

Costumes and stage material loans

As part of its mandate to encourage expression and development of theatrical and dramatic arts in the Cowichan Valley, the Cowichan Musical Society actively engages in supporting local groups, schools and individuals in staging productions throughout the year. Over the years, CMS has built up an extensive collection of sets and props that would be useful in many different applications. As well, the costume collection at CMS is also available for loan to interested individuals. Where and when possible, the CMS makes these sets, props and costumes available at minimal cost, usually an amount set according to shipping and/or cleaning expenses to offset any costs that the CMS might incur. (Inset Picture: Costumes and set from the CMS Musical HMS Pinafore. Picture courtesy of Andrew Leong Photography.)



The CMS regularly lends out costumes to the Centre Stage Dancers and Friends. Jo Kelly is the Director and Choreographer for the group that is made up from members at the Chemainus Seniors Drop-In Centre. The Centre Stage Dancers and Friends competed in the Cowichan Music Festival on February 26 and 27, 2007 and placed 1st in Division 7 in Musical Theatre where the judges commented on their excellent costumes. The CMS is pleased to support the Centre Stage Dancers and Friends with costumes as the group has entertained at area hospitals and festivals and at other senior centres on Vancouver Island for the last 8 years. (Picture and text taken from www.chemainusseniors.ca)



The Musical Theatre program runs from July 1st - July 21st at the Courtenay Youth Musical Society. Master Director Drew Kemp and his professional creative team lead students through 21 days of intensive and exciting triple threat immersion with vocal training, dance/stage movement and character creation, as well as professional direction in stage tech and costuming to achieve their strongest performance ever in CYMC's full scale 40th anniversary production of the cutting edge Broadway show "Jekyll and Hyde." Drew used costumes from the CMS society between June 30 and July 21, 2007 for a group of students ranging in ages from 14 to 25 years old. The CYMS is able to accept a maximum of 35 students.



With the costumes that CMS is able to lend out to them, their popular stage presentations continue to be a huge hit in supporting tourist and cultural events in the Comox Valley. (Text courtesy of www.cymc.ca. Inset picture from cymc.ca/images/suits.jpg)



The school musical at Shawnigan Lake Private School has been a highlight of the school Fine Arts programme for more than 35 years. Students have performed a wide variety of shows, from standard Gilbert and Sullivan operettas to Jesus Christ Superstar. Recent productions include West Side Story and one of the first student performances of Les Miserables in Canada. Shawnigan Lake School stages these productions in the nearby Cowichan Theatre.

The Cowichan Musical Society has been able to support Shawnigan Lake School for years with costumes and sets. Greg Perry, recently directed the musical “Music Man” in March/April 2007 and was able to make excellent use of the CMS sets and costumes.



Text used courtesy of www.sls.bc.ca and pictures courtesy www.sls.bc.ca/popups/FAMusicdrama1.jpg
www.sls.bc.ca/popups/FAMusicdrama2.jpg

2007 was the 8th summer of repertory theatre in beautiful Oceanside in Qualicham Beach for the Bard to Broadway Theatre Society. The CMS was pleased to support the B2B's summer 2007 season with costumes to complement the oddball romantic comedy, Guys and Dolls. The musical Guys and Dolls is set in the 1950's in New York and celebrates the spirit of Broadway with vivid characters and costumes.

The goal of B2B Theatre Society is “to encourage and enhance the tourism experience in our area by providing high caliber live theatrical productions.”

Photo courtesy of www.b2btheatre.bc.ca/. Text taken from the President's Message at www.b2btheatre.bc.ca/about.asp



2007 Lending Season for the Cowichan Musical Society:

Group Name	Date	Production/Show details	Item(s) Used
The Bard @ Brentwood College Shawnigan Lake, BC	July 10 – 14, 2007	“12 th Night” directed by Roger Carr	Columns and arches
Bard to Broadway Theatre Society Qualicham Beach, BC	Summer 2007	Guys and Dolls directed by Eileen Butts	costumes
Shawnigan Lake Private School Shawnigan Lake, BC	March/April 2007	Greg Perry directed a production titled, “Music Man”	Sets and costumes
Courtenay Youth Musical Society Courtney, BC	June / July 2007	Jekyll and Hyde, directed by Drew Kemp	Costumes
Cowichan Secondary School Duncan, BC	February /March 2007	Annie Musical directed by Mike Moroz	Costumes
Chemainus Senior Drop-in Centre’s “Centre Stage Dancers and Friends” Chemainus, BC	Feb 2007 and ongoing	Performance at the Cowichan Music Festival. Directed by Jo Kelly	Costumes

Support of emerging artists in the performing arts

The Cowichan Musical Society also supports the efforts of the local Cowichan Music Festival held in February/March each year in Duncan. The annual Festival provide a forum for students in the performing arts --Music, Dance, Speech Arts - to perform in public before an experienced, skilled adjudicator, in order to receive training and opportunities above and beyond what they receive in their regular studies, by way of adjudications and critiques. The CMS is excited that it can assist the Cowichan Music Festival in this endeavour by providing a \$500 bursary to 2 winning performers in Intermediate and Senior Voice as a way of encouraging their special talents, abilities and capabilities as a potential "emerging artist.

The Cowichan Music Festival is one of 34 local and regional performing arts festivals throughout the province organized under Performing Arts BC. Over 80,000 performers of all ages participate each year in these festivals. Each regional festival sends its most promising young artists between the ages of 10 and 33 (with the recommendation of an adjudicator) to participate in the annual Provincial Festival, also known as "The Provincials". The five-day event encompasses special master classes, lectures, coaching, workshops, technique classes and adjudications.

Text taken from the Performing Arts BC mission statement found at www.performingartsbc.ca/mission. Picture from www.performingartsbc.ca/images/sidebar_home2.gif

