2022

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YEAR OF THE PLAYWRIGHT

PGC 50
1972-2022
50 YEARS OF CHAMPIONING PLAYWRIGHTS
SureFire 2022

The Women’s Caucus of the Playwrights Guild of Canada (PGC) is pleased to share with you SureFire 2022, our third rendition of this biennial initiative.

SureFire is modeled after the American Kilroys (who compile annual lists of un- or under-produced plays by women, trans, and non-binary creators), and it complements other like-minded Canadian actions, such as PLEDGE and The 49 List.

Multiple studies show that women playwrights face systemic discrimination and under-representation in the theatre industry; inequities that are magnified further for Indigenous women, women of colour, transgender, and gender nonconforming or non-binary folks. Artistic directors and producers often state that they do not produce more plays by these groups simply because they are not familiar with such work. Thus, the purpose of SureFire is to increase the profile of under-served playwrights, and to provide artistic directors, producers, educators, and others with a “surefire” means of finding new and exciting plays for production, which will help improve parity in the sector.

Since this year marks the Playwrights Guild of Canada’s 50th anniversary, we departed from our usual methodology of calling on anonymous recommenders from the nation’s theatre community. Instead, PGC Women’s Caucus members were invited to submit two of their favourite “passion pick” plays by women, trans, non-binary and/or gender nonconforming artists in Canada. One of the two plays could be a work of their own, but otherwise, all other caveats were dropped, except that the recommended titles could not be repeated if they were chosen for SureFire 2018 or SureFire 2020.

This year, we received 122 play titles from 75 different Women’s Caucus members. We tabulated the recommendations to see which works received multiple nominations, and the final result is the eighteen titles that formulate SureFire 2022. The plays are listed in alphabetical order by title, and they are hyperlinked to the Canadian Play Outlet (CPO) where you can read synopses of the work, purchase the plays, and inquire about production rights. There is one play without a link (Undressed), as it has not been published yet; contact PGC to get in touch with the playwright to learn more about the work or obtain a copy of the script. In light of PGC’s anniversary, we are also sharing the names of the other 104 play titles, which we hope will expand the selection of plays on offer and amplify the work further. This year’s compilation is not as diverse as previous SureFires in terms of racialization, but it is certainly varied in relation to genre and aesthetic diversity, as well as the playwrights’ ages, experiences, and geographical regions.

Please take a look at SureFire 2022, and help us spread the word by disseminating the findings amongst your colleagues and on social media. Together, we can help foster more equitable representation, greater artistic pluralism, and increased cross-pollination of Canadian work.

Visit the CPO and pick up one of these fantastic Canadian plays to study, read, or produce today!
SureFire 2022

A Man Walks Into A Bar by Rachel Blair
And All for Love by Alison Lawrence
Bang Bang by Kat Sandler
Bone Cage by Catherine Banks
Burying Toni by Catherine Frid
Choices by Renee Baillargeon
Dragonfly by Lara Rae*
Elijah by Hannah Rittner
Elsewhere by Joy Ross-Jones & Cristina Cugliandro*
Selfie by Christine Quintana
Serving Elizabeth by Marcia Johnson
The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God by Djanet Sears
The Feast of All Saints by Cat Walsh
The Unplugging by Yvette Nolan
Undressed by Louise Casemore
Vitals by Rosamund Small
What Difference Does It Make by Mairy Beam
WROL (Without Rule of Law) by Michaela Jeffery

*Playwrights with an asterisk following their name are not members of the Playwrights Guild of Canada (PGC)
Other Play Recommendations

A Different Kind of Job by Jessica Anderson
A Ghost of a Chance by Judith Robinson*
Ai Yah! Chop Suey by Dale Lee Kwong
Alex and Michael and Hannah by Heather Morrow
Alien Creature by Linda Griffiths
Augustine Pursued by Ann Snead
Baggage by Sarah Segal-Lazar
Barvinok by Lianna Makuch
Beautiful Man by Erin Shields
Between the Sheets by Jordi Mand
Biological by Leanna Brodie
Blood Relations by Sharon Pollock
Brothel #9 by Anusree Roy
Bystander by Wren Brian
Cake Walk by Colleen Curran
Caves of Fancy: A Play about Mary Shelley, her Mother and her Monster by Rose Scollard
Ceux qui se sont évaporés (Those Who Have Evaporated) by Rébecca Déraspe*
Espejos: Clean by Christine Quintana
Dark Heart by Genevieve Adam
Dayboil by Sharon King-Campbell
Doc by Sharon Pollock
Dominion by Andrea Ledding*
Down from Heaven by Colleen Wagner
Dried Flowers by Maryjane Cruise
Espresso by Lucia Frangione
E-Transfers by Gabe Maharjan and Merlin Simard
Eva in Rio by Gabe Maharjan
Finding Home: A Salmon Journey Up the Humber River by Alexandra Simpson* and Morgan Brie Johnson*
For Home and Country by Leanna Brodie
Fresh Hell by Conni Massing
From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea (adapted from the book by Kai Cheng Thom, Wai-Yant Li and Kai Yun Ching) by Gabe Mahrajan
Gracie by Joan MacLeod
Highway by Maggi Feehan
History of Visual Sources by Laura Mullin
House and Home by Jenn Griffin
I Am the Most Unfeeling Doctor In The World (And Other True Tales From The Emergency Room) by Melissa Yuan-Innes
Jane Eyre by Elyne Quan
Janet and Louise by Deanna Kruger
Janet Wilson Meets the Queen by Beverley Cooper
Je me souviens by Lorena Gale
Kiinalik: These Sharp Tools by Evalyn Parry,* Laakkuluk Williamson Bathroy,* Erin Brubacher* and Elysia Poirier* with Cris Derksen*
Kindred by Rosa Dolores
Kitimat by Elaine Ávila
Lion in the Streets by Judith Thompson
Little One by Hannah Moscovitch
Lo (Or Dear Mr. Wells) by Rose Napoli
Mamahood: Bursting into Light by Nicolle Nattrass
Margaret Reid by Madeleine Brown
Mixed Doubles – A Twenty-first Century Farce by Kate Jaimet
Moonie and Maybee Dig Up a Grave by Sara Campos-Silvius*
Motherskin by Mallory Fisher
Mouthpiece by Norah Sadava* and Amy Nostbakken*
My Mother's Feet by Gina Wilkinson*
My Sister's Rage by Yolanda Bonnell
Niish by Joelle Peter*
Noor by Erum Khan*
Old Stock — A Refugee Love Story by Hannah Moscovitch, Christian Barry,* and Ben Calpan*
Our Ghosts by Sally Stubbs
Palliser Suite by Caroline Russell-King
Paradise by Patti Flather
Paradise Lost by Erin Shields
Perfect Pie by Judith Thompson
Pleasureville by Ellen Denny
Post Alice by Taylor Graham
Real Job by Arielle Rombough*
Remember Me by Aldona Jaworska
Riverkeeper by Katherine Koller
Sanctuary Song by Marjorie Chan and Abigail Richardson-Schulte*
Shorelines by Mishka Lavigne
Simone, Half and Half by Christine Rodriguez
Sirens: Elektra in Bosnia by Judith Thompson
Six Feet Over by Terri Aihoshi
Social Studies by Trish Cooper
Speed Dating for Sperm Donors by Natalie Meisner
Subscribe or Like by Liam Salmon
Supper Club by Willow Kean*
Swordbearers by Deanna Kruger
The Apology by Darrah Teitel
The Beloved by Wesley J. Colford
The Book of Esther by Leanna Brodie
The Concessions by Briana Brown
The Crippled Gigolo by Jen England
The Emancipation of Ms. Lovely by Ngozi Paul*
The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble by Beth Graham
The New Mother by Kathleen McDonnell
The Philosopher's Wife by Susanna Fournier
The Piano Teacher by Dorothy Dittrich
The Pistol’s Report by J. Ivanal Johnson
The Public Servant by Jennifer Brewin,* Haley McGee,* Sarah McVie* and Amy Rutherford*
The Refugee Hotel by Carmen Aguirre
The Russian Play by Hannah Moscovitch
The Selkie Wife by Kelley Jo Burke
The Triumph of Teresa Harris by Penn Kemp
The Wait List Experiment by Valerie Methot
The War Being Waged by Darla Contois*
This is War by Hannah Moscovitch
Volare by Liam Zarrillo
we the same by Sangeeta Wylie
Weight by Jan Sims
What a Young Wife Ought to Know by Hannah Moscovitch
White Girls in Moccasins by Yolanda Bonnell
With Glowing Hearts by Jennifer Wynne Webber
Who You Callin’ Black, Eh? by Rita Shelton Deverell
Within the Glass by Anna Chatterton

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