



Celebrating 50 Years of Surrey's Performing Arts!

Back in 1967, the Arts Council of Surrey [ACS] didn't realize that their organization, dedicated to the Performing, Visual and Literary Arts, would still exist 50 years later. Today a thriving ACS, in partnership with the Surrey NOW-Leader, celebrates 50 years with 3 'Art' Features starting with the Performing Arts, followed by the **Literary Arts October 20th** and the **Visual Arts December 1st**.

For most people the Performing Arts include Theatre, Music and Dance and according to Wikipedia are defined by 'the artistic use of bodies and voices in relation to other objects to form an artistic expression'. Surrey has an abundance of performance opportunities for you to learn, experience or participate in. Join a group, see a theatrical production or take your friends and join a dance class – the Surrey Performing Arts community will change your life.

The ARTS COUNCIL OF SURREY would like Surrey NOW-Leader readers to explore, engage and experience Surrey's vibrant Performing Arts



Our Performing Arts community is strengthened by Surrey's multi-talented artists, our diverse cultural assets, our supportive City and the many dedicated volunteers and members of the Arts Council of Surrey

Learn to play anything from a fiddle with **Hazelmere Heritage Fiddlers** [valleybluegrass.net] to a south Asian instrument at **South Asian Arts** [southasianarts.ca]. Sometimes the instrument you want to learn is your voice. If Choral or Barbershop are more your style, then take in several performances (or audition) this Fall/Winter by popular vocal groups as: **The Handel Society of Music** [handelsociety.ca], the **Peace Arch Chorus** [peacearchsings.com] and the **Westcoast Harmony Chorus** [westcoastsings.com]. If you write your own songs and sing them, contact **Blue Frog Studios** [bluefrogstudios.ca] and lay down a few tracks. You never know – you may be discovered!

DANCE

Surrey Dancers have one of North America's largest dance festivals, the **Surrey Festival of Dance** [SFD | surreyfestival.com], take place in their own city. Established in 1966, the SFD is also one of the oldest at 51 years. Anyone interested in Dance should check out this annual 'Public Welcome' Spring (April/May) festival at the **Surrey Arts Centre** [surrey.ca/arts] to witness a month of elevated performances from 10,000+ dancers. You may know Jazz, Hip Hop and Ballet, but did you know there is Acro-dance, Bollywood, Swing, Street and Pop 'n' Lock? Come and find out more!

Surrey's multi-cultural society exposes us to international dance forms

such as the Chinese Lion and Dragon dances and India's classical dance forms such as Bharatanatyam. In fact, the **Youth Arts Council of Surrey** [YACOS | youtharts.ca] invites the public to *Learn how to dance Bharatanatyam*, as part of their participation in **Cultural Days** Sep 29, 6-8pm at the Newton Cultural Centre. **The Hanyang Mandate** [hanyang.ca] is a group that promotes Health, Joy and Self-Esteem through Chinese dance.

Dance education is critical to enjoying dance or becoming a professional. There are many dance schools in the greater Surrey area. Noting only a few studios, you can select from 25 year old **Classic**

Steps Stage Productions [classicsteps.com] where students range from 6 to 75, or the **Dancing Tones** [fb: dansingtones] who teach dance to special needs children. You can also visit cultural specialists like **Sudnya Dance Academy** [sudnyadanceacademy.com] for the Indian classics or the **Surrey Intl. Folk Dancing** [surreyfolkdance.org] who teach Folk dances from around the world. Visit the artscouncilofsurrey.ca and review the **ART SPOT: Resource Centre** and our 28 page **SPOTLIGHT on the ARTS** newsmag for more on Surrey's dance scene.

THEATRE

With some of BC's finest theatres (**Bell Theatre,**

Wheelhouse Theatre, Chandos Pattison, Surrey Little Theatre and Coast Capital Playhouse to name a few), theatre aficionados in Surrey have an established and vibrant theatre scene to experience. The fact that **Surrey Civic Theatres** [surrey.ca/theatre] will celebrate 50 years in 2018 on 3 stages, speaks to the quality and longevity of theatre in our City.

However, few know what takes place behind the curtain. Ellie King of **Royal City Theatre** [rctheatre.co.com] has established herself as a proficient Producer/Director. Crediting the ACS for helping get her start in Surrey, Ellie produces her popular Fall panto and Stage Series (auditions in April & June). If you are

interested in behind-the-scenes opportunities like Producing, Set & Lighting Design, Costume Design or Directing - you can learn it and do it - amateur or professionally - in Surrey.

If your theatre interests lay in the Classics, then take in a performance or two from the 36 year old **FVGSS: A Musical Theatre Society** [fvgss.org] who specialize in panto's, Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and Broadway, or laugh and sing along with the comedic stylings of **The Vaudevillians** [thevaudevillians.com]. If your tastes lean toward Contemporary productions, check out the latest stage trend 'readers theatre' with **Naked Stage Productions** [nakedstage.net] or the eclectic offerings of the **Langley Players** [langleyplayers.com]. Whatever your taste

is in theatre, there is a stage in Surrey that will satisfy you completely and the ACS [artscouncilofsurrey.ca] will help you find it.

MUSIC

Surrey's Music scene is explosive! Whether you enjoy the high energy performances at **Fusion Fest**, the tranquil **Music in the Park** series [surrey.ca] or you savour Orchestral/Chamber music - then Surrey is your place to be. For an Orchestral and Chamber Music experience check out **Surrey Symphony Society** [surreysymphony.com] for excellent performances by the **Surrey Youth Orchestra** and **Chamber** groups. Wish to learn how to play an instrument instead of listening to others play?

ENTER THE WORLD OF SURREY'S PERFORMING ARTS! Here's how...

Visit the ACS on-line at artscouncilofsurrey.ca where you will find events, workshops and classes designed to broaden your Performing Arts experience, or come in person to our **ACS HQ located in the Newton Cultural Centre** [NCC] at 13535-72 Ave, to see what suits your taste in your area or to see a production in our own NCC theatre.



Explore.
Engage.
Experience.

Join us...
artscouncilofsurrey.ca

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