

Theatre BC's 21<sup>st</sup> (2009) Annual Canadian National Playwriting Competition  
Compiled Jurors' Remarks for Winners & Finalists

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

Synopsis:

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.

Jurors' comments included:

"...good characters, clearly defined and developed. Good story, strong piece "

"...engaging dialogue – established relationship immediately. ...nice pace, clear characters, forward momentum....Nice twist in plot, reveal of information..."

" This is fresh and original...fun and wise....The characters are all richly drawn...Each one feels absolutely true and speaks with a clear voice. A sweet and rich confection, with a good dollop of wisdom on the side..."

**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.

Jurors' comments included:

"...deceptively simple...written in quite a stylistic fashion...young and fresh. The characters are clear...brought to life through the narrative."

"Nicely written, good piece. Lots of space for movement and direction."

"True, resonant voice. Excellent writing, engaging- kept me wanting to read more. All elements are there-feels complete"

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

Synopsis:

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

Jurors' comments included:

"It deals with a difficult subject and does it very well. The characters are well-rounded and grow as the story progresses."

"...a darkly humorous and quite irreverent take on a family dealing with cancer..., ...fun, refreshing and compassionate...the play remains true to the real subject matter..."

"...compelling subject matter...presented in an original way... Nice ending"

**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.

Jurors' comments included:

"A complicated plot nicely written. The characters are fully fledged and interrelate well."

"...emotionally gripping..."

"...original with some above-average writing...a strangely dark piece..."

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

Synopsis:

King John's battle for Britain and France is the story of a brilliant tactician waging war against Pope Innocent III and the rebel barons of England, amidst the struggle for democracy.

Jurors' comments included:

"...a drama with all the good elements, warring factions, and a betrayal in the bedroom...The characters are all richly drawn, specific and with lots at stake...overall a job well done."

"...well-written....interesting and engaging..."

"Nice moving dialogue, engaging. Kept me turning the page. All elements work"

**"Kobyla" by Brian D. Miller, Regina, SK**

Synopsis:

*Kobyla* 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?

Jurors' comments included:

"I found this very moving and difficult to take."

"Compelling story...nice theatricality...dialogue well-written. Interesting ending"

"Overall a very well-written script...highly theatrical at times."

**"Millicent's Pothole" by Sherryl Melnyk, Victoria, BC**

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.

Jurors' comments included:

"This is a very neat little piece. The characters are very-well observed and have plenty of humour."

"...a story about relationships and aging with humour and with relatively little sentiment....an ultimately compassionate treatment of a difficult subject..."

"...original, refreshing dialogue, interesting characters, funny scenario...Writing is snappy, sharp, humorous....all interesting characters in a compelling situation..."