

# TEMPEST

THEATRE & FILM SOCIETY

## 2023 Partner Package

### WHAT IS TEMPEST?

Tempest is a 75-seat black box theatre and training facility. We aim to bring fresh and unique stories to the stage that might not be considered by mainstream, commercial theatres. These stories often reflect a wider range of perspectives and experiences, including those of marginalized communities. Tempest also hosts several touring professional productions, giving space and voice to contemporary creatives. In 2023 alone, this included:

- **Two Spirit Tease** A Medicine Walk with Madeline Terbasket,
- **Unicorns Reawakened** a play by Rebellious Unicorns
- **Romance At the Table** and **Passion Fruits** Peach Gravy Improv Troupe
- One Minute Play Festival
- 10-Minute Plays' Presentation
- Dozens of traveling artists as part of Penticton's **Ignite the Arts Festival**
- In the spring Tempest produced **The Half Life of Marie Curie**, by award-winning playwright Lauren Gunderson.

### Coming Up:

This fall, Tempest's 2nd original play **Malleus Maleficarum** (more on the next page) will hit the stage. The newly formed and popular Cat's Paw Production will be haunting the stage with a **Nevermore: The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe** written and composed by Jonathan Christenson. And in November, 2022 Kelowna Fringe-favourite **Sweeping Meditations** will be presented.

Tempest provides training and mentorship to aspiring actors, directors, writers, and other creatives. We understand that independent theatre can be a launchpad for emerging artists, and with our practice of inclusivity, we endeavor to foster a sense of belonging and support for cultural identity.

Tempest has helped actors in the community get work in The Okanagan's burgeoning film and television industry by providing current and essential instruction, providing audition taping services and mentoring coaches. Our commitment to training and cultivating screen performers catalyzed the inception of South Okanagan's premier acting agency, One Take Talent, in 2022.

## Our partners share a vision of a vibrant, healthy and progressive cultural scene in the Okanagan Valley.



# TEMPEST ENGAGES WITH COMMUNITY

As a creative catalyst, Tempest Theatre has had the pleasure of working with various community organizations, forging synergistic relationships that expand horizons and deepen communal bonds.

**Outma Sqilx'w Cultural School:** Development of three arts training modules for students in grades 6-8, culminating in the filming of an original play.

**IndigenEYEZ:** Together, we embarked on a path of embodied learning, combining our techniques to envision healthier practices in communications. This collaboration nurtured spaces for empowerment and voice-finding, setting the stage for future shared skill ventures.

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Occupying a unique nexus, Tempest Theatre assembles diverse experts and curious audiences. In 2021, we hosted a Film Panel that explored the burgeoning regional Film Industry, its potential, and hurdles. Distinguished guests included Judy JK Lee, a renowned Casting Director; Jon Summerland, the Okanagan Film Commissioner; and Charles Cornell, the General Manager of Community Futures Okanagan Similkameen. Moreover, we aligned with the Okanagan Film Commission to deliver a core curriculum segment for their fully booked 2022 Okanagan Film Fundamentals Bootcamp.

In tandem with our recent productions, we facilitated talk-back sessions where actors, directors, and special guests engaged in meaningful post-show conversations:

***The Half Life of Marie Curie*** by Lauren Gunderson delved into science, sexism, and the extraordinary defiance of two women. Post-show discussions, led by Tempest's Managing Director Jennifer Vincent and actors Kate Twa and Denise Kenney, included four women from diverse fields discussing feminism. The dialogue initiated with "How far have we come? How far have we yet to go?" and developed from there.

***Every Brilliant Thing*** by Duncan Macmillan and Jonny Donahoe is a narrative of resilience and hope, focusing on mental health, depression, self-harm, and suicide. A special youth performance included a candid discussion with members of Foundry Penticton (a youth resource centre), their counselor, and Kelowna high school students, hosted by the actor and director.

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Tempest is also home to an independent boutique film production company. In 2021, we donated time, personnel and equipment to make a video as part of the efforts to Save Sickle Point, an endangered riparian and wetland. Spoiler Alert: It was saved!

Partnering with the Canadian Alcohol Use Disorder Society, we provided videos to share essential knowledge about Alcohol Use Disorder and medications available to help mitigate its destruction. These videos are used by Interior Health and The Aboriginal Mental Wellness Team. This led to us being awarded a TELUS STORYHIVE grant to film and produce ***Smashed: Breaking the Cycle of Alcohol Use Disorder***. This award-winning film has been viewed by tens of thousands all over the world.

We shot and produced ten episodes of Wine with the Artistic Director for OptikTV. Tempest Artistic Director Kate Twa sat down with several film, television and stage professionals to discuss the industry, have lots of laughs and drink a glass of local wine.

In 2019, Tempest won first place at Reel Peach Film Festival with ***iPhone Narcissist***, a fun romp through Penticton encouraging viewers to experience its splendour for real.

During the pandemic, the creators at Tempest wrote, shot and edited several short films that can be viewed on our website. This helped hone our skills and keep the creative juices flowing at an otherwise dire time.

# NEW WORKS

Tempest is in the process of creating three original plays penned by Artistic Director Kate Twa, produced by Managing Director Jennifer Vincent and with Production Design by Technical Director Ronan Reinart.

**PREMIERED OCTOBER 25, 2023**

**Malleus Maleficarum: Hammer of Witches.** In 1486, Heinrich Kramer published Malleus Maleficarum and in 1996, Rupert Murdoch brought us Fox News. An outspoken 15th century housewife, Helena Scheuberin, The Wyrd Sisters from MacBeth, a charismatic witch hunter and 2 modern day teenagers are thrown together in this story founded in historical fact. This new play explores some of the clever, subversive and strategic ways that women and their equally marginalized friends have turned wort-nosed, baby eating, spell casting myths into modern, workable feminism and activism. The patriarchy never knew what hit 'em and they sure don't know what's coming next.

**IN DEVELOPMENT**

**Pound of Art** is a futuristic, multi-disciplinary stage drama beginning a decade after all art is outlawed in North America. The artists that were unable to escape, now live in a prison-like institution or "pound". Under a new (female driven) government and amidst a staggering increase in depression, suicide, and lack of innovation, a bill is passed allowing art to ease art back into contemporary life. Eligible applicants who pass an intense vetting process can enter a lottery to be granted access to the pound and potentially adopt their very own artist to take home. But the artists have a plan of their own...

**The Players.** "We just survived the plague, now this!" Fear that homosexuality was running rampant amongst actors during the Restoration (it was), King Charles II issued a royal decree declaring all female roles be played by women, in an effort to abolish 'unnatural vice' (it didn't). For traveling minstrels The Swag-bellied Guisers, this news drops like a maul. Some fear witchery, others rage about the perversion of women playing women, and two male players lament the only place their true love can be played out safely. But the women will arrive; and they did.



# NEW WORKS CONTINUED

Tempest doubles as a boutique production studio with our own equipment and editing suite. We are actively filming and editing both original and documentary material. We have produced 2 feature films (available on most streaming platforms), 2 documentaries, an interview series, and several short films.

**Crossroads.** It is 1662, and in the midst of an argument about women playing female roles on stage, 2 Elizabethans (Edward Foy, Miriam Cummings) get sucked into a vortex that puts them in Penticton, BC in the summer of 2023. Experiencing the sensorial pleasure and gaining new perspectives leaves them with some life changing decisions to make.

**Ounce of Flesh: One Story We Never Wanted to Tell.** One of the reasons we have revamped this partnership proposal and reflected so deeply on our past endeavours and future aspirations, is because our second STORYHIVE documentary grant will focus on us. The pressure of a fast-approaching CEBA loan of \$40K due by December 2023 has compelled us to delve deeply into the continuity of Tempest; whether we can sustain our operations or not.

Acknowledging that we are not alone in facing such challenges, we are determined to capture this crucial juncture through documentation. Our intention is to explore significant questions concerning the essence of art and the value that emerges from the struggles we encounter. This piece will air on OptikTV in 2025

**TransMan.** Another STORYHIVE project, this time a docuseries in partnership. During COVID trans male Kyler Sahlmark and vocalist Yanti co-wrote a rock song of inclusion, called Trans-Man in response to the negative media. This docu-series will record stories of working with our 2SLGBTQIA+friends and our many allies in the making of this music video within our small town of Penticton, BC. It will air in late 2024

FILM



# WHY PARTNER WITH TEMPEST?

Tempest strives to amplify fresh voices and new ideas, blending training and professional mentorship and an inclusive community with a passion for our Okanagan region. We contribute to the creation of new work so that artists in the Southern Interior and beyond can share their unique artistic expressions.

Our Partners understand that theatre enriches the lives of its residents and beyond. Our patrons and community have shown ongoing support and dedication for Tempest because they see and appreciate the vital human experiences we create, the talent we attract, and the quality of our productions.

This support is critical to our sustainability. We view our sponsors as partners and we seek creative ways to weave our sponsors into our work, whether that be inclusion in a filmed piece for broadcast, special education of our volunteers to speak knowledgeably about Sponsors' products available at our Downstairs Lounge Bar, or playfully integrating references into the performance itself. We can create together.

Each year thousands of people experience live performance at Tempest. We advertise through our newsletter, Patreon subscriber list, social media (FB and IG), posters, and other community events. Our press releases have a successful publication rate in local media outlets.

## WAYS TO SUPPORT

**Join the community on Patreon**, where members get exclusive access to behind the scenes, discounts on show tickets and some training opportunities. Patreon offers monthly subscription tiers ranging from \$7 to \$100 ([www.patreon.com/tempest\\_theatre](http://www.patreon.com/tempest_theatre))

**Sponsor a Production**, whether that be for a night or the whole run. We can work with you to find an option that suits. From donating a case or flat of your craft beverage to offering cash, there are so many ways to connect your values to the creative output at Tempest

**Annual Sponsorship**. Join us for the long haul. These customized arrangements are intended to be mutually beneficial and are relationships that we greatly respect. Let's explore some options.

**Equipment or Facility Upgrades**. The list is long in a small theatre... lights, projector screens, new seats, finishing our wine patio.

**Support a Residency Program**. Artists developing new work need spaces like Tempest. They also need accommodation & meals. We are often approached by professional creators looking to commit a few weeks or a month to development and we'd love to create in-kind partnerships (or build a specific fund) to facilitate these requests

We look forward to answering any questions you may have about our Sponsor Package. Please direct inquiries to Jennifer Vincent [jennifer@tempest.ca](mailto:jennifer@tempest.ca)

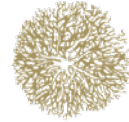


125 Eckhardt Avenue East, Penticton V2A 1Z5  
[www.tempest.ca](http://www.tempest.ca)

We would like to thank all of Tempest's sponsors to date including our Patreon Community and Suzanne Cutte and Matt Angel who generously donated the funds to renovate Tempest's exterior!



Supported by the Province of British Columbia



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