



Date: June 18/ 21

## REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM

As of March, 2020, and as a result of the Covid 19 outbreak, all theatrical events were cancelled at the Pinnacle Playhouse by the BTG Board of Directors – Thus losing the balance of the 2019 -20 season (Sonya and Vanya and Masha and Spike, and Mamma Mia!) The entire 2020-21 season was also lost.

A decision was made over the summer months of 2020, that we could produce plays online via Zoom. These would be done simply as “play readings” with actors doing the reading from home. BTG began soliciting interest from local playwrights for relatively new plays (One Acts) that could be produced in this way. The opportunity was also offered to any local actors that were interested in reading a part for one of the plays selected.

Beginning in August of 2020, and running through until May 2021, a total of 18 plays were presented in this manner. This Zoom event provided many opportunities for local playwrights to see their work read and performed by skilled actors – and at the same time provided many opportunities for actors, experienced or not, to take part in live theatre once again.

As we slowly work our way out of this pandemic, the Belleville Theatre Guild looks forward to the day when we can, once again, present live theater at the Pinnacle Playhouse. There is potential for full length plays to be performed once again to full audiences by the beginning of 2022. This may be optimistic and we are at the mercy of this virus that has been with us for so long now – but – we are optimistic that early 2022 is a possibility.

The musical – Mamma Mia! – that had to be cancelled at a point when it was ready to open – has been rescheduled to be performed from May 31 - June 19, 2022!

The Board of Directors is will also be considering other full length plays or One Acts that could be performed earlier in the coming year.

**Marvin Tucker, Chair, Play Selection Committee**