



SHAW GUILD

SAVE THE DATE!

JANUARY 2018

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Scene Shop Visit	Monday, March 12 th , 7-9 pm
Spring Preview Festival Lobby	Monday, April 9 th , 12-3 pm
Dress Rehearsal GRAND HOTEL Festival Theatre	Wednesday, May 2 nd
Garden Tour	Saturday, June 9 th
Summer Celebration Members' Terrace	Monday, July 16 th , 5-7 pm
Cricket – Shaw vs Stratford at Shaw	August/September (TBA)
Set Changeover Festival Theatre	Tuesday, September 25 th
Members' Day Rehearsal Hall 1	Monday, October 22 nd , 2-6 pm
Annual General Meeting Rehearsal Hall 1	Sunday, November 25 th , 1-3 pm

Changes to event dates and/or times will be announced.
For more information, visit our events page: www.shawguild.ca/events.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WELCOME TO THE 2018 SEASON!

To all our renewing members welcome back and a special welcome to our new members. There are many activities to get involved in and I encourage all to join in the fun of volunteering at the Shaw Festival. With nearly 400 members the Guild is vital to the success of the Shaw Festival. We contribute nearly 13,000 volunteer hours each year and also do exceptional fundraising activities in support of the theatre.

I want to welcome two new members to your Executive Team. Tina Morris has taken over as Communications Chair from Jen Clark and Lindsay Thomson has taken over from Jane Calver as Membership Chair. Jane and Jen's commitment to the Guild was exemplary and they will be missed. Unfortunately we are losing our Docent Chair, Mike Retzik whose contribution to the Docent programme has been exceptional and he will also be missed. He and Bonnie are starting a new chapter in their lives and are leaving Niagara-on-the-Lake to live in the Chicago area. Arlene Carson has graciously offered to take over from Mike in addition to her current role as Past President. Many thanks to Arlene for stepping forward.

This year's playbill is certainly an exciting one especially with the performances by Stephen Fry. These plays will not be included in the Seasons Pass, but I do encourage members to purchase the pass. It is the best deal in town!

Julian Rance
PRESIDENT, SHAW GUILD

MEMBERSHIP

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS!

To our new members... **WELCOME!**

Your names will be included in upcoming volunteer schedules. Members who renewed their membership should have received their new name badges in the mail or at Members' Day or at the AGM.

Members who have not renewed and are intending to renew their membership, please do so before January 31st so that you don't miss out on volunteer opportunities for the 2018 season.

Lindsay Thomson
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, SHAW GUILD

APPLICATION:

[http://www.shawguild.ca/resources/
Membership2018.pdf](http://www.shawguild.ca/resources/Membership2018.pdf)

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

etransfer, cheque, cash

QUESTIONS:

please contact
Membership Chair, Lindsay Thomson
at membership@shawguild.ca.

A WARM WELCOME TO NATALIE ACKERMAN

The Guild welcomes Natalie Ackerman, Shaw Festival's new Producer. If you attended the Shaw Guild's Annual General Meeting on November 26, 2017, you would have had the pleasure of meeting Natalie. She comes to the Shaw from a position of Managing Director of Necessary Angel Theatre Company, considered to be one of English Canada's most vital creation and touring organizations. Natalie has managed over fifty tours in her roles as Managing Director of Roseneath Theatre, Touring and Company Manager of Green Thumb Theatre, and Vice President of Touring at Kids' Entertainment. She has sat on the Board of Directors for the Toronto Alliance for Performing Arts and the International Performing Arts for Youth and has served on committees for the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and the International Society for Performing Arts, where she participated in a three-year Fellowship program. Recently, Natalie was awarded the Mallory Gilbert Leadership Protégé Award.

SHAW GUILD

Thank you to the many Guild members who took the time to complete the Member Survey last November. Over 200 people responded – an outstanding response rate!

MEMBER SURVEY

The objective of the survey was to gather your input to help the Executive Committee begin a strategic planning process.

2017 was a year of transition at the Shaw Festival with the introduction of “Two-Way Theatre”. As the Festival sets new strategic priorities to guide its direction, it was timely for the Guild to do the same. The Executive Committee held a strategic planning workshop on January 17. Your feedback was key to helping us prepare for the workshop and for developing preliminary strategic priorities. The Executive Committee will spend the next couple of months finalizing the Guild’s strategic plan to guide how we move forward over the next 3 to 5 years. Watch for more information on that plan in future newsletters.

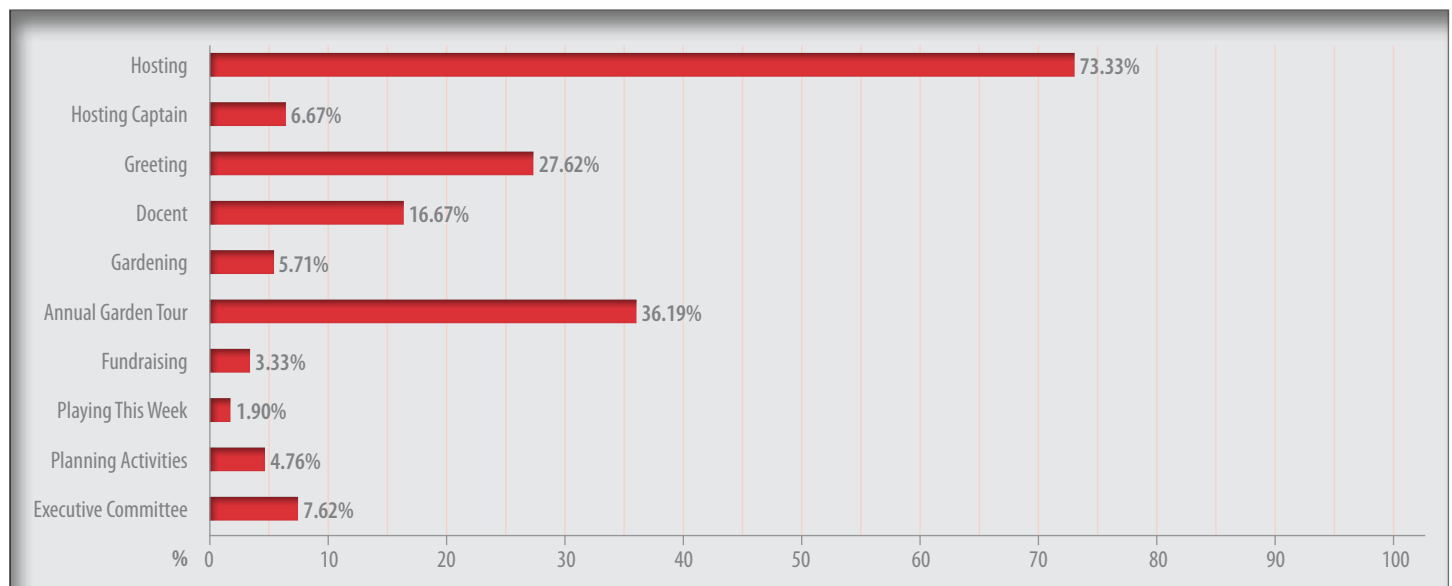
Here are some of the highlights from the Member Survey:

- We learned the various ways respondents contribute their volunteer time to the Guild (see attached chart)
- 87% of respondents are either comfortable or very comfortable with using the internet
- 89% of respondents are either satisfied or very satisfied with the training provided to act as ambassadors for the Shaw Festival
- 55% of respondents are satisfied with their time commitment to the Guild
- 41% would prefer to volunteer more time

Over 100 members also took the time to share their views on how to improve their volunteer experience. The most popular topics included communications, training, hosting, and volunteer appreciation.

Laurie Harley
VICE PRESIDENT, SHAW GUILD

Last season the Guild volunteers contributed 12,800 hours to the Shaw Festival. From the list below, please identify the ways in which you volunteered:



AN IMPROVED VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE IS COMING IN 2019

A new online tool will be available for the 2019 season to help Shaw Guild docents, hosts and greeters manage their activities. The tool is called **Better Impact**, and it will enable volunteers to sign up for assignments, and view their own calendar at a glance, even if they are active in more than one program. Administrators such as hosting captains will be able to see who is available for shifts and can send assignments to volunteers to accept or request a change. You will also be able to see who else is scheduled for a shift, so friends can coordinate their schedules.

Cheryl Morris is the Convenor of the project, working with Arlene Carson, Laurie Harley, John Mather and Alan Walker. The team is planning to run a pilot for the tool in early spring 2018 for an invited group of volunteers. Training sessions will walk them through the few simple steps to become familiar with the features of the tool.

People do not have to be techies to use the Better Impact tool. A basic comfort level using the internet is all that's required. And support from the team will be available for anyone who needs it throughout 2019. Watch this space for updates as we go forward.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl at *cheryl.cmorris@gmail.com*. If you'd like to check out Better Impact, go to www.betterimpact.com.



MEMBERS' DAY October 23, 2017

Guild members came out in record numbers. The Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre was filled with enthusiastic Guild members eager to hear Tim Jennings, Executive Director, and Tim Carroll, Artistic Director, speak about the success of the 2017 season, their visions for the future and the exciting programs planned for 2018. The future certainly looks promising!

Following the meeting, members gathered for a Wine and Cheese reception in the Macdonald Heaslip Lounge to mix & mingle.

Members' Day represented the final Activities event for 2017. The Activities Committee thanks all Guild Members for participating in many Guild Events this year and hopes to see you often during the 2018 season.

Thanks to the Activities Team: Mona Babin, Linda Baines, Dianne Chisholm, Kent Chisholm, Keith Mills, and Kate Verweij. Photos of this event are on page 8.

Annie Holcomb
ACTIVITIES CHAIR

DOCENT RECRUITMENT



We are looking to recruit new docents. A Docent's duties include conducting backstage tours throughout the season, generally starting in April and finishing in early November.. Training is held during the season, usually starting in early February. Season specific training is held each year, as well as ongoing training in a broad area of theatre related topics to enhance general knowledge of the workings of the Shaw Festival. Docents are expected to be available for at least 4 tours a month, although during the height of the season there are often more shifts.

Anyone interested in becoming a docent must successfully complete an audition process and commit to ongoing training with the Shaw Education department who oversee the Docent program.

DOCENT REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge: The extensive training program will provide relevant knowledge about the Shaw season of productions and the theatre. Docents are expected to participate in training opportunities provided by The Shaw Festival, throughout the year including mandatory health and safety training and AODA training.

Presentation skills: Effective use of voice and enthusiasm. The ability to convey information, pose questions and answer questions in an enthusiastic and clear manner is needed.

Group management skills and flexibility: Tour groups can be as large as 20 guests. Adaptability to different audiences and time allotments is essential.

Energy & stamina: Physical capacity is a major requirement of this position as tours include more than 200 stairs throughout the Festival theatre facilities and standing for over 1 hour.

Computer skills: Proficiency with & consistent access to a computer is necessary as information is e-mailed regularly. Google Calendar, Word attachments, and schedules using Excel are all utilized.

Time Commitment: A Docent is expected to lead at least 4 tours a month, between April and November, with the greatest number of monthly tours occurring in the spring and fall. Tours vary in length but are generally 1 hour. Docents are asked to be at the theatre 30 minutes before the tour's scheduled start in order to be adequately prepared for the tour.

If you are interested in finding out more about the audition process please contact Arlene at ajcarson@cogeco.ca or 905-468-7787.

Arlene Carson
ACTING DOCENT CHAIR



Saturday, June 9, 2018
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

**\$25
TICKETS**

Available through the
Shaw Festival box office
1-800-511-7429 or
shawfest.com/gardentour

2018 GARDEN TOUR

The Garden Tour is the major annual fundraising activity of the Guild. Revenues from the tour go into the Shaw Guild Endowment Fund, or are allocated by the Shaw Guild Executive for specific projects to benefit the Shaw Festival.

Watch for an e-blast in March looking for Garden Tour volunteers. Members are encouraged to sign up for a half or a full day tour assignment. Able-bodied, enthusiastic volunteers will be needed to welcome visitors strolling through eight gardens all located in old town NIAGARA -on-the -Lake. Last year, the net proceeds of \$25,000.00 went to support the production of "A Christmas Carol" .

Franca Moss
FUNDRAISING CHAIR, SHAW GUILD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President, Julian Rance

289-868-9252 | president@shawguild.ca

Vice President, Laurie Harley

905-468-5600 | vp@shawguild.ca

Past President, Arlene Carson

905-468-7787 | pastpresident@shawguild.ca

Treasurer, Donna Bertram

416-702-3311 | treasurer@shawguild.ca

Secretary, Marilyn Rickard

905-468-2509 | secretary@shawguild.ca

Hosting Chair, Penny Augustine

905-468-8868 | hosting@shawguild.ca

Greeting Chair, Marg Mather

905-468-5560 | greeters@shawguild.ca

Activities Chair, Ann Holcomb

289-868-8910 | activities@shawguild.ca

Membership Chair, Lindsay Thomson

289-219-1909 | membership@shawguild.ca

Acting Docent Chair, Arlene Carson

905-468-7787 | docents@shawguild.ca

Fundraising Chair, Franca Moss

905-358-7064 | fundraising@shawguild.ca

Shaw Theatre Gardens Chair, Paddy Parr

905-468-5184 | gardens@shawguild.ca

Communications Chair, Tina Morris

905-999-4647 | info@shawguild.ca

Better Impact Volunteer System, Cheryl Morris

cheryl.cmorris@gmail.com



www.shawguild.ca



Photography by: *Rene Bertschi*