



VERNON & DISTRICT  
PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTRE  
SOCIETY

Vernon & District Performing Arts Centre Society  
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## 2023 January - June Annual General Meeting - Artistic Director's Report

The Vernon and District Performing Arts Centre Society (VDPACS) presented seven performances as well as the *North Okanagan Children's Festival* in the first six months of 2023.

In December 2022 VDPACS experienced the challenge of a flood on our mainstage. We were able to adapt by moving shows to new locations, re-scheduling performances later into the season and postponing into the 2023-24 season.

We partnered with the local Jazz Club to present *Sebastian Gaskin* at the Vernon Jazz Club to a sold-out crowd. This built a new collaborative working relationship with the Vernon Jazz Club and We moved *Karima Essa's* interactive show for families to the Priest Valley Gym.

*BOOM X, In My Body* and *The Zaniac Comedy Show* were postponed in the 2023-24 season due to their large crowds and highly technical nature of the performance.

Thanks to our business interruption insurance and *Ballet Jörgen's* flexibility we were able to cover the costs for *Ballet Jörgen* to travel back to Vernon after their Western Canadian tour was complete. We presented *Ballet Jörgen's Cinderella* on March 25, 2022, to a sold-out audience.

We condensed the planned short run of *Prophecy Fog* into one sold out performance with a mixed audience of paid ticket holders and invited local film makers and indigenous artists. This immersive theatre experience was phenomenal and helped re-charge the local creative community.

The second annual *North Okanagan Children's Festival* in March of 2023 doubled in attendance. This pay-what-you-can festival removed financial barriers and brought together families to enjoy live entertainment, many of whom were experience live performance for the first time.

To foster the next generation of artists we presented *Missoula Children's Theatre's* week-long musical theatre camp's performances of *Blackbeard the Pirate*.

We brought the world to Vernon with Germany's *Raven* which explored the challenges of working mothers with a humorous and skillful way. All the way from Madagascar, *Sakasaka* delighted children and their families with their slapstick performance about water conservation.

*Briefs Factory's Dirty Laundry* from Australia was a joyous way the end the season. This performance was a celebration of radical inclusivity. This performance supported the local LGBTQ2S+ in a celebratory and positive way.

We would not have been able to deliver any activities without the support from Canadian Heritage and the BC Touring Council. We received valued financial support from Canada Council's Foreign Artist Tours funding program. We appreciate our local sponsors, for their commitment to VDPACS, and for their valuable contributions to our presenting activities. In addition, we would not be able to deliver these activities to our community without the support of our partners at the Regional District of the North Okanagan.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Kennedy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erin Kennedy  
Artistic Director

November 6, 2023