

## **Phyllis Leighton**

Born in Chatham, and raised in both Durham and London, Phyllis Leighton, has deep roots in Western Ontario.

Phyllis brings: a lively interest and passion for the performing arts, theatrical/musical training, acquired skills as an educator, and personal experience as an actor, singer, dancer, pianist, puppeteer, conductor, designer, vocal coach, counsellor, and director to her role as a theatre adjudicator. With both professional and amateur experience in theatre, Phyllis offers a fresh and thoughtful approach to adjudication, that is positive, informed, engaging, and educational.

Her wide range of experience has allowed Phyllis to work with both youth, and adult members of the theatre community. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English & Drama, a Bachelor of Education from Western University, and Specialists in Drama, and Vocal Music from the University of Toronto. While maintaining a full-time career as a Drama & Music teacher, with the Thames Valley District School Board in London, Phyllis acquired valuable insight and experience as a qualified Special Education teacher.

Phyllis has served on the Board of Directors for the Bluewater Summer Playhouse in Kincardine, and continues her work as a Drama Camp Coordinator, and Instructor. Her work as a director in community theatres has spanned southwestern Ontario, and includes: the Elgin Theatre Guild in St. Thomas, Goderich Little Theatre, the Kincardine Theatre Guild, and the London Community Players. Phyllis has enjoyed film work, and voice acting, and appeared in 'The Bruce', a documentary film series for TVO, covering the history of the Saugeen Ojibway Territory and Bruce County. She offers workshops as a Vocal Coach and performs regularly as a standardized patient at Western University's Schulich School of Medicine. While enjoying the creative improvisation and audience participation that dinner theatre affords, Phyllis regularly performs with Murder For Hire, a murder mystery theatre troupe based in London.

Since COVID, Phyllis has renewed her interest in the many technical aspects of the theatre; in particular, lighting, set, and sound design. She is greatly looking forward to directing once again as part of the upcoming 2022-2023 season for the Goderich Little Theatre, with a production of *The Addams Family* musical.

In her spare time, Phyllis enjoys gardening, fitness, photography, cooking, and performing as a church soloist. Phyllis is a proud mother of 3, enjoys hunting for 'treasures' in secondhand stores, and taking brisk walks with her dogs along the Lake Huron shoreline.