

POLO'S FANTASY

a staged reading of a new play with songs
(The fantastic lives of Polo and Irving, and their Jewish Cockney mother)

This is Toronto in the 40's. Irving Goldstein is an artistic, budding homosexual who from the waist up looks like Peter Lorre and from the waist down, like Betty Grable. Unable to function in a WASP dominated society, he decides to split himself in two.

His alter ego, Polo, a German exotic extravert actor, moves immediately to Montreal to become part of the 50s' gangster-ridden nightclub world: the Montreal of the Gaiety Theatre; Fifi D'Orsay; the Chez Paree; the Chicken Coop and Billy Daniels. We are on a roller coaster ride of name-dropping; the rich and famous society life, taking us to the Broadway of Rodgers and Hammerstein, the golden years of Stratford and London's Swinging 60's. Polo eventually becomes famous as the first actor to appear in the nude on stage in London's West End.

Meanwhile Irving remains in Toronto, studies to become an accountant, living a claustrophobic life in a small apartment with his mother, occasionally seeing Polo in a supporting role in a British film.

Some years later these two lonely middle-aged men meet at an anonymous, obsessive sexual addict's group meeting in Montreal. Both unaware of who they are, they embark on yet another journey.



Montreal - 1950's

Polo's Fantasy, written and performed by Louis Negin, with Nick Carpenter at the piano, will be presented in a staged reading on Sunday, April 2 at 8:00 p.m. at the Mainline Theatre, 3997 St. Laurent. Donations will be accepted at the door. This presentation is made through the generous support of Mainline Theatre.

Louis Negin can be seen in several films by Guy Maddin: *The Saddest Music in the World*; *Cowards Bend the Knee*; and *Sissy Boy Slap Party*. He recently guest starred on *ReGenesis* and *Slings and Arrows* for television. In the film *54* he appears as the writer Truman Capote. He has also played opposite Joan Collins and Dame Edna. Forty years in the theatre have taken him world over, including 7 years at the Stratford Festival. He presently commutes between Montreal and Toronto with a dog and two cats.

A Salute to Lois and Olivia!

After spending over five months in Montreal as an Artist-in-Residence, St. John's own Lois Brown, has left us to pursue her work from home. Playwrights' Workshop Montréal has been proud to welcome the Newfoundland playwright/performer/director and her 10 year-old daughter, Olivia.

During her residency, Lois assisted with the staged reading of *The Unsexed* by Linda Griffiths in September 2005, and has supported our dramaturgs through personalized consultations with our playwrights, and on several workshops. She has also been working on her latest play, *Will the Boy on the Raft Please Come to Shore*, which was workshopped at PWM in February 2006.

On February 25th at the Monument National in Montreal, Lois was awarded the Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award from the Canada Council for the Arts for her outstanding artistic achievement by a Canadian mid-career artist in the discipline of Theatre. No stranger to national awards, she was short listed for the Siminovitch Prize in directing in 2004.



PWM would like to congratulate Lois, and thank her and Olivia. We'll always be glad to provide you a home away from home.

*Photo by Kate Hutchinson. Courtesy of the Canada Council for the Arts.

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.

WORKSHOPS IN PROVENCE

Workshops in Provence - NEW SESSION ADDED. Playwright **Kent Stetson's** drama session at the Workshops in Provence is SOLD OUT. A second session is being added, June 5-12. Subscription to the Memoir Workshop May 20 - June 4 is filling up. Call (514) 278-5038. For complete details, see the website www.marianneackerman.com (click on workshops in Provence) or Kent's site: www.MasterPlayWorks.com/L'AtelierAlric



TWO HANDS CLAPPING

PWM member **Kit Brennan** is currently compiling and editing a book for Signature Editions entitled *Two Hands Clapping*. The volume will feature full-length plays and some excerpts by (mainly) Canadian playwrights. The plays will be two-handers (for two actors) and should have had at least a semi-professional, fringe or workshop production. Ideally, some of the plays will have had productions in smaller venues and non-traditional theatre spaces around the world, as well as representation from plays that have been produced at some of Canada's larger regional theatres. Established writers will be represented as well as voices that are not yet well known.

Submissions should be sent to Kit Brennan, c/o Department of Theatre, Concordia University, 7141 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec, H4B 1R6. Please include an overview of the play's production history and a short biography with your submission. **Submission deadline** is May 1, 2006, but submit as early as possible. If you are submitting after that date, please email to inquire (kitbrennan@sympatico.ca).



CANADIAN NATIONAL PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

Information for the 18th Canadian National Playwriting Competition is now posted to the website at www.theatrebc.org/playcomp. Entries will be accepted from April 15 to Monday, July 24, 2006 (post-mark). Please note: the entry fee for this year's Competition has risen to \$40 per play.



SAMUEL FRENCH CANADIAN PLAYWRIGHTS CONTEST

Samuel French (Canada), play publishers and authors' representatives, is sponsoring a playwriting competition that is open to all Canadian playwrights. Writers from across Canada 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 from Samuel French.

Deadline: August 21, 2006

Submissions: Andrew Shaver - Samuel French (Canada)
100 Lombard St. lower level
Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1M3



4TH LINE THEATRE - MILLBROOK, ONTARIO

4th Line Theatre is accepting submissions for its spring New Play Competition. There are two levels at which entries to the New Play Competition may be submitted:

1. Seeding Playwrights who have had a full-length work for the stage professionally produced are invited to submit story ideas, draft treatments or draft scenes of a proposed play project for seed funding.

2. Commissions: Established playwrights who have had at least one work professionally produced by 4th Line Theatre are invited to submit play ideas, treatments of draft scripts to be considered for commission funding. Nationally recognized professional playwrights may also submit play ideas for consideration.

The **closing date** for submissions is April 15, 2006. Winners will be announced on May 1, 2006. For more information, call 705 932 4448 or visit www.4thlinetheatre.on.ca.



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Dana Bath

CALENDAR NOTES

WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN AT THE SHOP (and our playwrights' projects)

- March 1-4 *Evening in Paris* by **Michelle Olsen** and **Muriel Miguel** performed at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, production dramaturgy by Paula Danckert
- March 6-12 Paula in Banff to work with **Marie Clements** and **Peter Hinton** on *Copper Thunderbird*.
- March 13 PWM presents *A Bit O' Blarney* at the Bishop Street Pub, 1222 Bishop Street, a fundraising evening of lying and Tall Tales
- March 12-19 **Christian Murray** and **David Warburton** in residence to work on an adaptation. Christian is also working on his script of *Bone Boy*, which will be read as part of On the Verge in St. John's this summer.
- March 17-19 Paula to New York for the premiere of the film version of **Marie Clements'** *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*
- March 30 *Have a Heart* by **David Sherman** opens at the Centaur Theatre
- April 2 8:00 p.m. - PWM's public reading of **Louis Negin's** *Polo's Fantasy* at the Mainline Theatre, 3997 St. Laurent
- April 7 7:30 p.m. - launch of **Larry Tremblay's** published play, *The Ventriloquist*, as part of the Blue Metropolis Festival at the Salon des Arts, 5th floor of the Hyatt Regency, 1255 Jeanne Mance, an excerpt will be read
- April 22 *The Ventriloquist* by **Larry Tremblay**, translated and directed by **Keith Turnbull** opens at Factory Theatre in Toronto
- April 27 *Bye Bye Baby* by **Elise Gasco**, originally produced by Imago Theatre, opens at the Centaur Theatre
- May 2 Théâtre Ondinnok's *Contes d'un indien urbain (Tales of an Urban Indian)* by **Darrell Dennis**, translated by **Olivier Choinière**, opens at the McCord Museum
- May 4 A fundraising reading of *The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine*, by **Martha Ross**, **Leah Cherniak** and **Robert Morgan**, translated by **Danielle Desormeaux** and performed by Marcel Jeannin and Danielle Desormeaux, directed by Alain Goulem at 8:00 p.m., location TBA
- May 5-9 Workshop of **Daniel Danis'** *Lights After Life*, translated by **Crystal Béliveau**, with Cathie Boyd from Theatre Cryptic in Glasgow and composer Yannis Kyriakides from Amsterdam
- May (dates TBA) Workshop of a new work by **Martha Ross** and **Leah Cherniak** of Theatre Columbus
- June 28-July 8 On the Verge Reading Series and Magnetic North Theatre Festival in St. John's, Newfoundland
- August 13 *Fanny Kemble*, starring Domini Blyth, written and directed by **Peter Hinton** opens at the Stratford Festival

ATTENTION ALL PWM MEMBERS

Keep us posted! When you have a production of a play that we've helped develop, let us know when and where, and we can include it in our Calendar Notes.

BLACKS DON'T BOWL

Montreal playwright's thought-provoking new piece premieres at Black Theatre Workshop

Meet Frank, the dedicated Executive Director of "The Montreal Black Association". He's got strong opinions about gansta' images of Black people portrayed everywhere. As a matter of fact, he believes they aren't fit for public consumption. Frank's ridged views blended with his fiery personality, find him in conflict with two seemingly freethinking Black artists, and with the funding agency who provided their grants. This humorous, but critical, look at clashes between identity and image will leave you wondering why Blacks Don't Bowl.

Blacks Don't Bowl

By Vadney Haynes

Directed by Nigel Shawn Williams

Starring: Quincy Armorer, Tamara Brown, Jesse Aaron Dwyre, Matthew Kabwe, Omari Newton, Elizabeth Robertson.

Dates: March 23 - April 9, 2006 at MAI, 3680 Jeanne-Mance.

Performance Times: Wednesday - Saturday 8 p.m.; Sunday - 3:30 p.m.

Tickets: 932-1104 ext. 225

PWM members benefit from a \$15 ticket upon presentation of their valid PWM card.

PWM Staff:

Paula Danckert, Artistic and Executive Director
Corey Castle, General Manager
Adya Afanou, Community Relations Coordinator
Emma Tibaldo, Dramaturg-in-Residence
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Help keep PWM working for you. Get involved!

PWM has received support for its activities from the six government agencies whose logos appear on this page. Generous as this support is, it covers only a portion of the cost of our programming. Please give us a hand by becoming a member or making a donation.

Share your passion: Become a member. 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 quarterly newsletter, *The Works*
- * Use of the Carol Libman Resource Library
- * Reduced rates on the rental of our rehearsal space
- * A vote at the PWM Annual General Meeting
- * Participation at Soundings, a lecture series with visiting playwrights
- * Discounts at Montreal theatres including Black Theatre Workshop (\$15 ticket), Centaur Theatre (\$20 ticket), Leanore and Alvin Segal Theatre (15% off), Theatre Lac Brome (10% off), Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui (15\$ ticket) and Théâtre du Quat'Sous (\$20 Friday - Sunday, \$22 Monday - Thursday).

Writing and Student members also have access to all PWM's activities and services, including script reading and

dramaturgical consultation. They are also eligible for in-house workshops, public staged readings, artist residencies, and Master Classes.

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

Share your memories: Offer gift memberships or donate in honour or in memory of people you care about. With each gift membership or in honour/memory donation of \$25 and over, the honouree or their family will receive a personalized letter in time for the special occasion! Moreover, the honouree's name will be listed in a special section in a future edition of *The Works*. Of course, all donations are tax-deductible.

Share your time and abilities: Volunteer. PWM's public events often require extra help for promotional tasks and logistics. Please contact us to learn more on how you can help.

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.



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