



The SureFire List

The Women's Caucus of the Playwrights Guild of Canada is pleased to announce and share with you the inaugural release of **The SureFire List**.

The underrepresentation of women playwrights is a well-known and documented fact, and it increases exponentially when it comes to Indigenous women, women of colour, and trans people. Frequently, ADs, producers, and educators state that they don't produce shows by women or trans-femmes simply because they don't know of any good plays by them. The SureFire List is a community-generated resource intended to help alleviate such difficulties and it complements other like-minded initiatives, such as [The Pledge Project](#) and [The 49 List](#).

We have taken our inspiration for The SureFire List from the [Kilroys](#), an American group that produces an annual catalogue of high-quality, unproduced, and/or under-produced plays by women and trans-femmes. For our Canadian rendition, we contacted over two hundred theatre aficionados ("Recommenders") all across the nation, who were nominated by PGC's Staff, Women's Caucus Committee, and National Forum (Regional) Reps. The individual identities of the Recommenders are confidential, as are their chosen play picks, but the majority work in the industry as administrators, critics, educators, and/or practitioners. Recommenders were asked to send PGC their top three "passion-picks" for under- or unproduced plays by Canadian women, trans-femmes, and/or non-binary people. We gathered the results, ranked the findings, and created The SureFire List to provide the community with a valuable resource to help identify remarkable, production-ready plays by Canadian women, trans-femmes, and non-binary people.

Overall, 128 Recommenders responded to The SureFire call (a 63% return rate), sending us a combined total of 199 playwrights picks, and 285 play suggestions. There were some regional variances in the return rates, ranging from 0% (PEI) up to 100% (NB), and clearly some distinct regional preferences in terms of the choices that were submitted. Given the vast wealth of submissions received, we decided to create multiple listings and provide access to the raw data.

The first of these is The SureFire List proper, comprised of the top 23 play picks; those that placed first, second, and third in the Recommenders' rankings. The list is impressive for its diversity (not only in terms of racialization, age, region, and so forth, but also for aesthetic style), and we hope that it will be picked-up, shared, read, discussed, and implemented far and wide.

In addition to the main SureFire List, we have also created a listing of all the ranked plays, a list of all the chosen playwrights, and a list of all play and playwright picks according to the playwrights' places of residence, as well as some statistics pertaining to the Recommenders' response rates in each province. To view the complete listings, [click here](#), or visit: <https://playwrightsguild.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/The-SureFire>Returns-List-FINAL.pdf>.

With so many playwright and play suggestions, there is sure to be something for everyone in The SureFire List(s). Please take a look, share the findings with your colleagues, and help encourage fairer representation, greater artistic pluralism, and more cross-pollination of Canadian work.

It's time to share the stage!

The SureFire List - Top 23 Ranked Play Picks
(Arranged in alphabetical order by play title)

A Man A Fish by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard
Burning Vision by Marie Clements
Calpurnia by Audrey Dwyer
Cast Iron by Lisa Codrington
Cleave by Elena Belyea
Drama: Pilot Episode by Karen Hines
Fado by Elaine Avila
Gas Girls by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard
Living Curiosities, or What You Will by Mary Vingoe
Miss 'N Me by Catherine Banks
Pig Girl by Colleen Murphy
She Mami Wata & The Pussy WitchHunt by d'bi.young anitafrika
The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God by Lisa Codrington
The Blue Light by Mieko Ouchi
The Breathing Hole by Colleen Murphy
The Exhibition of Extraordinary Oddities and Living Freaks by Chelsea Woolley
The Flood by Leah-Simone Bowen
The Pope and Princess Di by Berni Stapleton
The Refugee Hotel by Carmen Aguirre
The Supine Cobbler by Jill Connell
The Unnatural and Accidental Women by Marie Clements
Venus' Daughter by Meghan Swaby
Waxworks by Trina Davies