at least. They have fun, are excited to participate, check on things between performances and just make it fun to create set magic for the stage.

How about Grace Jackson? She is a junior in high school this year who dances with KTB and LOVES theatrical lighting. Grace worked with Carol Schafer before she left and this year took full advantage of the opportunity to learn from and work alongside Keith Smith. She has worked hard to become Ketchikan's principal lighting designer and wow, what a great young woman.

Speaking of great women, let's talk about Lori Orlowski! Lori not only paints the majority of the cool things you see on our sets, but she created the amazing watercolors we are using to publicize our season this year. They are simply astounding. During this fall's musical we needed a set piece not only painted, but envisioned and created. Lori took the day off and 8 hours later, Ariel's grotto—which was stunning—was completed. Lori is always willing to give us the benefit of her amazing artists eye to make our shows and events more beautiful. She also serves on the FCP board.

Then there are the problem solvers, for which we are also so thankful. Steven Villano springs to mind. During our production of Mary Poppins, whenever there was the

unsolvable problem, Steven would find a solution. He is always ready to come to our rescue when we can't get things working perfectly, whether it's video or audio. He even left his seat as an audience member during a performance of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* to come and help a sound novice figure out the problem. In fact, he spent the rest of that performance in the booth, making sure that the microphones were working. You can't pay someone for that kind of commitment.

Have you all noticed how much better the sound has been at our productions? Yup, me too. We could never thank Kyle G. Bailey enough for tweaking the sound and constantly working to make sure that our audiences can hear the actors, singers, musicians. Not only that, but he has put his own resources into shows and even increased his own inventory of sound equipment to ensure a great-sounding production. No challenge is too great and he gets excited for new shows with new sound challenges. He is a treasure like no other and a joy to work with.

This year we have been thrilled to have Halli Kenoyer spend more time with our FCP family. While not technically in the season we are currently celebrating, who can forget her brilliant designs for *The Lion King* and *The Little Mermaid*? She is a diamond of the first water and we are very excited to have her working with us.

Lastly, I need to thank the amazing Clare Bennett. Clare has been a shining star in Ketchikan since she moved here. She is not only a wonderful performer, she is a performance artist of the first order. The word "no" doesn't exist in her vocabulary; she has always been willing to help in any capacity we need. She teaches as she directs, she makes life fun, and more importantly, she makes life more beautiful. There is a reason Clare has been honored by First City Players as a lifelong member of the organization. We thank her for her many gifts to us.

There are so many others who contribute to making big theatre in our little town. We have over 450 people work with us each year and each of them is absolutely priceless, as without them, FCP would not exist. We thank you, all of you, for your time, your talent, your commitment, and most of all, your willingness to play. Thank you for playing with us.

Happy Holidays! I know I'll see you at the theatre.

Elizabeth Nelson

Elizabeth Nelson

Artistic Director

FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 13, 2016

Dear First City Players members and friends,

Thank you all for coming to this annual meeting to celebrate First City Players and our 2015-2016 season. It was such a pleasure to present this past season to our members and especially our community.

We started out the season with the 49th production of Fish Pirates Daughter. We breezed into four weeks of Artscool that culminated with two performances of Beauty and the Beast. September brought another amazing Divas/Divos show- we have such talent in Ketchikan! We FLEW into our fall musical Mary Poppins, which was a smashing success. Our Figgy Pudding Singers sang their way through the holiday season, which was also closed out by singing along with the Sound of Music. In January the 2016 Jazz and Cabaret Festival boogied with two weeks of workshops and a concluding weekend of fabulous performances. The mystery of Monkswell Manor was solved during Mousetrap in March. Our young and old (or older!) actors played together and drove into adventure in The Phantom Tollbooth in April. And FINALLY, we closed out our season with a bit of culture (and laughter!) with 37 Acts of Shakespeare.

I'd also like to thank you all for being members and friends of First City Players. This is YOUR community theatre and we could not exist without our numerous supporters. We deeply value the individual volunteers who spend countless hours helping to make our productions run smoothly and become amazing works of art. We are so appreciative of the numerous businesses that provide support through monetary contributions, advertising, and generous donations of goods and services. We are also deeply grateful to everyone that attends First City Players productions.

The First City Players' Board of Governors (Board) currently consists of eleven individuals from various occupations and skill sets including (but not limited to!) administration, media, banking, performing arts, and small business ownership. We all share a common goal – support for First City Players and its mission to be an active part of the arts community in Ketchikan and beyond. The Board meets the first Tuesday on a monthly basis and members and friends are invited to attend any of our meetings, especially if you have questions about the organization. We always value your input!

The Ketchikan Performing Arts Center (KPAC) is another common goal we all share. Although current state funding opportunities are not conducive to capital projects, such as KPAC, we as the board are committed to keeping this project viable. Patience is the

key! Our offices have been located in this building for 4+ years, and the vision remains to develop this building into the performing arts center Ketchikan so desperately needs. The road may be long, and the journey difficult, but we will continue to dream and work towards this goal.

I have been a member of the Board of Governors for First City Players since 2012, and it has been an honor to be President of the Board this past year. My initial involvement with the Board was primarily due to my children being a part of First City Players productions. Yet as many of you know, opportunities to become involved either behind the curtain or on stage abound in this organization. So take it from an introverted, shy, working mother of two – ANYONE can be a part of the performing arts, and it WILL have a positive impact on you personally as well as the organization as a whole. Take a chance – be involved!

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't take an opportunity to thank our wonderful staff Elizabeth Nelson and Amanda Glanzer for everything they do every day keep our organization running smoothly. These two are our Super Women and our organization simply could not function without them.

Enjoy the entertainment and company we share this evening. Wishing you and yours a most delightful Holiday season!

Happy Holidays,

Michelle Short

Michelle Short
President, First City Players

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE FIRST CITY PLAYERS

First City Players provides a professional, collaborative art form that educates, entertains and enlightens participants and their audiences.

PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FIRST CITY PLAYERS

The objectives of the First City Players are:

1. To cultivate interest among children and adults in classic and contemporary theatre.
2. To provide Southern Southeast Alaskan audiences a wide range of theatrical experiences.
3. To provide educational opportunities in all aspects of theatre.
4. To enable volunteers and professionals interested in any aspect of theatrical production to become involved, to mature and grow in their particular field as actor, director, technician, manager or playwright.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in theatre arts and the goals and objectives of the First City Players. Full membership is available for a \$25 yearly membership fee (\$15 student/senior and \$45 family memberships are also available). Membership is an integral part of our organization and it is with great pleasure that we have watched our membership grow significantly over the past years.

ADMINISTRATION

The FCP membership meets annually to elect the Board of Governors. The Board meets monthly to plan and make policy. The Executive Artistic Director implements the decisions of the Board and executes the day-to-day artistic business of the theatre. The Marketing and Outreach Director works closely with the artistic director on all aspects of the theatre's operations. FCP is funded in part by generous grants from the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, by the City of Ketchikan, by a season support grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). FCP also receives generous support from First Bank, the Monthly Grind, corporate donations, business program sponsorships, memberships, private donations and season and individual ticket sales.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST CITY PLAYERS

First City Players (FCP) is the Ketchikan area's community theatre organization. FCP was organized by a dedicated group of volunteers in 1964 and has been an active theatre for 51 years. FCP incorporated as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization in August 1966.

For many years FCP produced plays in many different venues in Ketchikan, including the Kayhi Auditorium, Schoenbar Middle School, the Sons of Norway, the Fireside Restaurant to name a few. The group produced musicals, contemporary and classical plays, drama and comedy, as well as children's productions. IN the past FCP participated regional drama festivals and was always noted for their excellent productions.

In 1983 FCP took over management of what was to become the Main Street Theatre. In 1985 the theatre received a capital grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts to begin renovations. With this grant, community fundraising and the work of many dedicated volunteers, the Main Street Theatre opened its doors in the spring of 1986 with the play *Painting Churches* by Tina Howe, directed by Carol Cairnes Shaffer. With the opening of the theatre it became necessary for FCP to hire an artistic director to manage the facility and to administer and direct a regular season of plays.

Since 1988 FCP has produced regular seasons of plays and workshops. The theatre began to sell season subscriptions for the 1989-1990 season. The FCP production schedule has grown from one winter show and a summer production of Ketchikan's original musical melodrama, *The Fish Pirate's Daughter*, to a full year-round schedule of theatrical events.

In the past eighteen years FCP has expanded its youth programming. Beginning in the summer of 1997 FCP began offering children's theatre classes. The first summer involved over 20 children in three different classes learning improvisation, storytelling and movement skills. In the summer of 1998 FCP joined with the KAAHC to start ArtsCool a summer fine and performing arts camp. FCP now enrolls up to 60 children ages 8 – 17 in classes that culminate in a fully staged musical production.

In the winter of 1999 FCP began a second children's program, ActOut winter children's theatre classes. These classes were for students from Kindergarten through 12th grades. These classes gave students opportunities to learn a number of different theatrical skills, Classes included Creative Dramatics, Improvisation, and Acting. Two years ago we changed the name of ActOut to StarPath Academy and are working to create year-round educational opportunities for adult and youth actors as well as workshops to teach technical theatre.

In the winter of 2002 FCP lost the lease with the longtime landlords at the Main Street Theatre. The office moved to 716 Totem Way in May of 2002 and staged the majority of productions on

the Kayhi stage. In April 2007 FCP moved upstairs in the Plaza Mall and a number of productions were presented at the Plaza. In September of 2012 FCP moved into our new permanent office in the lower level of the future Ketchikan Performing Arts Center building.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

For forty of its fifty-one years, First City Players has pursued the vision for constructing a Community Performing Arts Center for Ketchikan. It began with a feasibility study for the Main Street School in 1974. The proof of the dynamism of the art center concept came in the very small Main Street Theatre and Gallery. Our 14 years of occupying The Main Street resulted in an extraordinary growth for the arts in Ketchikan and could have only been possible with an accessible committed community arts space. When we lost the Main Street, a multi-user performing arts space became a pressing need, and we attempted to develop the Coliseum Theatre, then the Spruce Mill Lot 10A, and then White Cliff School.

In 2009, with the help of City, Borough and State grants, First City Players, in alliance with Ketchikan Theater Ballet, purchased the 21,000 square foot Fireside Building at 335 Main Street, which finally provided some traction for realizing the vision. We developed conceptual plans for a two hundred and fifty seat theatre on its third floor; with dance studios, rehearsal spaces, office, and technical spaces on the second floor. At that time the cost of completion was estimated at \$4.5 Million Dollars. We partitioned and remodeled fourteen-hundred square feet of the ground floor for First City Players to move its office to the Fireside and use it for a small rehearsal space.

The challenge for completion is in the funding. We have identified funders that would be happy to help us finish the project, and the kick-start funding has been extraordinary from the Borough City and State. Our generous individual supporters have pledged and donated \$270,800 dollars to the project, which is more than has ever been raised privately for a community capital project. But the keystone funding, the first 50% of construction costs, or \$2.25 million dollars, remains elusive. 40 years ago, when we first began, it would have been easy; State and Federal sources existed then that were readily tapped for such a community project, but the funding climate has changed. At present, if the project is to go forward at all, the front end funding will need to come from local civic sources: such as CPV Funds, Economic Development funds, bond or sales tax initiatives; the same type of sources that funded the library, the pool, and fire station, but this is only possible if the community makes a performing art center a priority.

We continue to push the project forward. In 2009, we began with a conceptual design and budget for the building, but we never had an architect look at the project with the eye and expertise for an actual theatre, and several engineering questions remained unanswered. How strong is the masonry in the walls? What would it take to raise the roof? What will the 2020 price be for a building that is soundproofed with great acoustics?

Last year we addressed these issues and contracted with John Fisher Associates and Linda Millard as

the official architects of record. Phase One was to develop plans for the Center to 35% completion. Fisher designed the Sitka Performing Arts Center and has designed more theaters than any other architect in America. We are very excited by the vision and expertise he is bringing to the project.

We are very excited by the initial design created by Fisher Associates and look forward to creating this wonderful venue.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

FCP is a resource for scripts, play reviews, theatre arts competitions, auditions and information. Costume and technical use contracts enable the community to use the theatre's equipment. FCP also responds to individual and group requests for advice on theatrical, makeup and technical needs.

The FCP Executive Artistic Director works in area schools, both in individual classrooms and in larger school settings, directing productions and giving workshops. As a Alaska State Artist in Residence she has travelled to Shishmaref, Pilot Point, and Kodiak among other locations to teach theatre in schools.

In FY16 FCP guest artists Anne Phillips, Matt King, Paul Meyers and bassist Christian Fabian, worked in a number of area school music programs. Mr. King & Ms. Phillips instructed a Jazz Choir at Tongass School of Arts and Science, Houghtaling, Ketchikan Charter School and Fawn Mountain. Our Sunday performance featured almost 200 students from these area schools.

FCP continues to produce two children's programs each year. We began our fiscal year with ArtsCool. This was the seventeenth year of this program, which is an intensive four-week workshop/rehearsal for a musical production. Last summer 50+ young people ages 8 – 17 were involved in both morning arts classes and afternoon performance classes. In the morning, the kids danced, made movies and created many types of visual art in classes instructed by Marc Osborne, Karley Lesko, Ashley Byler and Elizabeth Nelson. The afternoon group worked with director Elizabeth Nelson and choreographer Clare Bennett, along with artist Loren McCue. They performed Disney's *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.*, as well as learning about acting, dance, props, set construction and lighting. Our youngest actors, aged 5 - 7, worked with Ashley Byler, and they created their own short original play.

StarPath, FCP's winter children's program offered classes in Physical Theater. These classes were purely process based classes and worked on physical and improvisational theater.. Many of our StarPath students were on-stage in the multi-generational production of *The Phantom Tollbooth*..

PlayTime

The 2015-2016 Season of Plays

b y B o b K i n e r k a n d J i m A l g u i r e



Once again Little Nell (Mary Maley) was saved from the clutches of Kurt Von Ohlsen (Christopher Placid) by Sweet William Uprightly (David Dentinger) with help from...gasp, dare I say that name? Violet LaRosa (Harmila Earth). This perennial favorite played for three weeks at the Ted Ferry Civic Center to very appreciative audiences. We continued to offer this show with a "Crab & Salmon Feast" and the response was tremendous. The production involves a dedicated cast of volunteer actors plus stage and production crew and attracts a diverse group from the community. Special thanks to E.C. Phillips for providing all of the salmon to this event.

Gigglefeet Dance Festival

Once again dancers graced the stage at the Kayhi Auditorium for two glorious evenings of dance. This community favorite event is sponsored by First City Players, the Ketchikan Theatre Ballet and the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council.



Disney's Beauty and the Beast, JR.

An ArtsCool Production

Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice

Music by Alan Menken

Book by Linda Woolverton

The classic story tells of Belle (Andrea Short), a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast (Connor Wodehouse), who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed to his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

With many fun supporting roles which allowed students to play objects inside the castle – Cogsworth the clock (Maria Wojcik), Lumiere the candelabra (Clara Stanton), Mrs. Potts (Megan Daugherty), Babette (Katelin Kalbaugh), Maurice (Henry Clark), Gaston (William Biss), Lefou (Clarissa Hubbard) and a host of others. There were over 50 youth ages 8 - 17 in this cast.

Director Elizabeth Nelson and Choreographer Clare Bennett worked with the kids to create the magic that is *Beauty and the Beast*. Sets were designed and executed by Jenn Tucker with support from ArtsCool art instructor Karly Lesko and the ArtsCool kids. The costumes were created by Lynn Jorgensen.

Director/Teacher Ashley Byler worked with a small group of 5 – 7 years olds and produced the story *The Bremontown Musicians* which was performed Saturday afternoon before *Beauty and the Beast*.



The cast of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Jr.*
ArtsCool 2015
Photo by Fitzwater Photography

Divas Vs. Divos



This fundraising event, first launched in 2007, is the most successful fundraiser First City Players has ever had. This is due to the Divas & Divos themselves. At this event, hosted by Jack Finnegan and Amanda Glanzer, four Men and four women raised over \$25,000! In a glorious night of triumphant performances by all, 2015 Diva Gillian Moon (Diva G) won the crown earning more money for FCP than Janalee Gage, Garalyn Lovell and Myra Kalbaugh. Divo Russell Thomas gave up his crown to Divo Niles Corporon. He and Russell Wodehouse, Greg Kalbaugh and “the Mystery Divo” all gave wonderful performances. First City Players is deeply grateful for each of our Divas and Divos who collectively put together a dynamic evening of entertainment. We thank the sellout crowd who responded with cash, credit cards and checks. We especially thank Jenn Tucker, Bridget Mattson and Austin Hays for all the hours they put into making this event extra special. We thank Diva G, who had to give up her crown when she moved from Ketchikan to accept a wonderful job opportunity elsewhere. Janalee Gage was gracious enough to accept the crown for the remainder of the year.

This event has become a yearly fundraiser and both Diva Janalee and Divo Niles were wonderful Ambassadors for the First City Players.

Disney and Cameron MacIntoshes'

Mary Poppins

A musical based on the stories of P.L. TRAVERS and the WALT DISNEY FILM

Original Music and Lyrics by RICHARD M. SHERMAN AND ROBERT B. SHERMAN

Book by JULIAN FELLOWES

New Songs and Additional Music and Lyrics by GEORGE SILES AND ANTHONY DREWE

Co-created by CAMERON MACKINTOSH

Everyone's favorite practically perfect nanny took the stage by storm in this Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious musical adventure.

The jack of all trades, Bert (Kyle G. Bailey), introduces us to England in 1910 and the troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael (Kaitlin Kalbaugh and Annie Paxton) have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins (Bridget Mattson) arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family how to value each other again. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren't the only ones she has a profound effect upon. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "Anything can happen if you let it." Also performing in this show were: Jack Finnegan, Heidi Poet, Stephanie Johnson, Steve Corporon, Deb Porter, Hunter Davis, Anita Hales Niles Corporon, Jonathan Smith, Bella Roberts, Jillian Pollock, Rudy Saccomanno, Lori Orlowski, Andy Pankow, Derek Meister, Lou Ann richardson, Lalette Kistler, Clarissa Hubbard, Lindsay Duckworth, Arick Mattson, Andrea Short, Alonso Escalante, Theodore Escalante, Jennifer Hamilton, Amanda Glanzer, Connor Wodehouse, Aurora Archibald, Scott Brandt-Erichsen, Harmilla Earth, Tom Field, Donald Harford, Rudy Pankow, Ricki Perro, Steven Perro, Michelle Short, James White, Paige Avila, Emilee Enright, Makena Johansen, Aisha Lakouad, Gabby Perro, Shaundra Rhoses, Novalee Thomas and Lily Vaughn.

This production, soared with the aid of ZFX Flying Effects. The audience held its collective breath as Bert danced his way around the procenium every performance. Mary Poppins was an enchanting mixture of irresistible story, unforgettable songs, breathtaking dance numbers, and astonishing stagecraft.

Directed by Elizabeth Nelson

Musical Direction by Mary Kurth

Sound by Teresa Wojcik

Conducted by Mary Kurth

Costumes by Lynn Jorgensen

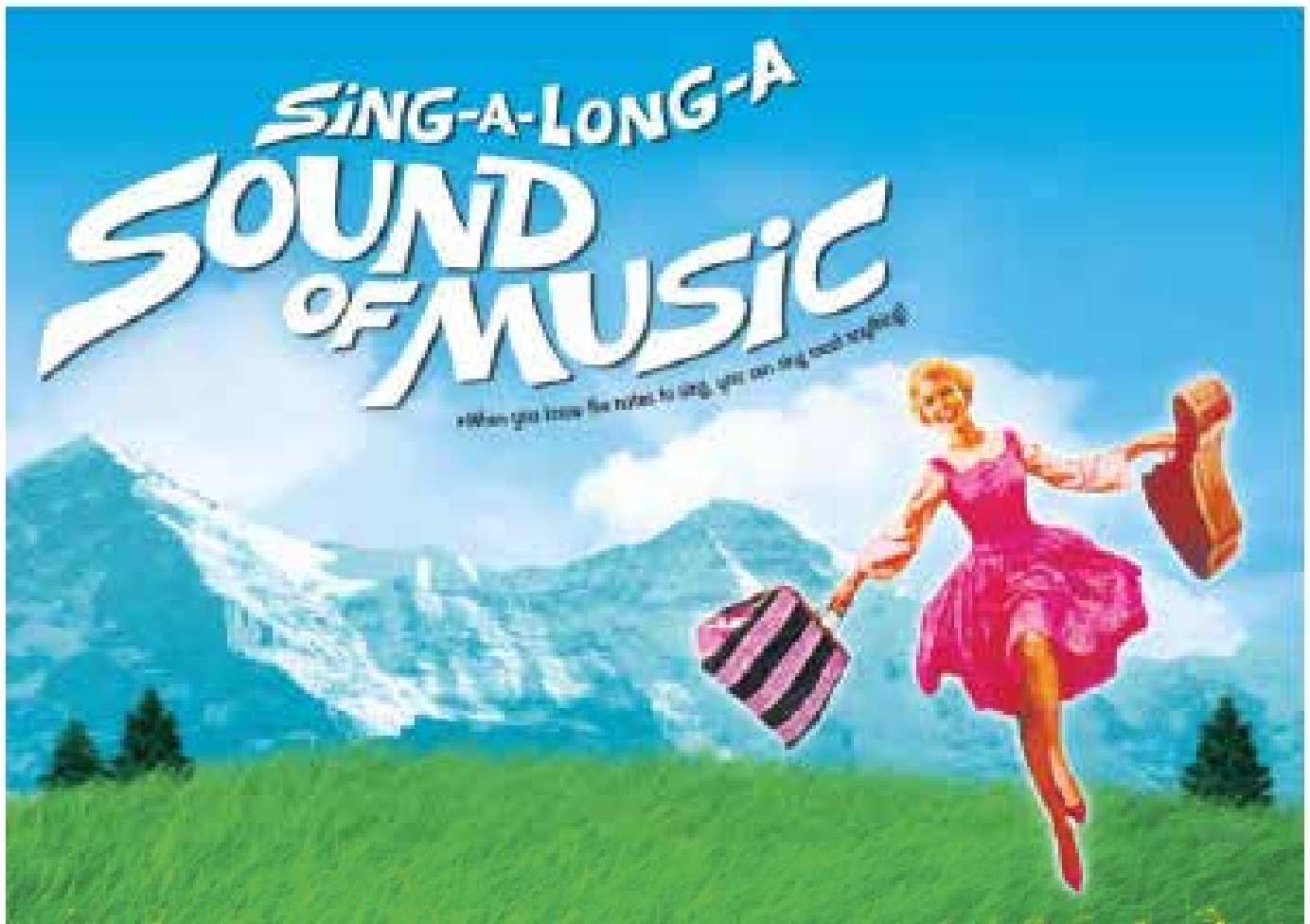
Choreography by Clare Bennett

Set Design by Jenn Tucker

Lighting by Carol Schafer

Stage Managed by Jenn Tucker





In January we called all Nuns, Goat herders, Hills, Alps, Baronesses, Brown Paper Packages Tied up with String or any of your favorite things: they were ready to yodel in Ketchikan! It was a chance to sing-a-long to the most successful movie musical of all time. It was one of the funniest, most liberating nights out people had for for a long time.

Sing-A-Long-A Sound of Music was not just a chance to see the classic movie on the big screen, it was a major audience participation event with subtitles for all the songs. There was a costume contest with prizes, a vocal warmup before the show, and lots of ways to interact with a favorite movie musical!

We Sang along with Maria! We waved our Edelweiss! Hissed at the Baroness! Barked at Rolf! And we Snuggled up with Gretel and joined in the earnest choruses of *My Favorite Things*! What a great way it was to spend the last day of winter vacation.



Clare Bennett, Marna Cessnun and Valerie Brooks
As "The Alps"

The Jazz & Cabaret Festival

with Anne Phillips, Paul Meyers, Matt King and Christian Fabian

Anne Phillips, Christian Fabian, Matt King and Paul Meyers returned to Ketchikan last January.

Ms. Phillips and Mr. King instructed four sessions of solo vocal jazz as well as teaching a Jazz & Gospel Choir. Mr. King & Ms Phillips also did residencies at Houghtaling Elementary, Fawn Mountain Elementary, the Tongass School of Arts and Science, and Ketchikan Charter School.

After two weeks of hard work, the vocalists, with Mr. King on the piano, were joined by Dave Kiffer on sax, Mr. Meyers on guitar, Mr. Fabian on bass, Austin Hays on drums and Dale Curtis on trumpet to give varied, lively and sometimes poignant performances to sold out houses at the Ted Ferry Civic Center. On Sunday afternoon the children's choirs joined the adults for a family afternoon of spirited jazz.



Upper photo: Dave Rubin and Anne Phillips
Lower photo: Dave Rubin and the Jazz Choir
Photo by Fitzwater Photography

Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap

When this mystery debuted in 1952, Christie hoped it would run at least eight months. Little did she know it would become the longest running show in history.

In the midst of a terrible snowstorm, Mollie (Lori Orlowski) and Giles (Matt Armstrong) Ralston open Monkswell Manor, a remote guesthouse. While they struggle to manage their first day of business, a policeman (Niles Corporon) arrives to investigate a grisly murder. Comedy and chaos ensue, and then – MURDER! Who did it? The mysterious Mr. Paravicini (Steve Corporon)? The odd Miss Casewell (Katherine Tatsuda)? The nervous Christopher Wren (Cade Browning)? The obnoxious Mrs Boyle (Leila Kheiry)? The meticulous Major Metcalf (Keith Smith)?

This charming production, directed by Elizabeth Nelson and assisted by Alonso Escalante, was performed for two weekends in March. The beautiful set was constructed by Brian Curtis and Barb Morgan. Set dressing was by Halli Kenoyer. The lighting design was by Carol Schafer and Grace Jackson. Sound was by Kyle Bailey. The production was stage managed by Amanda Glanzer.



Katherine Tatsuda, Niles Corporon and
Keith Smith in "The Mousetrap"
Photo by HyP Photography



Steve Corporon and Niles Corporon
in "The Mousetrap"
Photo by HyP Photography



The Cast of "The Mousetrap"
Photo by HyP Photography

The Phantom Tollbooth

by Susan Nanus, based on the novel by Norton Juster

Directed by Clare Bennett and Elizabeth Nelson.

Assisted by Amanda Glanzer

Even surrounded by dozens of toys, Milo (Phillip Smith) is bored. Nothing interests him at all. The Phantom Tollbooth comes to the rescue! Transported to the Land of Wisdom Milo is thrust into adventure with his new friend Tock (Arick Mattson) when told princesses Rhyme (Andrea Short) and Reason (Elsa Snodderly) need rescuing, so as to bring peace between two kings. They are divided over which is more important: words or numbers. Knee-deep in danger, language, and math along the way, Milo learns everything has a purpose. Joined by a wonderful cast of quirky characters, this play was a joy for cast and audiences alike. The wonderful multi-generational cast also included Sarah Short, Chris Newbill, Hanah Zellmer, Karri Montero, Heather Newbill, Madyson Troudt, Anne Coss, Merek Corporon, Niles Corporon, Connor Wodehouse, McKenna Sutton, Samantha Wodehouse, Viana Esposito, Colin Patton, Emily Dunn, Ethan Wodehouse, Jayden Greenfield, Lexie Leach, Liam Urquhart, Dayana Funez, Henry Clark, Ema Oshima, Franke Urquhart, Brittany Budge, Quinn Hudson, Aurora Archibald, Raighn Semaker-Hudson, Yohana Blatchford, Rowan Britton, Jack Dunn, Theodore Escalante, Sabrina Hillberry, Pehja Hudson, Olivia Kantor, Orsen Mike, Sophia Pilgrim, Bella Robinson, Jojo Robinson and Carter Wills.



The cast and crew of The Phantom Tollbooth
Photos by Fitzwater Photography

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, (Abridged)[Revised]

by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield

Directed by Clare Bennett Assisted by Heather Newbill

What happens when three actors perform all of Shakespeare's plays, and most of his sonnets in under two hours? Hilarity, that's what! Clare Bennett did a superb job directing Heidi Poet, Amanda Glanzer and Merek Corporon in this very complex comedy. Audiences walked away saying it was the funniest thing they'd seen in years.

Special thanks goes to Lynn Jorgensen for the costumes (there were many changes for the three actors), the quick change crew of Lori Orlowski and Jilliane Fazakerley, and to Brian Curtis and Barbara Morgan for sets and the audience installation. Grace Jackson and Bob Lightman (Matt Armstrong) designed and ran the lights and a special thanks goes to Kyle Bailey for the tremendous sound. Altogether this was a delightful romp that left audiences feeling much better about the world around them.



Heidi Poet, Merek Corporon, Amanda Glanzer
Photo by Fitzwater Photography

First City Players

P & L

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Income

Contributions	59,551.19
Gross Receipts	195,509.20
Special Events	21,311.83
Total Income	276,372.22

Expense

Salaries & Benefits	106,141.99
Professional Fees	23,166.00
Fundraising	2,623.62
Insurance	10,803.00
Printing	327.96
Production Expense	89,742.98
Administrative Expense	23,194.14
Rent & Building Expense	12,186.97
Travel	403.44
Repair & Maintenance	<u>2,631.32</u>
Total Expense	271,221.42

Net Income 5,150.80

Other Income

Dividend Income 1,981.47

Other Expense

Bad Debt 322.50

Total Net Income 6,809.77

