

“The Director’s Theatre Festival is the best opportunity theatre students in BC have to work on their own shows in a safe and comfortable environment.”

Ming Hudson, University of Victoria theatre graduate

Featuring the best emerging performing artists in British Columbia, the 15th Annual Directors’ Festival officially opens on April 29 at 4:30 p.m. (matinee and preview performances begin on April 28). The highlight of the Opening Ceremonies is the *Sixty Seconds of Fame* each participating group is accorded to promote their production. These short performances are great fun and give festival audiences a chance to learn something about each show.

Joining our UFV student directors are thirteen visiting productions; one from the **University of Victoria**, three from **Simon Fraser University**, three from **Vancouver Island University** and three from **Capilano University**. Returning to the festival after a short absence are **Thompson Rivers University** and **Trinity Western University**. An alumni show from **Capilano** rounds out the festival lineup. In all, there are twenty-three one-act plays presented over the five days of the festival.



The generous festival sponsors include: The **UFV Student Union Society**, the **UFV School of Criminology and Centre for Criminal Justice Research**, the **Abbotsford-Mission Times**, the **Chilliwack Times** and the **UFV Theatre Student Association** (the TSA) and the cast and crew from last year’s D-Fest show, *Life is a Cafeteria Old Chum*. **Jim and Jean Servizi**, **Bob and Kathy Parsons**, and **Clint and Laura Hames** annually affirm their belief in the value of the festival by making personal financial contributions. In addition, the **UFV Employee Relations Department** provides the beverages for the BBQ while the **UFV Friends of the Theatre** keep the concession stand stocked with tasty, nutritious, low-cost treats.

Order your festival pass today (a bargain at \$40) and make plans to attend as many festival shows as you can. Enjoy the full festival experience, including the many lobby conversations with friends and participants, the tasty well-priced concession food, and the relaxing atmosphere of the Shakespeare Garden and the campus green. See you at the festival.

P.S. The 2010–11 Season will be announced May 3.

Ian Fenwick, Theatre Department Head.

Alumni Evenings Feature Full Houses and Great Wine

The UFV Chilliwack Campus Theatre was sold out for both of this year's special Alumni evening performances of Shakespeare's hilarious romantic comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Friday, March 19, featured a reception and the launch of a new wine label by Commemorative Wine artist **Courtney Simms**. Courtney completed her Visual Arts diploma at UFV in 2005. In 2005 the UFV Alumni Association initiated a partnership with a local winery to create a personalized and unique gift for UFV graduates, resulting in the first Limited Edition Commemorative Wine. Since then, the Commemorative Wine has become a highly anticipated annual tradition which promotes awareness of the Alumni Association while building resources to provide student scholarships, services, and programs. The hors d'oeuvres reception for the evening was catered by the Kilby Historic Site supervised by former UFV Theatre student **Stu Watchorn**. A raffle also took place with prizes donated by several local businesses including: Cultus Lake Golf Club, Significant Impact Leader Frames, Mackie Naturals Salon & Spa, Minter Gardens, UFV and Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa. The four commemorative wines were produced by Bounty Cellars Winery, Kelowna and were offered for wine tastings and sales during the reception. The second Alumni evening on March 25 was equally well attended. UFV President, **Mark Evered**, attended both evenings and expressed his pleasure at the performances and the exceptional Alumni turnout. The theatre department has been offering these special Alumni evenings in partnership with the UFV Alumni Association for several years now and what began as an experiment has evolved into a perennial success story. Let's hope that it continues for many years to come. This year we would like to offer our thanks to **Lindsay Follett** and the UFV Development office for their generous, additional support for the March 25 performance.



Alyssa Kumar (Dream 2010), Tina Molnar (Dream1995)



Ian Fenwick (Director of all three *Dreams*),
Josh Wilson (Dream 2010) Kasey Kieler (Dream 1995)
Paul Zuurbier (Dream 1982)

Third Production of "Dream" a Big Reunion Hit.

Our most recent production of William Shakespeare's wild romantic comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which played March 10 to 28 in the Chilliwack campus theatre, was a great success artistically as well as at the box office! Over 2,600 people saw this production, the third version of this particular Shakespeare comedy that we have produced in our thirty year history. The two previous versions were presented in 1982 and 1995. Opening night on Friday, March 10, was attended by many cast and crew members from those previous two productions and there were lots of reunions taking place after the show. Trios of Oberons, Helenas, and Bottoms were to be seen, plus various other cast pairings, at the after show reception sponsored by UFV Acting Vice President, Academic, **Eric Davis**.



Bella, Becca Sutherland (Dream 2010), Tanya Kozak (Dream1995)

Megan Directs Children's Show

Megan Mackenzie (Ophelia: *Hamlet*, March 2009) recently directed The Abbotsford Children's Theatre production of *Wizard of Wonderland*. Megan has had a long connection with this children's theatre group, having worked there for several years. Megan also co-adapted and directed their hit production of Kit Pearson's *Awake and Dreaming* with **Cassie Silva** which was also featured in the 2009 Directors' Theatre Festival. Keep up the good work Megan!

Jaimie Hard at Work

Proving that a well-trained, efficient stage manager can usually find work out there in the highly competitive world of professional live theatre, Jaimie Tait (Ginette Menard: *Les Belles Soeurs*, November 1991) is currently stage managing *KISMET one to one hundred* for The Chop Theatre, which is part of the Tremors Festival running April 13 to 17 at The Vancouver East Cultural Centre. Jaimie also stage managed the Toronto run of this fascinating production for the Free Fall Festival there. According to Jaimie, "It's a really great piece of theatre, very Canadian, based on interviews with 100 people ages 1–100 about fate and destiny". Once the Vancouver run is finished, Jaimie will begin working as a buyer for Bard on the Beach in Vancouver. Keep on truckin' Jaimie, Variety is the spice of life!

Shirley Wilson: Executive Director

Shirley Wilson (Stage manager: *Quiet In The Land*, November 1985 and September 1986) recently took over as the Executive Director of the Big Brothers & Big Sisters Upper Fraser Valley chapter based in Chilliwack. Shirley, who lives in Abbotsford, and has been an Abbotsford Board of Education Trustee for more than five years now, stage managed several shows for the then FVC Theatre department and Chilliwack Summer Theatre Festival during the mid-eighties. She looks forward to forging a stronger relationship with The Abbotsford chapter of the Big Brothers & Sisters and seeing more of her old friends in the UFV Theatre department, now that she works in Chilliwack. Congratulations on your appointment Shirley!

Melanie's Script Accepted

Melanie Wickes (Casey Quinn: *Halo*, January 2006) who is currently working for the Vancouver Playhouse Wine Festival event, has had her short script about internet dating — which she says aims at the 20 to 40 demographic — accepted by The Walking Fish Festival in Vancouver. This entails dramaturgy and a reading at the end of July, under a new professional program entitled Neanderthal Art. Well done Melanie!

Sudden Passing of Former Department Employee

It was with great shock and sadness that we recently learned of the death of our former employee **Cathy Krahn**, who succumbed to a heart attack on March 14, at the relatively young age of only 54 years. This tragic event deeply affected not only her immediate family but also her many friends and former colleagues and students within the theatre department and at the Rosedale



Cathy Krahn

Elementary school where she was employed at the time of her death. Cathy worked as a part-time designer for the department for several years and designed sets and props for many productions including the sets for *The American Clock*, *The Road To Mecca*, *The Melville Boys* and *The Rez Sisters* as well as props designs for *Hamlet*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Tempest* to mention but a few. She was a great person to work with and always put her heart and soul into her design work. Cathy was a talented artist and displayed that talent not only in her numerous design projects but also in the marvellous masks that she lovingly created. Cathy was born in Val d'Or Quebec but grew up mostly in Ontario before moving to BC. She will be sorely missed by her family: partner of 25 years Brian Sweeny, sons, Erron and Kelly, step-son Ryland as well as by numerous friends and colleagues. A full-house memorial service for Cathy was held in the UFV Theatre on the Chilliwack campus on Saturday, March 20.

Jim Matthias Also Passes On

It has been a somewhat traumatic beginning to 2010 for friends, followers, and members of the theatre department. **Jim Matthias**, who worked in set construction for several of our earlier FVC productions recently died after a battle with renal cancer. The Matthias family were all involved with our earlier productions in one way or another: Jim's wife, Jane, choreographed the dance sequences for several of our Shakespeare productions; while daughter Jennifer also worked back-stage during that early period and is also a regular participant on our bi-annual Ashland, Oregon Trip. Our condolences go out to them both. Rest in peace, Jim.

Directors' Festival Shows Headed for Harrison Festival

Every summer one or more shows from the Directors' Festival are chosen to appear at the Harrison Festival of The Arts. This arrangement has proved to be advantageous for both events as the evenings of theatre featuring our productions invariably sell out. Make sure that you mark your summer calendar to include Tuesday, July 13 at the Harrison Memorial Hall for an evening of what is sure to be entertaining theatre. The shows that will be appearing will be announced on Monday, May 3. Call 604-795-2814 or Email theatre@ufv.ca for updates and information.

Year in Review



Summer Acting Courses Offered

Always wanted to try your hand at acting?

The theatre department will be offering two first-year acting courses during this summer semester.

THEA 111 – ACTING 1 has no pre-requisites and is a great way to get your feet wet and learn valuable life and acting skills. This introduction to the technique and craft of acting, focuses on the development of the actor's internal and external resources to realize character as action. The course will run May 11 to August 9, 2010, Tuesdays from 5:30 to 8:20 p.m., in room 162, building D, on the Chilliwack campus.

THEA 112 ACTING 11: Prerequisite(s): THEA 111. This course continues the development of the actor's internal and external resources, introducing students to scene study and the realization of character through interactions with others. May 11 to August 9, 2010, Tuesdays from 1 to 3:50 p.m., in room 162, building D, on the Chilliwack campus.

Darren Blakeborough will be the Instructor for both courses.

Register now at any UFV Registration office.

Please note: Applications to the Theatre program are still being accepted for the upcoming fall 2010 semester at any UFV Registration office.

