

PGC Annual Theatre Production Survey, 2020/2021

This survey includes 158 theatre companies who produced a combined total of 628 productions in the 2020/21 theatre season (the numbers are lower than usual due to COVID-19 cancellations). Due to the pandemic, this survey includes live and (for the first time) digital theatre productions.

Table 1. Gender Breakdown of Authorship for the 2020/21 Theatre Season

| Number of Productions by Women | Number of Productions by Men | # of Productions by 2-Spirit, Trans & Non-Binary Folks | Number of Productions by Mixed Gender Partnerships |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| 268 | 245 | 15 | 100 |
| 43% | 39% | 2% | 16% |

- Major Finding: Productions authored by women outnumbered all other shows for the first time ever, up 9% from the previous year, while shows by 2STNB folks increased 1%. Shows by men dropped 12%, and mixed gender teams dropped 2% compared to 2019/20.

Table 2. Gender Breakdown of Productions Written by Canadians, 2020/21

| Number of Productions By Women | Number of Productions By Men | # of Productions by 2-Spirit, Trans & Non-Binary Folks | Number of Productions by Mixed Gender Partnerships |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| 255 | 212 | 15 | 95 |
| 44% | 37% | 3% | 16% |

- Major Finding: Productions by men decreased 5%, shows by women increased 5%, mixed gender partnerships went up 2%, and plays by 2STNB people rose 2% from 2019/20.
- Overall, 577 of the productions were written by Canadians, which is 92% of all the shows, the highest Canadian content has ever been (up 28% from the previous season)!

Table 3. A Provincial Breakdown of All Productions, 2020/21

| Province or Territory | Number of Productions (Nat. %) | Productions by Women | Productions by Men | Productions by 2-Spirit, Trans & Non-Binaries | Productions by Mixed Genders |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Alberta | 72 (11%) | 34 (47%) | 28 (39%) | 1 (1%) | 9 (13%) |
| Atlantic | 62 (10%) | 24 (39%) | 24 (39%) | 0 (0%) | 14 (23%) |
| BC | 143 (23%) | 63 (44%) | 56 (39%) | 3 (2%) | 21 (15%) |
| Manitoba | 17 (3%) | 6 (35%) | 7 (41%) | 1 (6%) | 3 (18%) |
| Ontario | 265 (42%) | 109 (48%) | 19 (38%) | 3 (6%) | 4 (8%) |
| Quebec | 50 (8%) | 24 (40%) | 24 (46%) | 1 (2%) | 6 (12%) |
| Saskatchewan | 17 (3%) | 6 (35%) | 8 (47%) | 0 (0%) | 3 (18%) |
| Yukon | 2 (.05%) | 2 (100%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |

- Findings: Plays by women increased from the previous year in four regions: Alberta, BC, Ontario, and the Yukon, and they decreased from the previous year in the other four regions: Atlantic Canada (when averaged overall), Manitoba, Quebec, and Saskatchewan.
- The largest changes occurred in Atlantic Canada: Only 18% of the plays were authored by women in both PEI and New Brunswick (but mixed gender partnerships accounted for 46% of the latter plays!), compared to 60% of the plays in Nova Scotia and 40% in NL.

Table 4. Provincial Breakdown of Canadian-Authored Productions, 2020/21

| Province or Territory | Number of Productions (Nat. %) | Productions by Women | Productions by Men | Productions by 2-Spirit, Trans & Non-Binaries | Productions by Mixed Genders |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Alberta | 64 (11%) | 34 (53%) | 21 (32%) | 1 (2%) | 8 (13%) |
| Atlantic | 56 (10%) | 24 (43%) | 18 (32%) | 0 (0%) | 14 (25%) |
| BC | 135 (23%) | 61 (46%) | 50 (37%) | 3 (2%) | 21 (16%) |
| Manitoba | 15 (3%) | 5 (33%) | 6 (40%) | 1 (7%) | 3 (20%) |
| Ontario | 248 (43%) | 104 (42%) | 95 (38%) | 7 (3%) | 42 (17%) |
| Quebec | 40 (7%) | 19 (48%) | 14 (35%) | 3 (8%) | 4 (10%) |
| Saskatchewan | 17 (3%) | 6 (35%) | 8 (47%) | 0 (0%) | 3 (18%) |
| Yukon | 2 (.05%) | 2 (100%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |

- Findings: Overall, the gender distribution is more or less the same when comparing Canadian and international authorship. Women climbed one more percentage point overall, as did 2STNB folks, when it came to productions by written by Canadians.
- Compared to the previous season, the numbers rose for Canadian work by women in NS (by 7%), AB (6%), NB (4%), PI (4%), BC (2%), and ON (1%), and they dropped a wee bit (by 2%) for women in MB. The Yukon, SK, and NL remained the same.
- MB and SK are the only regions with stats in the 30% range for women still (the norm in pre-pandemic studies), and there were more mixed gender partnerships then ever before.

Table 5. Comparison of PGC's Annual Production Surveys, 2015/16 – 2020/21

| PGC Survey Year | Productions by Men | Productions by Women | Productions by 2-Spirit, Trans & Non-Binaries | Productions by Mixed Genders |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 2015/2016 | 64% < | 26% < | N/A | 11% < |
| 2016/2017 | 64% | 26% | N/A | 10% |
| 2017/2018 | 60% > | 30% > | .5% < | 9% |
| 2018/2019 | 56% | 31% | .5% < | 13% |
| 2019/2020 | 51% | 34% | 1% | 14% |
| 2020/2021 | 39% | 43% | 2% | 16% |

- Findings: A surprising reversal of the norm from the past decade: this is the first time ever that more plays written by women were produced than those by men. The change is likely due to the number of plays by women presented digitally and online during the pandemic.