2022 ANNUAL REPORT





Prepared May 2023

WELCOME

Our inaugural year was marked by a global pandemic and the many challenges that come with a crisis of this magnitude. South Shore Summer Theatre Association jumped many hurdles in its infancy. At a time when many young people were experiencing isolation, battling mental health issues and fear of the unknown after living in a largely virtual world for 2 years, our Board remained committed to realizing our vision and reaching as many young people as possible throughout the South Shore.

In the summer of 2022, South Shore Summer Theatre staged a production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* with a cast of 17 talented young performers, some who had never been on stage before. The live band consisted of some of the region's best-known musicians including East Coast Music Award nominee, John Janigan Mills, Erin Donovan, Morgan Zwicker and Liam Britten. We performed to nearly sold-out audiences at the Lunenburg Opera House and Astor Theatre in Liverpool and reached close to 1200 people.

South Shore Summer Theatre began 2022 with a zero-bank balance. We stayed debt free without any government funding and supported our brand-new youth theatre program while contributing close to \$17,000 in honoraria and strengthening artist employment in our community. We maximized value with expenditures in production costs with a focus on recycling costumes, sets and props for future shows. We ended the summer with close to \$2,500 in the bank.

South Shore Summer Theatre closed the curtain on 2022 with a feeling of hope and endless possibilities. Playing a greater role in the lives of more young people, increasing our reach and focusing on our commitment of diversity, equity and inclusion is a major Board priority for 2023. The Board continues to work on your behalf to develop strategies to increase our cash flow and strengthen federal, provincial and municipal partnerships and reach more patrons, corporate sponsors and donors.

As I look back on our first year, I'm reminded of how good it felt to see young people engaged, creating and developing as artists and of the swelling pride as I watched these talented and committed young artists wow audiences every single night. These memories triggered similar ones still clear in my mind of pivotal moments in my own childhood growing up through the same program. I remember not wanting the summer to end and counting the days to auditions.

As the curtain rises on South Shore Summer Theatre's 2023 season, I find myself counting down the days once again. Thank you to all our supporters for giving us all the promise of another unforgettable summer. The show must go on. See you at the Astor Theatre.

"FENNYMAN: The theatre has been closed down by the plague. HENSLOWE: Mr. Fennyman, allow me to explain about the theatre business. The natural condition is one of insurmountable obstacles on the road to imminent disaster. FENNYMAN: So, what do we do? HENSLOWE: Nothing. Strangely enough, it all turns out well. FENNYMAN: How? HENSLOWE: I don't know. It's a mystery."

Jerri Southcott

President and Chair, South Shore Summer Theatre Association Board of Directors

In December of 2021, my sister Jerri contacted me with an idea to start a youth musical theatre summer program on the South Shore based on a similar program that our parents started in North Bay, Ontario that is now in its 36th year. We knew it would be a challenge. Who starts a theatre group at the tail end of a worldwide pandemic? Well ... We did.

Miraculously, we were able to put together an enthusiastic Board of Directors, an exceptionally talented staff and community volunteers. Most importantly, we were able to convince a cast of young people to trust us, and themselves, that we could pull it off. It wasn't easy. As my mother used to say, "anything worth doing, seldom is." Only 3 people showed up for our information night and only 7 auditioned. Little by little, over the first month of rehearsals, we were able to fill out the cast only to be hit with the COVID bug and lose a week of rehearsals. In the end, despite many challenges, it all turned out well. After the success of our first summer, I am confident that our second will be as successful, if not more.

Shane Southcott

Artistic Director, South Shore Summer Theatre Association

OUR OBJECTIVES

TO PROVIDE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A UNIQUE, REAL LIFE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO ARTS AND CULTURE IN THE COMMUNITY. THE CREATION OF PROFESSIONAL-QUALITY MUSIC THEATRE PRODUCTIONS TO ATTRACT TOURISTS TO THE AREA AND HELP TO PROMOTE THE SOUTH SHORE AS A DESTINATION FOR ARTS AND CULTURE EVERY SUMMER.

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of reconciliation, South Shore Summer Theatre Association acknowledges that we live, work and create on the traditional territory of Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People, and we acknowledge them as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land. South Shore Summer Theatre Association is grateful to have the opportunity to present in this territory.

This territory, covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. We are all Treaty people.



Our inaugural show for the 2022 season was *Jesus Christ Superstar*, a sung-through rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice which culminated in four almost soldout performances. A preview concert was staged at the Lunenburg Opera House with 170 tickets sold, followed by three close-to-capacity shows at the Astor Theatre in Liverpool. A combination of earned media (CBC radio and Lighthouse Now newspaper) along with paid advertising and strategic social media planning helped create a buzz in the community and sell tickets to all four performances. We also invited area politicians, community leaders and professional artists to see the show to help promote the program and give us a leg up on next season.

The cast of 17 included a broad range of participants with a variety of talents and backgrounds. The young people in the cast were given the chance to better understand what professional actors require to rehearse and learn triple-threat skills (singing, dancing and acting). At the same time, they were also given the opportunity to get involved in the promotion and fundraising aspects of the show and learn first-hand the importance of working together as a team to create a polished, professional-looking high quality musical theatre production.

SSST was also fortunate to leverage more than 15 volunteers from Mahone Bay and surrounding communities to assist with our Lunenburg preview gala performance, in addition to several volunteers from the Liverpool community who provided invaluable support during the three-night run at the Astor Theatre in Liverpool.







GALA EVENT – LUNENBURG OPERA HOUSE August 11, 2022

We hosted a post-show Gala for ticket holders, where the audience were able to mingle with our cast, staff, and crew. We thanked our donors, volunteers and the broader community for their support.



Jesus Christ Superstar coming to the South Shore | Mainstreet NS with Jeff Douglas | Live Radio | CBC Listen

MEDIA INTERVIEWS – CBC RADIO WITH JEFF DOUGLAS August 9, 2022

Jeff Douglas spoke with President Jerri Southcott and cast member Ariella Arbuto about the production *Jesus Christ Superstar* and the experience of participating in the South Shore Summer Theatre Association.



FLASH MOBS – SALTBOX BREWERY LIGHTSHIP BREWERY FOLK HARBOUR FESTIVAL Jul 28, Aug 2 & 6, 2022

We performed a few 'sneak peek' songs at local businesses to highlight our talented cast and to generate community excitement in advance of our performances.

ENSURING ACCESS TO MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTIONS FOR YOUTH ON THE SOUTH SHORE

South Shore Summer Theatre Association is committed to engaging young people in the creative process of developing, rehearsing, and presenting a full-scale musical over the course of 12 weeks every summer. At the same time, we provide a platform to develop young artists and to uncover the talent of those who may not have the opportunity to participate in the creation of live musical theatre.

Our Association is proud to say that everyone who came out to audition or expressed an interest in participating in our program was accepted. While some youth came out to audition and only wanted to dance, our response was - "No problem!" Others came with incredible vocal skills but limited or no experience performing in a professional-quality musical - "We would LOVE to have you" was our motto. Our Association also waived our nominal registration fee for anyone unable to afford it to ensure access for all. Our commitment to ensure youth have access to our program, regardless of talent, experience, or finances, is the key to our success.

Access to our program for young people is also supported through a highly flexible rehearsal schedule that is geared towards ensuring that youth can carry on a summer job or other activities while participating in our program. Rehearsals were scheduled in the evenings throughout the week, which allowed our cast and staff to have Fridays and weekends off to pursue other interests. This program structure increases its accessibility, which enables more youth to participate in our theatre production.

Through the generosity of a private donor, South Shore Summer Theatre Association was also able to provide tickets at no cost to families who would otherwise not have been able to attend.

South Shore Summer Theatre Association is committed to reducing barriers in our community and will continue to do so in 2023 and for years to come.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

South Shore Summer Theatre Association is incredibly fortunate to have such a strong and loyal group of donors and sponsors. Thanks to your generosity, our 2022 season was able to present a professional-quality production of **Jesus Christ Superstar**.

For our cast, many had little to no experience performing in a professional-quality production. For our more experienced cast members, participation in our program allowed them to further develop triple threat skills of acting, singing, and dancing. We are extremely proud that the contributions from our donors and sponsors allowed participants to be creative, curious and passionate artists and to have a moment to grow and to shine.

Your support also allowed many in the community to enjoy live musical theatre on the South Shore for the first time and to also support our staff and artists by allowing them to do what they most enjoy.

On behalf of the South Shore Summer Theatre Association and the board, staff, artists and volunteers - THANK YOU!



2022 STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES*

REVENUE	2022
TICKET SALES	21,005
STUDENT FUNDRAISING	300
STUDENT REGISTRATION FEE	250
PROGRAM ADS	1,600
SPONSORSHIP	4,500
INDIVIDUAL DONORS	10,755
GRANTS	2,600

TOTAL

\$41,010

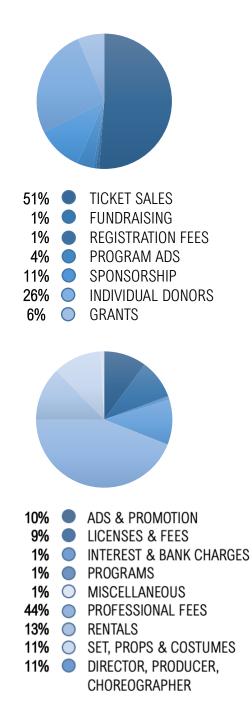
EXPENSES	2022
ADVERTISING & PROMOTION	3,844
LICENSES & FEES	3,550
INTEREST AND BANK CHARGES	123
PROGRAMS	203
MISCELLANEOUS	349
PROFESSIONAL FEES	16,750
RENTALS	4,853
SET, PROPS & COSTUMES	4,362
DIRECTOR, PRODUCER &	4,094
CHOREOGRAPHER	

TOTAL

\$38,128

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

S \$2,882



*291 day period ended March 31, 2023. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022



Jerri Southcott, President and Chair



Michael Beatson, Director



Lynda Bottoms, Director



Kathleen Woodard, Director



Ann Caverzan, Director

PRODUCTION PHOTO CREDIT: All production photos in this report are attributed to Bacalao Photo, Peter Zwicker Photography (www.bacalaophoto.ca). We are grateful for your time and effort in producing a striking collection of photos of our 2022 production. Thank you, Peter.

SOUTH SHORE SUMMER THEATRE ASSOCIATION



South Shore Summer Theatre Association is a non-profit association committed to providing young people with a unique, real-life learning experience while producing high quality musical theatre.

We are members of Theatre Nova Scotia and govern according to the Societies Act of Nova Scotia.

South Shore Summer Theatre Association Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia

admin@southshoresummertheatre.com

2022 DONORS AND SPONSORS

SPONSORS



DONORS

Platinum \$1000+

Kenneth Barton & Michael Beatson

Lynda Bottoms & John Bain

Merrie & Terry Bumstead

Ann Caverzan

Cindy and Adam Dial, Red Door Realty Lunenburg

Gold \$500-\$999	Silver \$250-\$499	Bronze \$50-\$249
Arthur Southcott	Lee & Frank Kools.	Karen Pinset
	Mark Singer	Elizabeth Batstone
		Darlene Laferriere
		Rita Southcott

Gus Panageotopoulos

Scott Sherman, Eleven Eleven Group

Jerri Southcott & Dave Stephens

Kathleen Woodard & Doug Stewart

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Prepared October 2023

WELCOME

Jerri Southcott

President, South Shore Summer Theatre Association Board of Directors

Over the past year, our organization has experienced remarkable growth, both in terms of participation and reach. We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to showcase the immense talent of our youth from various parts of the South Shore, including Bridgewater, Mahone Bay, Liverpool, Martin's River, Petite Riviere and Greenfield. The wide representation from these regions demonstrates our commitment to inclusivity and the cultivation of talent across all reaches of the South Shore.

Throughout the second season, our dedicated team of directors, choreographers, musicians, and volunteers worked tirelessly to provide a platform for our youth to flourish and showcase their passion for musical theatre. We are particularly proud of our costume design team who brought with them decades of wardrobe design experience. The hard work and unwavering commitment by our entire team truly paid off, as we witnessed remarkable performances in the production of *Pippin* that left audiences captivated and inspired.

The growth of our organization can be attributed to the unwavering support of our community. We are grateful for the encouragement and enthusiasm shown by parents, teachers, local businesses, and community members who have recognized the value of our youth musical theatre program. Your support has not only provided opportunities for our young performers to shine on stage but has also fostered their personal growth, creativity, and confidence.

As we move forward, we remain committed to nurturing the talents of our youth while providing a platform for artistic expression and personal development. Our goal is to continue expanding our program, reaching more young individuals and communities across the South Shore. With your continued support, we are confident that we can make a lasting impact on the lives of our youth and contribute to the vibrant arts scene in Nova Scotia.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of our organization's second season. It is through your dedication and belief in our mission that we have been able to create a truly transformative experience for our young performers.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to another incredible season ahead.

Shane Southcott

Director, South Shore Summer Theatre Association

In our second season, South Shore Summer Theatre presented the 2013 Revival version of Pippin with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. I am incredibly proud of the dedication and commitment of the young people (and young at heart) who participated in this summer's production. Pippin is an extremely complicated and ambitious show for a young company in its sophomore season and this group showed that they were more than up to the challenge. Mid way through the summer when I was feeling particularly overwhelmed, a call was put out to a dear friend, Jocelyn Bell, who I grew up with in my mother's youth theatre program in Ontario back in the mid-eighties. She dropped everything to drive cross country to assist me. I mention this here not just as a big thank you to her but also to illustrate the power of connections that are made in programs like this one. South Shore Summer Theatre is still very young and going through growing pains, but I believe it has the potential to be a truly iconic summer event on the South Shore. Long live Youth Community Theatre.

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For our second season, we staged 5 performances of *Pippin*, the 2013 Tony Award winning Revival version. *Pippin* tells the story of a young prince who searches for meaning and purpose in life, encountering love, war, politics and magic along the way.

With lessons learned from our inaugural season, we enhanced our communications plan to incorporate broader social media coverage, paid radio advertising, and earned media coverage through interviews with CBC radio, QCCR Queens County radio and Queen's Crown newspaper along with two featured stories in LighthouseNow newspaper. We also leveraged our network at Theatre Nova Scotia to promote the show and help to sell tickets.

Our two leads in *Pippin* came with advanced university level music theatre and vocal training. Their leadership and mentoring skills were invaluable to our younger, less experienced cast members. SSST also welcomed 15-year-old Ukrainian newcomer, Vadim Titkov, who made his stage debut in Pippin's ensemble. Our returning top-notch staff also worked closely with the cast to incorporate learning across a range of key areas including triple threat skills (singing, dancing and acting), stage management, props and set construction. Our cast promoted *Pippin* by participating in pop up shows across the South Shore and performing at our inaugural fundraising Gala at the Farm at South Cove.

SSST increased the number of volunteers this year. We were the recipient of two Canada Summer Jobs grants and employed two young people for 8 weeks each. The show's playbill was designed by a university student with graphic design skills and a high school student shadowed our producer and director for the summer, allowing her to experience everything that goes into putting on a large-scale musical production. We are committed to prioritizing youth involvement in all aspects of our musical theatre production.







GALA FUNDRAISER – The Barn at South Cove June 22, 2023

We raised more than \$6,000 at our inaugural Gala fundraiser which featured a live performance from our cast, wine, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. We thanked our guests and the broader community for their support.



MEDIA INTERVIEWS – CBC Radio – Mainstreet QCCR FM – Stage and Screen LighthouseNow Newspaper

Ukrainian newcomer Vadim Titkov spoke with Jeff Douglas about his stage debut in our production of Pippin. Our president talked to Ashley Rose Goodwin on QCCR's Stage and Screen. We were the focus of articles in LighthouseNow newspaper on June 14 and August 16.



FLASH MOBS – Lunenburg Food & Craft Festival, Luneburg Folk Festival & Lightship Brewery, July 8 & 28, Aug 12, 2023

We performed a few 'sneak peek' songs at festivals and local businesses to highlight our talented cast and to generate community excitement in advance of our performances.

BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS -OUR SECOND SEASON

For the past two years, South Shore Summer Theatre has experienced remarkable growth and achievement. As we look to the future, we are committed to continuing our upward trajectory and expanding our reach to positively impact even more young people. Here are the key areas where we plan to focus our efforts: reaching more young people, expanding our volunteer and community engagement, addressing transportation issues facing rural Nova Scotians on the South Shore, and networking with leaders in education who can help bridge the gap.

Reaching more young people is a central goal for our program. We believe that every young person should have the opportunity to explore their passion for the performing arts, regardless of their background or circumstances. To achieve this, we will actively seek partnerships with local schools, community organizations, and youth centres to extend our reach and make our program accessible to a wider audience. By actively promoting inclusivity, we aim to empower young individuals from all walks of life to discover their potential and nurture their talents.

Expanding our volunteer and community engagement is another crucial aspect of our future growth. We recognize the invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers and the positive impact they have on our program's success. Through targeted recruitment efforts, we will actively seek to attract more volunteers with diverse skill sets and experiences. By forging stronger connections with our local community, we aim to create a supportive network that fosters creativity, collaboration, and mentorship.

Addressing transportation issues facing rural Nova Scotians on the South Shore is a priority that we are determined to tackle. We understand that limited access to transportation can pose significant barriers for young individuals residing in rural areas. To overcome this challenge, we are exploring partnerships with local transportation providers, seeking grants to fund transportation initiatives, and implementing flexible scheduling options to accommodate participants from remote locations. By eliminating transportation barriers, we can ensure that our program is accessible to all young people, regardless of their geographical location.

Lastly, we recognize the importance of networking with leaders in education who can help bridge the gap. By collaborating with educational institutions and professionals in the field of performing arts education, we can leverage their expertise and resources to further enrich our program. Through these partnerships, we aim to develop innovative teaching methodologies, implement researchbased practices, and provide our participants with comprehensive educational experiences that prepare them for future success.

As we reflect on our past achievements, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. By building on our success, reaching more young people, expanding our volunteer and community engagement, addressing transportation issues, and networking with leaders in education, we are confident that our summer youth musical theatre program will continue to thrive, creating a lasting impact on the lives of the young individuals we serve.

A HUGE THANK YOU!



For a second year, we received support from a range of donors and sponsors that allowed us to stage a professional-quality production of **Pippin**.

We are extremely grateful to have received financial support from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, including a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to help cover our production costs, transportation and salaries. We also

increased the number of corporate sponsors this year and had 27 local businesses step up to provide donations for our Gala silent auction that raised more than \$6,000 for our program. This support allowed youth along the South Shore to not only participate in a professional-quality musical production but also helped to expand their creativity, boost self-confidence and enhance their collaborative and time management skills through this experience.

In the spirit of Pippin . . . your support allowed us to create magic for our cast, staff and the community who came to experience our wonderful production.

2023 STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES*

REVENUE	2023
TICKET SALES	23,100
FUNDRAISING	11,941
STUDENT REGISTRATION FEE	500
PROGRAM ADS	950
SPONSORSHIP	2,000
INDIVIDUAL DONORS	8,954
GRANTS	19,734

TOTAL

\$67,179

EXPENSES	2023
ADVERTISING & PROMOTION	861
LICENSES & FEES	11,973
INTEREST AND BANK CHARGES	201
PROGRAMS	1,127
MISCELLANEOUS	8,411
PROFESSIONAL FEES	4,605
RENTALS	6,566
SET, PROPS & COSTUMES	3,676
DIRECTORS, CHOREOGRAPHER,	30,924
MANAGER, PRODUCER, DESIGN	

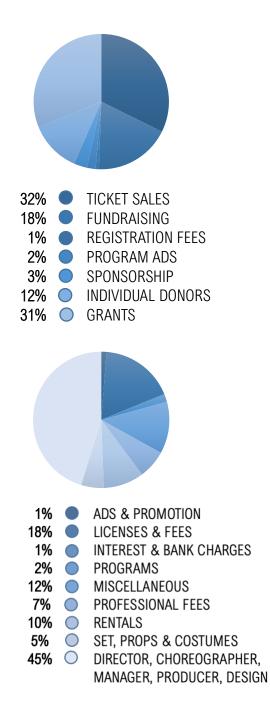
TOTAL

\$68,344

(1,165)

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

*279-day period ended October 6, 2023. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023



Jerri Southcott, President and Chair



Lynda Bottoms, Secretary



Debbie Harvey, Director



Kathleen Woodard, Vice President



Michael Beatson, Director



Cathy Andreu, Director



Paul Fynes, Treasurer



Ann Caverzan, Director



Wanda Baxter, Director

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South Shore Summer Theatre Association Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia

admin@southshoresummertheatre.com

2023 DONORS AND SPONSORS

SPONSORS



SILENT AUCTION DONORS

Artist Leslie Shank **Blue Zone Wellness** Caico Mae Clothiers **Chester Playhouse** CIBC Cocoa Organic Spa Coffee & Sawdust Famous Town Pie

Fleur & Gather Four Square Framing Hello Beautiful Kenneth Barton Photography Mateus Bistro Mom's Buy and Sell Neptune Theatre O'Regan's Subaru

Bacalao Photo - Peter Zwicker Photography The Barn Coffee & Social House

PRIVATE DONORS

Elizabeth and Munden Batstone Lynda Bottoms and John Bain Christine Hirtle **Glenn Josephson** Lee and Frank Kools Patricia McGill Mark Singer Jerri Southcott and Dave Stephens Kathleen Woodard and Doug Stewart

SPECIAL THANKS

Oh My Cod!

RCR Hospitality Group

SENSEA Nordic Spa

Saltbox Brewing Co.

Sprig Apothecary

Suite Spot Airbnb

Sweet & Saucy Catering The Farm at South Cove

Thursday Dvali Alan MacAskill Martina Puch Pasos Jennie Carton Chris Summersby Darren Summersby Peter Zwicker Claire Bowers Michael Gros Tim Foisie

Astor Theatre Sebastien Andreu Wanda Baxter Katy Hopkins Mary Steckle Emily Bain