

2020 Artistic Executive Director's Report Summary
Kat Single-Dain

Well, they say hindsight is 2020....And now it is! In hindsight 2020 has been an opportunity to stop the merry-go-round, re-evaluate priorities, and make positive changes. World-over it has also been a drill in dealing with one issue that affects every single person on the earth. In some ways, we have failed the drill; differing opinions and debate on the facts have divided us and prevented a path forward in solidarity. In some areas we have succeeded; human rights and actions against institutionalized racism are gaining steam and being treated as the priority they are. This drill will not be our last. With climate change ahead, it will be the first of many. Our contribution to the world, as The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret-- though humble and local --remains the same because I believe it will always remain important; We exist to remind people of our shared humanity, to laugh at ourselves, to remind us of the ways that we are the same, not alone, and to shine the spotlight on and celebrate each person's unique expression of the same core desires. We are the *Cabaret*! A place where the misfits fit, and Darwin's classic law of nature becomes Survival of the Misfits instead. A reflection of life that can not only change minds, but change hearts.

We have not been idle in 2020. Our activities have included the Parade of Lost Souls radio show and secret parade going up Commercial Drive, a season of successful grant writing, continued progress on the editing of our feature films *Hard Times Hit Parade* and *Scarlet Queen of Mercy*, and the birth of a new show in development. In 2021, our first application for studio renovations funding was received in full from the BC Arts Council, giving us \$75,000 that we are busy turning into vast improvements right now. When live theater returns to Vancouver The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret will be more prepared than ever to welcome live audiences.

This year has also given me the opportunity to connect directly with those who paved the way for the work we do, my predecessors at Public Dreams; I have had great conversations with Paula Jardine, Martina Sjarto, Dolly Hopkins *and* Katharine Carol. And I have connected on a much more personal level with our City of Vancouver contacts, members of Vancouver's Police and Fire Departments and Coastal Health. With regards to Parade of Lost Souls I was told that our permit application was at one point on the desk of the now famous Bonnie Henry. According to our contact, we were the only parade to be officially permitted in Vancouver in 2020. I believe that we have made 2020 as much of a success as possible, and have gone over and above expectations of a non profit society that runs public arts festivals and events. I feel grateful to be leading the DFC, proud of what we have accomplished, and excited for our future. As far as I'm concerned, we're going to keep playing for a long time to come.

Life is a cabaret my friend. Come to the cabaret...

K Single-Dain

Kat Single-Dain

*Director of productions since 2010 and
AD since 2014*

