

# 2023-24

Annual Report



Front.Co

*Massey*  
THEATRE  
SOCIETY

# Table of Contents

Vision Statement	2
Land Acknowledgement	2
Funders	2
Executive Director's Report	3
Board Chair's Report	3
Amazing Moments & Artistic Achievements	4
Financial Statements	7
Collaborators, Partners and Presenters	10
Board & Staff List	12

## Vision

A vibrant regional destination for creativity, arts and culture

## Land Acknowledgement

The Massey Theatre Society acknowledges it exists on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish people. The stewardship of the lands and waters has been carried out by the Coast Salish people since time immemorial and we are grateful for their leadership. We are learning how to participate in supporting Coast Salish cultural resurgence in our work.

## Funders

Canada



NEW WESTMINSTER

metrovancover



# Messages from the Executive Director and Board Chair

Photo by Joyce Lam



What a year to reflect on. Each member of the team behind the Massey Theatre / Eighth & Eight Creative Spaces worked at a pace like no other time in our history.

From the passionate advocacy of the volunteer Board members to the talented staff team, an incredible amount of work was accomplished.

We were able to witness the early days of a performing arts community beginning to rise after the pandemic. We saw audiences venture out again in increasing numbers. And we began the process of rebuilding.

Across the full spectrum of the arts, the impact of the limitations on practicing and performing during the pandemic was deep. Producing performances has always been a financially risky activity. So, it is exciting to see our arts community recovering in order to bring levity, contemplation, expression and spirit back to a wider community.

The Society is now operating amidst an important and active renovation. As a revenue-earning not-for-profit, much of our operating and programming budget is earned through services, sales, and rentals. We continue to work hard to ensure the facility is accessible to its long-standing and new users. However, the Society must focus on change management and long-term sustainability.

We hope you will join us for awesome shows, experiences, workshops, and events in the coming months. Many artistic contributors are in the process of planning and creating for you.

Find yourself here, often. You will be glad you did.

Once again, I thank the Board and staff, the artistic contributors, and our growing, enthusiastic audience. It is a wonderful circle to be a part of.

## Jessica Schneider

Executive and Programming Director  
Massey Theatre Society



Looking back at the past year, the best way I can describe it – it's complicated.

On the one hand, we are seeing great progress in activating the city's arts centre with amazing programming this year.

On the other hand, we are grappling with some complicated puzzles. What puzzles, you ask? Here are a few:

- The Capital Project is underway to remove the old gym, replace the roof, and add an elevator to the second level of the theatre, among other upgrades. Navigating this, while keeping the programming going, is complicated.
- We must plan for reduced income during the Capital Project. That has led to reducing six staff positions to meet our budget. Working with a reduced staff is complicated.

There are more complications, but you get the picture.

Our goal, our plan, is to make sure that your experience with the Massey Theatre during the Capital Project is filled with the awe, wonder, and joy that the artists bring to the stage. It may be complicated for us, but we will work hard to make it magical for you!

I am buoyed by the encouraging words of community members, artists, and the artistic community who know how amazing New Westminster is because of its commitment to the Massey Theatre, and who are very hopeful for the time when we have managed the complicated and all, our focus is back on the wonder.

## Peter Leblanc

Chair, Board of Directors  
Massey Theatre Society



## Amazing Moments and Artistic Achievements at Massey Theatre

Our presentation season brought an incredible array of bold and welcoming performances to the Massey Theatre. We celebrated the performing arts in all its glorious forms, from klezmer music and film, to dance to musical theatre, and everything in between. We were very proud to present some incredible National and International artists - **Oktopus**, **TheaterWorksUSA's Dog Man The Musical**, **Kid Koala's The Storyville Mosquito**, **International Guitar Night**, **Ballet Jörgen's Anne of Green Gables the Ballet®** and **Over The Ridge**.

In addition to a dynamic presentation season, we hosted a fabulous range of artists and events. From Canadian artists including **Strange Advance and The Spoons** and **Colin James Blues Trio** to International legends including **DakhaBrakha** and **Shahin Najafi**, audiences came to see the best of the best. They stepped in time to **Royal City Musical Theatre's Mary Poppins** and kept traditions alive with **Royal City Youth Ballet's The Nutcracker**.

We are committed to supporting the performing arts sector as they recover and return to the stage, and we look forward to continuing a long relationship with them as we enter our 75th year.

Our budget increased from \$2,135,000 to \$2,593,498 with 90% of that being earned revenue.

# Amazing Moments and Artistic Achievements at Eighth & Eight Creative Spaces

As our capacity within Eighth & Eight Creative Spaces increases, so do the activities. With over 75,000 square feet of space available in which to activate, we continue to work with artists, organizations and community to build spaces to welcome everyone.

This year brought the advent of our Studio Stage Series. With **Old School Music Hall**, we presented **Terrell Edwards**, **Krystle Dos Santos** and **Johnnie McNamara Walker**. **Michael van den Bos** brought his film clip series to our newly equipped Studio 1B. **Global Tea Series** maintained its growth in popularity with the always engaging **Cassius Khan** and global musician friends.

Our **Garden/Gathering Space** took root and has started to grow. This space was developed to support Indigenous cultural resurgence, storytelling frameworks and stories that guide and direct us from the land outwards.

Community access programs, including **Community Nights** and **Artist Access**, have allowed us to reach even more creators and activators, and give them space to create, connect and explore.

Our **Community Kitchen** is being finalized as a needed hub for food and beverage programs in the facility. Thanks to the Rotary Club of New Westminster, Gulf & Fraser Financial, the Raymond Burr Society and a few individual donors it is nearing its first stage of completion.





# Amazing Moments and Artistic Achievements at Anvil Theatre

The Anvil Theatre presentations celebrated the performing arts in a myriad of forms, including a series of shows for younger audiences. The young and young-at-heart were entranced by **Axis Theatre's Frog Belly Rat Bone**, **Bouge de là's Through My Eyes** and **Green Thumb Theatre's The Mixolydian**. **Raine Hamilton String Trio**, **Sechile Sedare**, **The Search Party's Bunny** and **Shield Maiden** rounded out the presentation series, with performances that inspired.

**Piva's Jazz at the Anvil**, **Vancouver Chamber Music Society** and **Arts Club On Tour** continued their series in the theatre and we welcomed presenters new and returning to the Anvil Theatre stage.

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## INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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To the Directors of  
**Massey Theatre Society**

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Massey Theatre Society that comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2024, and the statement of operations and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Practitioner's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

### *Conclusion*

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Massey Theatre Society as at June 30, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*Tompkins Wozny LLP*

Vancouver, Canada  
October 9, 2024

Chartered Professional Accountants

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at June 30

	2024			2023	
	Operating Fund \$	Restricted Fund \$	Capital Asset Fund \$	Totals \$	Totals \$
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Current</b>					
Cash [note 3]	304,598	—	—	304,598	1,193,058
Accounts receivable [note 4]	158,180	—	—	158,180	209,994
Inventory	11,428	—	—	11,428	16,394
Prepaid expenses	43,233	—	—	43,233	30,967
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>517,439</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>517,439</b>	<b>1,450,413</b>
Capital assets [note 5]	—	—	1,718,719	1,718,719	866,519
Collection - art work [note 6]	—	—	12,212	12,212	12,212
	<b>517,439</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,730,931</b>	<b>2,248,370</b>	<b>2,329,144</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>					
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities [note 7]	512,286	—	—	512,286	297,641
Rental deposits	47,135	—	—	47,135	58,894
Deferred revenue - other	175,267	—	1,160,213	1,335,480	1,600,067
- gaming	75,700	—	107,047	182,747	117,697
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>810,388</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,267,260</b>	<b>2,077,648</b>	<b>2,074,299</b>
<b>Fund balances</b>					
Invested in capital assets	—	—	463,671	463,671	432,498
Internally restricted [note 8]	—	—	—	—	—
Unrestricted (deficit)	(292,949)	—	—	(292,949)	(177,653)
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>(292,949)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>463,671</b>	<b>170,722</b>	<b>254,845</b>
	<b>517,439</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,730,931</b>	<b>2,248,370</b>	<b>2,329,144</b>

Other information [note 10]

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

On behalf of the Board:



Director



Executive Director



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Year ended June 30

	2024			2023			Totals	Operating Fund	Restricted	Capital Asset Fund	T totals
	Operating Fund	Restricted Fund	Capital Asset Fund	Operating Fund	Restricted	Capital Asset Fund					
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>REVENUES</b>											
Rental and services	1,026,677	—	—	1,026,677	844,612	—	—	—	—	—	844,612
Other grants	266,365	—	—	266,365	319,760	—	—	—	—	—	319,760
Ticket centre	318,465	—	—	318,465	270,692	—	—	—	—	—	270,692
Operating grant - City of New Westminster	95,000	—	—	95,000	118,000	—	—	—	—	—	118,000
Lease related cost recovery	83,789	—	—	83,789	93,757	—	—	—	—	—	93,757
Presentations	210,622	—	—	210,622	95,018	—	—	—	—	—	95,018
Seat charges	—	92,259	—	92,259	—	81,394	—	—	—	—	81,394
Gaming - other	75,700	—	—	75,700	70,000	—	—	—	—	—	70,000
- capital acquisition	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Concession and catering	139,125	—	10,650	150,775	67,659	—	—	10,650	—	—	10,650
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	—	—	138,588	138,588	—	—	—	—	—	—	67,659
Donations and fundraising	52,135	—	—	52,135	15,856	—	—	41,562	—	—	41,562
	2,267,878	92,259	149,238	2,509,375	1,895,354	81,394	—	52,212	—	—	2,028,960
<b>EXPENSES</b>											
Wages and Benefits	—	—	—	—	443,250	—	—	—	—	—	443,250
Theatres	544,530	—	—	544,530	291,489	—	—	—	—	—	291,489
Administration	290,639	—	—	290,639	174,627	—	—	—	—	—	174,627
Front of house and concession	217,301	—	—	217,301	168,247	—	—	—	—	—	168,247
Programming	219,364	—	—	219,364	112,562	—	—	—	—	—	112,562
Communications	122,207	—	—	122,207	68,322	—	—	—	—	—	68,322
Cultural development	72,966	—	—	72,966	31,928	—	—	—	—	—	31,928
Ticket centre	42,185	—	—	42,185	381,251	—	—	—	—	—	381,251
Presentations	525,974	—	—	525,974	178,952	—	—	—	—	—	178,952
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	178,952	178,952	—	—	—	—	—	—	178,952
Front of house and concession	116,056	—	—	116,056	84,832	—	—	—	—	—	84,832
Theatre maintenance, supplies and utilities	81,225	—	—	81,225	76,195	—	—	—	—	—	76,195
Office and general	73,680	—	—	73,680	72,322	—	—	—	—	—	72,322
Ticket centre	73,155	—	—	73,155	62,200	—	—	—	—	—	62,200
Accounting and bank charges	17,770	—	—	17,770	10,160	—	—	—	—	—	10,160
Professional services (recovery)	—	—	—	—	9,456	—	—	—	—	—	9,456
Marketing	14,350	—	—	14,350	8,473	—	—	—	—	—	8,473
Other	3,144	—	—	3,144	5,802	—	—	—	—	—	5,802
	2,414,546	—	178,952	2,593,498	2,001,116	—	—	133,599	—	—	2,134,715
<b>Revenues over (under) expenses for the year</b>	(146,668)	92,259	(29,714)	(84,123)	(105,762)	81,394	—	(81,387)	—	—	(105,755)
Fund balances, beginning of year	(177,653)	—	432,498	254,845	20,000	427	—	340,173	—	—	360,600
Interfund transfer	31,372	(31,372)	—	—	(91,891)	91,891	—	—	—	—	—
Acquisition of capital assets	—	(1,031,152)	1,031,152	—	(418,084)	418,084	—	—	—	—	—
Acquisition of capital assets from deferred contributions	—	970,265	(970,265)	—	244,372	(244,372)	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	(292,949)	—	463,671	170,722	(177,653)	432,498	—	—	—	—	254,845

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

# Collaborators, Partners & Presenters

In 2023-2024, Massey Theatre Society worked with the following organizations for artistic collaborations, presentations, productions, and more. This work brought hundreds of individual artists to the stages and attracted over 100,000 audience members to Massey Theatre, Eighth & Eight Creative Spaces and Anvil Theatre.

## Massey Theatre and Eighth & Eight Creative Spaces

A Child's Song Support Services

Abdolsattar Saberi

Alexander College

Amika Kushwaha

Anna Pidgorna

Ballet Jörgen

Canada Global Children's

Culture and Arts Foundation

Canada-Lanka Cultural Friendship,

Canadian Blood Services

Caravan World Rhythms

Cassius Khan, Caudal Films Productora Limitada

Church of Christ - Iglesia Ni Cristo

City of New Westminster

Columpa Bobb and Tania Carter

Community Living Society

Cowboy Bear Ninja

Defy Gravity Dance Company Inc

Desiree Carlson, Douglas College

Ekak Entertainment Corporation

EMH Productions

Evolve Dance Competition

Festival African Heritage Music and Dance Society

Foolish Productions

Georgian Orthodox Church

Global Dance Services Inc.

International Guitar Night

International Punjabi Folk Arts Society

Iranian Laughter Society

Jaguar Music Group

James & Jamesy Performance Society

Johnnie McNamara Walker

Katie Gartlan-Close

Kay Huang Barnes

Kerala Cultural Association of British Columbia

Kid Koala

Kids in Motion,

Kohinoor Folk Arts Club

Krystle Dos Santos & Terrell Edwards

Liat Harlev

Lights Up Music Theatre

Lois Warwick

Luc Benoit

Mae Design Consulting

Maryna Popova

Michael van den Bos

Midda Productions Ltd.

Modo Live Arts & Entertainment Inc.

Moon Coin Productions Inc.

Mushtari Begum Festival

Music Box Music School

Nayana Fielkov

New West Winners

New Westminster Chamber of Commerce

New Westminster Family Place

New Westminster Secondary School

Odihi

Oktopus

Palak Dhiman

Paquette Productions

Peter Zaenker

PM Productions

Pulse Dance Centre

Rock.It Boy Entertainment

Roots Peruvian Folk Dance,

Royal Canadian Theatre Company

Royal City Musical Theatre Society

Royal City Youth Ballet,

Run N Gun 48 hr Film Race & Festival

Ryan Fisher

SAM Productions Ltd.

Sant Nirankari Mission

Scotiabank Dance Centre

Small Stage

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Secondary School

St. Thomas More Collegiate

Steveston's Arts Connection Ltd.

Strange Advance

Sudnya Mulye

The Dance Force Studio

The Fugitives,

The New Westminster May Day Community Association

The Search Party

TheaterWorks USA

Tri City Dance Centre

Urban Academy School

Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festivals Society

Vancouver Korean Women's Choir

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

Wonderland Arts

WorldStrides Heritage Festivals

Xtreme Promotions Ltd.

Zelko Krakan



# Collaborators, Partners & Presenters *(continued)*

## Anvil Theatre

Avishkar Arts  
Five Stones Church  
M.K. Anand  
Mandala Arts & Culture  
New Media Gallery  
Piva Modern Italian  
Arts Club Theatre Company  
Vancouver Chamber Music Society  
Rearden Capital, Mascall Dance,  
Royal Canadian Theatre Company  
Chibi Taiko  
Bouge de là  
Green Thumb Theatre  
Marathi Society of BC  
Melanie Teichroeb  
Royal Principal Ballet Academy  
The Search Party  
Motion & Music Performing Arts  
Dancers of Damelahamid  
Axis Theatre  
Vancouver Men's Chorus  
Urban Academy  
Sechile Sedare,  
St. Thomas More Collegiate  
Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society  
Caravan World Rhythms  
Raine Hamilton Trio  
The Stage Musical Theatre Academy  
Place des Arts Arts Centre & Music School  
Mary Elizabeth Reyes  
Defy Gravity Dance Company Inc.



# Board & Staff

## Board of Directors

Chair **Peter LeBlanc**

Vice Chair/Treasurer **Raymond Liens**

Secretary **Mariane Kazemir**

Directors **Gabor Gasztonyi, Patti Goss, Kevin Soo-Loosin, Anne Wilson**

## Staff

### Executive and Programming Director

**Jessica Schneider**

### Administration and Operations

Administrative Director **Minna Nikula**

Operations Director **Shawn Sorensen**

Bookings Coordinator **Patrick Forde**

Technical Director **Jordan Boivin**

Technical Director **Jason "Swing" Smith**

Building Service Worker **Michael Boucher**

Administration and Bookkeeping **Hasini Perera**

### Marketing and Engagement

Communications and Marketing Director **Erin Jeffery**

Digital Marketing Specialist **Joyce Lam**

Head of Engagement **Ashton Ramsay**

### Cultural Development

Indigenous Cultural Developer **Ronnie Dean Harris**

Senior Artist in Residence **Allan Morgan**

Global Tea Series Curator and Host **Cassius Khan**

Oral Transmission Systems Research **Columpa Bobb**  
and **Tania Carter**

### Front of House

Front of House Staff **Alayna Arandela, Alexandra Wilson, Angel Chamberlain, Angela Steidel, Anna Almonte, Avery Hallate, Callyn Dorval, Cariss Hallate, Celine Lee, Debbie Fraser, Helen Bein, Jair Johansson, Jane Lloyd, Janelle Wong-Moon, Kaia Parsons, Kat O'Carrol, Kaye Sharland, Luc Benoit, Nancy McCash, Niki Movahedian Attar, Oliver Nikula, Ravi Goyani, Sara Salahi, Taylor Wilson, Zoé Lemay**

### Technicians

Technical Staff **Amy Bell, Ben Nixon, Ben Paul, Claire Fabian, David Cowling, Dayna Horn, Emily Hoff, Emily Turner, Jamie Sweeney, Jonathon Paterson, Joy Kim, Julie Wiebe, June Hsu, Kiesha Janvier, Liam Hunt, Maiyah Johnston, Max Ridout, Myles Harbick, Nic Mitsui, Reid Collinson, Reine Vinluan, Stephanie Bruce, Zain Khudhur**



### Massey Theatre Society

735 Eighth Avenue, New Westminster BC, V3M 2R2

T 604-517-5900 | E info@masseytheatre.com

www.masseytheatre.com | @masseytheatre

*Massey Theatre Society is a registered non-profit charity # 13000 0078 RR0001*

*Photo by Saphren Lise*