

# GRANT BURNYEAT CREATIVE EXHIBITION

2023.24



## ZINE

We strive to strengthen communities  
and individuals through theatre  
education

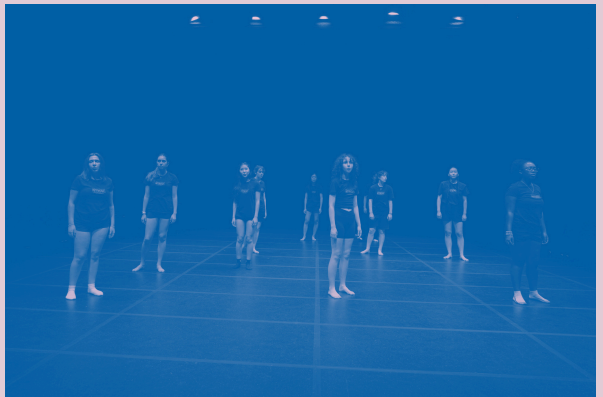
60  
YEARS

# A NOTE

Digital storytelling by Moonrider Productions



The Grant Burnyeat Student Series is an initiative developed by the Arts Club's Education Department in collaboration with longtime theatre supporter and former Arts Club board member Justice Grant Burnyeat. The intention of this program is twofold: to provide meaningful opportunities for youth to participate in the arts on a more frequent basis, and to strengthen relationships between the Arts Club and public Vancouver secondary schools.

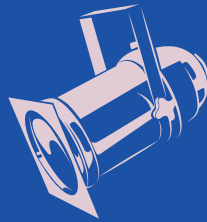


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We strive to strengthen communities and individuals through theatre education. Theatre as a “language” or practice has so many amazing features: it creates empathy and togetherness, it enhances self-confidence and self-expression, and it is full of joy.

EMMA C.  
KITSILANO  
SECONDARY

I am a French immersion student at Kitsilano Secondary. Since grade 10, I have been a member of the Kitsilano Theatre Company. During that time, I've had the pleasure of being a set designer, director, actor, and more! Next year, I will be going into a Bachelor of Arts degree, and I hope to declare a major in English Literature! Thank you to everyone in Theater, Mr. Parker, and Sangster for such an amazing experience. I will miss KTC.



## THE STAGE

In the audience  
alone amongst the chatter and noise,  
I sit in silent anticipation. Friends and families talk animatedly,  
The lights dim, the crowd quiets,  
My life changes forever.

The curtains slowly pull back,  
stage lights illuminate the set.  
A lively 30s living room -  
A roaring wooden fireplace, ornate glasses,  
And a soothing old radio.

The actors float across the stage, moving confidently and swiftly,  
their voices sonorous and strong,  
Embodying characters from Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None."  
Their performances - a skillful dance, a push and pull, a harmony of emotion.  
The curtain closes, the audience applauds, and the actors take their bows.  
From then on, I dream of that stage.

I joined the school's theatre 2 years later,  
With a ravenous desire to perform,  
The same dream brewed in my heart.  
We spent long hours in the theatre,  
As the sun went down and the stage lights came on.  
I found like-minded peers, deep connections,  
and life-long friendships.



# EMMA C. KITSILANO SECONDARY

We spent days building sets, New York in the 90s - kitchen parties, and hotel rooms, practicing set transitions until they nestled into our muscles.

We spent show nights laughing together,  
Making jokes in the wings, moving tables and chairs

Even in the darkened silence of backstage,  
I felt more connected than ever before.

Three years later, I stand on the very stage I dreamed of,  
Performing Agatha Christie's  
"The Mousetrap"

The same roaring fireplace,  
The glassware and dishes,

And the radio playing its familiar tunes.

I play an old war veteran, a British major  
sporting a bushy mustache and dusty pipe.

I learned to walk imposingly, to military  
march, to talk with a British accent, To use my voice, to take up  
space,

To be confident.

I learned that  
lessons travel far beyond the stage.

I spoke up in my own life,

Stood in front of crowds,

Confidently took up space,

And learned to be loud and proud.

Theatre helped me find my voice,

My friends and my safe space

Performing helped me find my confidence,

my presence and my spark

As I stand on the stage,

Surrounded by my friends and family,

I gaze upon the audience, to the seat I used to occupy,

Knowing my dream had come true.



# SHIRLEEN C KILLARNEY SECONDARY



Shirleen was born in Hong Kong SAR, China, and moved to Vancouver with her family in 2017 when she was in 4th grade. She likes reading books, with (dark) fantasy, sci-fi, and action as her preferred genre, and enjoys challenging herself with math and science puzzles in her free time. Theatre and the arts has been a big part of Shirleen's life since she was young, often watching plays and movies with her mother as a child. Shirleen is currently in grade 11 attending Killarney Secondary School, and takes part in their Theatre Company as a senior stage manager.

## THEATRE KID AN EXCERPT

I do not often see myself as a 'theatre kid'.

Drama is a somewhat big part of my current life. Since grade 8, a drama course has been a constant in my school life, and it is something I enjoy quite a lot. Even as I approach my last year of highschool, I have requested drama to be in my time-table. I am in a leadership role within my school's theatre company: a 'Senior' Stage Manager, and have been committed to this extracurricular since I was in ninth grade as a volunteer. But I would not go that far as to have 'theatre' be labelled as a distinct and major part of the 'who I am' T-Shirt, especially over all the other crazy things I like doing more.

I do not particularly know why I kept drama in my life. Maybe it was to make my childhood fantasy of being a part of a play come true. Perhaps it was an excuse to get myself more involved outside of academics. Theatre is not something I am planning to pursue, or something I am quite particularly enthusiastic about, nor do I particularly excel at it either. I am 'decent' at acting, and can probably play a realistic role in time, but I would not say I am good enough to act on stage. I have trouble expressing ideas and struggle to turn them into words properly (irony, as I am writing right now), so I do not write scripts unless I really must. If talent is what I need to be a part of this gang, I have probably already failed before the audition.

## SHIRLEEN C KILLARNEY SECONDARY

But drama is not something I would simply give up. Not even over cookies.

A lot of times I wonder what would have happened if my hesitant ninth-grade self never approached my drama teacher regarding mainstage, or if I checked the 'strings beginner' box in my course signup sheet instead. Occasionally I find myself thinking about my 'mark' outside of stage management. Perhaps I will simply be that 'weird nerd' most people forget after highschool. Maybe I would rot in bed before post secondary starts.

More times than not, I wonder what keeps me from continuing.

For someone who does not see themselves as a 'drama kid', I sure spend a lot of my time committed to Killarney Theatre. If the qualification for being a 'theatre kid' is simply time management, then I might be qualified to be a 'theatre adult'. My friend group and I, if I do not have other clubs that day, go to the 'drama room', C105 (the black box), for lunch. Excluding classes, I have spent around 7 hours each week in this room, sometimes well over 8 hours, for my work as a Stage Manager, which exceeds the time spent on each of my other classes by one hour and forty minutes. During show-nights, I would stay at school for up to 13 hours, and often my 'theatre crit' class would attend a play in a theatre, 20 minutes drive from my home. From my first year as a stage manager in grade 10, I counted up to 128 volunteer hours on Mainstage alone. On multiple occasions, my friends have stated that I 'basically live in the booth'. However, despite my other extracurriculars, I somehow managed to spare time for drama, whether it be my spare block, or at home on a computer. While it seems that the work I did for Mainstage is a lot, and can be exhausting, I find it relatively enjoyable, at least compared to homework.

Despite having almost 20% of my school time associated with theatre, I am not quite sure whether that is all it takes to be a 'drama kid'. But I am still willing to do it regardless. Mainstage was never a 'waste of time'.

# TAYLOR D KITSILANO SECONDARY

Hi, my name is Taylor. I started taking drama classes at my high school in grade 8 and created new and stronger relationships with classmates during drama activities. To be honest, I still find acting awkward at times, but it has definitely given me a different perspective on Theatre and the Arts program. It has opened a possible outlet for creative writing and maybe screenwriting in the future. For University I want to pursue a degree in Business and maybe a minor in creative writing, screenwriting or advertising.



My passion is playing Volleyball both indoor and beach and I'm currently trying to get a Div 1 NCAA scholarship for Volleyball in 2026. My favorite academic subject is English so I decided to pick the writing option for this assignment in drama and it helped express my feelings towards theater.

Thank you for this award.

## THE ROLE OF THEATRE IN TAYLOR DEWITT'S LIFE AN EXCERPT

"DRAMA HAS  
TAUGHT ME MORE  
ABOUT MYSELF.  
IT MAKES ME PUT  
MYSELF OUT  
THERE, AND  
SOCIALIZE WITH  
PEOPLE I  
NORMALLY  
WOULDN'T.."

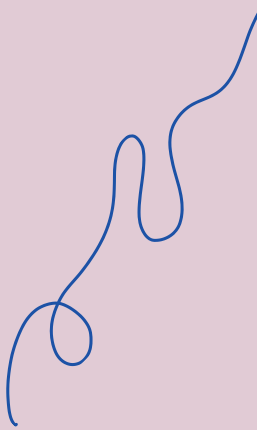




The Grant Burnyeat Creative Exhibition is a celebration of student perspectives on the impact of theatre, expressed through multiple creative mediums. Student work that is selected will be displayed in the BMO Theatre lobby with students receiving up to a \$500.00 scholarship.

The Grant Burnyeat Creative Exhibition is open to all VSB secondary students.

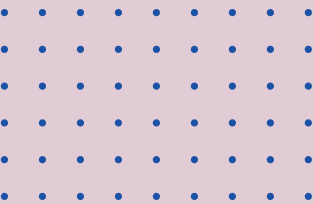
Reflect on what has been the role of theatre in your life. What has it changed in you?



TO



Thank you to everyone who submitted for the 23–24 Grant Burnyeat Creative Exhibition!





# GRANT BURNYEAT CREATIVE EXHIBITION ZINE

Interested in receiving up to a  
\$500.00 scholarship? Check out  
the 2024–25 Grant Burnyeat  
Creative Exhibition below!

