

## NEW PLAY FESTIVAL 2010

March 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

The Old Courthouse Cultural Centre,  
Kamloops, BC

### **(21<sup>st</sup> Annual) Competition Summary** **2009 Category-Winners and Finalists:**

This year's Jury selected 3 Winners and 4 Finalists from 135 New Canadian Plays in Theatre BC's 21st Annual Canadian National Playwriting Competition

The identities of the Winning and Finalist Playwrights were revealed on Sunday, October 4th, 2009 at the ActoberFest One-Act Play Festival's Awards Lunch in Creston, BC, following the Jurors' Meeting to make the final selections. The results were as follows:

#### CATEGORY WINNERS

##### **Full Length Winner (\$1000 Cash Award)** ***Tamarack* by Edward Kuhn , Kingston, NS**

Synopsis: *Tamarack* An aging poet's last desperate attempt at having his life's work more widely recognized alienates him from his long-suffering wife, who finally abandons their wilderness life for a more tolerable existence in a nearby seniors' residence.

**Bio:** We are grieved to report that Mr. Kuhn passed away on Thursday, October 1st, before the announcement of the winners in this year's competition.

Ed Kuhn was an accomplished poet, playwright, songwriter and Jazz musician. He wrote at least 32 stage plays, three full-length musicals and countless poems. One stage play in particular, *Satin Doll*, won two distinguished awards and had a run On-Broadway. His full length musical *Majic* was produced at the Historic Hedgerow Theatre just outside Philadelphia, Pa. He was composing poems up until the day that he died. Ed was a previous finalist in Theatre BC's Canadian National Playwriting Competition in 1998.

Our condolences go out to Ed's family and his many friends.

##### **One Act Winner (\$750 Western Canada Theatre Cash Award)** ***Dianne & Me* by Ron Fromstein, Toronto, ON**

Synopsis: *Dianne & Me* is about a young woman trying to sort things out with her mom.

**Bio:** Ron Fromstein started off as an improviser with the now defunct ACTS (All Canadian Theatresports). He then moved to Vancouver and began writing more seriously. Along the way he has been a four-time winner/finalist of the Toronto Fringe 24-hour Playwriting Competition and a winner in Theatre BC's Canadian National Playwriting Competition (2006, 2007). His 2007 winning play, *Black & Blue*, was a hit at the recent ACToberfest 1-Act Play Festival in Creston, BC

##### **Special Merit Winner (\$500 City of Kamloops Cash Award)** ***My Purple Wig* by Jessica Anderson, Oakville, ON (FL)**

Synopsis: *My Purple Wig* explores one woman's unique and often outrageous methods of dealing with her terminal cancer.

**Bio:** Jessica Anderson is currently a writer at heart and a waitress by trade. She received her B.A. in Drama and English from Queen's University and a Graduate Certificate in Scriptwriting from Algonquin College. Her one-act play *Waking Up* won two Sears drama awards in 2003. Her short film script *Jailing Julie*, was a finalist at the 2008 Brookstreet Screenwriting Awards. She continues to hone her writing and customer service skills on a daily basis.

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FINALISTS (alphabetical order by title)

***A Field of Flowers* by Robin Mathews, Vancouver, BC**

Synopsis: The Blake family, in disintegration as a result of forces within and outside its control, struggle to return to a place of balance and harmony.

**Bio:** After some years away from playwriting, Robin Mathews returns with the play *A Field of Flowers*. His first play produced was a half-hour radio drama. Over some years he wrote plays both for children and adults. Several of them were staged. During the 'dry' years- as far as playwriting was concerned- he wrote and published poetry, short stories, cultural and political commentary...and more. He is included in the latest anthology of BC Poetry, *ROCKSALT* (2008). Born in Smithers, BC, he has lived for short periods in the US, England and France, but has spent the largest part of his life in Canada. Presently he lives with his wife in the Commercial Drive area of Vancouver's East End.

***The King's Disposition* by Christopher Morley, Richmond Hill, ON**

Synopsis: King John's fight for Britain and France is the story of a brilliant tactician waging war while battling inner demons and outer foes in a ceaseless struggle to restore what he has lost and redeem himself in the eyes of those he loves.

**Bio:** Chris has written screenplays and plays for many years. He co-wrote *GLORY* with Lawrence Dane which was optioned by Canart Films, Bomac Batton and John Eckert Productions. Chris's original screenplay *BRAIN DRAIN* has been optioned by Owl Communications and Caber Films. He developed a television series premise for TV Ontario entitled *THE SECRET CIPHER* and won a competition to adapt *SHOWTIME* as a one-act play from the short story by Phil Morimitsu. The play was produced in Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Washington DC by Eckankar; this was followed by the full length sequel which was produced in Orlando Florida the following year.

***Kobyła* by B.D. Miller, Regina, SK**

Synopsis: *Kobyła* is the true story of Hermine Braunsteiner. In 1964, her quiet life as a New York housewife is turned upside down when she is named as a war criminal by Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal. Her American husband, Russell, vows to stand by her to the end. But can his devotion survive the trials and accusations that follow?

**Bio:** Playwright and fiction writer BD Miller lives in Regina. His two-act comedy, *The Scarborough Four*, won Regina Little Theatre's national playwriting competition in 2001, was a mainstage production the following year, and was anthologized by Playwrights Canada Press. His one-act comedy *Dumpster Diving* premiered at the 2003 On the River's Edge Festival and was published later that year in *North by North Wit: An Anthology of Canadian Humour*. His fiction has appeared five times in *Storyteller*, Canada's short story magazine, and has been broadcast on CBC Radio. He is currently completing his first novel and working toward an MFA in Creative Writing through the University of British Columbia.

***Millicent's Pothole* by Sherryl Melnyk, Calgary, AB**

Synopsis: *Millicent's Pothole* is a play about two women who learn about themselves and find companionship in one another while selling brownies laced with marijuana.

**Bio:** Sherryl Melnyk grew up on a farm in Manitoba with an eclectic family who have unwittingly provided much fodder for her writing. She currently teaches English at Bow Valley College in Calgary. In 2001 she graduated from the University of Calgary with a Master of Arts Degree in English Literature. She has published an essay entitled "Landscape My Body," the short story "One Brown Smartie", and a short documentary for CBC called "Mom Leaves Home." Sherryl lives with her very poorly trained but greatly loved pug Sasha.

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## JURORS:

### **Garry Davey** of Gabriola Island, BC

Bio: Garry Davey is the former Artistic Director for TheatreOne in Nanaimo and of the William Davis Centre for Actor's Study in Vancouver where he taught for 14 years. A graduate of The Vancouver Playhouse School, he has worked extensively as an actor in theatres across the country, as well as appearing in many television productions and feature films including *Da Vinci's Inquest* in recurring episodes, *Cold Squad*, *The X-Files* and the Victoria-based series *Alienated*. He has directed more than 20 plays including *The Drawer Boy* and *Shirley Valentine* for TheatreOne, *Marion Bridge* by Daniel McIvor, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, and an acclaimed production of Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize winning *Three Tall Women* for Western Edge Theatre. Garry recently appeared in *Night of Shooting Stars* by Michael Armstrong, also for Western Edge, and directed *The Occupation of Heather Rose* with Catherine Caines on Gabriola. This summer he adapted the script and co-directed a street-theatre version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for TheatreOne's Young Company. In the course of his career Garry has developed his craft with master teachers from across Canada, New York, LA, Paris and London. He has shared his work with **Theatre BC** for several years, as Zone Festival adjudicator(s), workshop play director, as well as teaching acting and directing workshops around the province. Garry has also twice served as a juror for the Canadian National Playwriting contest and as dramaturge at the New Play Festival in Kamloops, and had the honour to adjudicate Mainstage in Nanaimo in 2005.

### **Nicolle Natrass** of Nanoose Bay, BC

Bio: Nicole is honored to have been selected to jury Theatre BC's Annual National Playwriting Competition. Nicolle is an actress (CAEA/ACTRA) & playwright (full member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada). She is a graduate from the University of Victoria in 1991 (Acting Specialization). She has performed across Canada in theatre, radio, commercials and film. In between performing for many regional theatres across Canada, she began writing sketch comedy and monologues which evolved into her successful one woman show, *Brownie Points*, *Boldly Going Where No Brownie Has Gone Before*. *Brownie Points* received nominations for Outstanding Original Play and Outstanding Performance at the Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards. *Brownie Points* received an American theatre premiere as well as being adapted into an award winning short film which garnered Best Comedy Award in 2003 and Best Performance in 2008. Her plays include: *Good House-keeping* (full length), *The Kindness of Kevin Barteski* (one act), *The Drama Queens* (one act comedy) and *Dot in the City*.

### **Burton Lancaster** of Nanaimo, BC

Bio: Burton has worked in the professional theatre, in both North America and Europe, for over forty years, mainly as a Producer, Artistic Director and Administrator. He trained at the famed Central School of Speech and Drama and had ten years experience in the British theatre working with such companies as the Old Vic, the Royal Court and the New Shakespeare Company. He came to North America to work with Les Grands Ballet at Expo '67. In Canada, Burton was the founder of six professional theatre companies, including Magnus Theatre (Thunder Bay), Union Theatre Waterloo and the Lakeshore Summer Festival. He has also served as Artistic Director for many companies, incl. the Showboat Festival Theatre (Port Colborne, Ont.) and the Marlowe Theatre (Canterbury, UK). Producing credits include *Sheherazade* for Canadian Stage (Toronto) and *The Witch of Edmonton* for Equity Showcase, which the Toronto media voted one of the ten best productions of 1993. He now lives on Vancouver Island where he recently served as Artistic Director for TheatreOne in Nanaimo. Burton served as juror for the 18th (2006) and 16th (2004) Annual Canadian National Playwriting Competitions.

### **Breakdown of Entries:**

Province	FL	1-Act	Total
BC	41	26	67
AB	8	5	13
SK	3	1	4
MB	3	2	5
ON	21	17	38
PE	-	-	-
PQ	4	-	4
NB	-	-	-
NS	3	1	4
NWT	-	-	-
YT	-	-	-
Subtotals	83	52	135

### **Summary of Entries:**

- **135** entered scripts
- **83** Full-Length plays;
- **52** One Act plays;

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All Winners and Finalists will be invited to Theatre BC's New Play Festival, March 26th- 28th, 2010 at the Old Courthouse Cultural Centre in Kamloops, BC. Details regarding this year's Competition are posted to the Theatre BC website at [www.theatrebc.org/playcomp/](http://www.theatrebc.org/playcomp/)

Congratulations to this year's Winners and Finalists. Thank you to all entering playwrights and to the Competition Jurors for their many hours of reading and careful consideration. Any artistic directors wishing to read winning and/or finalist scripts from this year's Competition, please contact Theatre BC.

For complete Competition and event details on juror & winning playwright profiles, ***Theatre BC's New Play Festival, March 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>*** in Kamloops, please visit our web site: **[www.theatrebc.org/playcomp](http://www.theatrebc.org/playcomp)** or **[www.theatrebc.org/NPF](http://www.theatrebc.org/NPF)**

We invite Canadian resident playwrights to enter their new works in Theatre BC's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Canadian National Playwriting Competition. Entries will be accepted between April 15, 2010 and Monday, July 26, 2010. If you would like to be added to our mailing list for a Competition "How To Enter" brochure, please send your contact information to Theatre BC at PO Box 2031, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 6X6 or email us: [pwc@theatrebc.org](mailto:pwc@theatrebc.org)

Postmarked Deadline for

***Theatre BC's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Canadian National Playwriting Competition (2010), Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010.***