



Mission

Bumbershoot Children's Theatre is dedicated to introducing youth and children to the incomparable magic of theatre. Our aim is to stimulate, and liberate the imagination, the intellect and the spirit through creative theatre experiences and promote theatre as an integral part of the learning process.

Values

- We believe that theatre can transform, illuminate and heal
- Arts/Theatre education is a critical component and a way for children to thrive
- We believe in encouraging the possibility of mystery and magic in our lives
- We value curiosity
- Accessibility
- A working environment of collaboration, creativity and self-expression
- Volunteerism
- Excellence in all that we do wherein we create a sense of anticipation and memories

Who is Bumbershoot Children's Theatre?

Bumbershoot Children's Theatre Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization launching its Eighth Season, 2016, January to December. Bumbershoot continues to operate under founding Artistic Director Tracy Ross, and is governed by a board of directors, which include 4 youth representatives. Bumbershoot operates out of its own location in the heart of Kelowna's Cultural District at #125-1295 Cannery Lane. (recently expanded as of Dec 2014)

Historically, BCT has offered a Family Main stage, producing 6-8 shows per year of adults (and some experienced young performers) that act for children and their families. The Main Stage program as grown over the years, the first year we produced 4 shows. Within these shows we offer productions that are geared towards all ages, as well as a small series that is designed to engage the increasing intellect and appetite of our developing audiences- 8+ yrs. This coming Season we are giving more specific age recommendations on our shows, as well as increasing flexibility in our subscriptions- to allow our audiences to best design theatre experiences for their families.

In addition to our Family Mainstage we offer an Advanced Youth Development program called (C.A.S.T.- collaborative arts for stage and theatre), designed for young people between the ages of 13-24. Spring 2015 was the first session of this new program (having been adapted from our Young Performers program). The first performance was completed September 2015 with the C.A.S.T. kids delivering a performance of 'I met a Bully on the Hill' with other selected scenes and songs that complimented the main production. We are just heading into session 2 for this program- October 2015. We also offer a variety of community classes for all ages.

Our commitment to the schools will remain strong and we will continue to work with them in the following ways:

1. After-school programs
2. School residency programs
3. Touring Shows
4. Professional Development
5. School matinee's

BCT maintains strong relationships with other professional community organizations: we have partnered with the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra as well as Opera Kelowna, Kelowna Museums, UBCO, and the Kelowna Art Gallery. For the past 2 summers we have produced an original production in partnership with Festivals Kelowna. The most recent production called, 'The Flower Ball' was written by local musician, Neville Bowman and Artistic Director Tracy Ross. The production was performed 4 times throughout the summer, animating public spaces and offering FREE accessible family theatre.

BCT continues to develop looking for increased support in order to allow us to be a strong advocate for the arts, families and young people in our community and surrounding area. Some of the steps we work at consistently:

- Board development
- Re-design of our website and increased interactive capabilities through web
- Focused approach for our community programming with the specific outcomes relating to cultivation and innovation
- Working to expand infrastructure to support all of the programming: hiring skilled professionals to develop our marketing and communications and more

BCT has created and produced 10 original productions including script and music. These productions have included thousands of young people and have been performed for family audiences well over 10,000 and counting.

How are the programs delivered?

Our society runs many programs. As such, we have a full-time Artistic Director who oversees all administration and management of the society as well as determines artistic content and programming. BCT is governed by an elected Board of Directors who provides oversight for the societies activities.

The staff work under the direction of the Artistic Director. BCT currently has 1 part-time administrator and 6 educators (contracts). Volunteers also play an integral part of our organization. Key volunteer areas for Bumbershoot range from website and poster design, to on-stage talent, front of house and marketing. We couldn't do it without them. Ideally as we grow we would like to be able to have more secured in house support.

FAMILY MAINSTAGE

The Family Mainstage is all performed at our intimate space located on Cannery Lane in the heart of Kelowna's Cultural District. Season 8 will include the following productions:

January	'Balloonacy'	by Barry Kornhauser
February	C.A.S.T.	Youth Development Program- Show TBD

March	'The Flower Ball'	by Tracy Ross and Neville Bowman
April	'The Railway Children'	by Mike Kenny
May	'Junie B. Jones'	by Marcy Heisler, Music by Zina Goldrich
July-August	Summer Parks Partnership with Parks Alive	
September	C.A.S.T.	Youth Development Program- Show TBD
October	'James and the Giant Peach' by Timonhy Allen McDonald Music Pasek& Paul	
November	2BWUT UR	by Morris Panych

The cast size for these productions vary from 2- 21, and will also involve designers and production crew in set, costume, props, lighting, backstage, sound, and of course the director.

The majority of the actors for the Mainstage are volunteer, however we have compensated our performers in the past for various projects, and are seeking support in order to hire more emerging and professional artists, and designers.

Our Season includes both classic story and those that are derived from more recent literature. ('The Railway Children' to 'Junie B. Jones') Season 8 promises to be full of creative challenges, and new audiences experiences. Our Season is diverse and exciting. 'Balloonacy' is a wonderful performance theatre piece that tells story through physical action and clowning techniques, 'James and the Giant Peach' includes puppetry (we rent the puppets made from Seattle Children's Theatre), and 2BWUT UR is classic Morris Panych that delves into the mind of a teen as he discovers who is truly is.

We want to make it possible for the family to experience theatre TOGETHER.

Strengthening the Arts Community

BCT strengthens the arts community in several ways. We are the only dedicated Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) in the Kelowna and surrounding area. Our organization plays a critical role in developing future audiences.

We have been the stage for original works, featuring new scripts, new musical scores, as well as original soundscape music. We produce shows from the ground up, building sets, costumes, and we are one of two local companies that have their own dedicated space out of 10 local theatre organizations.

Our commitment to developing talent remains strong and has been exercised the following ways:

- Collaborative script writing with our junior performers, including original music written by our performers and performed as apart of the staged productions
- Continued development of our C.A.S.T. youth development program- an intensive program linking youth with their passion and with the community
- Original artwork for our season posters by local visual artists
- Providing barrier free entertainment in partnership with Festivals Kelowna, taking the theatre into our mirco-communities and performing in Parks, an original piece written by Artistic Director, Tracy Ross
- New works for schools and audiences (over 10 original plays produced in 7 years)
- Enlisting volunteer support and providing opportunities for stewardship within the arts
- Providing artists/ designers a working opportunity in their own community
- We provide access to a larger theatre community and experts.

Recent workshops include:

- Jeff Hyslop- 'Phantom' in the Canadian Touring Production, 'Today's Special'
- David Ley- University of Alberta and Stratford
- Bill Allman- Vancouver based writer, producer
- Scott Bellis- Actor, Director, Teacher (Bard on the Beach Founder, Studio 58)

Our Artistic Director is committed to personal development and collaboration;

- This past summer she met with several Vancouver based companies/ professionals such as Carousel Theatre (Carole Higgins), Touchstone Theatre, Max Reimer and Howard Jang.
- This November (2015) Bumpershoot will travel one of their productions to Revelstoke
- BCT is spearheading an alliance between 2 other local theatre groups in an effort to reduce redundancies and increase efficiency in tackling some common challenges
- Partnering with UBCO to offer '24 hour play challenge'
- Supporting other local arts and/ or community events

These are just some of the ways that we strengthen the Arts in our community and will continue to do so in our upcoming season.

Prior to every performance the audience is able to engage in an activity that links the educational themes or creative themes of the show, then are able to take these home with them as memories. The actors greet the audiences after each performance, giving hugs, answering questions, listening to comments and creating discussion.

How does Bumpershoot benefit the community?

- Theatre classes encourage and promote self-expression and social growth in age-appropriate classes
- Provide barrier-free, affordable family entertainment- and programming
- Cultivates theatre appreciation in youth and families
- Provide an opportunity for parents and children to share in an interactive learning experience
- Theatre promotes literacy by creating dynamic, memorable and relevant experiences for students
- Provide an opportunity for children and youth to: communicate effectively, solve problems creatively, work co-operatively, make and meet commitments, develop self-assurance and independence
- To educate people in all theatre arts including: acting, dance, set design and construction, costuming and make-up, the design and use of sound and light systems, performance, direction and production
- We create a life long appreciation among our audiences and participants who will continue to support theatre, music, dance and related arts as adults
- Create partnerships with other community organizations to support their activities with young performers and/or volunteers
- Job creation for youth and adults
- Increased involvement of youth in community programming and volunteerism
- Increased community partnerships and collaboration (i.e. OSO partnership)

- A colorful addition to Kelowna's Cultural district
- Increase in the number of barrier-free programming for youth and families
- The vision is to move our children and youth towards a world of imagination and creativity that supports learning and educational focus. Benefiting our Community Children with; Improved Communication Skills, Critical Thinking Skills, Social Skills and Core Values.
- The life skills (along with acting skills) that come from the classes are astounding. It is amazing that all of this can be learned in a fun and joyful environment, where positive reinforcement is used while teaching projection, diction, mime, posture, body movement and vocal skills, and of course the whole process of putting on a play builds individual and group pride enormously.
- In addition to teaching theatre skills, Bumpershoot fosters community building by involving family, friends and members from the arts community to help with our theatrical productions which may include costume and set making, choreography, voice coaching and more.

We strive to ensure the program's longevity and sustainability by:

- Actively seeking partnerships with like-minded organizations and businesses. Creating strong community relationships
- Staying relevant in our programming and offering plays and programming that are current
- Involving local talent in our Mainstage productions
- Including as many youth and families in our activities as possible
- Actively exploring new and creative revenue streams to offset program expenses, and enhance core activities
- Re-using set pieces and costumes where possible, as well as borrowing from other theatre (and other) organizations
- Leveraging funds from various sources to help extend program resources
- Continually evaluating program strengths and weaknesses during the planning cycles, and adjusting as needed.
- Engage our young performers in program specific fundraising