



2006  
2007  
Annual  
Report



## President's Message

Congratulations to all the artists, staff and volunteers who have made this another wonderful season for Green Thumb Theatre. With their vision and commitment, Green Thumb has reached new levels of artistic achievement.

All our shows this past season won rave reviews, but I'm particularly proud of CRANKED; which, with SPEED and RAGE, has forged into the teen and young adult market with dynamic energy and a truly contemporary voice. Kudos to our Artistic Director, Patrick McDonald, for his inspirational leadership, and to General Manager, Ivan Habel, and the staff, for keeping all the pieces together and making it all run smoothly.

After many returns to the drawing board, Green Thumb has now launched a new look and a new logo. The "hand" has been retired after twenty-five odd years, to be replaced with a jazzy green thumb print that is simple, sleek and modern. Under this new banner, Green Thumb will launch itself to even greater heights.

Despite a seasonal deficit for the first time in many years, Green Thumb continues to enjoy an accumulated surplus, and remains in laudable financial health. This is due in no small part to our retiring accountant, Lucy Lai, whose shrewd business sense and financial acumen guided Green Thumb for almost 30 years. Thanks to Lucy for her expertise, and her commitment to the company.

I would also like to recognize my colleagues on the board, Candy Saga, Maureen McEvoy, David Malicki, Paula Roseheart, and Candrina Bailey. Their generous dedication of time, energy, resources, ideas and humour are much appreciated. Many thanks are also due to retiring board members, Meaghan Benmore, Monica Bhatara, Leanore Copeland and Christine Mykota for their contributions in the past.

Please join us during our upcoming season, to see our exciting new productions, and witness why Green Thumb so richly deserves it's laurels.

Victoria Z. Henderson  
President, Green Thumb Theatre Board of Directors

## Artistic Director's Statement

The 2006 – 2007 season was solid artistically. Our new high school touring show **CRANKED**, by Michael P. Northey, was extremely well received by students and educators. It is the story of 17 year old Stan, a DJ, who becomes addicted to crystal meth. The production tours with a DJ and uses hip-hop and spoken word. **CRANKED** was nominated for several Jessies and came away with statues for Outstanding Original Script and Outstanding Original Music. The actor in the show, Kyle Cameron, was nominated for his performance but lost out to Jenny Paterson who won for her performance in our production of **SPEED**. **CRANKED** also played at the Magnetic North Theatre Festival in Ottawa and has attracted international attention, including an invite to the Moscow Theatre Festival in the 2008-09 season.

For the first time we were part of the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival. They presented our award winning production of **RAGE** by Michele Riml. The show was even stronger this time and as a result of being in the festival we are looking at touring in 2008 -2009.

The elementary shows **SHOWDOWN** and **THE SKINNY LIE** were well received by students, educators and presenters across North America.

With our current activity already reaching a substantial audience across many ages one may wonder why we work to expand our audiences and the age of our target audiences. Green Thumb is driven to growth because of our strong and fundamental belief in the work of our writers, actors, creative personnel and staff. Theatre is a means of exploration of social issues, an inspiration for the examination of values and an aid to build tolerance and understanding. The best drama seeks to question and to spark discussion and thought. Green Thumb has over thirty year's experience of creating the very best of contemporary theatre which entertains and provokes. That history drives us to seek ever larger audiences, explore new themes and engage an expanding pool of writers and performers. We don't look to attract youth to the theatre through marketing techniques first but through the exploration of their stories. The commitment of the Board and staff is to maintain strength in our school programming in combination with a concerted effort to build a strong season of young adult programming in a mainstage venue. The 2006/07 season was a continuation of that march toward an expanded exploration of our society through the production of new work. The season marked a significant commitment to new commissions and to dedicated planning of regular mainstage programming for young adult audiences.

Patrick McDonald  
Sept. 2007

### CRANKED:

It was a totally awesome play I love the way 'Stan' pulled it off You guys should be really proud of yourselves I know I am and really impressed... keep up the good work. And if the rest of your audiences are touched and impacted like I was, the world is going to be a better place. HUGS! Don't meth around!

Michaela  
LA Matheson Secondary

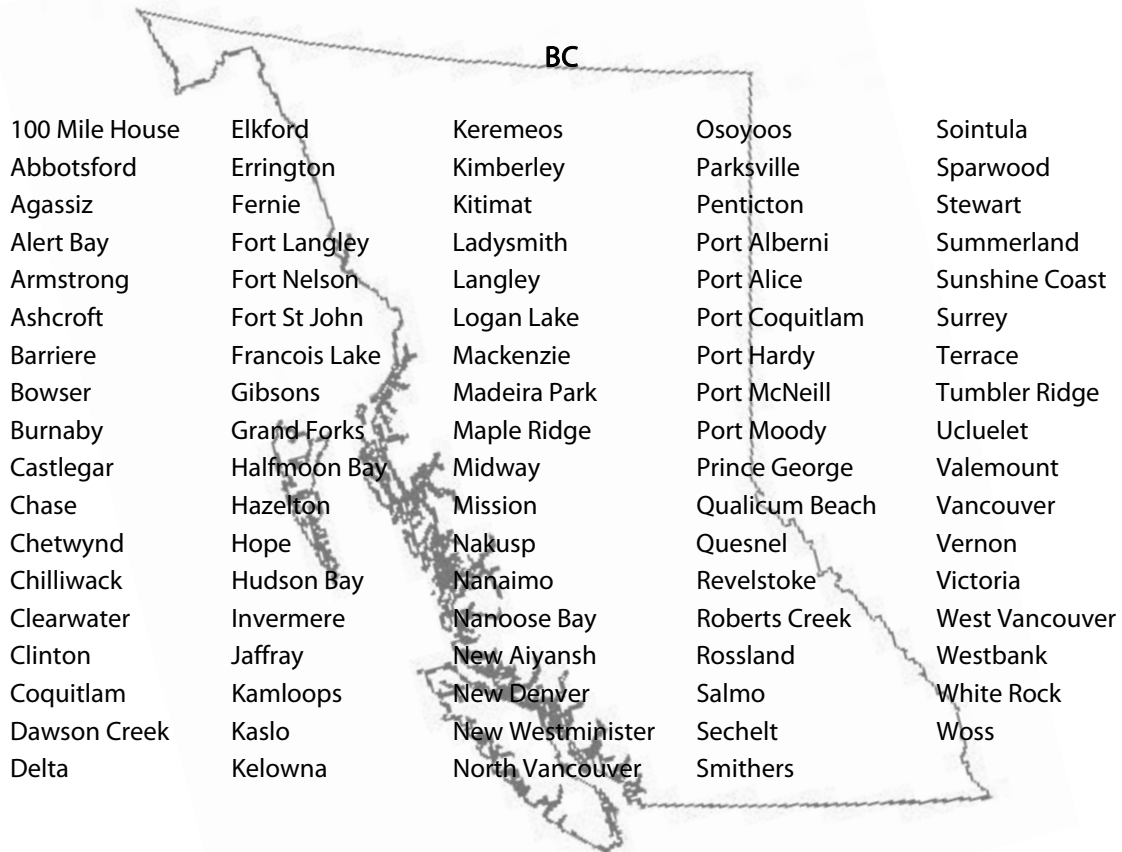
## 2006 - 2007 Season by the numbers

- ⑤ **5** productions :
  - One premiere commissioned work on tour for teens & young adults
  - Three from existing repertoire
  - One revival of an original work for young adult audiences
- ⑤ **53** Performance weeks over 9 months for all productions
- ⑤ **362** Total performances for all productions
- ⑤ **304** Performances in 89 BC Communities
- ⑤ **49** Performances in 20 Communities in 4 other Provinces
- ⑤ **9** Performances in 7 Communities in 4 States
- ⑤ **94,706** Individuals watched a Green Thumb Theatre Production
- ⑤ **116** Communities in Canada and the USA experienced a Green Thumb performance
- ⑤ **69,983** kms travelled by road for all tours

### Geography

Most Western Community	Kitimat, BC	lat. 54° 02' N	long. 128° 7' W
Most Northern Community	Fort Nelson, BC	lat. 58° 50' N	long. 122° 35' W
Most Eastern Community	Saint John, NB	lat. 45° 19' N	long. 65° 53' W
Most Southern Community	Cincinnati, OH	lat. 39° 9' N	long. 84° 31' W
Smallest Community	Woss, BC	pop. :400 (school population of ~33)	
Largest Community	Toronto, ONT	pop.: 2,503,281	

**Communities  
or Where we spent our year**



## Some Reviews

### Cranked

Having watched Green Thumb Theatre before I knew I didn't want to miss the opportunity to see Cranked. I booked myself off on the morning of the performance and was greeted with loud rap music as I entered the gym where the theatre was being held. The students were captivated by the performance which depicted the reality of Crystal Meth with great clarity. My compliments to the writers and especially to the actors as they go on to perform and inform in over 100 locations. I checked out the [www.crystallmeth.bc.ca](http://www.crystallmeth.bc.ca) website recommended by the actors. It's a great site to learn more about the drug and the toll its taking on our children, community members and towns. We live in northern BC, a community easily accessed by drugs but not so by performances such as "Cranked". I feel fortunate that our students had an opportunity to watch a performance of such high caliber. Thanks for braving the snow and early winter conditions to bring an important message to a small community

Lorraine, Fort Nelson Secondary

### Show Down

Showdown's physical production is as handsome as its text...this kind of magic is essentially theatrical, and it's great that kids are being exposed to it. I like Showdown very much, mostly because it's such a loving assemblage of humble observations.

Colin Thomas, The Georgia Straight

### The Skinny Lie

Dear Deanna, You shouldn't have pushed Jessie into making a bad choice. It's a good thing you straightened every thing up in the end. I don't think you should have given up dance when you didn't get a solo. You should keep going and stop obsessing about your weight. You're a really good dancer! In the end it's good that you helped your friend when she needed it and started taking care of your self better. Good job at making the right choice in the end.

Sincerely, Lauren, Lakefield Elementry School

## Genuine chemistry makes Rage crackle

In a grim basement office, student and teacher play out a dangerous game through raw, rough discourse



PETER BIRNIE  
VANCOUVER SUN

**RAGE**  
Waterfront Theatre, 1412 Cortwright  
on Granville Island, to Feb. 11  
tickets \$26/20, call 604-231-7535, or  
pay what you can at the door, for stu-  
dents with ID, Feb. 6 to 9

Theatre for young adults doesn't get much grittier than *Rage*. This tight, taut two-hander about a student who flips out on his high-school guidance counsellor gets full marks for keeping audiences of any age on the edge of their seats.

First seen in 2004, the award-winning Green Thumb production returns with Leslie Jones and David Beazely reprising their roles. On Craig Hall's effective set, which accurately conveys a suitably grim basement office with pipes overhead, counsellor and student play out the dangerous game that results when adults fail to look beyond their

own egos in dealing with troubled teens.

Michele Rimi's script has a nicely new currency to it, spending minimal time on setting the story up so that a 70-minute single act can be filled with raw, rough discourse instead of unnecessary exposition.

Simply put, the counsellor is wrapping up a long day thinking she's getting ready to go out to the theatre. The student has other ideas.

Patrick McDonald directs with a fine sense of the superb way Rimi builds tension into her script. Beazely begins with just a hint of what's boiling within his character,

the timebomb ticking until Jones as the chipper counsellor has put out one too many platitudes about peace and love.

She has relied for too long on an autopilot approach to preaching peace, citing Gandhi until the cows come home. But the student is well-versed in both peace and war, from Gandhi to Hitler, and barks back at her before snapping completely.

BOOM! An old maxim in theatre states that if you show a gun in the first act, you'd better use it in the second. When you only have one act, however, the weapon gets waved around without much warning, and becomes a deadly

addition to an already dangerous game.

The actors have a genuine chemistry as they each follow the subtly different curves of each character in Rimi's clever duet. Jones starts off showing the counsellor's inherent chutzpah, shifts into fear and has some surprises waiting behind her big eyes.

Beazely makes his student especially frightening by cleverly keeping some facets of his madness hidden.

Students should see *Rage*, discuss the dying of the light of hope in some of their troubled peers, then go gentle into that good night.

Parents should clear the wax from their ears and join in increasing the peace.

Sun Theatre Critic  
pbirnie@png.comwest.com

## General's Manager's Statement

Despite the seasonal deficit it was a remarkably positive year. A firm commitment to growth for the company drove us to work through a slow start. Having begun the season with fewer than normal bookings we ended with an average year. Through the diligent and persistent work of staff and additional marketing efforts we performed to almost one hundred thousand patrons. The strength of the productions as always led the way to increased performance opportunities as did a strong partnership with Fraser Health in the dissemination of *Cranked*. The season did show some weakness in our U.S. marketing and also pointed to some risks of an over reliance on booking agencies.

Our successes were: the number of patrons and communities we served; our extensive geographic reach; the overwhelming response from teens to *Cranked*, the strong response from post secondary audiences to *Rage* and the consistently positive response from elementary school educators to *ShowDown* and *The Skinny Lie*.

The support given to us through a grant from the Vancouver Foundation (Medici Program) has allowed us to look further ahead in our fundraising and earned revenues planning, setting hard targets for both sales of our productions and for increased fundraising goals. The Medici grant provided for the addition of one staff person as well as a senior consultant (MCR West) to work with us on the development of a fundraising plan. Because of the multiple year nature of the Medici grant program, we can move beyond the consultation to implementation of our strategies. We now have our first formalized case for support which provides a foundation for our fundraising plans and goals for many years to come.

As we look to the next few years ahead, we are faced with the eventual and perhaps imminent loss of our home of over twenty years. The green house on Venables is slated for demolition as part of the Cultch's redevelopment. The uncertainty of when any demolition will take place has led us toward a planned move rather than waiting for necessity to drive our move. This will lead to an immediate need to support the move and what should be, in light of Vancouver's real estate market, increased operating expenses. We are working to obtain a space which will house several non-profits that we expect to generate a new creative energy and will share the cost of overheads. Our desired space will allow for complete rehearsals to take place within our facility and for us to rent badly needed rehearsal space out to the arts community in Vancouver. We hope that the move will also open up many other avenues of public participation and awareness of our work and the work of our partner organizations.

### THE SKINNY LIE:

I am a Dance Prof, and the mother of a third grader. I found *The Skinny Lie* to be both entertaining and informative. The issues of food, weight, and media influences are area that need to be addressed with young kids. Sadly even girls as young as my daughter are feeling the effects of our image obsessed culture. Hopefully, shows like this will lead to honest discussions about how we all buy into the skinny lie. It would be nice if Jesse was not wearing the Hummingbird pants at the end of the show, and if we actually saw her eating those chocolate chip cookies! Thank you also for pointing out the use of the web in the world of eating Disorders. I believe that a lot of people do not know of the multitude of sights that reinforce disordered eating. Thanks again, and keep up the good work.

Liz Moore, Mallett's Bay School

## The New Green Thumb Logo



### Why did Green Thumb Theatre decide to change its look?

We've been talking about it for a number of years. The original logo was not always identifiable, many people didn't know that it was a hand until a year or two after they'd been staring at and they went 'oh that's a hand' (though to be honest, most young children saw the hand immediately!). More to the point we felt that in some ways the company had grown. When the original logo was produced Green Thumb was only producing plays for elementary age students. Over the last 30 years we have expanded to high school students and, more recently, developed the main stage programming for teenagers and young adults. It didn't feel like that particular logo and the text type actually addressed all three of those groups. I think it addressed the elementary age and the family group quite well, but it didn't present who we really are now. So we wanted to come up with something that worked for all of our different audiences.

**But in reality we must all remember that a logo is just that—a logo, and what remains most important is the quality of the plays we produce.**

Our logo change was supported through a grant from 2010 Legacies Now Catalyst Program.



Final Logo Design: Rebus Creative

Web Design & Printed material Layout: Kihada Designworks

Web backend – Chris Campbell Design Communications

## **Finance Statement 2006 – 2007 Review**

The season was budgeted assuming a seasonal deficit. This is a rare occurrence in the company's history and was planned in order to initiate our consistently stated goal to expand our programming initiatives and audience age range. In building a new audience with young adult programming we anticipate 2 -3 years of investment in programming and marketing expenses with a very low ticket revenue return. While our touring market remains strong, in order to expand into a market for young adults we have set very low ticket revenues for this programming stream; largely due to our commitment to 'pay what you can' admission for all students for all performances.

The seasonal deficit is partially driven by a strong desire to invest in a secure future through a \$50,000 (minimum) commitment to our endowment fund. The foresight of the Provincial government will result in our \$50,000 investment being matched by the Renaissance Fund; resulting in earnings in perpetuity for the organization derived from a \$100,000 increase to our current Endowment Fund. Green Thumb's endowment held and managed by the Vancouver Foundation will have a minimum book value of over \$325,000 after this contribution. Approximately \$15,000 of our fundraising efforts from the season was sought & directed specifically to this contribution, and the balance of our commitment will be drawn temporarily against our restricted reserve (McGavin) fund.

An investment in rebranding, increased marketing for productions and fundraising and continued significant investment in commissioning new work were part of the planned seasonal expenses that are an investment in our future. Increased costs in touring, including increases in expenses related to tour vehicles and increases in per diems, longer trips between performances etc., were also contributing factors to our seasonal results. Of note are our tour vehicles (now totalling three to meet the demand of our programming) which are large and necessary infrastructure expenses. There is little grant or fundraising support available for tour vans, yet they are a cornerstone of our operations. However, these and other expenses are investments in our future, and the future health and stability of the organization. The organization remains strong with solid financial reserves to protect against unexpected problems, and most importantly with reserves to build for our future.

## **The Look Ahead**

The outlook for next season is a break even season. The organization is committed to finding a solution to the uncertainty we have about our rehearsal and administrative facility and is assuming an increase in overheads in preparation for a change in lease arrangements. Programming is also very ambitious for next season as we embark on a cyclical pattern of many new works moving to production. In fact the 2007 – 2008 season will contain seven different productions as part of our programming, two of which are brand new commissions.

## Finances at a glance:

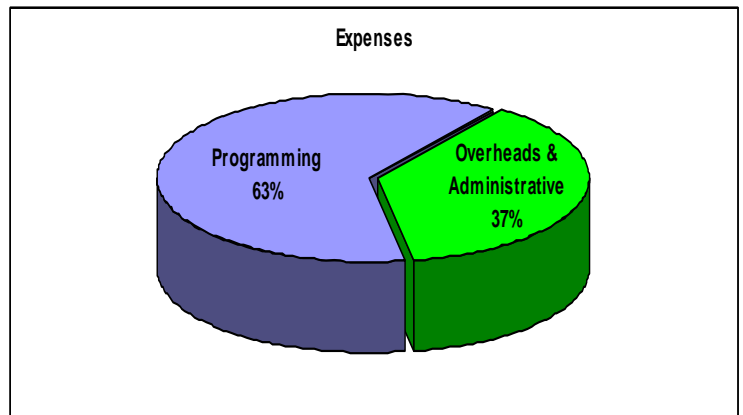
The Society operated on total revenues in the operating fund of \$952,726. Our incurred expenditures in the operating fund of \$980,885 resulted in seasonal expenses exceeding revenues by \$(28,159).

Overall the seasonal shortfall leaves the company with unrestricted working reserves of \$67,344 (or approximately 7.5% of our average operating budget)

Additional revenues shown in the Northrup fund of \$13,926 are assigned to endowment contributions .

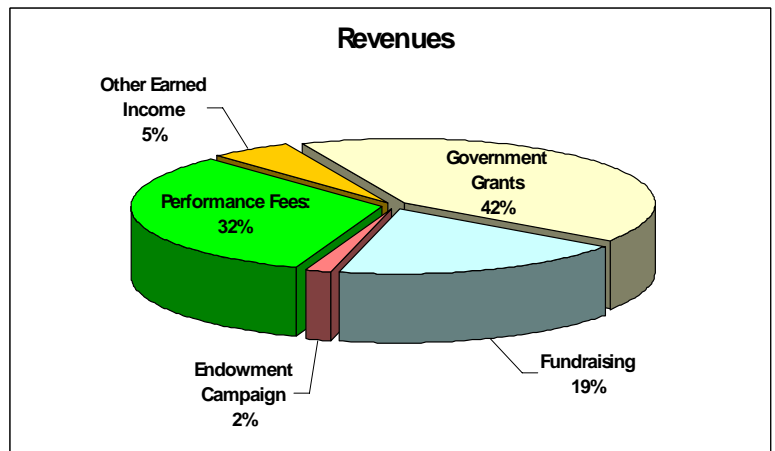
### Expenses

Programming:	\$630,613
Overhead & Administrative:	\$350,272



### Revenues

Performance Fees	312,322
Other Earned Revenues	51,188
Fundraising (including Medici & Endowment)	201,117
Government Grants (including ArtsNow & Spirit)	400,450



SHOW DOWN

Fantastic! The students were completely engaged in the story and there was lots of humour for the adults. An awesome production, definitely worth booking.

Cathy Abercrombie, Thunderbird Elementary

## Our 2006 -2007 Artists

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### Chasing The Money

By Dennis Foon



Kip: Nikolas Longstaff  
Joey: Erin Mathews  
King: Joshua Reynolds  
Stage Manager: Daniel Dolan  
Set Design: Craig Hall  
Directed By: Patrick McDonald

Supported by: Spirit of BC (Province of British Columbia)

The production benefited from the support it received in the previous season from the Ministry of the Solicitor General BC , and Great Canadian Casinos

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### The Skinny Lie

By Michele Riml



Jessie: Ruth Brown  
Deana: Sasa Brown  
Josh: Nick Longstaff ; replaced by, Mike Waterman  
Stage Manager: Jaimie Tait  
Set Design: Patrick McDonald  
Directed By: Patrick McDonald

Supported by: BC Hydro, The McLean Foundation, RBC Foundation, TD Canada Trust

The Skinny Lie

“Play brings truth to beauty myths” – Calgary Herald

## Our 2006 -2007 Artists

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### Cranked

By Michael P Northey

Music : Kyprios & Stylust

Lyrics: Kyprios & Michael P Northey

Stan: Kyle Cameron  
DJ Shift: Joel Etkin  
or  
DJ Wilde: Amy Wilding

Stage Manager: Elizabeth Steele  
Set Design: Justus Hayes  
Lighting Design (tour): Brent Rossington  
Lighting Design (Ottawa): Martin Conboy



Supported By: Fraser Valley Health Authority / Telus / Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor  
General Safe Streets and Schools Project / Green Shield / The Hamber Foundation

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### Showdown

By Jamie Norris

Rex: Joshua Drebit  
Becky: Hazel Venzon  
Marshall: Daryl King  
Stage Manager: Malina Patel  
Set Design: Kate King  
Directed By: Patrick McDonald



Supported by: Coast Capital, Barrick Gold

#### CRANKED:

that performance ROCKED!! all the students where interested none of them wanted to get out of the gym so bad. they all wanted you to performe more! I LOVE stan.:P it was kool the way he was acting i thought he was really on meth. I loved all the lights and musik it made it feel like i was at a dance:P. the performance was so interesting!! I LOVED IT!! wish you guyz can come back to our school and this time take CD with tha rapping ..but ya LOVED THE PERFORMANCE...

Keisha, Nisga'a Elementary/Secondary School

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# RAGE

By Michele Riml



The Consulting Edge  
Movers & Shakers, Inc.

Stan (Rage): David Beazley  
Laura: Leslie Jones  
Stage Manager: Alex Currie  
Set Design: Craig Hall  
Lighting Design: Jonathon Ryder  
Directed by: Patrick McDonald

Supported by: The Consulting Edge, BC Federation of Labour, The John Howard Society

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## NEW PLAY COMMISSIONS



Michele Riml	"Tree Boy"	In development for 2007/08 Season
Darryl Dennis	"Tales of an Urban Indian"	In Development for 2007/08 Season
Michele Riml	"Souvenirs"	In development for a future season
Meghan Gardiner	"Dissolve"	In development for 2008/09 season

### Other Commissions in discussion:

Betty Quan	Elementary school show	Potential for 2008/09 Season
J. MacLeod	Main Stage production	For a future season
Michael P Northey (w/ Kyrios – Music & Lyrics)	Main Stage / High School tour	For 2008/09 or 09/10 season

### RAGE:

"Theatre for young adults doesn't get much grittier than RAGE. This tight, taut two-hander about a student who flips out on his high school guidance counsellor gets full marks for keeping audiences of any age on the edge of their seats."

Peter Birnie, Vancouver Sun, Feb. 05, 2007

**Green Thumb Theatre relies on the generous donations of its many Foundation, Corporate, Government &**

## **Individual supporters.**

### Individual Donors

Abramowitz, David	Malicki, David
Benmore, Meaghan	Maurer, Joan
Brennan, Dawn	Mochler, Lynn
Coady, Linda	Morrow Donaldson, Wendy
Habel, Ivan	Mykota, Christine
Heatley, Stephen	Page, John Malcolm
Henderson, Lyman	Saga, Candy
Henderson, Victoria	Scholefield, Stuart & Wendy
Heyman, Jane	Shaw, Kathryn
Hirvi Mayne, Maari	Sisson, Lindy
Howard Baker, Jane	Soo, Doug
Lai, Lucy	Wasserman, Jerry
Loren, Deborah	Wilson, Eric

### Contributions for the Endowment Fund of Green Thumb Theatre

Baker, Judith Anne	Lee, Rod
Cooper, Alan	Mackenzie, Margaret
Davidson, Linda	McEvoy, Maureen
Dickson, Gail	Olsen, Janny
Findlay, Caroline	Pillon, Maria
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Hiland, Trisha	Street, John
Hohlman, Tamara	Walker, Anne
Janssen, Dana	Zadeiks, Ed

## Green Thumb Theatre Board & Staff

Green Thumb Theatre is supported by and sustained through the dedicated involvement of our Board.

### 2006 – 2007 Board of Directors

Victoria Henderson	President
Candy Saga	Vice President
Leanore Copeland	Treasurer
Meaghan Benmore	Secretary
Maureen McEvoy	Past President
Candrina Bailey	
Monica Bhatara	
David Malicki	
Paula Rosehart	
Christine Mykota	

Retiring from the board this year with our heartfelt thanks:

Meaghan Benmore, Monica Bhatara, Leanore Copeland  
Christine Mykota – resigned earlier during the term of her service

### Staff

Natalie Ackers	Company & Touring Manager
Nadine Carew	Administrative & Touring Assistant
Heather Currie *	Fundraising & Marketing Associate
Ivan Habel	General Manager
Lucilla Lai **	Accountant
Jim Lin	Accountant
Patrick McDonald	Artistic Director
Andy Price	Fundraising Manager
Brent Rossington	Production Manager



VANCOUVER  
FOUNDATION

\*Heather Currie's Position is made responsible through a three year grant from the Vancouver Foundation's Medici program.

\*\* Lucilla Lai is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service to Green Thumb Theatre and has provided us the additional comfort of an extended overlap between herself & Jim Lin. We will miss her, her sense of humour and her financial wisdom. Lucy has consented to continue in an advisory capacity, and once again we express our gratitude to her.

## OPERATING & SEASONAL SUPPORTERS



Green Thumb Theatre is again proud to recognize CIBC as our Season Supporter



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
ARTS COUNCIL  
Supported by the Province of British Columbia



VANCOUVER  
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And:

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Charlwood Pacific, BC Teachers Federation,  
Hawthorne Foundation, SMIT Marine**



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