



2023 has been an absolutely **FUN**TASTIC year for the Driftwood Theatre School! **Spring** wrapped-up with a formative stage-showcase at the Heritage Playhouse and, we are proud to announce, one of our **Sunshine Coast Festival of the Performing Arts** students (Doris Garner) going on to Provincials and one (Willow Rody) recommended to perform at the Highlights Concert for the Festival. Furthermore, Doris Garner was recommended with an Honourable Mention Certificate to the **CanWest Festival** - the highest Festival level possible for Speech and Dramatic Arts students in Canada!

Our collaborations between DTS students and our umbrella theatre organization, the **Driftwood Players**, have given some of our dedicated students truly valuable experience and space for inter-generational dramatics. DTS Alumni Trey Ingram and Olive StremLaw started our spring with the collab production of **"The Garage Sale"** at the Heritage Playhouse - 3 months of hard work and 9 performances. Current student, Alta O'Farrell, joined in the fun of **Summer Story Theatre**. And the October Pop-up Theatre production of **"Game Show Hell"** at the Gibsons Halloween Block Party involved several current *and* past DTS students, giving audiences gruesome hilarity and rock'n dance moves for three shows performed in the shut-down street. We are thankful for the months of rehearsals and hard work all of these students put into these productions and look forward to more collaborations in 2024.

In the midst of all this, we also kicked off our **Fall 2023** with four diverse classes from four fantastic teachers and a taste of the in-depth Meisner Technique.

What an action-packed year!



Alta O'Farrell, a talented teen drama student, spent her summer performing with the Driftwood Story Theater ensemble – a fun, multi-generational troupe of goofy thespians. This pile-up of actors, directors, writers, and artists brought to life short, fun, family-friendly stories at multiple sites around the Sunshine Coast. Ingrid Bilton, a long-time instructor with DTS, was delighted to see her student participate: "Alta's growth as an actor over the course of Story Theater has been phenomenal. Her initiative, diligence, her ability to connect with her audience and her fellow actors have been remarkable!"

NEW TERM RUNS
Jan 9th - Apr 28th, 2024
(Fees due before 1st class)

Some availability in the following classes:

FUNDamentals of Drama Part II (6-9 yrs)

January 10th - April 24th

Wednesdays, 4:15pm - 5:15pm

Mission Point House, Davis Bay

Instructor Tara Blasco Fynn

IMPROV to Festival (new students accepted with teacher interview)

Jan 10th - April 24th

Wednesdays, 4pm - 6pm

Grantham's Hall, Gibsons

Instructor Sandi McGinnis

Magic in the Moment Continues (10-14 yrs)

(Continuing Sunday class 5:45 - 7:15pm

Davis Bay Hall

January 14th - April 28th)

NEW SECOND CLASS OPTION:

January 10th - April 24th

Wednesdays, 4:30pm - 6pm

Eric Cardinal Hall, Gibsons

Instructor Gabriel Leonard Ditmars

Transformers 2: The Play's the Thing (as per teacher and upon audition)

January 9th – April 23rd

Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:30pm

St. Barts, Gibsons

Instructor Ingrid Bilton

**For more information
or to register contact
Sandi McGinnis at
registrar.driftwoodts@gmail.com**



"Transformers" Students Shift into High Gear!

Thank you to our enormously gifted senior drama students for proving, once again, that even very young actors are capable of phenomenal maturity and depth in grasping the Characterization process. Our students have shown a profound degree of empathy as they processed and absorbed the life experiences of a wide range of characters. From an intensive study of key emotions, through the reenactment of a real-life high-profile drama, to a detailed study of the aging process – our young actors have displayed outstanding ability and commitment. I am so excited to see how they will use these new skills to tackle a scripted play in Term 2!!! - Ingrid



MOVING ON TO FESTIVAL 2024

The Improv to Festival class has been exploring vital theatre performance techniques to polish our skills in preparation for our presentations the morning of Friday, April 19th in the Sunshine Coast Festival of Performing Arts. In the New Year our focus will shift to in-depth work on the scripted work we will offer for adjudication.

Our journey will continue through character development using the advanced acting system employed by professional thespians through the ages.

The excitement is building and we are looking forward to sharing our talents in 2024, along with the excellent, high caliber and award winning work that is yearly presented at the SCFPA.

Last year DTS student Doris Garner not only went to present her work in the BC Provincial Festival of the Arts, but was recommended to go on to the Canada West Festival.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year! - Sandi



FUNdamentals of Drama - More than just FUN!

This past fall, a small but mighty group of energetic kids (big and little) came together to explore some basic dramatic play concepts.

Participants learned about self expression and story-telling through the physical and vocal embodiment of simple characters and themes.

Kids were introduced to cooperative, improvisational games and exercises that enhanced performance skills and fostered creative story building.

Through sensory play and make believe we focused on having fun and creating a safe and inclusive space. Each class was an opportunity to fully express ourselves in solo, tandem and group endeavours. -Tara

The Magic in The Moment fall class was the largest group Gabriel has had the pleasure of teaching in recent years and it was a blast! With 14 registrants - some familiar faces, some new - we explored the arts of teamwork, improvisation, staging and creative storytelling. We saw differences get worked out, fears getting faced, hilarious displays of imagination, the sharpening of wit and the fostering of sensitivity and fellowship.

Gabriel is keen to see his students continue their development as young actors, having witnessed such growth already. He is excited to offer this class and a second option for those who couldn't make the Sunday time slot.

What's next? One new element that will be introduced into all of Gabriel's continuation of Magic in the Moment classes in the January to April season will be working towards recital performances in the DTS Spring Showcase (optional per student), which will take place at the Gibsons Heritage Playhouse. Showcase is always a valuable, fun and encouraging experience for the young actors, and an opportunity to apply some of what they've learned on a real stage. Here's looking forward to another great semester! - Gabriel

**DTS WISHES YOU A
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**