

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

Kitchener-Waterloo
Children's Drama Workshop

615 Westfield Drive
Waterloo, ON N2T 2P2

Charitable Registration #
#86502 1083 RR0001





BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Our 2021-2022 season was one of recovery. COVID was not kind to the Arts community. We lost our audiences. We were able to stay afloat thanks to The Ontario Trillium Foundation, our local cities, and the Waterloo Region Community Foundation.

Our programs survived through the hard work of our Artistic Director, Todd Vercoe, who is the heart of actOUT!. We began our season with virtual productions and the release of *Box: The Empathy Project* which has been recognized in several film festivals. After beginning online mid-season, we were able to transition and hold in-person performances at Waterloo Park in June: *The Claw* and *The Lottery*. We had audiences again!

In the summer, our successful camps at KWLT brought us new faces with enthusiasm for drama. We met many new people through community events, connecting with children and youth.

Summer was also a time of planning. COVID left us without a home, but we managed to find a new space for our rehearsals at Bridgeport United Church. We also gained a new Board member in Jen Olenewa.

Things are looking up for actOUT! KW. I am grateful for the continued support of our Board of Directors and the children, youth, and families of actOUT!. We wouldn't be here without you! I hope to see you all in-person again soon.

Breanna MacLeod





TREASURER REPORT

Although we needed to remain virtual for the majority of the season, we were able to put on two outdoor productions in Waterloo Park in the Spring of 2022. In spite of losses incurred with all virtual and our small spring productions, the summer program was a great success, allowing us to offset the majority of these losses. We were lucky enough to have the support of the City of Waterloo who invited us to two festivals free of charge. The exposure we received at these events helped us reach new families which will help our financial position in years to come! The financial statements from BDO show revenues of \$79,151 over 50% of which came from grants and donations to the company, for which we are grateful.

Expenses for the 2020-2021 production year were \$83,869, the majority of which was staffing. The company recorded a loss of \$4,718 over the season. There were no reserve funds at the end of the fiscal year and we will need in-person productions in the next year to remain viable.

We continue to apply for and receive grants. Our financial position will remain stable as long as we are able to meet in-person and stage productions with ticket sales. I am hopeful for our 2022-2023 season.

Conny McCarthy





ARTISTIC DIRECTOR REPORT

Our season began with a struggle. Our virtual productions were still new and sparsely attended. Our mini-kids created the short comic film Doctor Zoomlittle. Dr. Frankenstein Ph.D. was performed admirably by our young actors but was unfortunately plagued with technical issues we hope to resolve in 2023. Virtual workshops also attracted some new faces to actOUT! already in the new year.

I am very happy with our spring productions of The Claw: A New Children's Musical, and Shirley Jackson's The Lottery. With gusto the children began rehearsals online until in-person rehearsals in Waterloo Park brought performances at the Centennial Bandshell and our determined and dedicated casts and enthusiastic first post-COVID audiences bringing us all a renewed purpose.

Summer Camp numbers were down but enthusiasm was up! Many new faces (now familiar in 2022/23 shows) and an eager Page-to-Stage group made our summer a refreshing return to 'normal'.

After the first pandemic actOUT! film Labour Day Film Festival, we have offered one of actOUT!'s films Box: The Empathy Project to several film festivals and I am pleased to say that so far it has been well received with Official Selection by six festivals, earning honourable mentions in two more, and received a 2022 Award of Commendation from the Canada Shorts Film Festival. Director Alex Gouchtchina and the cast should be proud of their achievement.

We are slowly recovering our audiences and growing our reach to bring new children and youth into our productions. I look forward to returning to our theatres and seeing you all in the audience again in 2022-2023.

Todd Vercoe



2021-22 SPECIAL THANKS

We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation for the financial support of the organizations listed below.



Region of Waterloo



Community Fund



The Spinnaker Fund

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

THANK YOU 2021-2022 BOARD

Thank you for all your time and hard work in keeping actOUT! KW stable and growing. You are the foundation of all we accomplish.

Breanna MacLeod	Board Chair
Mike Kearns	Vice-Chair
Conny McCarthy	Treasurer
Ashley Penney	Secretary
Courtney Zinn	Member, Ticketing
Shannon Sullivan*	Member, Volunteers
Kelly McLarnon-Sinclair	Member
Jen Olenewa	Member, Communication

**Shannon has resigned from her Board position after many dedicated years with actOUT!. She will be missed.*

Kitchener-Waterloo
Children's Drama Workshop

615 Westfield Drive
Waterloo, ON N2T 2P2

Charitable Registration #
#86502 1083 RR0001

