

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Quest University Student Production Of The Vagina Monologues Raises \$2,200 For Howe Sound Women's Centre Society Programs

SQUAMISH, BC (February 17, 2014) On February 15 and 16, students from Quest University gave the performance of a lifetime in the 6th annual V-Day production of The Vagina Monologues, helping to raise more than \$2,200 in support of the Howe Sound Women's Centre Society ("The Women's Centre"). The production was directed and produced by Quest University students, and featured an all-student cast. This theatrical celebration of womanhood is aimed at bringing the topic of female genitalia and sexuality to the forefront, while raising awareness about violence against women and girls. The Vagina Monologues is one of three V-Day productions from the V-Day movement, a global campaign developed by anti-violence activist Eve Ensler.

"The Vagina Monologues represent real-life stories recounted by women from around the world, and are based on their experiences with sexuality, gender bias, and in many cases, sexual violence," says Tamara Dudley, co-producer and director of the event. "While at times humorous, witty and entertaining, it also tackles the issue of gender equality and violence against women and girls. Our goal is to open up the dialogue in our own community, to address what we can do to ensure safety and equality for women and girls, and to mobilize people to put words to action around the issue."

This year's event drew more than 250 people to the two performances, which also featured a silent auction supported by various businesses throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor, live music, and tarot card readings. Food service was provided by Nester's Market, coffee and tea service was offered by Black Katz Eatery, and Gelato Carina was on hand to serve gelato by donation to the Women's Centre.

"We are inspired by the leadership, strength and courage demonstrated by the women at Quest University, and grateful for all of the support we received from our community supporters for silent auction items and in-kind goods for the event," says Sheila Allen, executive director of the Howe Sound Women's Centre Society. "This year's production of the Vagina Monologues was a heart-felt tribute to victims of sexualized violence, and while shocking at times, the issue is an important one to bring to the forefront. We are honoured to partner with the students on this project to support women and girls fleeing violence right here in our own community."

An additional 10% of proceeds from admission donations will go to One Billion Rising for Justice, the international V-Day awareness campaign to bring about justice for survivors of gender violence.

About The Howe Sound Women's Centre Society

The Howe Sound Women's Centre Society is a charitable organization that has been serving the Sea to Sky Community for 32 years. The Women's Centre is focused on supporting women, children and youth who are in need of emergency shelter, support, referrals and advocacy, and in particular, those who are victims of violence. The Women's Centre offers emergency housing through Pearl's Place Transition Home and Pearl's Safe Home, children and youth focused programs such as Children Who Witness Abuse counselling and Violence is Preventable education, multicultural outreach, and health and wellness programs. The Squamish and Whistler Women's Centres receive over 5,500 visits annually. The Women's Centre also operates Pearl's Value & Vintage, a second hand thrift store selling gently used and vintage goods, with all proceeds from sales supporting Howe Sound Women's Centre Society programs. For more information, or to donate to the Howe Sound Women's Centre Society, visit www.hswc.ca.

For more information on the V-Day movement and One Billion Rising for Justice, visit www.vday.org.

Photo credit: Eline Huisken

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