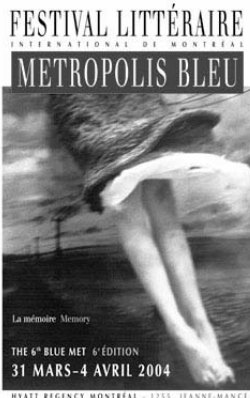


The brief Works

ISSUE 40 SPRING 2004

Meet Blue Metropolis' Hottest Couple



Of course we are talking about Ernest and Ernestine. This newly-wed couple, along with their coat/sweater and their furnace, will be heating up the Blue Metropolis Literary Festival on April 1.

The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine, by Leah Cherniak, Martha Ross and Robert Morgan, premiered in 1987 and was immediately met with critical and box-office success. This clown-based comedy won a Dora Mavor Moore Award. The story centers on Ernest and

Ernestine, a newly-wed couple, who live a perfectly ordered existence. But when cracks begin to appear in the veneer, their repression gives way to darkly humorous rage. As if that wasn't enough to contend with, the furnace breaks down, bringing conflict and hilarity to the scene. This play continues to delight audiences all over the world.

Now translated into French by Danielle Desormeaux and titled *Les foudres d'Ernest et Ernestine*, the play will be presented in French and English. Danielle Desormeaux and Marcel Jeannin star. Leah Cherniak herself directs.

Leah Cherniak and **Martha Ross** are the co-founders of Toronto's Theatre Columbus. *The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine* first premiered in 1986, and continues to be performed both nationally and around the world. Theatre Columbus creates original comedies that explore the relationship between laughter and pathos. The company is com-

mitted to the collaborative process, using socially relevant issues and its background in physical theatre. **Robert Morgan** has written more than twenty produced plays, and he has acted in over forty productions.

Danielle Desormeaux is a Montreal actor who has appeared on stage, in both English and French, in theatres across Canada and the world. She is a sought-after workshop participant and has assisted in the development of over 100 new Canadian plays. Ms. Desormeaux's work in improvisation, collective theatre and clowning has led to the creation of several new plays, including the critically acclaimed *Umlöut & MöcShplat* for Clowns Gone Bad. *Les foudres d'Ernest et Ernestine* is Danielle's first translation.

Les foudres d'Ernest et Ernestine

by Leah Cherniak, Martha Ross and Robert Morgan

translated by Danielle Desormeaux

April 1, 2004 at 8:30 pm

Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival
Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1255 Jeanne-Mance, Montreal

Free Admission. Donations accepted for the Actors' Fund of Canada



Leah Cherniak



Martha Ross



Robert Morgan



Danielle Desormeaux

PWM 40 Playwrights' Workshop Montréal and Fasken Martineau present 40th Anniversary Celebration

Believe it or not folks, Playwrights' Workshop Montréal turns 40! From its inception as a new play development center in 1963 to the professional national play development center it is today, PWM continues to offer excellence in dramaturgy. We would love nothing more than to celebrate these past 40 years of excellence and the future 40 with all our members, families, friends and strangers. To mark this monumental achievement, we are having a blow-out on May 10th at Kola Note. Music, drama, comedy and very special guests are all part of an evening set out to dazzle your senses and reignite your imagination.

Very special guest host **Mary Walsh** (*This Hour Has 22 Minutes*) and writer Ed Macdonald, will propel you through the evening's antics. A sneak peek at some of the entertainment planned reveals acclaimed Canadian actors Moira Wylie and Douglas Campbell performing a scene from *Tête-à-Tête* by Raphael Burdman. Also revealed is a preview of Peter Hinton's *The Swanne: Queen Victoria (The Seduction of Nemesis)* premiering at Stratford this summer. We warn you, this is a not-to-be-missed event! Oh yes! There will be fabulous food. All proceeds will go directly to developing Canadian work and writers for the stage.

May 10, 2004 at 8:00 pm, doors open at 7:30 pm

At Kola Note, 5240 Avenue du parc

Box-office: (514) 843-3685 (PWM)

Admission: PWM writing members and students: \$20/\$30 at the door

Regular: \$30/\$40 at the door

VIP: \$50 with a \$20 tax deductible receipt

(Want to support the event but unable to be there? Ask us about sponsoring a student to attend the event!)



Mary Walsh

Idea Patron

FASKEN
MARTINEAU

LIBERTÉ
yogourt

KOLA
NOTE

CALLS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Playwrights' Workshop Montréal re-publishes these calls for submissions as a courtesy to our members. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of our information, it is always best to be informed about an organization before sending your work to them. Please be sure to seek further information from the contact coordinates given if you are unfamiliar with an organization.

First Chance Fest, The Chance Theatre

The Chance Theatre is looking for original works to include in its second annual First Chance Fest, July 2004, which features up to 8 original works. The Chance encourages comedies and dramas with one set, minimal production needs, and a maximum cast of 8. The deadline is March 31, 2004.

Guidelines: Play must not exceed 110 pages. One acts are encouraged. Your name, address, telephone number, FAX number, e-mail address and the play's title should only appear on the first page. On the second page only the play's title should appear. Please include a short synopsis. All following pages should be numbered. Scripts must be securely bound and covered. There is no pay for scripts that are selected for production. Submissions can be sent to: The Chance Theatre, P.O. Box 3309, Orange, CA 92857 Attn: First Chance Fest 2004.

Theatre BC's National Playwriting Competition

Entry deadline is set for Monday, July 26, 2004. The competition is open to all Canadian resident playwrights. Entry is limited to non-musical stage plays that have not been previously produced or published. Scripts may be submitted from April 15 through July 26th. www.theatrebc.org/playcomp.

Weesageechak Begins to Dance XV11

Native Earth Performing Arts is soliciting unproduced and uncommissioned theatre scripts and dance pieces by Native writers and choreographers for their 7th annual Weesageechak Begins to Dance Festival—a festival devoted to showcasing and developing new works for Aboriginal theatre and dance. This year's festival will take place in Tallulah's Cabaret, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, from October 14th to the 17th. Each selected play will receive dramaturgical support, a workshop and public staged reading. Out-of-town playwrights will receive travel expenses and per diems. To be eligible, playwrights must be available to attend the festival. Full length plays in all stages of development are preferred, although shorter plays will also be considered. Deadline: May 13, 2004. Contact: Nina Aquino at 416-531-1402 or nina@nativeearth.ca.

Urban Tales

Northern Light Theatre is calling for submissions for next season's installment of the reading series Urban Tales. The tales should explore the dark sides of human nature and urban living. Writers are encouraged to explore the horror genre, the irrational and scary behaviour of humans living in an urban environment. The tales should be monologues or two-handers, no longer than 30 minutes. Each tale must incorporate the following five elements: a house, a haunting, a key, a portrait and a staircase. The elements don't need to be central to the tale. Five tales will be selected for a staged reading during Halloween 2004. The winners will receive an honorarium and dramaturgical support. DO NOT put your name, address or phone number on the title page of the tale. Pagenate the tale and include a footer on every page with the title of the story. Submit script, cover letter and application form (which includes name, address, telephone number and a space for an Urban Tales number given by the company). Send to: Northern Light Theatre, 11516-103 Street, Edmonton, AB T5G 2H9.

Canadian Playwrights Contest

Samuel French (Canada) Ltd. is sponsoring a playwriting competition that is open to all Canadian playwrights. Writers are invited to submit their best full-length stage plays that are original and have never been published. The winning play will receive publication and representation. Deadline for submissions is September 30, 2004. Winners will be announced in the February 2005 issue of CanPlay magazine. Application forms are available from: Samuel French (Canada), Ltd., 100 Lombard Street, Toronto M5C 1M3. (416) 363-8417.

Village Scene Productions

Village Scene Productions is now accepting submissions for the 2004 Montréal GLBT (Gay/Lesbian/Bi-sexual/Transgender) Theatre Festival to be held in Montreal in November 2004. This year's theme is 'Now and Then' and all submitted plays must have relevance to the GLBT lifestyle. They may be in French, English or both languages, and 30 to 120 minutes in length. You may submit up to two plays for consideration at a fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for each play. Submissions must be received no later than Friday, April 30, 2004 at 6 PM, and results will be announced by June 13th. For further details on the selection process and the festival, contact villagescene@hotmail.com or visit www.geocities.com/villagescene. Please Note : The theme of each piece has to relate to the GLBT community - the playwright and/or company do not have to be gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered.

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

3 YEAR DONORS

Playwrights' Workshop Montréal is proud to welcome the latest contributors to our ongoing fundraising campaign. Each person listed has pledged an amount to be donated to PWM each season for 3 years.

Thanks for your support!

George Babics
Per Brask
Frank H. Hopkins
Marcel Jeannin
Walter Massey
Christina Myler
Joanna Noyes
Leopold Plotek
Brian Richmond

Lorne Smart
Lib Spry
Sylvie St-Laurent &
Lucile Serfass
Bob White



OTHER DONORS

Barbara Arbess
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CBC
Paolo de Paola
Shaun Finn
Beatrix Franco
Mark Haber
Michael Hentges
Ed Macdonald
Elise Moser
Colleen Murphy
Paragraphe Books

Cherished

A number of Playwrights' Workshop's supporters have honoured their loved ones with a donation to PWM. They are:

Phil and Lynn Buxton *in honour of Stefanie Buxton and Gail Batten*

Helen Fotopulos *in memory of Svetlana Zylin*
Kirunga Ky'okusinga *in memory of Shumba B. Kanyangeyo: Love, Laughter, Forever!*

Emma Roberts
Wigdor Schecter
Scotiabank
Société de développement du
Boul. St-Laurent
Tim Southam & Eda Holmes
Rachel Spencer
Laura Teasdale
Larry Tremblay
Daniel Turp
Myrna Wyatt-Selkirk

VOLUNTEERS

PWM thanks the following volunteers for their time:

Jude Benny
Carole T. Bureau
Stefanie Buxton
Lara Goldenberg
John Sadowy
Julie Tamiko Manning
Laura Teasdale

CALENDAR NOTES

WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN AT THE SHOP

Jan. 22	In-house workshop of Harry Standjofski's <i>Odon Juan</i>
Jan. 28-29	In-house workshop of Jasmine Dubé's <i>The Penguin</i> (translated by Linda Gaboriau)
Feb. 20-22	<i>Burial Practices of the Early European Settlers Through to Today</i> by Jillian Keiley and Robert Chafe (artists-in-residence - Jan. 04) opens at Artistic Fraud, St. John's, Newfoundland
Feb. 25	In-house workshop of Andrea Boyd's <i>Molly</i>
March 8	WACTM reading of <i>Burial Practices of the Early European Settlers Through to Today</i> by Jillian Keiley and Robert Chafe as part of International Women's Day Celebrations
March 19	In-house workshop of Kent Stetson's <i>Excess</i>
March	Paula off to Vancouver to work with Marie Clements on <i>Women and Fish</i> , Tasha Faye Evans on <i>She Stands Still</i> , and Muriel Miguel on <i>Red Mother</i>
April 1	<i>Les foudres d'Ernest et Ernestine</i> by Leah Cherniak, Martha Ross, and Robert Morgan, translated by Danielle Desormeaux (in French and English) staged reading as part of the Blue Metropolis Literary Festival at 8:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1255 Jeanne Mance, Montreal
April 7	In-house workshop of Aviva Ravel's <i>Good Friends</i>
April 19-24	Sharon Cavanagh, Montrealer, presently residing in Calgary, in residence to work on her play <i>Diotema</i>
April 27-29	Silvija Jestrovic from Toronto, in residence to work on her script, <i>Someone Else's Story</i>
May 10	PWM40 - 40th Anniversary Celebration at Kola Note, 8:00 p.m. hosted by Mary Walsh
May	Mini masterclass with Keith Turnbull on Frye's Wheel (dates T.B.A.)

PLAYWRIGHTS ON TOUR

June 14 - 19, 2004 in Edmonton

Canada's play development centres, in association with the National Arts Centre and the Magnetic North Theatre Festival, will be presenting On the Verge 2004. Join us in Edmonton for readings of new plays by some of the very best playwriting talent from across the country. On the Verge 04 will be held at the TransAlta Arts Barns in the heart of Edmonton's Old Strathcona district. The place to be this June!

The Line-Up for On the Verge 2004 is:

Wreckage by **Sally Stubbs**

(Playwrights Theatre Centre)

MacGregor's Hard Ice Cream and Gas by **Daniel Macdonald**

(Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre)

Luck by **Chris Craddock**

(Alberta Playwrights' Network)

Mathilde by **Véronique Olmi**, translated by **Morwyn Brebner**

(The Banff playRites Colony)

Mollie's Veil by **Sharon Bajer**

(Manitoba Association of Playwrights)

Lake Nora Arms by adapted by **Jane Miller & Brian Quirt**

from the book of poems by Michael Redhill

(Nightswimming)

****Freeport, Texas* by **Michael Springate*****

(Playwrights' Workshop Montréal)

Cheech by **François Létourneau**, trans. by **Rick DesRochers**

(Centre des auteurs dramatiques)

There is a Land of Pure Delight by **Don Hannah**

(Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre)

A Giraffe in Paris by **Mark Haroun**

(The Citadel Theatre)

The Blue Light by **Mieko Ouchi**

(The National Arts Centre)

Admission is a pay-what-you-can donation at the door. All proceeds to benefit the Actors' Fund of Canada and the Foundation for the Recognition of Excellence in Drama. All readings will take place in the PCL Studio Theatre at the TransAlta Arts Barns in Edmonton (10030-84th Avenue) at 2:30 and 10:30 pm.

Made possible with assistance from The Canada Council for the Arts and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

THE HOLIDAY PARTY!



Laurel and Anisa crowned Talent Show Champions.

Playwrights' Workshop's Holiday Party on Friday, December 12 was a night of peace, love and talent. About 140 people joined us for a good time, good food and the eagerly-awaited talent show entries. PWM's loft looked fabulous, complete with a crèche and beautiful poinsettia donated by **San Remo** florist. Peter Hinton was the MC. There were twelve fabulous acts in the talent show, the winner

being *A Tribute to English Theatre in Montreal*, glamorously performed by Laurel Sprengelmeyer and Anisa Cameron from Teesri Duniya Theatre. They received a \$50 gift certificate from **Paragraphe Bookstore** and two complimentary tickets to the award-winning play *Snowman* by Greg MacArthur, produced by **Imago Theatre**.

Door prizes consisted of over \$1,000 worth of wonderful books donated by **Elise Moser** and the **CBC**. The party was also an opportune time to announce the winners of Playwrights' Workshop's fall raffle. Colleen Curran won Grand Prize 1: A pair of Montreal-Stratford round-trip tickets from **Via Rail Canada**, a one-night stay at the luxurious **Caledonia House Bed and Breakfast** and two tickets to *The Swanne III* by Peter Hinton at the **Stratford Festival**. Sinead Collins won Grand prize 2: SUPERPASS to the 2004 **Montreal Fringe Festival**. Elise Moser won Grand Prize 3: an acting class at the **ASM Performing Arts**. For other winners, check PWM's web site in the News section.

This year Playwrights' Workshop's volunteers sold over 860 raffle tickets, almost 50% more than last year!

Thank you all for coming and helping out! We also would like to thank **Brasserie McAuslan** for supporting the event.

And we are grateful to our sponsors who donated prizes to the raffle and the talent show. Of course, the night's success would not have happened without the hard work of our board members and volunteers.

infinithéâtre
presents the world premiere of
**BARNACLE
WOOD**

A new play by Trevor Ferguson
Directed by Guy Sprung
Bain St-Michel, 5300 St-Dominique
Opening March 18
987-1774 x 5

PWM Staff: Paula Danckert, Artistic Director
 Corey Castle, General Manager
 Haleema Mini, Community Relations Coordinator
 Emma Tivaldo, Artist-in-Residence

\$40,000 FOR 40th YEAR WE ARE ALMOST THERE!

We are only a few months away from the end of our 40th season!

Since its founding in 1963, Playwrights' Workshop has been at the forefront of this country's creative forces. Hundreds of plays developed here have gone on to production. Theatres such as Halifax's Neptune, the Centaur Theatre, the National Arts Centre, Canadian Stage Company, Toronto's Factory Theatre, the Stratford Festival, Alberta Theatre Projects, Winnipeg's Prairie Theatre Exchange and the Vancouver Playhouse have produced plays developed at PWM. Hundreds of playwrights have come through our door for dramaturgical consultation, for workshops, for Master Classes, and to otherwise perfect their craft. David Fennario, Carole Fréchette, David French, Tomson Highway, Judith Thompson, the list goes on...

This year we have brought you special programs to mark such an important milestone. The season started with *Women on the Main* in September. A star-studded big birthday bash is planned for May 10. And later, Keith Tumbull will be back by popular demand with his Frye's Wheel mini-masterclass. Stay tuned...

PWM's accomplishments would not have been possible without your support. And now we are looking forward to the next 40 years of Canadian theatre. Play development takes commitment, emotionally and financially. That is why Playwrights' Workshop is setting a goal of raising \$40,000 this year. All proceeds will go directly to developing Canadian work and writers for the stage this year and beyond. The money raised will be used to stabilize our future funding through the creation of a special fund, so that we can plan for the long term.

We know that it is an ambitious goal. However, as we expected, PWM members and supporters are up to the challenge. **We have already raised almost \$30,000!**

Please help us sprint to the goal. There are numerous ways to invest for the future:

If you are not currently a member, **join us**. Membership to PWM is valid for one year from the date of joining. Other than the satisfaction of knowing that your dollars are keeping Canadian stages alive with exciting and relevant work, membership offers the following privileges:

- Our newsletter, The Works
- Use of the Carol Libman Resource Library
- Reduced rates on the rental of our rehearsal space
- A vote at the P.W.M. Annual General Meeting
- Participation at Soundings, a lecture series with playwrights
- Discounts at theatres in Montreal

Writing and Student members also have access to all PWM's activities and services, including script reading and dramaturgical consultation, in-house workshops, public staged readings, artist residencies, Master Classes and CBC radio drama competitions.

Donate. All donors will be issued tax receipts for the value of the donation, and your generosity will be (with your permission) acknowledged in future issues of our newsletter.

Also, many supporters have made three-year donation pledges. What better way to ensure the long-term health of an organization you care about?

Without the playwright, there is no play. But with your support, we can all ensure theatre's free expression and experimentation for generations to come.

Please complete the form below and send it to PWM's mailing address today! You may also call us to become a member or to donate by phone.



I want to invest for the future.

- Writing Membership: \$50
- Supporting Membership: \$40
- Student Membership: \$15
- Please accept my donation of \$ _____
- Please contact me about a three-year donation

- Cheque enclosed
- Bill my Visa / Mastercard, number: _____ Exp. date _____

For in honour / memory donation only. Please check one and complete

- In honour of _____
- In memory of _____

Special message to honouree: _____

Address to send personalized letter: _____

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