



## **Awkward Stage Productions Society – FAQ's**

### **What is Awkward Stage Productions Society (ASP)?**

Awkward Stage Productions (ASP) is a theatre company and registered charity dedicated to delivering high-quality, inclusive, relevant theatre programming; exciting audiences; and providing young and emerging artists with rewarding performance and production opportunities and mentorship.

### **Why Awkward Stage?**

We are all moving through a series of stages in life, and some of them can be awkward. Young and emerging theatre artists in Vancouver typically go through an awkward stage as they transition from training programs to the early stages of their careers. How can they get experience unless someone gives them a chance? How can someone give them a chance without experience? Awkward.

Professions typically help their young get practical experience through apprenticeships, internships, articling programs and residency training. Emerging theatre artists in Vancouver have ASP to help them do the same.

### **What is the bridge space?**

ASP occupies the bridge space in the Vancouver theatre community for young and emerging artists across all theatre disciplines. This bridge space is the transitional time and place in an emerging artist's career where they need experience, supportive developmental opportunities and payment for their effort so they can move from amateur to professional theatre careers.

### **How does ASP help emerging artists?**

ASP creates theatre by and with young and emerging artists. We engage our young artists in all aspects of mounting a theatre production, including the artistic, administrative and governance aspects of the organization. We engage established and respected theatre professionals as coaches and mentors. We pay our artists for their talent, skills and effort. This enables young and emerging artists to learn, gain experience and get established in their profession.

### **How does ASP benefit the community?**

Every community has a soul and cultural enrichment feeds this soul. Arts and culture thrives when young talent, fresh ideas and wisdom of experience come together. ASP gives young and emerging theatre artists the ability to pursue their careers in Vancouver, thereby keeping Vancouver's soul nourished for today and for the future.

### **How can Vancouverites support the next generation of home-grown theatre talent?**

- Recognize the importance of theatre, arts and culture to Vancouver's soul.
- Make time to go to the theatre with friends and family.
- Introduce young people to the glorious experience of live theatre.
- Choose shows where theatre artists are treated as professionals and paid fairly for their efforts. If you don't know, ask before buying tickets.
- If you love community theatre where hobby artists are not paid, please support them too.
- Make your dollars go further – ASP is eligible for matching funds from arts agencies which effectively doubles the impact of your donation. As a registered charity, all donors receive a receipt for tax purposes.

### **How can Vancouverites donate to ASP and keep our talent in our city?**

Donations to ASP can be made [HERE](#) or through a pledge to the [United Way](#). For the United Way, please specify that your donation is for Awkward Stage Productions Society, Vancouver BC, registered charity # 800906455RR0001.