

Theatre Aurora airs its "Sexy Laundry" in public



By Brock Weir

You should never air your dirty laundry in public, but what if it has a bit of sex appeal?

Later this month, Theatre Aurora presents the play *Sexy Laundry*, and is only excited to air its garments loud and proud.

Costumes, along with set and costume designs from this, as well as past and future Theatre Aurora productions, are now on display at the Aurora Cultural Centre as part of their Community as Curator program.

Brought together by Theatre Aurora's Joey Ferguson, it gives a behind-the-scenes glimpse as to how the magic happens at the Henderson Drive theatre, which has been an Aurora mainstay for over 60 years.

'There is more than what meets the eye,' says Mr. Ferguson, 23, a long-time volunteer at Theatre Aurora who got his start in their youth wing. 'When you go to the theatre, you see all the great work the actors do, you see the sets and you take that in. But, there is a whole level of work that goes on behind that. It is not someone just walking in to say, 'She should be in a red dress.' There is a design and reason.

'I want to highlight the work that some of our members do that don't get recognized as much as actors and directors to show that people do great work even though they are not the ones on stage.'

Mr. Ferguson first got involved with the organization as a high school student.

He had lived just down the street from the theatre his entire life but never actually walked in the building. That changed when one of his friends in the youth group said they needed 'guy actors,' and that was his entrance cue.

Eight years later, he is still there, in charge of marketing, lighting and other technical components, balancing his work there while working towards his teaching degree at York University.

Securing his spot at the Cultural Centre, Mr. Ferguson set to work bringing together the pieces, which will rotate in the exhibit through March. His approach was to approach the artist 'whether costume designer or set designer' and seeking out the best of the best.

A bounty came in, and then the tough part of picking and choosing began.

He always knew he wanted at least one costume on display, knowing full well that would take up the better part of one display cabinet, but he forged ahead trying to strike a balance between past shows, offerings from the current season, and a flavour of what is to come.

?Theatre is really important,? he says. ?It is one of those art forms that is getting lost with the craziness of media and the internet. For someone to go out to a live show is hard, especially at small theatres when you are competing against the big Mirvish productions in the city. For me, it is just a way to express myself artistically.

?I am a big supporter of youth theatre. I think it is a great way not only to get involved with the arts, but also to figure out who they are and ways to express themselves. I made tons of friends when I was doing youth theatre that I still have to this day. I want to give that opportunity to youth and want everyone to have that hobby or passion that makes their life a little bit better.?