



# Annual Report

2022 - 2023

September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023



## Message from our Artistic Director & Director of Business Operations

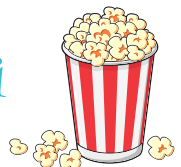


Although we were cautious in programming for the 2022/2023 season at Quest, in hindsight we needn't have been. Alongside getting back into schools with touring and school programs, we followed up on some projects we initiated during the pandemic. Notably, our All Together Now event that followed up to report on our Racial Caucus work, and our presentation of two plays that carried collective themes of inclusion, anti-racism, and accessibility. This season our advancements to our strategic pillar of Embracing Community positively moved us in the direction of creating an environment where everyone can thrive.

We marvel at the strength of our Super Staff, our Fantastic Board of Directors and our Sensational family of contributing artists. Thanks to everyone who makes Quest Theatre - you are such an awesome, passionate, and dedicated company!



*Nikki Loach & Peita Luti*



## Quest's Vision

Quest Theatre envisions a galaxy where theatre is valued as an essential part of growing up.



## Quest's Mission

Quest theatre creates community through exceptional theatre adventures for young people throughout Alberta.



## Quest's Values

Quest Pursues Creativity  
Quest Makes it Meaningful  
Quest Encourages Community  
Quest is Responsible  
Quest Celebrates Theatre

## Quest's Affiliations

Quest is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and engages theatre artists under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement (CTA). We engage playwrights and designers through agreements outlined in the Playwrights Guild of Canada (PGC) and the Associated Designers of Canada (ADC). We are a member of Alberta Playwrights Network, Theatre Alberta and ASSITEJ Canada (International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People)



FALL TOUR

Hello Friend...



Created by Nikki Loach, Léda Davies, Matthew McKinney, Jason Mancini, and Meredith Johnson  
Masks by Kate Braidwood, mask dressing by Loïc Lacroix Hoy

*Hello Friend* illustrates the joy of divergent thinking and celebrates the creative play of one undeterred young kid. A short, whimsical, hunt for friendship, *Hello Friend* brings wonder and delight to audiences of all ages!

Performed in school yards, gymnasiums, and courtyards across Calgary.

Oct 3 – 16, 2022

Jason Mancini, Joseph McManus and Andy Weir



Photography by Serenella Argueta



by Kunji Ikeda

A Cloudsway Dance Theatre Production with  
development support from Quest Theatre

Presented by Quest Theatre

Set in the fantasy genre of a tabletop role-playing game, Teiji, an Orcish Fighter, Udnadkat a Human Cleric, and Fane Farstool an Elven Wizard make up an experienced adventure party. As the cohesive group prepares for an upcoming encounter with their most feared rival, the evil Gorgahn-noth, it becomes clear that Teiji's abilities as a half-orc are misunderstood and misrepresented. Roll for Initiative delicately unwraps a nuanced conversation of racially based assumptions that our community increasingly longs to understand.

Andy Weir, Deedra Salange  
Ladouceur, and Spencer Streichert



Photography by Serenella Argueta

QUEST THEATRE PRESENTS

# MOST IMAGINARY WORLDS



**Created by the Point of View Ensemble**  
**Scripted by Col Cseke**  
**With development support from**  
**Inside Out Theatre and Quest Theatre**  
**Produced by Inside Out Theatre**

A play created by artists with disabilities, inspired by stories of children with disabilities.

Charlotte Bubble feels like the world just doesn't make any sense to her, "I feel like something is wrong, like the world and me just don't fit." Wishing she could imagine a whole new world made just for her, she visits the Make Believers Maker Space where she discovers stories of hope, gems of hilarity, battles with equality, and triumphs of the human spirit. Will Charlotte's imagination be the key to holding space for herself, articulating what she needs, and inviting others into her world?

**Presented at cSPACE May 4 – 6, 2023**

Tiffany Thomas, Damon Lawson, Adrian Houghton, Thomas Romero

**"Such a fun and lovely show! Wonderful having such an empowering inclusive show for young audiences"**

**Anonymous audience member**



Photography by Serenella Argueta



Photography by Nikki Loach



# ARTISTS IN SCHOOL PROGRAM



Quest's Artists in School Program provides schools with an unforgettable weeklong theatrical creation experience taught by artists who love to share their passion of theatre with young people.

## Schools Visited in the 2022-2023 School Year:

- Banting and Best School
- High Prairie Elementary
- Sunalta School
- Kenilworth School
- Dr. Oakley School
- West Dalhousie
- Divine Mercy School
- Vista Heights School
- Terrace Road School
- Earl Grey School
- Vanier Community Catholic School
- Ronald Harvey Elementary



Photography by Sunalta School Staff



Photography by Serenella Argueta

# DRAMA CAMPS



You may think Quest Drama Camps are here to create a great play for parents in one week's time, but we are secretly here to build self-confidence, nurture friendships, encourage community, and celebrate the organic, ridiculous, and brilliant creative journey of young people!

Spring Camp: March 27 - March 31, 2023 & April 10 – 14, 2023

Summer Camp: July 10 - August 18, 2023



Photography by Jennifer Jones



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Quest conducted the following free programming in the Calgary community this season!

- Drama Workshops for campers and instructors at the Calgary Centre for Newcomers
- Youth Engagement Squad (Y.E.S!)
- Improv Session at LIT CON 2023 through the Alexandra Writers' Society

**“It was the best time of  
my child's summer he  
loved it”**

Parent feedback

## The Oodles

Youth Engagement Squad

Isabel, Alex, Jay, Kaili,  
Joanne, Ellis, Maren,  
Tessa, Elise, Lindsay, Eric,  
and Laken



Photography by Nikki Loach

# Play Development

## Most Imaginary Worlds

Created by the Point of View Ensemble  
Scripted by Col Cseke  
with development support from  
Inside Out Theatre and Quest Theatre

## Roll For Initiative

by Kunji Ikeda  
A Cloudsway Dance Theatre Production  
with development support from Quest Theatre

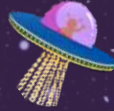
**The Understandable Girl** by Nikki Loach with artistic  
contributions from Lyudmyla Honcharova, Snizhana Bora,  
and Camille Pavlenko

**What a thoughtful and  
lovely performance  
bringing light to the  
struggles of  
neurodiverse young  
people in a fun and  
playful way. Well done!**

Anonymous Audience Member for  
Most Imaginary Worlds



# Testimonials



“These type of great performances spread happiness, confidence and a space full of energy from the little angels and also very kind effortful teachers and staff as well as parents. Thank you so much!”  
-Parent, West Dalhousie

“Theatre is amazing, interesting, and good job school teachers, students, and everybody thank you for everything.”  
-Parent

“Very impressed! Great job! Thanks for coming so far to see us!!”  
-Parent, Vanier

“It helped my child improving self confidence thank you”  
-Parent, West Dalhousie School

“It was great to see all the kids engaged!”  
-Grandparent, Dr.Oakley



# Stats that are out of this world!



Almost 5,000 kms of Alberta's theatrical galaxies explored by artists on our School Residency team!



\$42,850 of priority funding provided to help 8 schools bring in residency programs!



Almost 7,500 students impacted by meaningful theatre pieces!



164 hours of free use of Quest Theatre space given to independent theatre artists and arts organizations!

OVER 100 SUMMERTIME SHENANIGANS

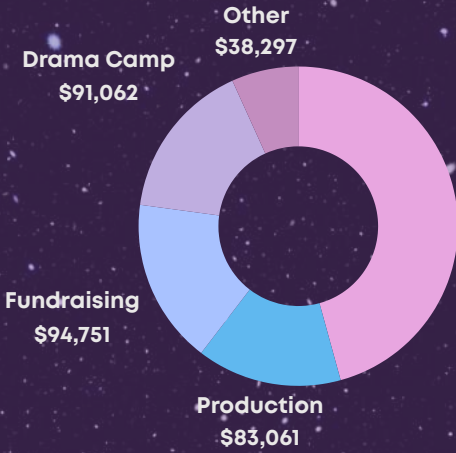
36 bursaries provided to enrich a kid's childhood with Spring & Summer Camps!

Continued growth on our JEDI journey with our first Racial Caucus report at our Quest Together in January 2023!

- Grants & Gov Support
- Production
- Fundraising
- Drama Camp
- Other

# Revenue

2022 - 2023



Grants & Gov Support  
\$258,755



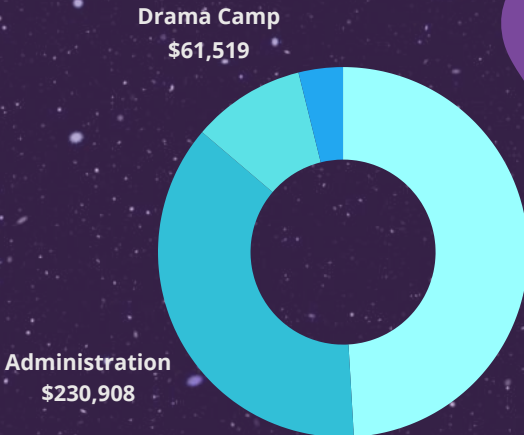
**Total Revenue \$565,926**



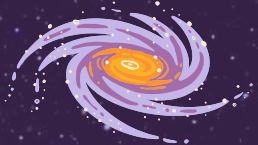
- Production
- Administration
- Drama Camp
- Amortization

# Expenses

2022 - 2023



Production  
\$304,869



**Total Expenses \$621,369**

# Contributing Artists

Alexa Elser  
Alexa McGinn  
Ali Grams  
Amelia Daniels  
Ana Mulino  
Andy Weir  
Angad Signh  
Aurora Huszti  
Camille Pavlenko  
Chris Duthie  
Christian Daly  
Claire Bolton  
Col Cseke  
Constantine X. Anastasakis  
Corey Ariss  
Dani Driusso  
Delia Bartlét

Elizabeth Houghton  
Isabella Pedersen  
Iván Gómez  
Jason Mancini  
Joel Schaefer  
Joseph McManus  
Judith Mendelsohn  
Kathleen Faith Ballangan  
Keshia Cheeseman  
Kunji Ikeda  
Lyudmyla Honcharova  
Mario Lemvar  
Meagan Edmunds  
Mia Pagliaroli  
Snizhana Bora  
Staci Hanley  
Zoë Arthur

## Special Thanks

**Kelsey Souchereau - Graphic Design Volunteer**

**Troy Emery Twigg - Cultural Advisor**



WE ARE ALL  
TREATY  
PEOPLE

## *In Loving Memory*

Troy Emery Twigg, an exceptional artist in our theatre community and Quest Theatre's Cultural (Blackfoot) Advisor, officially and unofficially for the past 8 years, passed away in August of 2023. The lasting impact he left, beyond his professional accomplishments, is one of kindness and love. Troy's warm spirit, contributions and artistic excellence will be greatly missed.

# Administrative Team

Nikki Loach .....Artistic Director  
 Peita Luti .....Director of Business Operations  
 Serenella Sol Arqueta .....Marketing Coordinator  
 Helena Deng .....Tour & Education Coordinator  
 Madeleine Taylor-Gregg .....Arts Administrator  
 Claire Bolton .....Program Coordinator  
 Kathleen Ballangan .....Quest Intern  
 Alexis Kroon .....Bookkeeper



# Board of Directors

Tanya Anand.....Outgoing Co-Vice Chair/Incoming Co-Chair  
 Claudina Morgado..... Outgoing Co-Vice Chair/Incoming Co-Chair  
 Daniel Hawkwood.....Secretary  
 Laura Mack.....Incoming Treasurer  
 Kari Griffith.....Director  
 Joel McNichol.....Director  
 Cleopatra Kierstead..... Director  
 Nkechi Seale.....Incoming Director  
 Michelle Dulmadge.....Incoming Director  
 Elysa Darling.....Incoming Director  
 Wancy Wu..... Incoming Director  
 Dave Griffiths.....Outgoing Chair  
 Isabelle Hergott.....Outgoing Treasurer

# Donors

Anonymous  
Andrew Stevenson & Peita Luti  
Braden Griffiths  
Bill & Brenda Demcoe  
Brian & Susan Loach  
C.A. Siebens  
Calgary Children's Foundation  
Calgary Shaw Charity Classic Foundation  
Danielle Caffaro  
Dale Lee Kwong  
Dave & Wendy Griffiths  
Duval Lang  
Deer Run School  
Erica Myles  
Helena Deng  
Isabelle Hergott  
Jessica Wallace  
Joel McNichol  
John Handrigan  
Kari Griffith  
Martin & Kathy Lundmark  
Michelle Dulmage  
Nikki and Christopher Loach  
Nova Lea Thorne  
Pete Balkwill  
Rozsa Foundation  
Ruth Pogacar  
Sam & Ida Switzer  
Serenella Argueta  
Stephanie Tsang  
Surerus Murphy Joint Venture  
Tanya Anand  
Todd Hawkwood  
Trudie Horodezky  
Vanessa Porteous  
Wancy Wu  
Yolande & Monty Schnieder



THANK YOU!





# Government Funders



# Partners



# Sponsors & Major Donors



# Adventure Awaits...



## Next Season at a Glance

School Residency Program – 2023/24 School Year

Drama Day Pilot Project – January – June 2024

Quest's Incoming Intern – Oliver Bailey!

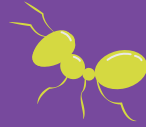
Most Imaginary Worlds Presentation at the Grand in Calgary Nov 6 – 10, 2023

The Antyssey Touring schools April 8 – May 3, 2024

Spring Drama Camps – March 25 – 29 (CBE) 2024, & April 1 – 5th (CCSD), 2024

Spring Drama Classes - April 11th - June 20th, 2024

Summer Camps – July 8 - August 16, 2024



## Farewell Peita Luti...



Peita Luti

Outgoing Director of  
Business Operations



Recently we have announced the departure of our Director of Business Operations, our “Bedazzler of Business”, Peita Luti. We thank our lucky stars for such an inspirational leader! Her passion for theatre and for young people coupled with her strategic vision for the organization has left a lasting legacy. Everyone at Quest wishes her the best of luck on the journey to her next adventure! Catch you crater, Peita!

# How Can You Support Quest?

- ★ Donate to our Play for All Fund!
- ★ Volunteer for us!
- ★ Sponsor one of our programs!
- ★ Join our Board of Directors!
- ★ Attend our performances!
- ★ Sign up for our newsletter!
- ★ Follow us on social media!
- ★ Register for a camp!
- ★ Tell a school or a friend about Quest!



Photo By Jennifer Jones



## Contact Us

Ph: 403-264-8575

email: [admin@questtheatre.org](mailto:admin@questtheatre.org)

[www.QuestTheatre.org](http://www.QuestTheatre.org)

@cSPACE 325-1721 29 AVE SW Calgary AB

Charity #11907 2163 RR0001



@QuestTheatreCalgary



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