

# 2024



## ANNUAL REPORT

[@southshoresummertheatre.com](https://southshoresummertheatre.com)

Special thanks to Peter Zwicker and Bacalao Photography for all photos of the cast and production of Spring Awakening.



# WELCOME

## **Jerri Southcott, President**

As we reflect on this past year at South Shore Summer Theatre, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the growth and achievements of our organization. Our commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and accessible space for young performers continues to be the driving force behind everything we do. This year, we reached more youth than ever before, expanding our impact and reaffirming the importance of theatre as a place of creativity, learning, and belonging.

Choosing Spring Awakening as our 2024 production was not without its challenges. However, we stood firm in our belief that youth deserve a voice and a platform to tell stories that resonate with them. This bold choice allowed our performers to explore important themes, engage in meaningful conversations, and bring a powerful, moving production to life. The overwhelmingly positive response from our audiences and community reaffirmed the importance of artistic expression in addressing real-world issues and amplifying youth perspectives.

At South Shore Summer Theatre, we believe that every young person should have the opportunity to perform, create, and learn—regardless of their financial situation. Breaking down economic barriers has always been at the heart of our mission, ensuring that cost is never an obstacle to participation. We remain committed to keeping our program accessible, thanks to the generous support of donors, community partners, provincial and federal funding and fundraising efforts such as our gala and our annual cabaret.

As we look ahead, our dedication to diversity, accessibility, and equity remains unwavering. We will continue to create an environment where all youth feel welcome, valued, and empowered to tell their stories. Thank you to our incredible performers, families, volunteers, and supporters for making this season unforgettable. Your passion and belief in the power of theatre make all of this possible. Here's to another year of growth, creativity, and breaking barriers together!

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## **Shane Southcott, Artistic Director**

For our third season we presented Spring Awakening. This is a show that deals with some weighty subject matter so our decision to proceed with this material was not taken lightly.

Spring Awakening requires a level of maturity from the cast and creative team unlike any other show that I have directed. The experience was exactly what I hoped it would be. The young people involved showed a breathtaking level of commitment not only to the musical but to each other. Their dedication to presenting a production that they and the entire community could feel justly proud of is something that I will remember for years to come.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

South Shore Summer Theatre is committed to fostering inclusivity, accessibility, and artistic excellence in musical theatre. Our primary objectives include:

- Providing free, high-quality training and performance opportunities for youth aged 13-35, ensuring financial barriers do not limit participation.
  - Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion, including support for LGBTQ2+ individuals and performers with disabilities.
  - Employing local artists as instructors and mentors, contributing to the professional arts community in Nova Scotia.
  - Expanding access to the arts in rural areas where opportunities are limited.
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## OUR GOALS

To achieve these objectives, we focus on:

- Producing high-caliber musical theatre productions that showcase young talent and attract audiences.
  - Engaging the community through outreach initiatives such as pop-up performances, promotional events, and partnerships with local organizations.
  - Building a sustainable future for the program through fundraising, sponsorships, and strategic partnerships.
  - Contributing to the economic and cultural vitality of the South Shore and beyond by increasing arts participation and tourism.
  - Continuing to grow and refine our training programs, ensuring young performers have the skills and confidence to pursue their artistic passions.
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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.





Spring Awakening marked a year of significant growth and achievement for South Shore Summer Theatre. We expanded our team, strengthened our impact, and continued to provide invaluable opportunities for young performers and arts professionals.

#### Youth Employment & Professional Development:

- Hired two Canada Summer Jobs youth employees, reinforcing our commitment to youth mentorship and professional development.
- One of our youth employees, who previously shadowed our director, stepped into the role of official stage manager, demonstrating the success of our hands-on learning.
- Employed two university graduates as choreographer and vocal director, providing professional opportunities for emerging artists.

#### Live Music & Artistic Growth:

- Re-introduced a live band, enhancing the production quality and providing employment to Nova Scotia-based musicians.

#### Community Engagement & Expansion:

- Increased our reach among young people, with several new performers expressing interest in joining our 2025 production following our final show.
- Recruited new board members, strengthening our leadership and governance.
- Secured new donors and sponsors, ensuring continued financial support and sustainability for future seasons.

Spring Awakening was a milestone production that reinforced our mission of accessibility, inclusivity, and artistic excellence, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.



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# 2024 EVENTS



## FUNDRAISER - Gala

June 26 - The Barn at South Cove

We raised close to \$3,000 at our annual gala event that featured the cast of Spring Awakening and a sneak peek at a show-stopping song from the show. Also, a silent auction and 50-50 draw. We are grateful for our sponsors and community partners, the Farm at South Cove for the donation of the venue.



## FUNDRAISER - Christmas Cabaret

December 4 - The Mahone Bay Centre

Our 2nd annual Christmas Cabaret at the Mahone Bay Centre brought in close to \$1500 and featured the stars of Spring Awakening along with some new talent in the community. This event is part of the Father Christmas Festival and is a popular holiday activity for the whole family complete with silent auction, 50-50 draw and bake sale.



## FLASH MOBS - POP UPS

Lunenburg Food & Craft Festival,  
Hell Bay Brewing Company, Liverpool

To build excitement for *Spring Awakening*, we brought the energy of live musical theatre directly to the community with special pop-up performances. These performances gave audiences a sneak peek at the show, showcasing the incredible talent of our cast in an up-close and immersive way.

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## BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS - OUR FOURTH SEASON

South Shore Summer Theatre is taking a major step forward by moving our 2025 production of *All Shook Up* to the Bella Rose Arts Centre in Halifax. This larger venue will allow us to showcase even more talent, broaden our reach, and engage new audiences while maintaining our strong presence on the South Shore. Our rehearsals will continue at the Mahone Bay Centre, ensuring that we remain accessible to local youth while creating new opportunities for performers from across the province.

This Expansion aligns with our mission to provide high-quality, accessible arts education and performance opportunities for young people, regardless of economic or geographic barriers. To support this, we are actively working to address transportation challenges that often prevent rural youth from accessing the arts. We are exploring carpooling initiatives, travel stipends, and partnerships to help bridge this gap and ensure that all participants can fully engage in the experience.

We are also strengthening our mentorship and training programs by employing professional artists, musicians, and theatre educators who will work closely with our young performers. Mark Ferraro-Hauck, Executive Director of Theatre Nova Scotia, has generously volunteered his time to direct our *Bites and Broadway* fundraiser--set to become our primary fundraising event for the year. Additionally, Cynthia Black, an experienced music director, is volunteering her expertise to help with vocals and music arrangements for the event. Their involvement not only enhances the quality of our productions but also provides invaluable learning opportunities for our participants, allowing them to work alongside seasoned professionals.

As we embark on this exciting new chapter, South Shore Summer Theatre remains dedicated to its core values of inclusivity, artistic excellence, and community-building. By expanding our production while maintaining our South Shore roots, we are creating a vibrant, welcoming space where young people can develop their talents, connect with others, and bring live theatre to even more audiences.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

South Shore Summer Theatre extends our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, donors, and government funding partners for their generous support, which makes our productions possible. A special thank you to our incredible volunteers, dedicated parent carpoolers, and the hardworking youth who bring passion and energy to every rehearsal and performance. Your commitment ensures that theatre remains accessible, inclusive and a life-changing experience for all involved. We couldn't do it without you!



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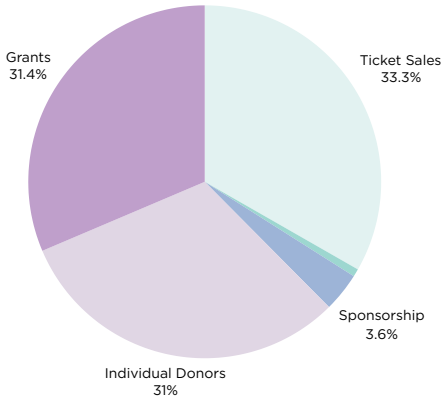
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## 2024

Total Income <b>\$55,977</b>	Total Expenses <b>\$55,551</b>	Savings <b>\$426</b>
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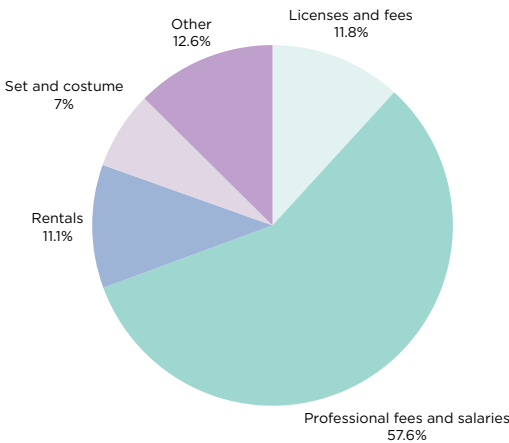
### Income Report

Source	2024
Ticket Sales	\$18,625
Student Registration	\$400
Sponsorship	\$2,000
Individual donors	\$17,378
Grants	\$17,574
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$55,977</b>



### Expenses Report

Source	2024
Advertising and promotion	\$1,739
Insurance	\$1,321
Interest and bank charges	\$714
Licenses and fees	\$6,548
Miscellaneous	\$82
Office	\$2,321
Professional Fees and Salaries	\$31,995
Rentals	\$6,145
Set Construction, Props, and Costumes	\$3,876
Travel	\$810
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$55,551</b>





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025



Jerri Southcott,  
President and Chair



Samantha Nault,  
Treasurer



Stuart Martin  
Director



Kelly Bent,  
Secretary



Marianne Weeks,  
Vice President



Dan Rafuse,  
Director



Sofia Andreu,  
Youth Representative



Cynthia Black,  
Director



# SOUTH SHORE SUMMER THEATRE ASSOCIATION



South Shore Summer Theatre is dedicated to providing an inclusive, accessible, and professional musical theatre experience for youth, breaking financial barriers and fostering creativity, confidence, and community through high-quality productions and education

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## 2024 DONORS AND SPONSORS

### SPONSORS



Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada



### SILENT AUCTION DONORS

Corinne Morgan  
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Cathy Andreu  
Cocoa Organic Spa & Boutique  
The Dog Shop Bathhouse & Boutique  
Anne Weeks  
Anne Bastedo  
Mateus Bistro

### PRIVATE DONORS

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Patricia McGill  
Mark Singer  
Jerri Southcott and Dave Stephens  
Kathleen Woodard and Doug Stewart  
Kristopher Snarby  
Nordic Fishing Company Ltd.  
Christopher Folk

### SPECIAL THANKS

100 Bluenosers Who Care  
Karen Pinsent  
Jane McLoughlin  
Bacalao Photography  
Dave Stephens  
Tabatha Clements  
Hannah McKinnon  
Sebastien Andreu  
Debbie Harvey  
Kristopher Snarby  
Allan MacAskill