



SureFire 2018

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

The underrepresentation of women on Canada's stages 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 folk 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 compliments other like-minded initiatives, such as [The Pledge Project](#) and [The 49 List](#).

We have taken our inspiration for SureFire from the [Kilroys](#), an American group that produces an annual catalogue of high-quality, unproduced, and/or under-produced plays by women and trans folks. 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 folks, and/or non-binary people. We gathered the results, ranked the findings, and created SureFire 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 our 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.

SureFire is 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.

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!

SureFire - 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