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March 2021

CUE TO CUE
newsletter



Speaking up for Arts and Culture in the City of Barrie

As most who are reading this will already be aware, a few weeks back the City of Barrie announced that they would be exiting their lease with Georgian Theatre. This news triggered a tremendous response from the community, a response that has, we are pleased to report, prompted the City to give this decision further consideration.

Acknowledging that the proposed venue alternatives do not meet the needs of the users of Georgian Theatre, the City is recognizing the hard-hitting loss that the closure will cause to the performing arts in Barrie and we have you to thank for that! Through Social Media, petitions, and direct correspondence and communications with the Mayor and City Council, you are making your voices heard and we are ever so grateful but, **we are not there yet!!**

Citing the need for repairs to the facility to continue operations, the City is acting on a recommendation to pursue a grant through the Canada Healthy Communities program to cover the expense. Representatives from various arts

While the list of repairs is seemingly long and costly, the community representatives are focused on paring it down to include only those that would be necessary to maintain safe operations when the time comes to reopen. This will be imperative to ensure that the continued use of Georgian Theatre remains an interim measure until Barrie can cut the ribbon on a new and long-overdo performing arts venue.

Regardless, the grant results will be the determining factor in both what gets done and when so nothing is final, but this development does, at least, represent a willingness on the part of the City to review the matter in more detail. What's important now is to not let our Mayor, Councillors, and the City Staff designated to cultural development forget why Barrie needs a theatrical venue that better serves the needs of this City's various performing arts organizations.

To help ensure that the needs of our community remain forefront, representatives from 16 different arts and culture organizations have formed an action committee to carry our message forward. And now, it would seem, the City has identified the value of establishing a Performing Arts Centre Task Force to, hopefully, help move things along. This development was revealed on review of the Agenda for next Monday's General Committee meeting and we look forward to a positive result.

We are encouraged by these developments but must stress that this is all happening because of you. The voice of the community is a powerful thing and we must keep it up!!

Sign [the petition](#) and share it with your friends.

[Speak up](#) to your Mayor and City Councillors.

And be sure to share your #BarrieArtsStory to show how your experience in the arts has shaped your life in The City of Barrie. Let's keep the conversation going.





making musicals memorable

Share Your Barrie Arts Story

While the City of Barrie has heard and acknowledged our concern over the Georgian Theatre and Fisher Auditorium, it is important that we continue to spread the word that the arts are important!

Share your experience with the arts in Barrie using the hashtag #BarrieArtsStory and be sure to tag the City of Barrie (@CityBarrie on Instagram) to get our stories out there. Whether you are a performer, member of the crew, or an audience member we want to hear from you!

Other helpful tags include #Barrie, #BarrieOntario, #MyBarrie, and #ArtsImportant.

We will be sharing some of our favourite stories to KCP's social media pages. Feel free to tag your local representatives and friends as well.



It's a Wrap - Directing Webinar Series

Our first webinar series, "Directing for Community Theatre," wrapped up in February and was an amazing success.

"I really enjoyed my first foray into on-line instruction," says presenter Candy

pool of potential directors for community theatre! Though virtual communication can feel constricting for us theatre folk, it also allows for greater participation since geography is not an issue and time is less of one – I enjoyed meeting new colleagues and the exchange of ideas that ensued. These chances to connect are a great way to keep our creative juices flowing so that we come out of this difficult time better prepared to move ahead with new skills, ideas and personal connections.”

Thank you to all those who participated and be sure to stay connected with KCP for news of our next online education opportunity!



EXIT STAGE LEFT - Podcast

Exit Stage Left is a brand new theatre podcast where Keelan Ballantyne, your host, will kick back and chat with past KCP cast and crew about the beautiful art form that is the Theatre! He will talk with them about their time with KCP and about what they are up to now. He will ask questions about their experience in the world of theatre, how they got to where they are now and any tips or tricks they picked up along the way!! You can catch Exit Stage Left on [Spotify](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) and everywhere that podcasts are found.

Upcoming podcasts will feature conversations with Connor Jesso, scheduled for April, and Stephen Amon for May.



ACT-CO And All They Do

The Alliance of Community Theatres in Central Ontario (ACT-CO) has been working tirelessly since the onset of the Pandemic to help support their member organizations through these tough times. The formation of focused committees, development of Government Communications Plans and a Theatre Reopening Guide, identification of financial grant and rebate programs, and just a general sharing of information have provided invaluable survival tools for KCP right from the beginning. We are very grateful to the ACT-CO Board, and to our colleagues that make up the membership, for continuing to be there when we need you the most.

One such tool has been the creation of this video. Designed to help give community theatre a face while we're kept from the stage, "We Will Open Our Doors Again" delivers a message of hope that we will once again be together, doing what we love to do. Enjoy.

<https://youtu.be/ackeA3oTkXs>

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Saying Goodbye To A Beloved KCP Member

We were saddened with the news of the passing of Paul Johnson, a former member of KCP. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends at this time. You can read more about Paul's life [here](#).

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