



ALBERTA
PLAYWRIGHTS'
NETWORK

**PLAY CATALOGUE
2012**

FOREWORD

Thank you for your interest in the great work being written in Alberta. Each of these plays has been assisted in their development by the dramaturgical staff of Alberta Playwrights' Network. The catalogue consists of works that we feel strongly about in terms of their development and production potential. We receive over 100 scripts a year and we only select the strongest candidates for inclusion in the catalogue. All of these plays also come with my personal recommendation.

APN exists to nurture Alberta playwrights and to provide support for the development and production of their plays. One of the ways we feel we can best support our membership is to assist in advocating for their work and getting their plays into the hands of producers. We hope that you find this catalogue of use to you as you think about your future programming.

If you are interested in any of the plays listed in this catalogue, please email Artistic Associate, Michelle Kneale at dramaturg@albertaplaywrights.com and she will provide you with the most recent draft.

Cheers,

Trevor Rueger
Executive Director

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PUBLIC FUNDERS



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AWARD WINNERS

***LET THE LIGHT OF DAY THROUGH* BY COLLIN DOYLE**

1 Female (30-38 years) / 1 Male (30-38 years)

Full Length, 80 mins.

Winner: 2012 Alberta Playwriting Competition Grand Prize.

Production: Theatre Network, April 2013.

Thirty-something couple Rob and Chris have the "perfect" childless marriage - complete with passion, excitement and pleasure (not to mention frequent bouts of kinky motel sex). Six years ago however, Rob and Chris were Bobby and Tina. Bobby and Tina started dating in high school. They are each other's first date, first kiss, first love. But just before high school graduation, Tina got pregnant and their world changed forever. A funny and touching story that explores the struggles, battles, love and laughter that long-term relationships are built on.

***MUD* BY MAKAMBE SIMAMBA**

2 Female (One 20-23 – Black) (One 30-45 – Black)

2 Male (One 50-65 – Black) (One 20-30)

One Act, 60 mins.

Winner: 2012 Alberta Playwriting Competition Discovery Prize.

Winner: First Place 2012 Terry Whitehead Play Right Prize, University of Lethbridge.

Public Reading: University of Lethbridge, Spring 2013.

After barely any communication, Thandiwe returns to Zambia for her parents' approval of her engagement to her Canadian fiancé, Thomas. When the couple arrives in Zambia, Thandiwe's tumultuous past surfaces and everyone, especially Thandiwe, must deal with the consequences of secrets she tried so desperately to escape.

***THE SCIENCE OF DISCONNECTION* BY DAVID BELKE**

1 Female

Full Length, 90 mins.

Winner: Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award for Outstanding New Play 2010.

Based on the life of physicist Lise Meitner, a shy withdrawn woman with a genius for mathematics and a passion for science whose discoveries literally changed the world. A story of quiet triumph and achievement in the face of discrimination, danger and betrayal.

***WASTED* BY DAN PERRY**

1 Female (late teens) / 1 Male (late 20's)

One Act, 50 mins.

Honorable Mention: 2012 Alberta Playwriting Competition Discovery Category.

Public Reading: University of Calgary, April 2012.

Public Reading: Alberta Playwrights' Network, 2011.

Edward, a support worker, comes face to face with his first client, a brash and outspoken teenager named Amanda. Will he be able to crack through her hard-edged façade before she reaches the door? Can a one hour session change a life and if so, whose?

THE YEAR WE FELL BY AJ DEMERS

**2 Female (One early 20's) (One late 50's) / 2 Male (One early 20's) (One late 50's)
One Act, 90 mins.**

Honourable Mention: Alberta Playwriting Competition 2011.

Development: 2 Workshops/1 Public Reading (funded with assistance of Alberta Foundation for the Arts).

In the years between 1917 and 1953 the play follows a couple during the moments when they fall and love and the moments when they fall apart. A poignant, tragic love story about distance and connection.

1000 NAMES BY CHELSEA WOOLLEY

**3 Female: (One 40-50) (One 18-23) (One 30-35) / 2 Male (30-40)
Full Length, 90 mins.**

Staged workshop: University of Lethbridge, 2012.

Second Place: 2012, University of Lethbridge Playwright Prize.

Honourable Mention: 2012 Alberta Playwriting Competition.

In the early 1940s, Jewish widow Perl Margalies and German housewife Rose Raeder live in the solitude of the same Polish home within a month of one another. When they discover that there is a human price to pay for this sanctuary, the lives of the two women tangle and they struggle to choose between the cost of staying and the cost of leaving. With humor and heartbreak, *1000 Names* investigates the cost of choosing between what is ethical and what is desirable.

REPRISE BY MIKE CZUBA

**3 Female (Two 30-40) (One 60-65) / 2 Male (One 30-40) (One 70-75)
Full Length, 75 mins.**

Award: Infini Theatre's 2011 'Write on Q' competition.

Honourable Mention: Alberta Playwrights Competition 2012.

Workshop & Public Reading: Alberta Playwrights' Network, Oct 2012.

Upon learning of his father's death, musician Steven Booker spends a fantastical day and night trying to dismiss the man he hated so much but knew so little. Between the memories and the reality of his current situation, Steven, as hard as he tries to deny it, discovers that he is very much his father's son.

PREVIOUSLY PRODUCED PLAYS

***DAD'S PIANO* BY DAVE KELLY**

1 Male, 1 Pianist

One Act, 60 mins.

Premiere: Lunchbox Theatre May 2012.

Nominated: Betty Mitchell Awards, Outstanding Actor, 2012.

Nominated: Calgary Critics Awards, Best New Play, 2012.

A son's promise to play piano at his dad's funeral might seem sweet when they're both young and getting along. But when the end is near, what if the story isn't so sweet anymore? Is a promise a promise?

Dad's Piano is a story told by two performers. The Pianist plays great classical pieces that might have been played on Dad's Piano. The Actor plays all 10 characters who tell the story of Paul Weiss and the last days of his father.

***THE PASSION OF MARY* BY ANNETTE LOISELLE**

2 Female (30 to 50)

One Act, 70 mins.

Workshop and Public Reading: Independent, 2011.

Workshop: Alberta Playwrights' Network, 2012.

Premiere: The Roxy Theatre Performance Series, Edmonton, 2012.

Mary Queen of Scots, caught in an act of treason which forces Elizabeth I to finally order her execution. Alone in her prison, Mary is haunted by the queen whom she has never met. Mary seeks redemption not just for the sins she has been accused of, but for a sin she has never confessed to anyone.

***JIM FORGETTING* BY COL CSEKE**

1 Female (40) / 1 Male (late 30's)

Full Length, 80 mins.

Premiere: Verb Theatre, Calgary, 2012.

Jim Forgetting is an intimate telling of a year in the life of Jim and Donna, a middle-aged couple struggling with Jim's early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Diagnosed in the prime of their lives the couple tries to comprehend living with the disease and the new reality impinging on their young marriage.

IC BY KARA STURK

2 Male (25-40)

One Act, 60 mins.

Production: Sage Theatre IGNITE! Festival, Calgary, 2012.

Production: Calgary Regional One-Act Play Festival, 2010.

Honourable Mention: Outstanding Script, 2010 Calgary Regional One-Act Play Festival.

Two former allies turned enemy find themselves trapped within circumstance, forced to examine their own culpability in the events that led to their respective fates. Can they come to terms with the events that led to their demise and renew their friendship? And if they can't, is there any hope for the rest of us?

BLESS YOU, BILLY WILDER BY DAVID BELKE

1 Female (20's) / 1 Male (40's)

One Act, 90 mins.

Production: Shadow Theatre, Edmonton, 2011.

When a failed screenwriter working to restore an 8 ½ hour silent movie meets a disconnected graphic artist who has never seen a movie in her life, they begin a friendship that helps her grow in confidence and ability. But when he slips into fear and dementia, she is the only one who can save him. A moving tale of friendship, affection and filmic fantasy.

KONA SIRS BY JEREMY PARK

2 Male (One 20 – 30) (One 45 to 60)

One Act, 40 mins.

Premiere: Sage Theatre IGNITE! Festival, Calgary, 2012.

Where does your office coffee from? Two humble Coffee Machine Service Technicians - one old, one new - keep all things hot and caffeinated in perfect order in this office tower. But which floor is this?!? Have they fixed this machine before?!? Is this the north or south kitchen?!? And where did they lose their dreams?!? Witty and inventive, it's a perfect blend of Pinter and Starbucks.

NOTABLE PLAYS IN DEVELOPMENT

LAST CHANCE LEDUC BY KATHERINE KOLLER

2 Female (One 20-35) (One 60+) / 2 Male (20-35)

Full Length, 130 mins.

Workshop: Alberta Playwrights' Network, 2012 (funded with assistance from Alberta Foundation for the Arts).

Public Reading: Alberta Playwrights' Network, 2012.

Supported by Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Set against the 1947 Leduc, Alberta oil strike, Evalma and Wes struggle in the push-pull of a young marriage in peril, in winter, in a tarpaper shack in the woods, with a baby and another dry well. Wes wants a gusher, Evalma wants a garden and Tricky wants a girl like Evalma. While the men work all day and all night, Evalma meets a lady trapper in the woods, Nohkum, who shows her the power and mysticism of the river.

LIBERATION DAYS BY DAVID VAN BELLE

3 Female (Two 25-30) (One 45-60) / 4 Male (One 20-25 (Two 30-45) (One 50-70)

Full Length, 140 mins.

Workshop: 2 workshops w. Alberta Playwrights' Network, 2012.

Public Reading: Alberta Playwrights' Network, 2012.

Set in the Netherlands following the end of World War II, *Liberation Days* is about a shattered society looking to reinvent itself after the catastrophe of war. Told through the lenses of Emma, a Dutch woman and Alex, a young Canadian soldier, it's a compelling look at the ambiguous and treacherous borderlands between love and rescue.

EXIA BY MEG BRAEM

6 Female (One 40-50) (Two 14-23) (Three Chorus Women) / 2 Male (One 16) (One 50)

Full Length, 90 mins.

Development: Banff Centre Playwrights Colony, 2009.

Development: Stratford Festival Playwrights' Retreat, 2012.

Public Reading: Alberta Playwrights' Network/Urban Curvz Theatre, 2013.

EXIA is the imagined story of Chrysothemis, the lost daughter of the house of Atreus. Trapped between her sister, Electra's appetite for revenge and Clytemnestra's hunger for grief, Chrysothemis searches for the ingredients that will satiate their bitter appetites. But when Chrysothemis finds love will it be the recipe to save her from her cursed circumstances?

***THE TRANSPLANT* BY NICHOLAS HANSON**

2 Female (45-55) / 2 Male (25-35)

Full Length, 110 mins.

Honourable Mention: 2007 Herman Voaden National Playwriting Competition.

Public Reading: Alberta Playwrights' Network/New West Theatre, 2012.

Edison, a high school teacher and the black sheep of his family, receives an urgent message from his family. For the first time in years, Edison leaves the confines of his metropolitan condo and back to the family's rural home. There, he discovers that in order to save his younger brother, the family wants him to give up an organ—his heart. Comedy ensues.

***FATHER UNKNOWN* BY DAVE SIMMS**

2 Female (One 40-45) (One 60) / 2 Male (80 – 85)

Full Length, 120 mins.

Public Reading: Alberta Playwrights' Network, 2013.

Adriana Kloet finds relics from her mother's wartime past that speak of a secret, double life under Nazi occupation and betrayal by a lover. The discovery could mean solving a painful mystery that has haunted Adriana for years. Where do we find the courage to confront suffering? How far are we willing to go to seek absolution?

***SURVIVAL SKILLS* BY MEREDITH TAYLOR-PARRY**

3 Female (Two 27-35) (One early 60's) / 2 Male (25-35)

Full Length, 90 mins.

A man diagnosed with cancer has taken his life rather than face treatment with little hope of recovery. His stricken family is torn apart as they deal with this act of bravery/cowardice. But more importantly, how was this terminally ill man able to pull off his suicide...or did he have assistance?

***THE FINAL WORD* BY SHARON CAVANAGH**

1 Female (38 - 45) / 2 Male (One 60 - 70) (One 25 - 35)

Full Length, 90 mins.

Public Reading: Alberta Playwrights' Network, 2012.

The Minister of Culture has a few questions for the poet Sidney Hoffman, but Sidney has some questions of his own: Can a poem change the world? Can it bring peace? Can it bring justice? Dark, humorous and very topical, *The Final Word* explores two opposing views of human nature and of what an artist means in our society.

SECRETS BY JACQUELINE DUMAS**2 Female (60 - 65)****One Act, 50 mins.***Public Reading: Alberta Playwrights' Network, 2013.*

Meet Maria and Pauline Goretti, sisters who haven't spoken in the 45 years since their father died under mysterious circumstances. They come together as their mother is on her death bed and try to undo their estrangement. Can they finally share their secrets and become sisters again? Can they push aside what has really kept them apart for so many years?

BADGER BY ANDREW TORRY**1 Female (Early 30's)****One Act, 75 mins.**

Hester enjoys a loving relationship with her family...until a secret revealed turns her into a pariah. But when her sister calls on her in a time of need, Hester has two choices; wash her hands of the family she loves or sacrifice herself for the sister who shuns her. It's an evocative tale of extremism, estrangement and deliverance.

PUBLISHED PLAYS**TAKE A BITE BY HEATHER MORROW****1 Female (Mid-30's) / 1 Male (18)****One Act, 50 mins.***Nominated: Calgary Critics Award (Critic) for Best New Play, 2012.**Self-published: online at stageplays.com, 2012.*

When Vera awakes in a locked room with a young stranger, she thinks it's her boyfriend's latest kinky trick. He, Dion, thinks he's been locked up for his own safety, again. But the truth is weirder, and better, than either thinks.

CRUSHED BY HEATHER MORROW**2 Females (Late 20's to Early 30's)****One Act, 30 mins.***Self-published online at stageplays.com, 2011.*

Liv, the older, practical sister, has always looked after Ness, the younger, pretty one who needs a lot of looking after. Especially since Ness's boyfriend's love includes hitting. Tonight, Ness has shown up at Liv's one more time, and something is more than wrong.

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

***HIDEOUT* BY ANDREW TORRY**

1 male, teenager

One Act, 50 minutes

Production: Theatre Network's Nextfest, 2012.

Production: Sage Theatre's Ignite! Festival, 2012.

Production: Calgary Fringe Festival, 2012.

Production: Edmonton Fringe Festival, 2012.

Lee lives in a world of zombies, video games, and menace. With not one friend at school and an abusive mother at home, he holes up as much as possible in his secret hideout. With no one to turn to for support, he becomes tempted towards violence and must make a choice: get revenge or get help. A dark tale of loneliness, fear, and healing.

***PAPER SONG* BY JARED MATSUNAGA-TURNBULL**

2 Female, 2 Male

One Act, 50 minutes

Production: Concrete Theatre, 2013

Paper Song weaves a traditional Japanese folktale about a crane with the story of a young mouse and her grandfather, as they struggle against an oppressive overlord, the goblin Tengu. Focusing on the relationship between grandfather and granddaughter, *Paper Song* celebrates the ability for artistic creativity, ingenuity and love to transform despair into hope.