



# On The Beach:

Newsletter #1/April

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



## Memories From Last Year

Fran McEvoy, President of the Beach House Theatre Society

When walking down the street or beach in the days following our first production we were all surprised and delighted to have many people stop to tell us how much they had enjoyed “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”. Many were very surprised by what they saw; the very professional performance, the incredible setting and the energy of everyone involved, actors, artistic directors staff, and volunteers.

We also received letters and emails lauding the Beach House Theatre. I would like to share with you part of a letter sent by Erik Seiz, President of the Crescent Beach Property Owners Association.

“Beach House Theatre’s production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” raised the bar for outdoor events in Surrey. The stage at Blackie Spit perfectly captured one BC’s most stunning sunset backdrops. The inaugural run was as magical and professional, as any well established urban Shakespeare festival. Event set up, delivery, marshalling and cleanup were efficient and meticulously executed.....It would be easy to take such a smoothly run event for granted. However we recognize that nothing so grand happens by accident. In addition to the incredible amount of work and planning it must have required a great deal of perseverance.”

It is so exciting and rewarding to receive letters such as this. To those of you who volunteered - a huge THANK YOU. To everyone who attended the performance also a big thank you for believing in Beach House Theatre.

... See you next summer!

## Fundraising

Our Pub fundraiser was completely sold out! Over \$3,500 was raised through 50/50 and an a silent auction of wonderful gift baskets. These baskets were created from donated items from our community supporters and businesses.

A future fundraiser will be the annual Hooked event at Hooked restaurant in Crescent Beach to be held on June 14th. Watch the website for ticket information.

## Design: Breanne Jackson

The process of designing the Twelfth Night set has been an exciting one, so far! It has been so wonderful to work so closely with the creative minds at Beach House Theatre Society. Seeing that this is my first set design, it has been a very exciting, and at times, daunting experience. I have a strong background in visual arts, theatre and graphic design, so it has been really exciting to explore a new avenue.

The Twelfth Night directors, Candace and Rick, have a very strong vision of what they want to see onstage, giving me plenty of momentum to go off of. It is important for me to utilize the natural beauty of Crescent Beach. Living in British Columbia, we are so lucky to have these stunning views right at our fingertips. I wanted to incorporate this natural beauty into the Grecian-style facade, overlooking the ocean. After all, this play is set in a Fisherman’s Village.

*Breanne is currently the stage manager for the Axis Theatre Company production of Raven Meets the Monkey King which is touring Western Canada.*



## Spotlight on Helena, Anne vanLeeuwen

Anne received her Bachelor of Drama from Bishop's University in 2006, and just last year, successfully navigated a year of training with New York's prestigious Circle in the Square Theatre School. In the interim, Anne has been living and working in Vancouver, BC and is currently in rehearsals for Neil Simon's *Come Blow Your Horn* in Ottawa, ON. Some of Anne's favourite roles include Ann Deever in *All My Sons* (Ottawa Little Theatre), Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Beach House Theatre), May in *Fool For Love* (High Horse Theatre Productions), Constance Ledbelly in *Goodnight Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet* (BU), and Viola in *Twelfth Night* (BU).



## Helena's (Anne vanLeeuwen) Memories

Working with the cast and crew of Beach House Theatre's inaugural production was a dream come true. This was one of those dreams I didn't even know I had until I was living it, wishing that I didn't have to wake up. It was not only that bringing Helena to life had been an ambition of mine since seeing my first Stratford performance at age 14, but also the thrill of performing one of Shakespeare's most loved comedies on a picturesque beach. Sharing the stage with the elements, a constant yet ever altering scene partner, was unpredictable. If there was anything on which you could count, it was that anything could happen; nature showed impeccable comedic timing. Whether it was a well timed bark from a beach bound pup during Helena's "I am your spaniel" speech in Act II scene i, the setting sun as the young lovers Hermia and Lysander make their romantic escape in Act II scene ii, or the ominous crashing of waves as Puck bids the audience goodnight in Act V scene i, Crescent Beach played a worthy and most welcome character in the production.

It was an honor to be counted amongst my fellow actors with whom I crossed the boards. The creative process and growth of each of the characters really was a collaborative experience. During rehearsals one could find Bottom giving Lysander advice on romance, Helena and Hermia discussing at length the pros and cons of Demetrius' affections, the Mechanicals spurring on one another's comedic forays... each and every actor on that stage had a vested interest in the show as a whole. Together we made the 'dream' come true.



## Zach Dallas, Beach House Theatre's First Scholarship Winner

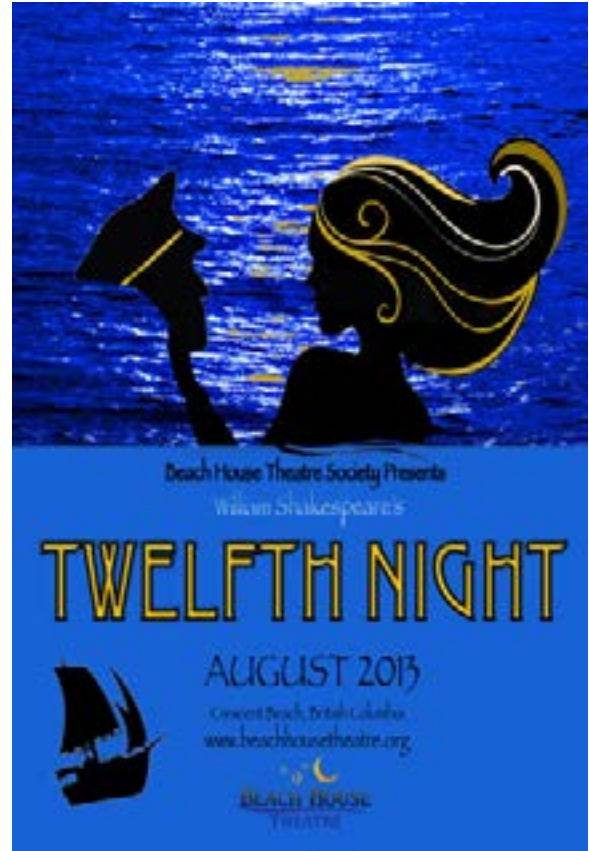
Working with the Beach House Theatre in the summer of 2012 was an awesome experience. Hands down, the best part was having the opportunity to work alongside industry professionals. Building a fully functioning theatre in the middle of a parking lot at Crescent Beach was surely no easy feat, but the BHTS made it happen.

I am honoured to be chosen as the inaugural recipient of the BHTS Scholarship. To show my deep gratitude I volunteered my time at the rehearsals, set up and strike, in addition to being the lighting operator for the run of the show. As each rehearsal progressed, I watched as the actors developed their characters and built a show. During the set up and strike I was given a new perspective of theatre, one that I couldn't have gotten anywhere else. While it was a lot of hard work and sweat, it was well worth it in the end.

I put the scholarship money towards my tuition for the Broadcast and Media Communications for Television program at BCIT. This program has opened so many doors for me. I have just reached mid semester of my first year at BCIT, with one more year to go.

Recently, I was hired by Global BC as a television assistant (TVA) for their live productions.

I look forward to working with the Beach House Theatre for years to come!



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## Heads Up! 2013 Tickets for Beach House Theatre Productions

Tickets go on sale June 24 at 8:00 am from the web site [beachhousetheatre.org](http://beachhousetheatre.org). Twelfth Night runs August 14 – 18 with performances at 8:00 pm. Munsch Ado About Nothing, an 11:00 am show for everyone in the family, runs August 13 – 16.

