

2019 REPORT FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

Burnt Thicket Theatre

June 10, 2020

In 2019 Burnt Thicket Theatre continued to strengthen its operations and solidify its presence in the Saskatoon theatre community. Stephen Waldschmidt continued to connect and build relationships with arts organizations. We have been successful in several grant applications, having built credibility as a sustainable organization in Saskatoon. Our financial position has also improved, with reasonable liquidity moving forward.

During 2019 our financial processes, banking and reporting procedures were confirmed. Brendan Andrews (current director) took over the duties of bookkeeper and all banking processes have been clarified and are working well. Emily Thomas, who has served as Treasurer since Burnt Thicket moved to Saskatoon, ensured that all requirements and filing processes with Canada Revenue Agency are set up and being completed. This has been a significant task and we thank Emily for her work over the past two and a half years.

We also thank Barb Macpherson for her leadership and all the work she has done as board President over the last three years. During 2019, Gloria Mitchell had to withdraw from the Board of Directors and so we functioned with four directors, which meets our policy requirements.

My Little Plastic Jesus, written and performed by Tim Bratton, was produced with great success. Burnt Thicket supported Tim in the development of the script which deals with his personal faith journey and the evangelical pop culture which shaped his youth. A unique format of hosting the production in living rooms (like house concerts) was utilized to create intimate, safe spaces for patrons to receive this production. Meaningful discussions were held after each production.

My Little Plastic Jesus exceeded our expectations, not only financially, but also in the impact it had on audiences during its initial two-week run in Saskatoon and area. We expect this production will be performed and toured again in the future, following the successful SK & AB tour in March, 2020.

In 2019 BTT secured three presentations in 2020 for our production of Every Brilliant Thing with Saskatoon's Winterruption festival, Regina's Globe Theatre and Rosebud Theatre. All three of these presentations show that BTT is being recognized as a creator of high-quality professional theatre.

In December BTT again produced Christmas Presence, a unique mashup of stories and songs that explores the nativity with a messy but joyful hope.

Operating a theatre company is not for the faint of heart; seldom do ticket sales provide sufficient revenue to support theatrical endeavours. Without our donors and sponsors BTT would not survive. Thank you to everyone who has supported us this past year. Whether an individual who has given \$10 or a corporate sponsor, we thank you.

We must mention the corporate sponsorship of Shercom Industries. They came on board when we were still in transition from Calgary and have provided significant resources over the last three years to support our operations. We'd also like to recognize the support of public agencies Saskatchewan Arts Board,

Creative Saskatchewan, and Artsvest (which is funded by the Government of Saskatchewan and Canadian Heritage).

We are excited for the future and further productions of Burnt Thicket Theatre. We hope that you will continue to support us as we tell stories that change people's lives.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephen Waldschmidt

Artistic Director



Barbara Macpherson

Board President