

THEATRE ALBERTA AND ALBERTA PLAYWRIGHTS' NETWORK PRESENT

PLAYWORKS INK

Showing Our Roots

Alberta's Biennial Playwriting and Theatre Conference
Featuring Daniel MacIvor

NOVEMBER 3 – 6, 2011

EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts, Calgary

All are welcome!

www.theatrealberta.com
www.albertaplaywrights.com



Welcome to PlayWorks Ink 2011

There's a flower bed against the front of my house and in it sits the stump of an old cedar tree; this summer I decided to dig it out. The deeper I dug, the more I realized how far down those cedar roots ran—beneath the peonies, spirea bushes, and irises I had planted, and intertwining with the roots of a birch tree 15 feet from the stump. It amazes me how deep those cedar roots go, twisting into all the other growth happening underground...

Canada's own theatre roots are extensive. Our country grows an abundance of strong and unique artists whose individual and collective growth is interconnected—like an underground root system. We may not see it happening before our eyes, but somewhere deep down we enrich one another's growth through the art and experiences we share. Showing our roots.

This year we are thrilled to welcome the award-winning and internationally renowned Canadian playwright Daniel MacIvor. We thank The Arden Theatre in St. Albert for their support of PlayWorks Ink. We are equally excited to host a masterclass with Edmonton's Catalyst Theatre, led by Artistic Director Jonathan Christenson. Our program is full of Alberta talent, an homage to the abundance of outstanding theatre artists in our own backyard.

It's a fitting year for PlayWorks Ink to return to the EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts—the heart of Calgary's theatre community. Join us for this weekend of workshops, play readings, discussions, and socials; let's make this a weekend for showing our roots, celebrating them, and cultivating new ones.

That old cedar stump still sits in the flower bed but tiny green shoots have appeared on its surface. Something new is sprouting...

Lora Brovold
Programmer
Theatre Alberta

Keri Ekberg
Executive Director
Theatre Alberta

Trevor Rueger
Executive Director
Alberta Playwrights' Network

PLAYWORKS INK 2011

Showing Our Roots

THEATRE ALBERTA

Theatre Alberta is a provincial arts service organization and registered charity committed to encouraging the growth of theatre in Alberta. We offer a range of programs and services to drama students, professional theatre artists, educators, and enthusiasts, as well as to schools, post-secondary institutions, and community and professional theatres. Programs and services include Canada's largest independent theatre library, workshops and classes for teens and adults (urban and rural), online resource sharing services (for auditions, employment, and productions), advocacy, and theatre news publications.

ALBERTA PLAYWRIGHTS' NETWORK

Alberta Playwrights' Network (APN) is a non-profit arts organization and registered charity that exists to nurture Alberta playwrights and provide support for the development of their plays. APN seeks to increase awareness of Alberta playwrights and plays in the theatre community (locally, nationally, and internationally) while supporting the community of playwrights through education, outreach, and advocacy. APN offers a variety of programs for its members including dramaturgy, script development workshops, public play readings, writing competitions, playwriting circles, and reduced ticket prices to many Alberta theatres.

PLAYWORKS INK 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

FEATURED GUEST



Daniel MacIvor is playwright-in-residence at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto. For 20 years, he and Sherrie Johnson ran *da da kamera*, an internationally respected company that toured his work to Australia, Israel, Europe, the UK, and extensively throughout Canada and the United States. With Daniel Brooks, he has created the solo shows *House*, *Here Lies Henry*, *Monster*, *Cul-de-sac*, and *This Is What Happens Next*. Daniel's play *In On It* garnered him an Obie Award and a GLAAD Award. Daniel is a recipient of the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama and the Elinore and Lou Siminovitch Prize for Theatre.

FEATURED MASTERCLASS



Catalyst Theatre Under the leadership of Artistic Director Jonathan Christenson, and with the ongoing collaboration of resident designer Bretta Gerecke, Edmonton-based Catalyst Theatre has become celebrated for its highly integrated, distinctive theatrical aesthetic and recognized with more than 50 awards and nominations. Catalyst's works, including *The House of Pootsie Plunket*, *The Blue Orphan*, *Frankenstein*, and *Nevermore* have toured extensively across Canada and internationally. The company's most recent production *Hunchback* was commissioned by the Citadel Theatre, where it premiered in March 2011.

Other instructors include:

Ken Cameron, Bretta Gerecke, Karen Hines, Laura Krewski, Jane MacFarlane, Anita Miotti, Tololwa Mollel, Betty Moulton, Kristine Nutting, Mieko Ouchi, Vanessa Porteous, Elyne Quan, Trevor Rueger, Joe-Norman Shaw

On Monday, November 7, catch the premiere reading of Daniel MacIvor's latest play *I Animal* at The Arden Theatre in St. Albert. www.ardentheatre.com

CONFERENCE EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

APN's annual Alberta Playwriting Competition has helped launch the careers of some of Alberta's greatest playwrights.

The winning plays receive workshops and readings as part of PlayWorks Ink. These raw and fresh new plays are looking for supportive ears. Come listen, imagine, and enjoy!

THURSDAY, NOV 3

THURSDAY'S EVENTS

at Engineered Air Theatre

Play Reading at 7:00 pm

Super 8 by Mark C. Hopkins and Charles Netto

*Alberta Playwriting Competition's 2011 Discovery Prize winner.

Play Reading and Talkback at 8:00 pm

featuring Elyne Quan

President of the Playwrights Guild of Canada

FRIDAY, NOV 4

WORKSHOPS

2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

If Words Be Made of Breath...

with Jane MacFarlane

For performers wishing to reconnect with their breath.



As Gertrude says to Hamlet, breath is the foundation of life. This workshop will reinvigorate a deep connection to instinctive breath that is rooted in the core of the body. Participants will expand their capacity for connection to breath

support, free the channel for communication, and increase their range of expression by releasing the blocks to their connected core.

Take a Playwright to Work(shop)

with Trevor Rueger

For novice and intermediate playwrights and dramaturgs.



Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the closed doors of a new play workshop? Satisfy your curiosity and observe the workshop process in action as playwright, actors, and director/

dramaturg work on *Sequence* by Arun Lakra. After the session, participants will engage in a dialogue with APN Executive Director Trevor Rueger about the dramaturgical process.

Planting Your Production

with Vanessa Porteous

For educators and directors of all levels.



This workshop will address how the director digs into the script to prepare a production, including play analysis, conceiving the show, design inspirations based on the text, and more. Leave with the

tools to ready yourself for design planning, text-work with actors, rehearsal, and production. Participants should come with a play that they are going to direct, or wish to direct, and that they have read thoroughly, more than once.

Uncovering the Unknown Idea

with Karen Hines

For novice and intermediate playwrights.



Through a variety of "structured stream of consciousness" exercises, participants will work from ground zero to uncover ideas, images, characters, and story possibilities. Each participant will generate original material during the workshop, and strategies for its development will be discussed.

Events

**Theatre Is Dead:
Come to the Peep Show**
with Kristine Nutting

(two-day workshop – continued on Saturday,
November 5)

*For theatre artists interested in the relationship
between space, performer, and the audience.*



Participants will explore unconventional performance spaces and their power and effect on the communion between audience and performer. Enjoy the freedom of working outside of a traditional

theatre venue and discover space as a source for creative works. Participants should bring ideas they are working on for upcoming shows.

FRIDAY'S EVENTS

at Engineered Air Theatre

Play Reading at 7:00 pm

The Art of Homecoming by Betty Ternier Daniels
Courtesy of Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre

Panel Discussion at 8:30 pm
imPURE ALBERTAns

Alberta's theatre community is engaging in an unprecedented cross-pollination, both receiving and sending outstanding scripts and productions nationally and internationally. Are there aspects of Albertan theatre practice, productions, and artists that are distinctly Albertan? What makes us identifiably us? We pose the question to two Albertans, one Torontonian, and a roomful of you. Moderated by Ghost River Theatre Co-Artistic Director David van Belle, with distinguished panelists Blake Brooker, Daniel MacIvor, and Mieko Ouchi.

SATURDAY, NOV 5

WORKSHOPS

9:30 am – 5:30 pm

**Theatre Is Dead:
Come to the Peep Show**
with Kristine Nutting

(continued from Friday)

Play Finding
with Daniel MacIvor

For playwrights of all levels.



A workshop for people who want to improve full plays or develop small notions. Daniel MacIvor asks the questions that help us discover how our ideas are extensions of our personal truths and how we can

eliminate writing blocks and find the confidence to express what we believe to be true.

**Bringing It All: Catalyst's
Creative Process**

with Catalyst Theatre

(two-day masterclass – continued on Sunday,
November 6)

*For established and emerging professional
theatre artists, with post-secondary
professional theatre training or equivalent
professional experience. Auditors will be
permitted.*



Jonathan Christenson and core members of Catalyst's artistic team guide you through their process from early concept to opening night. They will share tools and strategies to sustain and evolve

a bold vision through responsive collaboration, extend creative choices, and transform obstacles into imaginative possibilities. Participants will be introduced to the skills and values required of actors, directors, designers, choreographers, composers, and coaches to work as an effective unit. This workshop will inspire your sense of theatrical possibility and challenge you to "bring it all" to the creative process!

**Form and Function: Transforming
Ideas into Action**

with Elyne Quan

For playwrights and theatre artists of all levels.



You've got some ideas for a play, maybe some dialogue, perhaps even a draft... but is it going anywhere? This practical playwriting workshop will reveal how form, as much as content,

can influence the way plays are received. Discover the importance of careful structure, learn how to differentiate between what is essential and what is cleverness, and appreciate the usefulness of imperfections.

**Working from Within: An Intuitive
Approach to the Acting Process**

with Joe-Norman Shaw

For novice and intermediate actors.



Through discovering the power of now and trusting their intuition, actors in this workshop will move towards a spontaneous and authentic performance style, which can be applied to both theatre and

film. Learning will focus on a combination of practical exercises and scene work to explore this acting process.

SATURDAY'S EVENTS

at the John Dutton Theatre, Calgary
Public Library (Central Library Branch)

Keynote Address at 8:00 pm

The Artificial Authentic, featuring special guest
Daniel MacIvor

The heart of theatre practice is a profound paradox; we aspire to project absolute authenticity in the most artificial of environments. Daniel MacIvor talks about notions of truth-telling in the theatre.

PlayWorks Ink (FOWIM) Forum at 9:00 pm

Wishing you could be in two workshops at once? Now you can! Dig into the workshop experiences of your fellow PlayWorks Ink participants in this Find-Out-What-I'm-Missing (FOWIM) forum for exchange. Facilitated by APN's Trevor Rueger.

SUNDAY, NOV 6

WORKSHOPS

9:30 am – 1:00 pm

**Bringing It All: Catalyst's
Creative Process**

with Catalyst Theatre

(continued from Saturday)

**Beyond The Première: Developing a
Market for Your Play**

with Ken Cameron

*For emerging professional playwrights seeking
remount productions of their play(s).*



"I might as well throw my script over the Rockies, as expect a director in Toronto to read it," said an anonymous Vancouver playwright, neatly summarizing how many playwrights feel about

promoting their work. Are you eager to go beyond the first production and beyond your hometown, but are unsure of where to begin? Learn to analyze the market, pitch your play like a pro, and ask hard questions about the future of your own work.

From the Ground Up
with Anita Miotti

*For performers, educators, directors, and
choreographers curious about the collaborative
creative process.*



This all-levels workshop will stimulate your movement brain, making space for lateral thinking and the creation of vibrant and open movement that can be honed and crafted to speak clearly to

the theme of your piece. Anita will introduce the process of mining the performer for a character-based movement language and work with participants to find their unique qualities that can be integrated into choreography. Be ready to challenge yourself!

Workshops

Story Meets Theatre with Tololwa Mollel

For theatre artists, storytellers, and story makers of all levels.



This workshop will focus on the question of how story and storytelling intersects with theatrical art. Work in this class will revolve around a story told by the instructor. Participants will then develop mini storytelling productions based on their own versions of the shared story. This practical workshop process will test and illuminate the affinity between story, storytelling, and theatrical art.

Writing Without Borders: Crossing Art Forms with Mieko Ouchi

For intermediate level playwrights.



No labels. No boxes. No borders. Participants will work toward unearthing the perfect medium and voice for their story, bringing their parallel skills in other art forms to theatre (or vice versa) and begin to think about cross-border playwriting and creation. Class discussions and exercises will allow each participant to explore their own project in the beginning stages of development. Participants should bring at least one idea or project to play with.

SUNDAY'S EVENTS

at Engineered Air Theatre

Luncheon and Theatre Alberta AGM at 1:00 pm

Join your PlayWorks Ink colleagues and Theatre Alberta family at our catered luncheon and Annual General Meeting—get an underground look at what's happening across the province and at Theatre Alberta!

Play Reading at 2:00 pm

Sequence by Arun Lakra

*Alberta Playwriting Competition's 2011 Grand Prize winner.

“Look at the earth crowded with growth, new and old bursting from their strong roots hidden in the silent, live ground, each seed according to its own kind... each one knowing what to do, each one demanding its own rights on the earth... So, artist, you too from the deeps of your soul... let your roots creep forth, gaining strength.”

EMILY CARR

CONFERENCE PACKAGES

All prices include GST.

Full Conference Package: Everything included! \$250.00 Early Bird / \$300.00 after September 29, 2011.

Day Pass: \$150. Includes registration in one workshop and admission to all special events that day.

Add \$50 for Bringing It All (Catalyst Theatre) or Theatre is Dead: Come to the Peep Show (Kristine Nutting).

Special Events Pass: \$50.00. Admission to the showcase readings, PGC reading and talkback, panel discussion, keynote address, AGM luncheon, and forums.

MEMBERSHIP

All PlayWorks Ink full conference and day pass participants must be members of Theatre Alberta and/or Alberta Playwrights' Network, through to the final day of PlayWorks Ink 2011.

Financial Assistance

Theatre Alberta and Alberta Playwrights' Network strive to ensure PlayWorks Ink is accessible to all theatre artists. Bursaries may be available based on financial need and merit—contact Theatre Alberta for more information.

How To Register

PlayWorks Ink registration opens September 1, 2011. Register online at www.theatrealberta.com.

Cancellation Policy

A non-refundable administration fee of \$35.00 will be applied to cancelled registrations. All requests for refunds must be made in writing to Theatre Alberta. No refunds will be issued after 4:00 pm on October 21, 2011. Registrations are non-transferable. Memberships are non-transferable and non-refundable.

For more info, visit

www.theatrealberta.com

or call 780-422-8162

toll free: 1-888-422-8160

Accommodations in Calgary

For the convenience of participants travelling to Calgary for PlayWorks Ink 2011, the Delta Bow Valley Hotel (located three short blocks from EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts) is extending a special conference rate of \$119.00 per night; this rate is based on availability until October 3, 2011. Participants should mention PlayWorks Ink and quote group code GBLTAFALL113.

Delta Bow Valley Hotel
209 – 4 Avenue SE
Reservations: 1-877-814-7706
Front Desk: 403-266-1980
www.deltahotels.com

Artist Hotspot in Calgary

The Auburn Saloon is Calgary's beloved artist hangout. In the afterhours of workshops and events, kick back with fellow participants to enjoy tasty beverages and yummy food while socializing and connecting with other PlayWorks Ink participants!

