



2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 7 PM
King's Lounge & Patio (8115 Franklin Ave, Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2H7)

In attendance: Becky Fadden, Dave Boutilier, Christopher Bowers (minutes), Akshaya Lakshmi, Zenon Campbell, Ashley Makey, Michelle Landsiedel, Dylan Thomas-Bouchier (virtual), Hanna Fridhed

Regrets: Jenny Ridley

1.0 Welcome/Call to Order at 7:14 PM

2.0 Approval of the Agenda for the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Amendment: removal of Britany MacDonald from the Board slate

Motion: That the Agenda for the June 28, 2023, Swamp Rat Theatre Fellowship Annual General Meeting be approved as amended.

Moved: Akshaya Lakshmi

Seconded: Dave Boutilier

Carried unanimously

3.0 President's Report (appendix 1)

Moved: Dave Boutilier

Seconded: Akshaya Lakshmi

Carried unanimously

4.0 Treasurer's Report (appendix 2)

4.1 Approval of 2022 Financial Statements (appendix 3)

Motion: That Swamp Rat Theatre Fellowship's Financial Statements for 2022 be approved as presented.

Moved: Christopher Bowers

Seconded: Zenon Campbell

Carried unanimously

4.2 Appointment of Auditor

Motion: That the President and Director at Large Zenon Campbell of Swamp Rat Theatre Fellowship shall be the Auditors for the year ending December 31, 2023.

Moved: Akshaya Lakshmi

Seconded: Dave Boutilier

Carried unanimously

5.0 Artistic Director's Report (appendix 4)

Note: Correct Hanna when she mispronounces words

6.0 Special Resolution: Bylaw Change

Motion: to change bylaw item 13 from: "This society shall hold an annual meeting on or before June 30 (month & day) in each year" to "This society shall hold an annual meeting on or before August 31 (month & day) in each year".

Moved: Dave Boutilier

Seconded: Chris Bowers

Carried unanimously

7.0 Election of Board Members

Candidate Slate

Ashley Makey - 1st year of Term 1 Director at Large

Michelle Landsiedel - 1st year of Term 1 Director at Large

Dylan Thomas-Bouchier - 1st year of Term 1 Director at Large

Jenny Ridley - 1st year of Term 1 Director at Large

Motion: That the slate of Swamp Rat Theatre Fellowship Board Members for 2023/2024 be approved as presented.

Moved: Dave Boutilier

Seconded: Akshaya Lakshmi

Vote to accept: unanimous - passed

Other continuing board members include:

Becky Fadden - 2nd year of Term 1 current President

Dave Boutilier - 2nd year of Term 1 current Treasurer

Christopher Bowers - 2nd year of Term 1 current Secretary

Zenon Campbell - 2nd year of Term 1 Director at Large

Akshaya Lakshmi - 2nd year of Term 1 Director at Large

8.0 New Business

8.1 Akshaya is exploring Theatre Musical Rave

- A feasibility study is underway and inquiries are being made by Akshaya

9.0 Adjournment: 7:53 PM

Motion: That the 2023 Swamp Rat Theatre Fellowship Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Zenon Campbell

Appendix 1

President's Report

A reflection of 2022 and the creation of Swamp Rat Experience

In 2022 we welcomed the Swamp Rat Experience into the world; a registered non-profit theatre society run by volunteers in the nistawâyâw / ᓂᓐᑕᓴᓐ / Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo region.

Swamp Rat Experience did not waste any time and began the year with the play *Suite Surrender* by Michael McKeever. The cast and crew included a few first-time members to the theatre community and it was a roaringly funny success and an incredible start for a new theatre society.

The year continued to bring new activities and offerings into the community including:

- An Acting intensive with Untold Wants Theatre; led by experienced artists Éanna O'Dowd from Galway, Ireland and Jessica Aquila Cymerman from Los Angeles, US.
- A Public play reading of *Hey, Say It Takes Five Years*; a traumedy by Wood Buffalo writer and humorist Carla White.
- A Presentation of *Double-Booked* by Robyn Slack and Joshua Coss; featuring local artists Zenon Campbell and Christopher Bowers.
- The Play In A Day Challenge where participants created a brand new play in 24 hours; two plays were presented: "The Space Bar" By The Sass Squad? And "Elon Musk's Mission to Mars" By Chaos Theatre.
- Two Indigenous Theatre Creation workshops and a free performance of his show *Rocko and Nakota: Tales From the Land* brought to us by Josh Languedoc, Anishinaabe playwright, theatre creator, and educator.

We finished the year with a dinner theatre collaboration with Surekha's on the Snye to present the murder mystery, *Great Gatsby! It's Murder!* by Rachel Paul.

A heartfelt standing ovation to the many businesses, organizations and individuals who made these many endeavours possible.

Swamp Rat Experience believes that theatre is an opportunity for everyone to explore and connect and aims to create theatre that invests in artistic development and accessibility for all.

Our first year of programming has confirmed our beliefs and values and demonstrated what we intend to add to the theatre community in the Wood Buffalo region. May our next season continue to bring a welcoming space for new and experienced artists to explore and shine.

Becky Fadden

Board President

Appendix 2

Treasurer's Report

Swamp Rat Experience ended its 2022 fiscal year with a 3.25% loss in Income over expenses, which, for a nonprofit organization, is almost right on the bullseye. SREs goal to be net neutral in its bookkeeping is moving along at an excellent pace and will be 0% or above for the year-end of 2023.

SREs core philosophy is to charge as little as possible for the projects that we put on. This value stems from a desire to keep our shows viable to all, with no gatekeeping based on income. As a result, our ticket sales, sponsorships, fundraiser events, and sales all go towards balancing the scale of our theatrical projects.

This leaves us with our operations category on the 2022 budget that has not been folded into the individual projects but left separate so we can track how much of our actual costs are non-recoverable. We use the surplus from projects to cover this balance, which is why, for this period, we ended up as close to the mark as we are.

Venue rental and Fees were our largest expense, which makes sense when you consider exactly what we do, however moving forward, we have expanded the scope of some of our performers, contracting them into roles that require additional elements, which help our fundraising efforts. This model will further tip the scales financially in our favour, allowing us to expand, should we want to.

Thank you,

Dave Boutilier

Board Treasurer, SRE

Appendix 3

2022 Financial Statement

For the year ended December 31, 2022

Revenues

Fees	\$2,275.00
Grants	\$5,037.00
Sponsorship	\$10,000.00
Donations	\$1,187.00
In-Kind	\$14,077.75
Ad Sales	\$1,250.00
Ticket Sales	\$18,174.39
Registrations	\$1,692.89
Total Revenues	\$53,694.03

Expenses

Insurance	\$1,402.50
Website	\$188.00
Marketing	\$1,050.40
Professional Memberships	\$140.16
Performance Licencing	\$923.75
Artist Fees & Honorariums	\$14,100.00
Accommodations & Travel	\$1,814.42
Venue Rental	\$30,283.60
Hospitality	\$285.32
Printing	\$2,759.03
Design Creation & Rental	\$2,544.70
Total Expenses	\$55,491.88

Net assets, end of year **-1,797.85**



Becky Fadden
President of the Board
June 28, 2023



Dave Boutilier
Treasurer of the Board
June 28, 2023

Appendix 4

Artistic Director's Report

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I present to you the first Artistic Director's report as a non-profit theatre company! Over the past year, we have embarked on a journey to create safe and inclusive spaces for our artists, staff, and audiences, while simultaneously exploring new methods of theatrical creation.

Commitment to Safe and Inclusive Spaces

As a theatre company, we firmly believe that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in and enjoy theatre. To that end, we have made significant strides in creating safe and inclusive spaces for all. We have implemented comprehensive anti-discrimination and harassment policies, ensuring that our environment remains free from any form of bigotry or unequal treatment. These policies will continue to evolve and be updated as we listen and learn from our experiences.

Exploring New Ways to Create Theatre

In this past year, we have embraced innovation and explored new avenues in theatrical creation. We recognize that the world is evolving rapidly, and theatre must evolve alongside it. Our commitment to continuous learning and exploration has allowed us to push boundaries, experiment with alternate spaces, and explore collaborations.

Nurturing Established and Emerging Artists

One of our fundamental beliefs is that talent should be nurtured, whether it is established or emerging. From the beginning, we have focused on creating developmental opportunities for artists at different stages of their creative journeys. By fostering partnerships between experienced artists and emerging talent, we encourage mentorship and the sharing of knowledge, ensuring the longevity and growth of our artistic community.

We are excited to see what the future holds for theatre in Wood Buffalo as we continue to grow!

Hanna Fridhed

Artistic Director