



Alberta Playwrights' Network  
2633 Hochwald Ave SW  
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## Alberta Playwrights' Network Announces the Winners of the 46th Annual Alberta Playwriting Competition

**May 29, 2012, Calgary, AB** – The Alberta Playwrights' Network is pleased to announce the winners of the 2012 Alberta Playwriting Competition, the longest running provincial competition of its kind in Canada, offering the largest cash prize of any provincial playwriting competition.

Edmonton playwright **Collin Doyle** received the **Grand Prize Category** honor for his full-length play *Let the Light of Day Through*. The Grand Prize winner also receives \$3500.00.

*Let the Light of Day Through* is about Rob and Chris—a married couple in their mid-thirties. They take weekend trips to Banff and Jasper and hook up for kinky sex in seedy motels. Rob and Chris want passion, excitement, pleasure. They have an almost perfect marriage. They have no children.

But... Five years ago Rob and Chris were Bobby and Tina. Bobby and Tina met in grade eleven in English class. They are each other's first date, first kiss, first love. In grade twelve, Tina got pregnant and their world changed. *Let the Light of Day Through* is a bittersweet story that explores the struggles, battles, anger, fear, care, love, and laughter that all long-term relationships are built on.

**Collin Doyle** is an Edmonton based writer. His play *The Mighty Carlins* won the Discovery Prize in the 2004 APC and was produced by Workshop West, Nakai Theatre, and Persephone Theatre. *The Mighty Carlins* received a Sterling Award for Outstanding New Play in 2008. *Slumberland Motel* was awarded the APC Grand Prize in 2006. His other plays include: *Routes*, *Dear Penthouse*, and *Nighthawk Rules* (with James Hamilton). *Nighthawk Rules* received two Sterling Awards for Outstanding Fringe Production and Outstanding New Fringe Work. Collin is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada.

The jury had the following comments on *Let the Light of Day Through*:

- *Hilarious wit, high-stakes situations and engaging dialogue propels us to follow Chris and Rob's relationship as they tackle the very real act of trying to live their lives.*
- *Great characters and solid plotting gives this tragic story great depth with a keenly theatrical ending.*

The jury also awarded Honorable Mentions to Calgary Playwright **Mike Czuba** for his play *Reprise* and to Calgary Playwright **Michaela Jeffery** for her play *Sundogs*. The jury does not normally award such honors, but they felt strongly that these plays warranted recognition.

Lethbridge Playwright Makambe K Simamba received the **Discovery Prize Category** honor for her play *MUD*. The emerging playwright will receive the \$1,500 prize to help fund her future writing endeavors.

*MUD* is about Thandiwe who returns to Zambia for her parents' approval of her engagement to her Canadian fiance, Thomas. When the couple arrives in Zambia, Thandiwe's tumultuous past surfaces and everyone must deal with the consequences of the secrets she tried so desperately to escape.

**Makambe K Simamba** was born in Lusaka, Zambia in 1990. She has lived in Guyana, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, and Prince Edward Island. She now resides in Lethbridge, Alberta where she is completing her 4<sup>th</sup> and final year as a Drama Performance major at the University of



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Lethbridge. In her writing she is fascinated with exploring domestic issues inspired by the cultures she has lived in. Makambe is excited to continue acting and writing in Alberta's theatre community, and hopes to thrive as an emerging theatre artist.

The jury had the following comments on *MUD*:

- *MUD provokes us to consider how we are meant to function in a world with increasingly porous borders. These grand themes are tackled deftly by a writer with a talent that resonates on global issues while focusing on an intimate love story.*
- *Eclectic dialogue, exotic rhythms, and memorable characters play out in a terrific story about family secrets.*

The jury also awarded Honorable Mentions in the Discovery Prize Category to Calgary playwright **Chelsea Woolley** for her play *1000 Names* and to Calgary Playwright Dan Perry for his play *Wasted*.

The jury for the 2012 Alberta Playwriting Competition comprised a panel of established Canadian Theatre Practitioners: **Aaron Bushkowsky**, **Mieko Ouchi** and **Erica Kypoto**. The jury works blind (without knowledge of the names of the playwrights) to select a winner in each category.

**Aaron Bushkowsky** is the co-Artistic Director of Solo Collective Theatre in Vancouver. Over the years the company has produced over 25 new scripts by Canadian playwrights. Aaron teaches playwriting at Studio 58, Kwantlen University, and Langara College. His plays have been produced across Canada and he's been nominated for more Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards for playwriting than any other writer in Vancouver. Recently, his play *After Jerusalem* received a Jessie nomination for Outstanding Original Script.

**Mieko Ouchi** is an actor, writer, and director who works in both theatre and film and TV. Her plays *The Red Priest (Eight Ways To Say Goodbye)*, *The Blue Light*, *The Dada Play* and *Nisei Blue* have been produced across the country, in the U.S., and have been finalists for many competitions. She has won the Carol Bolt Award in 2004 and two Betty Awards in 2004 and 2011. She has been playwright in residence at Workshop West Theatre, The University of Oklahoma School of Drama and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Mieko's latest play, *Nisei Blue*, premiered at ATP playRites Festival in 2011.

**Erica Kopyto** is a Toronto-based theatre artist and the dramaturg/literary manager at Nightwood Theatre. In her roles as dramaturg, curator, director, producer, activist and educator, she has dedicated her work to the intersection of social justice initiatives and the arts. Some of her most memorable credits have been in collaboration with Nightwood (*Groundswell Festival of New Works by Woman*, *Write From the Hip*, *China Doll*, *The Happy Woman*). Upcoming: *Between The Sheets* by Jordi Mand, (September 2012) and *Who Killed Snow White* by Judith Thompson (2013). Erica has attended the Banff PlayRites Colony as an Associate Dramaturg and she is a curator with Toronto's Trampoline Hall Lecture Series.

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***For further information about the Alberta Playwriting Competition, Alberta Playwrights' Network, or to arrange interview opportunities, contact the APN office at 403.269.8564, or toll-free at 1.800.268.8564.***