

For immediate release

24 February 2025

### **Experience the Magic of "Once Upon a Mattress" – A Comedic Musical Adventure**

**Comox Valley, B.C.** – Comox Valley Schools proudly presents "Once Upon a Mattress," a comedic musical retelling of the classic fairy tale, *The Princess and the Pea*. Join us for an enchanting evening filled with laughter, romance, and clever twists from March 4 to March 8, 2025, at 7 p.m. each night in the Mark R. Isfeld Secondary multipurpose room.

Directed by Isfeld teacher Peter Spencer, in his debut directing a Comox Valley Schools district musical, and featuring musical direction by SD 71's fine arts lead teacher Jennifer Riley, this year's production showcases the immense talent and dedication of our students. Countless hours of rehearsal and commitment have gone into bringing this timeless fairy tale to life in a vibrant and entertaining way.

"Once Upon a Mattress" is a comedic journey into a medieval kingdom where Queen Aggravain has declared that no one may marry until her son, Prince Dauntless, finds a bride – but she sabotages every princess who tries. Enter Princess Winnifred, a spirited and unconventional young woman who must pass the Queen's impossible test to prove her worth. With humour, romance, and delightful surprises, the story unfolds in a lively and captivating performance suitable for all ages.

Director Peter Spencer shared his enthusiasm for the production, stating, "I have been thoroughly impressed with the energy and commitment of the cast and crew throughout this journey. Their passion and creativity bring this story to life in a truly magical way."

The cast features several Grade 12 students who have participated in previous Comox Valley Schools musical productions.

Jesse Hatch, who plays the mute King, reflected on his unique role, saying, "Playing a character who cannot speak has been an eye-opening experience. It has shown me that so much can be communicated through body language and facial expressions alone. Since my character doesn't have a voice, I have to be over the top to ensure the audience understands me."

#### **Performance Details:**

- Dates: March 4 to March 8, 2025
- Time: 7 p.m. each night
- Location: Mark R. Isfeld Secondary multipurpose room

- Tickets: Online \$20 each: <https://events.sd71.bc.ca/musical> or if available, tickets can also be purchased at the venue.

There are still a few tickets left, so be sure to purchase soon to ensure a seat. Don't miss this unique opportunity to support the arts in our schools and witness the extraordinary talents of our students here in the Comox Valley. "Once Upon a Mattress" is guaranteed to bring laughter and joy to all who attend.

### **Media Contact**

Craig Sorochan  
Manager of Communications  
Comox Valley Schools

### **Photos for use courtesy of Comox Valley Schools**

