

**PLAYWRIGHTS  
CANADA PRESS**  
spring 2020



# ORDERING AND DISTRIBUTION IN CANADA SALES

Canadian Manda Group

664 Annette Street, Toronto, ON M6S 2C8

t: 416.516.0911 | f: 416.516.0917 | e: info@mandagroup.com | w: www.mandagroup.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE & ORDERS

t: 1.855.626.3222 | f: 1.888.563.8327 | e: info@mandagroup.com

Chris Hickey, Sales Manager

t: 416.516.0911 X229

Tim Gain, National Account Manager, Library Market

t: 416.516.0911 X231

Dave Nadalin, Account Manager, Ontario

t: 416.516.0911 X400

Jean Cichon, Account Manager, Alberta, Saskatchewan  
& Manitoba :: t: 403.202.0922 X245

Kristina Koski, Account Manager, Special Markets

t: 416.516.0911 X234

David Farag, National Account Coordinator

t: 416.516.0911 X248

Emily Patry, Marketing & Communications Manager

t: 416.516.0911 X230

Ellen Warwick, National Account Manager,

Special Markets :: t: 416.516.0911 X240

Ryan Muscat, Account Manager, Ontario & Manitoba

t: 416.516.0911 X243

Iolanda Millar, Account Manager, British Columbia,

Yukon & Northern Territories :: t: 604.662.3511 X246

Nikki Turner, Account Manager, Trade & Library

Market :: t: 416.516.0911 X225

Anthony Iantorno, National Account Manager, Online

Retailers :: t: 416.516.0911 X242

Joanne Adams, National Account Manager,

Mass Market :: t: 416.516.0911 X224

Jacques Filippi, Account Manager, Quebec & Atlantic

Provinces :: t: 1.855.626.3222 X244

Kate Condon-Moriarty, Account Manager, British

Columbia :: t: 604.662.3511 X247

Caitrin Pilkington, Account Manager,

Special Markets :: t: 416.516.0911 X228

## DISTRIBUTION

University of Toronto Press Inc.

5201 Dufferin Street, Toronto, ON M3H 5T8

t: 1.800.565.9523 or 416.667.7791 | f: 1.800.221.9985 or 416.667.7832 | e: utpbooks@utpress.utoronto.ca

To order by EDI: Through Pubnet: SAN 115 1134

All orders from individuals must be prepaid. Visa, MasterCard, and international money orders are accepted. Cheques must be drawn on a Canadian or US bank.

## IN THE UNITED STATES

Theatre Communications Group

520 Eighth Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York, USA 10018-4156

t: 212.609.5900 | f: 212.609.5901 | e: custserv@tcg.org

## IN EUROPE, SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND

Nick Hern Books

The Glass House, 49a Goldhawk Road, London, England W12 8QP

t: 020.8749.4953 | f: 020.8735.0250 | e: info@nickhernbooks.co.uk

## BEARS

### MATTHEW MACKENZIE

*“There’s no such thing as neutral in the bear world.”*

As the prime suspect in a workplace accident, Floyd has to get out of town fast. Pursued by the RCMP, he heads through the Rockies for Burnaby, BC, along the route of the Trans Mountain Pipeline. By the time he reaches the Pacific, Floyd has experienced changes: his gait widening, muscles bulging, sense of smell heightening . . .

A multidisciplinary dark comedy about the Trans Mountain Pipeline, *Bears* asks what the hell it is we think we’re doing here.

*“Bears is inventive and daring theatre.”*

—Liz Nicholls, *Edmonton Journal*

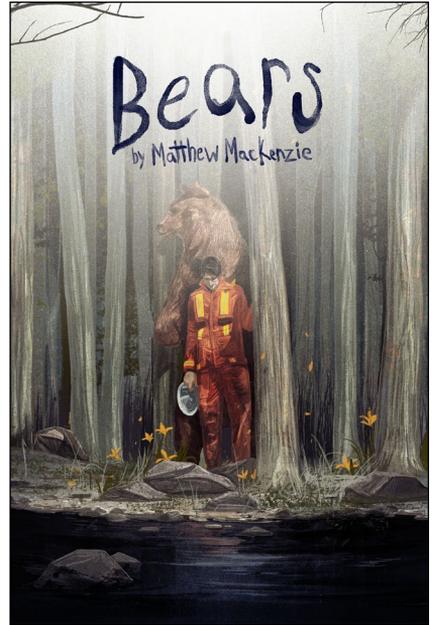
*“It’s a blend of chase story, identity search, ode to Indigenous spirituality, dark comedy, interdisciplinary spectacle, and eco-activist plea.”* —*The Georgia Straight*

*Bears* won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play and the Playwrights Guild of Canada’s Carol Bolt Award, as well as the Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best New Canadian Play.

*Bears* has been performed in Edmonton, Maskwacis, Saddle Lake First Nation, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver, Canmore, Kamloops, Wells, and Victoria.



**MATTHEW MACKENZIE** (Métis) is a multi-award-winning playwright. He has been honoured with the National Theatre School’s Quebec Lieutenant Governor’s Award, Tarragon Theatre’s Urjo Kareda Residency, and as the 2010 Grand Prize recipient of the 44th Alberta Playwriting Competition. Matthew has had nearly a dozen of his works produced in Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, and New York. He is based in Edmonton.



**MAY | \$17.95**

5 1/8" x 7 5/8" | 80 pages

9780369101068 | DRA013000

1m, 8 chorus | 70 minutes | premiered in January 2018 at the Theatre Centre, Toronto, in a co-production by Punctuate! Theatre and Alberta Aboriginal Performing Arts

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Lac/Athabasca* by Len Falkenstein and *The Unplugging* by Yvette Nolan

# Sound of the Beast

Donna-Michelle St. Bernard



**MARCH | \$17.95**

5 3/8" x 8 3/8" | 80 pages | 9780369100764  
DRA019000 | DRA013000  
1f | 75 minutes | premiered in April 2017 at  
Theatre Passe Muraille, Toronto

**ALSO AVAILABLE:** *Cake* | *Gas Girls* |  
*Indian Act: Residential School Plays* | *A  
Man A Fish* | *Refractions: Solo*

"Effective, disturbing, and enlightening."  
—Karen Fricker, *Toronto Star*

"As poignant as it is playful."  
—Camila Fitzgibbon, *Montreal Theatre Hub*

"Unusual and disarming."  
—J. Kelly Nestruck, *The Globe and Mail*

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Other Side of the  
Game* by Amanda Parris and *Twisted* by  
Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman and Joseph  
Jomo Pierre

## SOUND OF THE BEAST

DONNA-MICHELLE ST. BERNARD

*"Compassion is good, but it's just motivation.  
Cars need engines. Movements need mobili-  
zations."*

Through spoken word, storytelling, and hip hop, acclaimed wordsmith Donna-Michelle St. Bernard challenges racial discrimination, the suppression of expression, and the trials of activism. By weaving her personal experiences in Canada around a reflection on the Tunisian emcee Weld-El 15's unjust imprisonment for insulting cops and a politician in a song, she creates a space to reflect on how we are part of the systems that oppress us, and on how to be a part of a solution.

*Sound of the Beast* is another part of Donna-Michelle's 54ology project, creating a performance for every country in Africa, this one for Tunisia. Her previously published plays are also part of the project.

Donna-Michelle was inspired by Weld-El 15, who was jailed in 2013 for his song "Boulicia Kleb" ("Cops are Dogs").



**DONNA-MICHELLE ST. BERNARD** is an emcee, playwright, and arts administrator. Her work has been recognized with a Siminovitch Prize nomination, SATAward nomination, the Herman Voaden Playwriting Award, the Enbridge playRites Award, a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play, and two nominations for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. She is the current artistic director of New Harlem Productions. She is based in Toronto.

## TAKE D MILK, NAH? JIVESH PARASRAM

Jiv is “Canadian.” And “Indian.” And “Hindu.” And “West Indian.” “Trinidadian,” too. Or maybe he’s just colonized. He’s not the “white boy” he was teased as within his immigrant household. Especially since his Nova Scotian neighbours seemed to think he was Black. Except for the Black people—they were pretty sure he wasn’t. He’s not an Arab, and allegedly not a Muslim—at least that’s what he started claiming after 9/11. Whatever he is, the public education system was able to offer him the chance to learn about his culture from a coffee-table book on “Eastern Mythology.” And then he had a religious epiphany while delivering a calf in Trinidad. By now, Jiv’s collected a lot of observations about trying to find your place in your world.

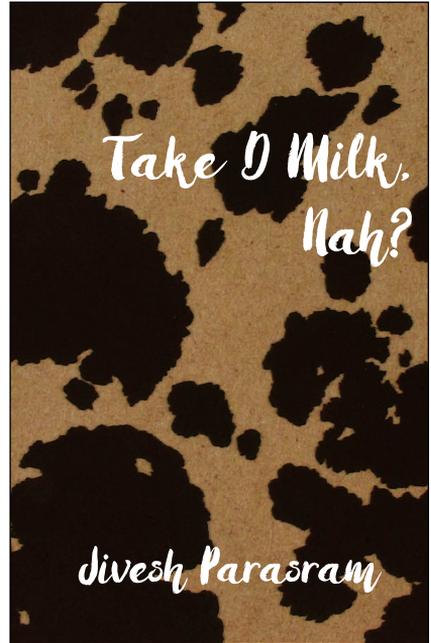
In this funny, fresh, and skeptical take on the identity play, Jivesh Parasram blends personal storytelling and ritual to offer the Hin-dos and Hin-don’ts within the intersections of all of his highly hyphenated cultures. This story asks the gut-punching questions: What divides us? Who is served by the constructs of cultural identity? And what are we willing to accept in the desire to belong? Then again—it doesn’t really matter, because we are all Jiv.

*“Hilariously entertaining and insightful.”*  
—Cate McKim, *Life With More Cowbell*



**JIVESH PARASRAM** is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist of Indo Caribbean descent (Cairi/Trinidad & Tobago). Jivesh grew up in Mi’kma’ki (Nova Scotia) before moving to T’karonto (Toronto). In 2009 he co-founded Pandemic Theatre, through which much of his work has been created, often in close collaboration with co-founder Tom Arthur Davis. He is a recipient of two Harold Awards for his service to the independent theatre community in T’karonto, including the Ken McDougall

Award. Jivesh won the 2018 Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Award, and was a member of the second cohort of the Cultural Leaders Lab with the Toronto Arts Council and the Banff Centre. In 2018, Jivesh took on the position of artistic director for Rumble Theatre. He lives primarily in the unceded Coast Salish territories (Vancouver, BC).



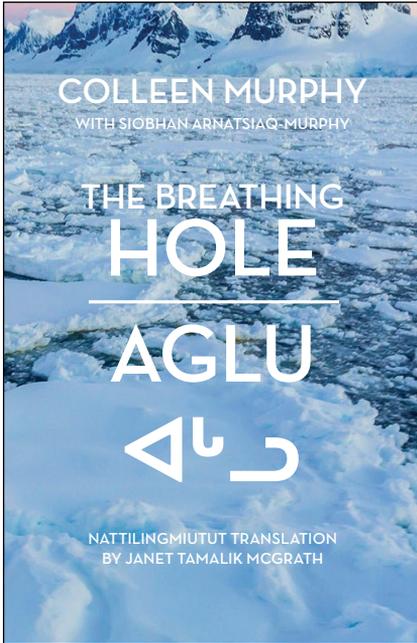
MAY | \$17.95

5 1/8" x 7 5/8" | 120 pages |

9780369100986 | DRA013000

1m | 85 minutes | premiered in April 2018  
at Theatre Passe Muraille, Toronto, in a  
co-production with Pandemic Theatre  
and bcurent performing arts

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Mahmoud* by Tara  
Grammy and Tom Arthur Davis and *Who  
Killed Spalding Gray?* by  
Daniel MacIvor



## THE BREATHING HOLE AGLU ᐱᓴᓴ

COLLEEN MURPHY, WITH  
SIOBHAN ARNATSIQA-MURPHY,  
AND NATTILINGMIUTUT  
TRANSLATION BY JANET  
TAMALIK MCGRATH

*“In your travels across the snow and ice, always return to this place where you were loved for so long, and if you become lost or find yourself in difficulty, listen and you’ll hear my voice on the wind, calling your name . . .”*

Stories of the Canadian Arctic intersect in this epic five-hundred-year journey led by a one-eared polar bear.

In 1535, Hummiktuq, an Inuit widow, has a strange dream about the future. The next day, she discovers a bear cub floating on a piece of ice near a breathing hole. Despite the concerns of her community, she adopts him as her own and names him Angu’ruaq. In 1845, Angu’ruaq and his mate Panik wander into a chance meeting between Inuit hunters and explorers from the Franklin Expedition. By 2029, when surveyors and entrepreneurs examine the now-melting land for future opportunities, Angu’ruaq encounters the passengers and crew of a luxury cruise ship as it slinks through the oily waters of the Northwest Passage.

Humorous and dramatic, and published in both English and Nattilingmiutut, *The Breathing Hole* is a respectful and profound saga that traces the paths of colonialism and climate change, revealing the devastating scars left on the land and in history.

**JUNE | \$17.95**

5 3/8" x 8 3/8" | 144 pages | 9780369101105

DRA019000 | DRA013000

36 roles | 160 minutes | premiered in August 2017 at the Stratford Festival, Stratford, Ontario

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Almighty Voice and His Wife* by Daniel David Moses

**ALSO AVAILABLE:** *Armstrong’s War* | *The December Man (L’homme de décembre)* | *The Goodnight Bird* | *Pig Girl*

*The Breathing Hole* was a finalist for the 2017–2018 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and the 2018 Carol Bolt Award.



Born in Quebec and raised in Northern Ontario, **COLLEEN MURPHY** won the 2016 and 2007 Governor General's Literary Award for Drama for her plays *Pig Girl* and *The December Man (L'homme de décembre)* respectively. Both plays were also awarded the Carol Bolt Award. Her other plays include *The Society for the Destitute Presents Titus Bouffonius*, *I Hope My Heart Burns First*, *The Piper*, and *Beating Heart Cadaver*, which was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award. She is also a librettist and an award-winning filmmaker. She has been the writer-in-residence at six Canadian universities and playwright-in-residence at two Canadian theatres, as well as the Finborough Theatre in the UK. She lives in Toronto.

**SIOBHAN ARNATSIQAQ-MURPHY** has been a traditional Inuit drum dancer and choreographer for over twenty years. She also earned a law degree and has worked as a policy analyst. Siobhan lives in Iqaluit and has three wonderful daughters.



**JANET TAMALIK MCGRATH** grew up between traditional Inuit and modern influences in the 1970s Canadian Arctic, in the Nattilingmiut region. A fluent speaker of Inuktitut and lifelong language proponent, her doctoral work at Carleton University challenged Canadian academic norms by foregrounding Inuktitut while also creating a unique bridge between epistemologies. She published this research in her book, *The Qaggiq Model: Toward a Theory of Inuktitut Knowledge Renewal*, in 2018. As

Nattilingmiutut dialect translator for *The Breathing Hole*, she brings over forty years of personal and professional experience in bridging cultures, time spans, and historical contexts.

"The play and production gently invite audiences to consider relations between Native people, settlers and the natural world through perspectives that are novel—perhaps even a little revolutionary . . ." —Karen Fricker, *Toronto Star*

"What *War Horse* did for horses, this does for bears . . . The bear is, in all his charm and majesty and significance, a triumph for the author's ambition and imagination."  
—Robert Cushman, *National Post*

"We're conscious that we are witnessing a work of epic proportions."  
—Jamie Portman, *Capital Critics Circle*

IT'S ALL  
TRU  
SKY GILBERT

APRIL | \$17.95

5 3/8" x 8 3/8" | 96 pages | 9780369100948  
DRA017000 | DRA013000

3m | 75 minutes | premiered in May 2017  
at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Toron-  
to, in a co-production with the Cabaret  
Company

**ALSO AVAILABLE:** *Drag Queens in Outer  
Space* | *Drag Queens on Trial* |  
*I Have AIDS!* | *The Mommiad* | *St. Francis  
of Millbrook* | *Suzie Goo: Private Secretary*

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Body Politic* by  
Nick Green



**SKY GILBERT** is a writer, theatre director, and drag queen extraordinaire. He was the founding artistic director (1979 to 1997) of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre—one of the world's longest-running gay and lesbian theatres—where the street behind it is now named Sky Gilbert Lane. He has had more than forty plays produced and has written seven critically acclaimed novels and three poetry collections. He has received three Dora Mavor Moore Awards, the Pauline McGibbon Award, and the Silver

Ticket Award. His latest novel, *Sad Old Faggot* (ECW Press), was critically acclaimed. His book *Shakespeare: Beyond Science* will be published by Guernica Editions in 2020. He lives in Hamilton.

IT'S ALL TRU  
SKY GILBERT

*“There used to be people dying and they didn’t know why and there was nothing anyone could do, but most of all—no one cared whether we lived or whether we died.”*

Love, sex, and pharmaceuticals are put to the test when a gay couple’s open relationship is threatened with dangerous consequences.

Kurt, a silver fox dance instructor, and his young fiancé, Travis, have an arrangement: when one’s away, they’re allowed to stray . . . as long as they’re safe. One night, over a dinner conversation about wedding invitations, Travis admits that he had a fling with a man named Gideon who he believes removed his condom during sex. He also reveals that he didn’t start taking the HIV preventative medication PrEP (TRUvada)—as promised—putting himself and Kurt in danger of contracting HIV. When Gideon appears on their doorstep in the middle of the night, the threat to Kurt and Travis’s relationship is an alarming force to be reckoned with.

*“A heavy-hitting, hypothetical case study and modern parable showing how outdated HIV disclosure laws can ruin lives for no good reason and reinforce dangerous stigmas.”*

—Jordan Bimm, *NOW Magazine*

## BRONTË: THE WORLD WITHOUT JORDI MAND

*“I don’t want to be good. I want to be great.”*

What happens when a passion is turned into a means to survive?

Sisters Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Brontë have always enjoyed writing and storytelling, but so far, it’s been for their own personal enjoyment. Now that their father is sick and their brother is an alcoholic, they have to be the ones to support the family. They’d rather focus on their careers than settle down with suitors anyway, so writing is what could save them. But is it also what could tear them apart? Jealousy, rivalry, and the strong need for self-expression threaten not only their livelihood and relationships but also their confidence in creativity and what could be their legacy.

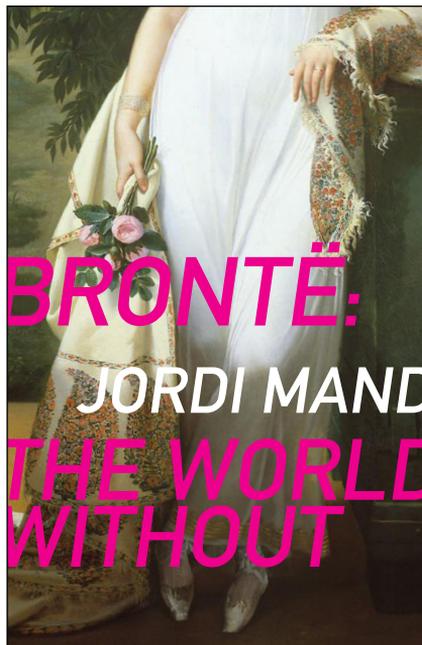
Told over five days in the span of three years, the fascinating story of the Brontë sisters’ pioneering literary careers unfolds to show what it was like to be an ambitious woman in the 1800s, and how similar it looks to the struggles women still face today.

*“Jordi Mand is a gifted writer. In *Brontë: The World Without*, she not only creates the isolated, confined world in which the Brontë sisters lived and wrote, she also illuminates the mysterious, solitary world of the writer, the obsessive need to create with words. We read the works of the Brontë sisters with new insight and understanding of what it took to create those books because of Jordi Mand’s play.”*

—Lynn Slotkin, *The Slotkin Letter*



**JORDI MAND** is a Toronto-based writer for theatre, TV, and film. Her plays include *Between the Sheets*, *Caught*, *This Will Be Excellent*, and *Brontë: The World Without*. Her work has been produced nationally and internationally and has been published by Playwrights Canada Press. She is a graduate of the Bell Media Prime TV Program at the Canadian Film Centre and the National Theatre School of Canada. Jordi is a writer on the fourth season of the hit CTV crime drama *Cardinal* and on the upcoming film adaptation of Harriet Alida Lye’s thriller *The Honey Farm*.



**MAY | \$17.95**

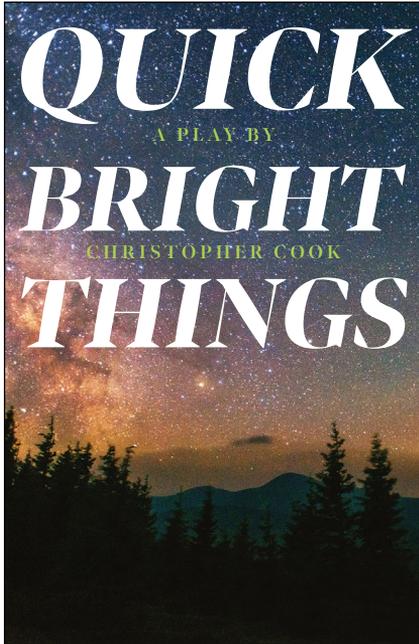
5 3/8" x 8 3/8" | 128 pages | 9780369101020  
DRA019000 | DRA013000

3f | 135 minutes | premiered in June 2018 at  
the Stratford Festival, Stratford, Ontario

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

*Between the Sheets*

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *The Virgin Trial* by Kate Hennig and *How Do I Love Thee?* by Florence Gibson MacDonald



APRIL | \$17.95

5 3/8" x 8 3/8" | 120 pages | 9780369100863  
DRA013000

2f, 4m | 120 minutes | premiered in October 2017 at Persephone Theatre, Saskatoon

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *This Is How We Got Here* by Keith Barker and *Late Company* by Jordan Tannahill

## QUICK BRIGHT THINGS CHRISTOPHER COOK

*"Everyone hears voices. I'm treated like I'm broken for admitting it."*

Can a weekend trip to visit family ever be smooth?

Nick was hoping for a quick dinner at his brother's house when he stopped by with his seventeen-year-old adopted son, Gerome, on their way to meet Gerome's birth mother. Gerome was recently diagnosed with schizophrenia, and he wants to know more about his family history. Unsure of how to act, Nick's brother, sister-in-law, and nephew cause a flurry of disorienting energy, but also convince Gerome to stay the night, even after they find him on the roof ready to demonstrate backflips. The dinner pit stop becomes a tense weekend-long event full of claims and questions as the family attempts to "un-crazy" Gerome, leading him to a dangerous breaking point.

With truth, humour, and pathos, *Quick Bright Things* explores a family's struggle with understanding mental health, their ways of expressing love, and what it ultimately means to be "okay."

Christopher wanted to examine the power of the words we use, between the stigmatization of "mental illness" and the uses of words such as "crazy."

This play took Christopher ten years to write.

*"Funny and disturbing."* —Cam Fuller, Saskatoon StarPhoenix



**CHRISTOPHER COOK** is a queer theatre artist and therapist living, creating, and playing in Vancouver. His writing credits include *The Better Parts of Mourning*, *Strip, Gerty—Live! In Concert!*, and *Quick Bright Things*. As a therapist, he specializes in counselling members of the queer and trans communities. As a clinician–researcher, his research focuses on exploring the therapeutic significance of art-making and creativity. Whether through therapy or theatre, his goal is to engage your head, heart, and body.

## ACHA BACHA BILAL BAIG

*“We come to this world good. Tum mera beta ho. I bring you here. Likhen, you choose—you choose to stay good. If you want.”*

For years, Zaya has delicately balanced his relationship with his Muslim faith and queer identity by keeping his genderqueer lover and manipulative mother apart. But when his mother ends up in the hospital on the same day his partner is leaving for pilgrimage, Zaya’s worlds come crashing in on each other, opening a space for traumatic memories to resurface.

*Acha Bacha* boldly explores the intersections between queerness, gender identity, and Islamic culture in the Pakistani diaspora. It’s about the way we love, the way we are loved, and what it takes to truly accept love.

Bilal began writing the play after they were sexually assaulted, using it as a way to understand if their mother would ever think they were a good person after knowing what happened.

*Acha Bacha* is a love letter to all queer and trans South Asians who have endured pain from their family and/or the world.



**BILAL BAIG** is a queer-genderqueer-Muslim playwright and workshop facilitator. Bilal’s plays include *Kitne Saare Laloo Yahan Pey Hain*, *Kainchee Lagaa*, *Eraser*, *blue eyes killed him without blinking*, and *Acha Bacha*. Bilal is a workshop facilitator for non-profits such as Story Planet and Rivers of Hope Collective, and is a founding member of [acolourdeep.ca](http://acolourdeep.ca), a platform that strives to create online/offline spaces for queer/trans South Asians across the GTA. Bilal is based in Toronto.



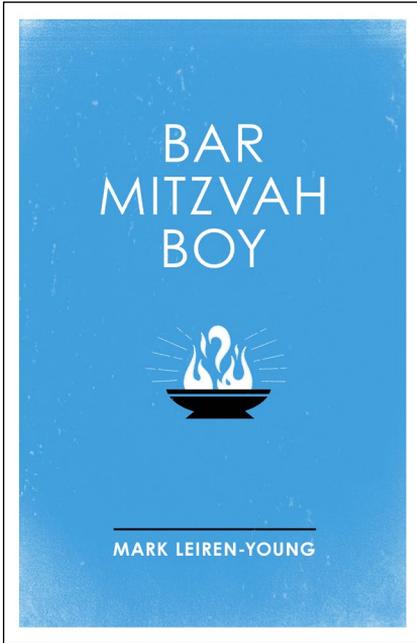
APRIL | \$17.95

5 3/8" x 8 3/8" | 112 pages  
9780369100900

DRA017000 | DRA013000

1f, 1nb, 3m | 80 minutes | premiered  
February 2018 at Theatre Passe Muraille,  
Toronto, in a co-production with Buddies in  
Bad Times Theatre

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *The Femme Playlist & I Cannot Lie to the Stars That Made Me* by Catherine Hernandez and *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* by Trey Anthony



## BAR MITZVAH BOY

### MARK LEIREN-YOUNG

Joey Brant needs to have a bar mitzvah immediately. Like, next Tuesday. Except he's not thirteen, the usual age for the Jewish milestone. He's in his sixties. Joey has a grandson who is about to step up to the Torah, and a little white lie he once told his family is about to become painfully obvious. A task he thinks he could quickly cross off his to-do list becomes a deep immersion into the faith he no longer follows when he meets Rabbi Michael Levitz-Sharon.

Michael's personal life is hanging together by a thread. Her preteen daughter is being treated for cancer, which has put a strain on her marriage and her beliefs. Between her duties as rabbi, mother, and wife, she doesn't have much time or energy to spare. So, when she finds Joey in her office on Shabbat asking for immediate help, she refuses.

Eventually Joey wins Michael over; his challenge is something she can actually fix, plus he's generous with donations. They embark on a crash bar mitzvah course, leading the two into a series of reflections on their own faith and family. Through the genuine connection established between Joey and Michael, this sentimental dramedy will charm anyone who has ever questioned why bad things happen to good people.

"Leiren-Young is a Shaw with a peculiarly Jewish piquancy, tantalisingly sweet-and-sour, like my Bubbeh's celebrated Brisket. Such complex cookery takes deft hands to bring to table." —Lincoln Kaye, *Vancouver Observer*

**MARCH | \$17.95**

5 3/8" x 8 3/8" | 96 pages

9780369100689 | DRA013000

1f, 1m | premiered in March 2018 at Pacific Theatre, Vancouver

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Punch Up* by Kat Sandler and *Jonas and Barry in the Home* by Norm Foster

*Bar Mitzvah Boy* was the winner of the 2017 Jewish Playwriting Prize from the Jewish Plays Project.

Mark has had books published by Anvil Press, Knopf, Greystone Books, Orca Books, and more.



**MARK LEIREN-YOUNG** has written over two dozen plays, including dramas, comedies, musicals, revues, and theatre for young audiences. His play *Shylock* has been produced around the world since debuting at Bard on the Beach in Vancouver in 1996. The Czech production of the play ran for three years in Prague and was broadcast as a television special in 2019. He won the 2009 Leacock Medal for Humour for his bestselling memoir *Never Shoot a Stampede Queen*. He lives in Victoria, BC.

## SPEED DATING FOR SPERM DONORS NATALIE MEISNER

*“I’d drive to Edmonton for fresh sperm.”*

Can a lesbian couple find Mr. Right?

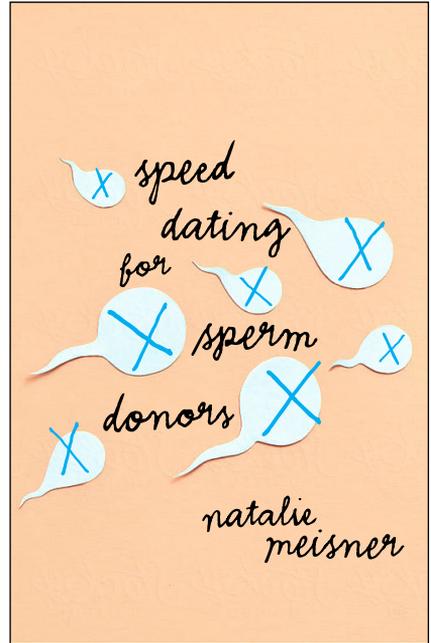
Helen and Paige really want a baby. Maybe even two. They’ve decided they want to use a sperm donor, but because of Paige’s own upbringing as an adopted child they want the donor to at least be known to the child. This challenge makes the normally anonymous favour even harder and more intimate than they expected. And then there are the options for donors. Through the fast-paced “dating” of several candidates, all of whom come with their own warning labels, Helen and Paige’s relationship is strained to a point where they must remember why they set out on this journey together in the first place.

The play is based on Natalie’s personal search with her wife for a sperm donor, which she also wrote about in her memoir *Double Pregnant: Two Lesbians Make a Family*. The search brought them into contact with all kinds of people, from all walks of life, opening eyes on all sides.

Natalie does not diminish the struggles of LGBTQ peoples and sees the need for serious plays about them. With this play she wanted to make space for queer comedy and make a space for other family models.



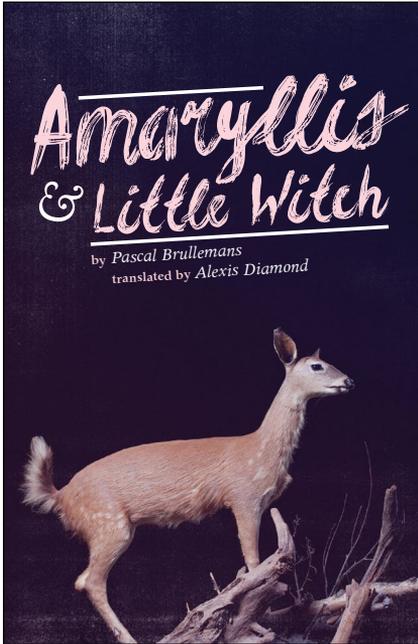
**NATALIE MEISNER** is a widely produced author of stage plays and an award-winning multi-genre author. Her play *Boom Baby* (about the lives of workers in the Alberta oil patch) won both the Canadian National Playwriting Award and the Alberta Playwriting Award and will debut at Eastern Front Theatre in 2020. *Double Pregnant: Two Lesbians Make a Family* topped non-fiction bestseller lists and was a finalist in the Atlantic Book Awards. Her first children’s book, *My Mommy, My Mama, My Brother & Me*, is available from Nimbus Publishing. Meisner is a wife and mom to two great boys and a professor in the Department of English at Mount Royal University, where she works in the areas of creative writing, drama, and gender/sexuality studies. She is based in Calgary.



**APRIL | \$17.95**

5 3/8" x 8 3/8" | 80 pages | 9780369100825  
DRA019000 | DRA 017000 | DRA013000  
2f, 2m | 90 minutes | one act version  
premiered in February 2015 at Lunch-  
box Theatre, Calgary. Full length version  
premiered in October 2016 at Neptune  
Theatre, Halifax, in a co-production with  
DMV Theatre

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Freda and Gem's Best of the Week* by Lois Fine



## AMARYLLIS & LITTLE WITCH

PASCAL BRULLEMANS,  
TRANSLATED BY  
ALEXIS DIAMOND

In these dark fairy tales, two girls face danger while grieving loved ones, and learn some hard truths about growing up along the way. Imaginative and curious, these fables illustrate adventures for children who have to make big choices.

In *Amaryllis*, a preteen goes missing on her birthday. Amaryllis heads out with her sister Fey's ashes, determined to scatter the remains and set Fey free. But when she discovers that Fey is stuck between life and death, she realizes she has to join Fey on a trek to the Land of the Dead.

In *The Little Witch*, a sickly mother and daughter live in the deep, dark woods. One day, Big Witch finds an ogre caught in a trap. They make a deal: in return for saving him, the ogre agrees to take care of Little Witch once Big Witch has passed. Soon, the little girl finds herself in the ogre's home, frightened and alone except for her pet cat. But when a Hunter Boy gets caught by the ogre, Little Witch must make a choice: save herself, save the boy, or choose another path . . .

**JUNE | \$19.95**

5 1/8" x 7 5/8" | 128 pages | 9780369101143  
DRA013000

2f, 2m | 55 minutes | *Vipérine (Amaryllis)*  
premiered in November 2013 at La maison  
de la culture Maisonneuve, Montréal, in a  
production by Projet MÛ

2f, 1m | 50 minutes | *Little Witch* was pro-  
duced by Geordie Theatre, Montréal, for  
its 2018/19 2Play School Tour



**PASCAL BRULLEMANS** signed up at the National Theatre School to woo a girl, but he discovered he actually had talent, and his first play was directed by Wajdi Mouawad. After a foray into producing for young audiences with *L'armoire*, Pascal reached out to teens with his plays *Isberg* and *Monstres*. *Amaryllis* took top honours at Lyon Playwrights' Days and won the Louise-LaHaye Award for Young Audiences in 2013. He lives in Montréal.



**ALEXIS DIAMOND** is a Montréal-based theatre artist and translator. Her award-winning plays, operas, and translations have been presented across Canada and internationally. Alexis's 2018/19 season included a piece for the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and the touring production of *Little Witch*. Her translation of Erika Tremblay-Roy's *The Problem with Pink* was published by Lansman Editeur in fall 2019.

## SEQUENCE, SECOND EDITION

ARUN LAKRA

*“Luck is like irony. Not everybody who thinks they got it, got it.”*

Theo has been named *Time Magazine*’s Luckiest Man Alive. For twenty consecutive years he has successfully bet double or nothing on the Super Bowl coin toss. And he’s getting ready to risk millions on the twenty-first when he is confronted by Cynthia, a young woman who claims to have figured out his mathematical secret.

Stem-cell researcher and professor Dr. Guzman is on the verge of a groundbreaking discovery. She’s also learned that one of her students has defied probability to get all 150 multiple-choice questions wrong on his genetics exam, but it’s not until he shows up to her office in the middle of the night that she’s able to determine if it’s simply bad luck.

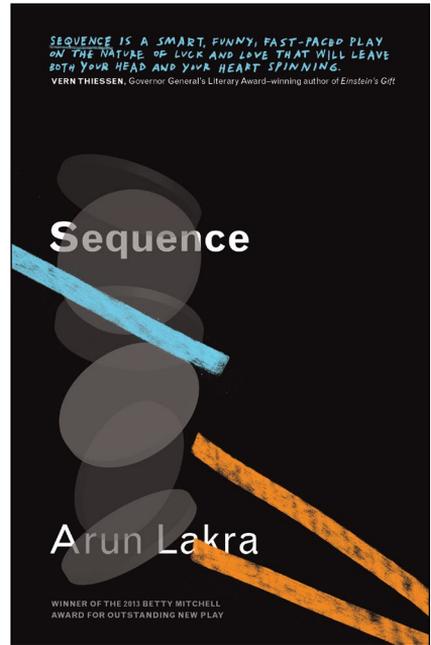
The two narratives intertwine like a fragment of DNA to examine the interplay between logic and metaphysics, science and faith, luck and probability. Belief systems clash, ideas mutate, and order springs from chaos. With razor-sharp wit and playful language, *Sequence* asks, in our lives, in our universe, and even in our stories, does order matter?

Winner of the 2014 Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama, the 2013 Calgary Theatre Critics Award for Best New Script, and the 2011 Grand Prize in the Alberta Playwriting Competition.

*“An intellectual Rubik cube that challenges us to consider some of our most profound questions in a search for some kind of alignment.”* —Colin MacLean, *Edmonton Sun*



**ARUN LAKRA** has three jobs. Writer. Doctor. Dad. He hoped one of them would be easy. (He was wrong.) In addition to his work as a playwright, Arun has written a book on laser eye surgery, a supernatural thriller screenplay, a song to protest the demotion of Pluto (unsuccessful), and his share of illegible prescriptions. He has also written and directed an award-winning short film, *Probability*, based on his play *Sequence*. Arun lives in Calgary with his wife and two kids and divides his work week between his creative endeavours and his ophthalmology practice.



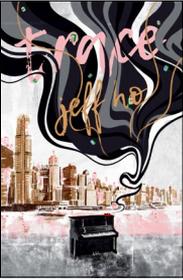
**MARCH | \$17.95**

5 3/8" x 8 3/8" | 112 pages

9780369100726 | DRA013000

2f, 2m | premiered in February 2013 at Big Secret Theatre, Calgary, in a co-production by Downstage and Hit & Myth Productions

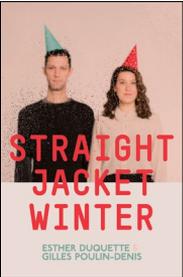
**YOU MAY ALSO LIKE:** *Infinity* by Hannah Moscovitch and *The Little Years* by John Mighton



**TRACE | JEFF HO**

**\$17.95 | 96 PAGES | 9780369100566 | 5 3/8" x 8 3/8"**

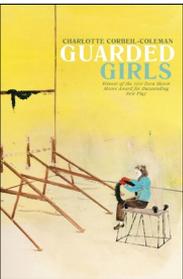
An elegant and sweeping story of a Chinese family's history, *trace* follows the footsteps of four generations as their homes and identities are challenged.



**STRAIGHT JACKET WINTER | ESTHER DUQUETTE AND GILLES POULIN-DENIS**

**\$17.95 | 108 PAGES | 9780369100559 | 5 1/8" x 7 5/8"**

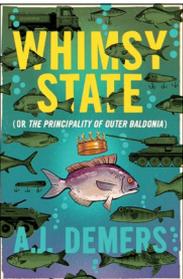
When Gilles and Esther decided to move from Montréal to Vancouver, they didn't expect their lives to change so starkly. Isolated by the struggle to connect to others, navigate their language barrier, and deal with non-stop rain, the young couple approach a divide between the yearning to go back to their old life and the desire to stay.



**GUARDED GIRLS | CHARLOTTE CORBEIL-COLEMAN**

**\$17.95 | 104 PAGES | 9780369100436 | 5 3/8" x 8 3/8"**

The stories and experiences of three imprisoned women intertwine in dramatic and dangerous ways, as the psychological destruction that is solitary confinement taunts each of their lives.



**WHIMSY STATE, OR THE PRINCIPALITY OF OUTER BALDONIA | A.J. DEMERS**

**\$17.95 | 96 PAGES | 9780369100399 | 5 1/8" x 7 5/8"**

With a few drinks and some "Ayes!" three fishermen on a small island off the coast of Nova Scotia declare independence from Canada: henceforth, they shall be known as the Princes of the Principality of Outer Baldonia!



**PUGWASH | VERN THIESSEN**

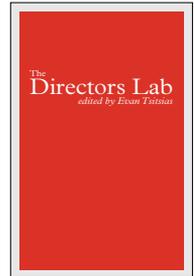
**\$17.95 | 112 PAGES | 9780369100603 | 5 1/8" x 7 5/8"**

When world-renowned scientists and academics were invited to the small town of Pugwash, Nova Scotia, to discuss nuclear weapons post-World War II, they couldn't have predicted the bond they'd make with the town and the legacy they'd leave.

**THE DIRECTORS LAB: TECHNIQUES, METHODS, AND CONVERSATIONS  
ABOUT ALL THINGS THEATRE | EDITED BY EVAN TSITSIAS**

**\$24.95 | 432 PAGES | 9780369100511 | 5" x 8"**

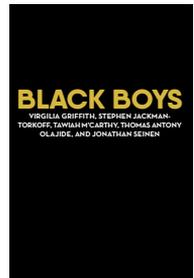
From the co-founder of Directors Lab North comes an essential manual for directing for the stage. Combined with master classes and interviews with established, emerging, and mid-career directors, the book gives an exploration into the mechanics of theatre through the perspective of a director.



**BLACK BOYS | VIRGILIA GRIFFITH, STEPHEN JACKMAN-TORKOFF, TAWIAH  
M'CARTHY, THOMAS ANTONY OLAJIDE, AND JONATHAN SEINEN**

**\$18.95 | 144 PAGES | 9780369100474 | 5 3/8" x 8 3/8"**

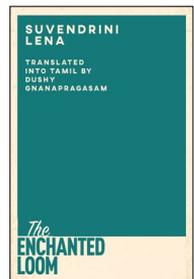
In a society where the Black male body is both vilified and sexualized, *Black Boys* uncovers the complex dynamics of the Black male experience.



**THE ENCHANTED LOOM | SUVENDRINI LENA,  
TRANSLATED INTO TAMIL BY DUSHY GNANAPRAGASAM**

**\$18.95 | 192 PAGES | 9780369100313 | 5 3/8" x 8 3/8"**

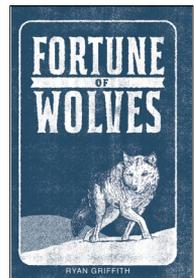
The Sri Lankan civil war has torn Thangan's family apart—from the loss of his eldest son to the crippling epileptic seizures caused by his torture. When brain surgery is presented as a cure for Thangan's seizures, his family must decide if the surgery will give them a chance to heal or bring even more pain.



**FORTUNE OF WOLVES | RYAN GRIFFITH**

**\$19.95 | 272 PAGES | 9780369100351 | 5 3/8" x 8 3/8"**

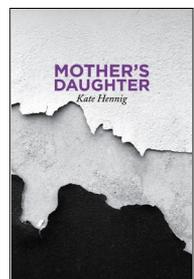
After losing everything, Lowell Garrish sets off on a road trip across Canada with a tape recorder, desperate to hold on to real sounds. But as he drives, strange occurrences and mass disappearances imply that something terrible is happening, and Lowell begins to realize that time for humanity may be running out.



**MOTHER'S DAUGHTER | KATE HENNIG**

**\$17.95 | 124 PAGES | 9780369100115 | 5 3/8" x 8 3/8"**

In this stunning third part to Kate Hennig's powerful *Queenmaker* series, England's first queen regnant finds herself fighting xenophobia, religious nationalism, and strained familial bonds in the power struggle that dubs her Bloody Mary.

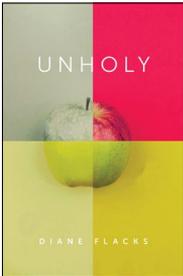




**THE BLUNT PLAYWRIGHT, SECOND EDITION | CLEM MARTINI**

**\$24.95 | 304 PAGES | 9780369100191 | 6" x 9"**

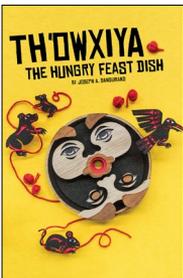
One of the best resources for playwrights is back in a new edition that examines all the steps and stages involved in writing a play, provides classic and contemporary scenes to study, outlines clever exercises to strengthen writing skills, and so much more.



**UNHOLY | DIANE FLACKS**

**\$17.95 | 112 PAGES | 9780369100276 | 5 3/8" x 8 3/8"**

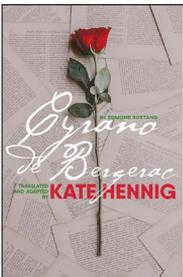
Four female panellists face off in a wild, whip-smart public debate about the intersection of religion and misogyny, and love and ideology.



**TH'OWXIYA: THE HUNGRY FEAST DISH | JOSEPH A. DANDURAND**

**\$17.95 | 104 PAGES | 9780369100238 | 5 1/8" x 7 5/8"**

From the Kwantlen First Nation village of Squa'lets comes the tale of Th'owxiya, an old and powerful spirit that inhabits a feast dish. Her dish boasts enticing, beautiful foods from around the world, but stealing from her can be dangerous, as she's developed a taste for children.



**CYRANO DE BERGERAC | KATE HENNIG**

**\$17.95 | 232 PAGES | 9780369100153 | 5 3/8" x 8 3/8"**

Cyrano de Bergerac is a swashbuckling seventeenth-century swordsman who can do anything . . . except tell Roxane, the woman he loves, how he feels. So when Cyrano is offered the chance to ghostwrite love letters to her from an inarticulate, love-struck cadet, he takes it.



**PLAYWRIGHTS CANADA PRESS**  
202-269 Richmond Street West  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1X1  
416.703.0013 | [playwrightscanada.com](http://playwrightscanada.com) | [@playcanpress](https://twitter.com/playcanpress)

Publisher: Annie Gibson  
[annie@playwrightscanada.com](mailto:annie@playwrightscanada.com)

Managing Editor: Blake Sproule  
[blake@playwrightscanada.com](mailto:blake@playwrightscanada.com)

Sales and Marketing Manager: Jessica Lewis  
[jessica@playwrightscanada.com](mailto:jessica@playwrightscanada.com)

Sign up for our monthly newsletter at [bit.ly/PLCNenews](http://bit.ly/PLCNenews).  
All books listed are trade paperback unless otherwise noted.  
For a full listing of all of our titles, visit [playwrightscanada.com](http://playwrightscanada.com)

## DISCOUNTS AND RETURNS

Wholesalers, distributors, and bookstores receive a 40% discount on all orders. Returns are limited to 20% of any single title within 6 months of original invoice for credit. Cash refunds will not be provided. A 6-month extension may also be requested within the original return period. Libraries receive a 20% discount on all orders. No returns are accepted except in the case of damaged copies. Theatres that wish to arrange for the sale of books during the run of a play may be eligible for similar terms as trade bookstores. Please contact Playwrights Canada Press for more information.

## DESK AND REVIEW COPIES

Playwrights Canada Press will supply desk copies on orders of 25 copies or more of a single title, to a maximum of 3 copies. To request a desk copy, please ensure that the title, author, ISBN, and number of copies are provided, along with the course name, professor's name, enrolment, contact person, and purchase order number placed by your university or college bookstore. Please contact us with requests for review copies. Please go to <http://bit.ly/plcndeskcop> to complete a desk copy request.

Playwrights Canada Press acknowledges that we operate on land, which, for thousands of years, has been the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Huron-Wendat, Anishinaabe, Métis, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Today, this meeting place is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and play here.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Canada Council for the Arts—which last year invested \$153 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country—the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), Ontario Creates, and the Government of Canada for our publishing activities.



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada

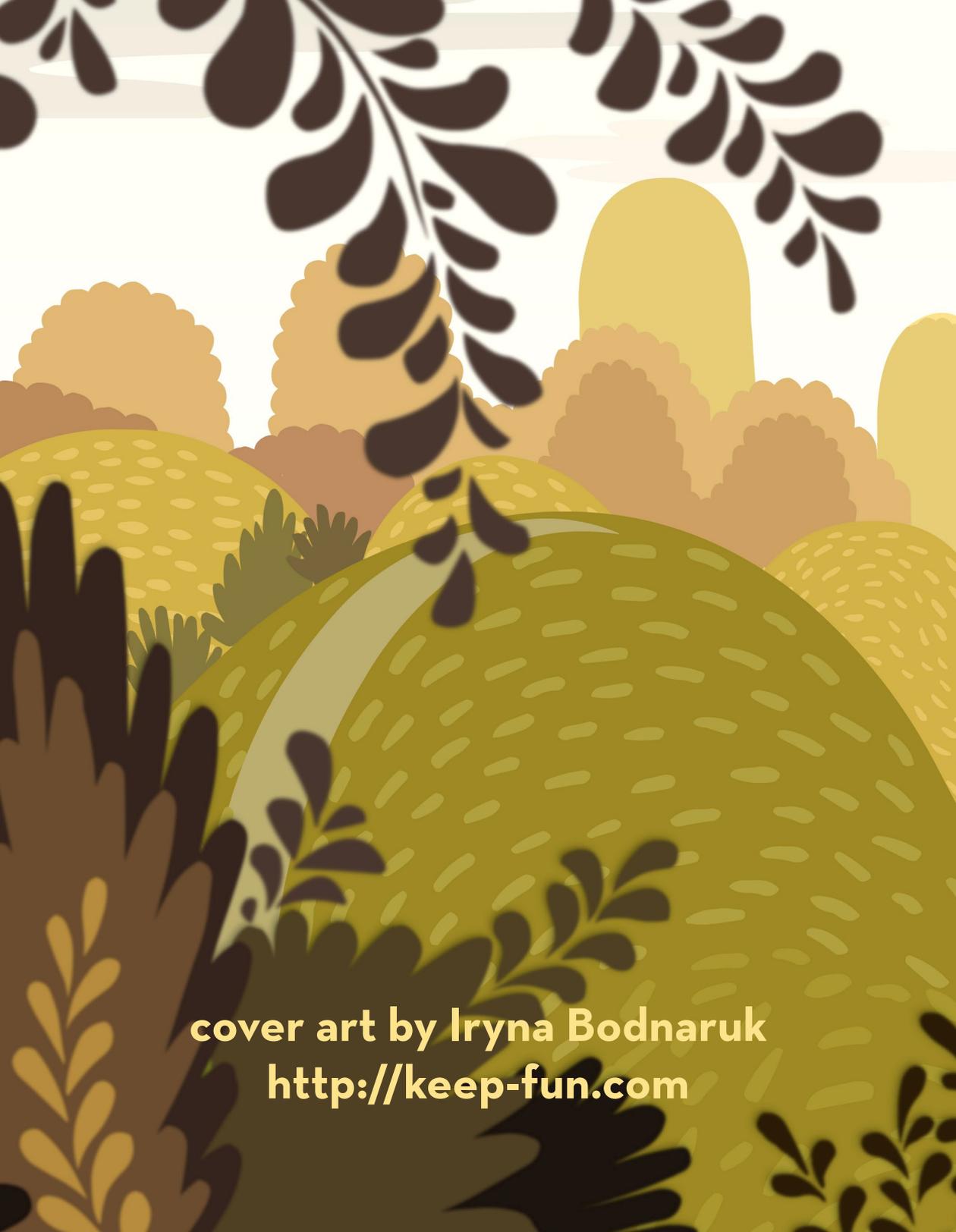


ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Canada



ONTARIO  
CREATES | ONTARIO  
CRÉATIF



**cover art by Iryna Bodnaruk**  
**<http://keep-fun.com>**