

# GRANT BURNYEAT CREATIVE EXHIBITION

2025.26



ARTSCLUB  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

ENDLESS  
POSSIBILITIES  
on every  
stage.

# 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.



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 for the exhibition will be displayed in the BMO Theatre Centre lobby. Two students receive a \$500 scholarship and be featured on the Arts Club's social media as ambassadors of the program.

Submissions are now open for the 2026.27 Grant Burnyeat Creative Exhibition!

Reflect on what theatre has inspired in your life. What has it changed in you?



# **ALICE CHEN**

## **MAGEE SECONDARY**

### **GRANT BURNYEAT CREATIVE EXHIBITION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

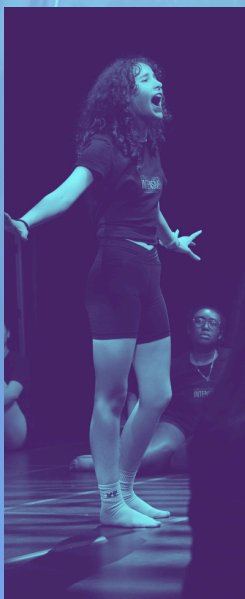
Hello, my name is Alice and I am a grade 12 student at Magee Secondary School. I have been part of my school's drama program, Magee Mainstage since grade 10, and I could not be more grateful for this program, for introducing me into the world of theatre. In my last year of high school, I have been honoured to serve as the lighting designer and stage manager of Magee Mainstage, both roles of which I hope to pursue professionally in the future. Next year, I will be attending Sheridan College in Ontario to achieve this dream. Theatre has changed my life in so many immeasurable, incredible ways, and I am so lucky to be surrounded by such a ride-or-die, tight knit community. I hope this poem speaks to you the way theatre has spoken to my soul.

## **CALL PLACES**

Before the house lights fade,  
before the overture begins,  
there is a moment:  
headset humming, cue lights glowing,  
a stage holding its breath.  
I have come to love that moment.  
The space where possibility hangs suspended,  
and dozens of people trust one another enough  
to create something beautiful.

Theatre has taught me that creation is never solitary.  
Night after night,  
we gather from different walks of life  
and become something larger than ourselves  
actors, musicians, technicians, crew-  
all working toward the same fleeting miracle.





In stage management, I found more than a role.  
I learned that leadership is not standing above others,  
but standing among them:  
listening ,  
guiding,  
and helping others shine.

Yet what inspires me most, is theatre's timelessness.  
Long before cue lights and headsets,  
someone stood in the wings of another stage,  
helping a story come alive.  
Centuries ago, beneath torchlight,  
people gathered to laugh,  
to grieve,  
to wonder.

Today, we gather for the same reason.  
When I call a cue,  
I am participating in that same ancient ritual:  
the divine act of creating something from nothing,  
if only for a moment.  
The scenery will be struck.  
The costumes will be packed away.  
The lights will go dark.  
But for one brief evening,  
something exists  
that has never existed before  
and will never exist  
in quite the same way again.





To help create that moment,  
alongside artists I am proud to call  
friends  
is one of the greatest privileges I know.  
Theatre has changed me by teaching me  
how to lead,  
how to connect,  
and how to create.

And in doing so,  
it has shown me that I am part of  
something far older,  
far larger,  
and far more enduring than myself



# **THOMAS EFFLER BAILEY**

## **VANCOUVER TECHNICAL SECONDARY SCHOOL**

### **GRANT BURNYEAT CREATIVE EXHIBITION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

Thomas Bailey (He/Him) is a Van Tech student and aspiring fashion designer. He has been in theatre company since grade 8, and has starred in and costume designed for many plays such as The Wizard of Oz, Aliens vs Cheerleaders, The Marxist in Heaven, and The Rehearsal. He is excited to use all the skills he learned in theatre in his future studies at the Wilson School of Design.

## **SCENE**

**Director:** Now that Aliens vs Cheerleaders is over, what are some ideas for the next show?

**Assistant:** Well, since we're a high school, I thought we could do Mean Girls.

**Director:** Mean Girls.....for a high school.....groundbreaking.

**Assistant:** Well, we haven't had much time to think about it-

**Director:** Bore someone else with your excuses, what else do you have?

**Assistant:** Well, actually, we need a bit more time-

**Director:** And where are my actors, rehearsal started 3 minutes ago, why is no one ready?

**Thomas:** \*enters\* Sorry I'm late, there was a wait for the elevator



Director: Oh, finally you're here, we thought you'd died. Now I need to know what you'll be doing for the next show, will you be acting again or will you be doing tech?

Thomas: That's actually what I came to speak to you about, with me being so busy with graduation and preparing for fashion school, I really won't have time for theatre company anymore, so Aliens vs Cheerleaders was my last show....

Director: ....

Thomas: .....But thanks for all your hard work, I really had fun doing all this stuff...

Director: ....Fun?.....This.....Stuff?

Thomas: ....

Director: Oh...Ok. I see. You think this has nothing to do with you. You.... pick an elective that will be...easy because your other classes are too difficult for your simple little mind and you need something .... fun to fill the space. Meanwhile, being blindly unaware of the fact that in 2021 you took drama class and did your first monologue, where you learned how to memorise lines, which came in very handy in later years when you had to do presentations in class.

Thomas: I'm sorry, I guess I-

Director: You also seem to be forgetting about how, in 2023, you participated in your first mainstage theatre performance, which gave you experience and confidence being in front of a large crowd.

Director \*to assistant\*: Tell advertising we need an even larger crowd for the next show.



Director\*to Thomas\*: This undoubtedly helped you be more comfortable when you applied to be your class valedictorian and had the nerve to give a speech in front of the entire grade.

Thomas: Well, now that you mention it...

Director: Let us remember as well 2024, when you had your first leading role in a play, and had to be on stage and in character for long periods of time. Though am I mistaken in saying that you had to work hard to avoid letting your mind wander during those long stretches?

Thomas: I hardly think-

Director: No no, that wasn't a question. But I wouldn't be mistaken in saying that it did help you stay focused and engaged during long shifts at work teaching swimming lessons.

Thomas: Thank for bringing that up, but-

Director: And wasn't it 2025 when you joined the costuming team for the Wizard of Oz,

Director \*to assistant\*: We need a show with some fabulous costumes

Director\*to Thomas\*: And you learned how to dress different body types and make a cohesive collection of clothing. And wasn't that one of the factors that made you discover your love of clothing design, and make you decide you wanted to pursue fashion in post-secondary?

Thomas: ....

Director: So, it's sort of comical how you think that you picked a class that would be...fun....and easy, when in fact, everything you are today, and your whole future, was formed by the skills you learned right here .... in this room. So, tell me again, what do you owe to this.... stuff.

Thomas: I'm sorry, I didn't realize, I didn't know-

Director: Well now you do

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. Making the theatre experience accessible to everyone is at our forefront.

We are focused on cultivating creativity for youth and adults and supporting people as they explore the playwright, actor, director, or designer within, share their unique voice, and sharpen their skills. Anyone can do theatre and create art. Join the party—the world needs your creative spirit!



Thank you to everyone who submitted for the 25-26 Grant Burnyeat Creative Exhibition!

# GRANT BURNYEAT CREATIVE EXHIBITION ZINE

Interested in receiving up to a \$500.00 scholarship?  
Check out the 2026-27 Grant Burnyeat Creative  
Exhibition below!

<https://artsclub.com/education/grant-burnyeat-student-series#creative-exhibition>



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