



**PLAYWRIGHTS  
CANADA PRESS**  
spring 2023

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# FORGIVENESS

## HIRO KANAGAWA, BASED ON THE MEMOIR BY MARK SAKAMOTO

Mitsue Sakamoto and Ralph MacLean both suffered tremendous loss during WWII: Mitsue as a survivor of a Japanese Canadian internment camp, and Ralph as a prisoner in a Japanese POW camp. In order to rebuild their lives and their families after the war, Ralph and Mitsue must find the grace and generosity necessary to forgive those who have wronged them. Their paths eventually cross in 1968 when Mitsue's son and Ralph's daughter begin dating, and Ralph is invited to Mitsue's home for dinner.

This soaring adaptation of Mark Sakamoto's award-winning memoir affirms the power of forgiveness and shows us that in our challenging times characterized by political divisiveness, xenophobia, and race hatred, the story of Mitsue and Ralph's personal triumphs over hatred, injustice, violence, and bigotry remains vitally relevant and urgently necessary.

"Hiro has truly brought *Forgiveness* to life with a wondrous grace. This promises to be theatre that will stay with you for a very long time."

—Mark Sakamoto, author of *Forgiveness: A Gift From My Grandparents*

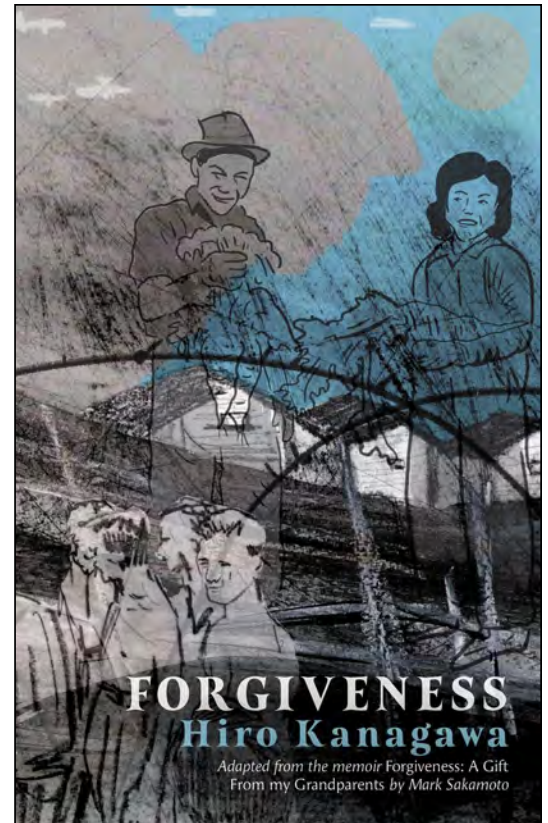
This is a stage adaptation of events from Mark Sakamoto's 2018 Canada Reads-winning memoir *Forgiveness: A Gift From My Grandparents*. It will premiere in Vancouver in January 2023 and move to Calgary in March 2023.

Hiro's last published play, *Indian Arm*, won the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama in 2017.

Hiro is also an actor, known for roles on *Star Trek: Discovery*, *Altered Carbon*, *The X-Files*, and many more.



**HIRO KANAGAWA** is a Vancouver-based writer and actor. His play *Indian Arm* received the 2017 Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. His other plays include *The Tiger of Malaya* and *The Patron Saint of Stanley Park*, both of which have been performed across Canada. Also a sought-after script doctor and consultant, Hiro was story editor on the critically acclaimed Canadian series *Da Vinci's Inquest*, *Da Vinci's City Hall*, *Intelligence*, and *Blackstone*. As an actor he is perhaps best-known for his numerous recurring and guest-starring roles on popular television and streaming series such as *Star Trek: Discovery*, *Altered Carbon*, *The X-Files*, and many more.



**JANUARY | \$20.95**

176 pages | 9780369103949

5 f, 8 m, doubling | first produced in Vancouver by Arts Club Theatre and Theatre Calgary in January 2023

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Women of the Fur Trade* by Frances Koncan and *Pugwash* by Vern Thiessen

**ALSO AVAILABLE:** *Indian Arm* | *The Patron Saint of Stanley Park*



# BLACKOUT: THE CONCORDIA COMPUTER RIOTS

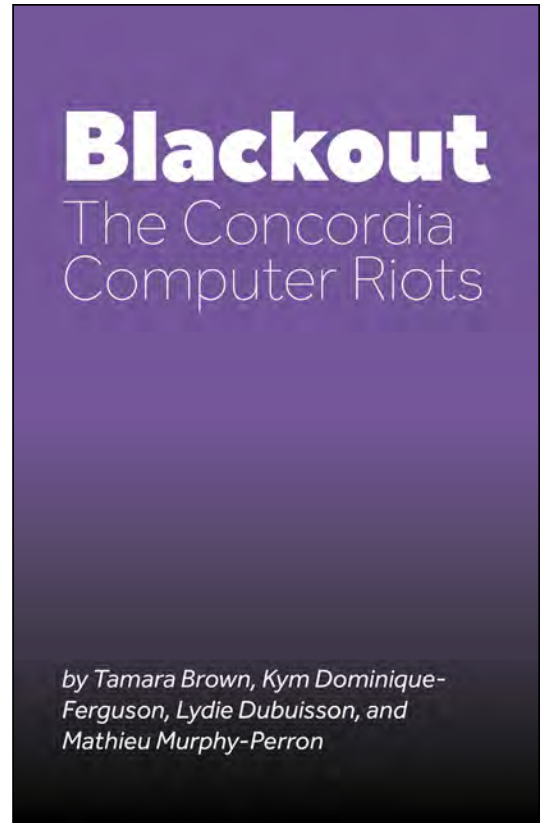
TAMARA BROWN, KYM DOMINIQUE-  
FERGUSON, LYDIE DUBUISSON, AND  
MATHIEU MURPHY-PERRON

In February 1969, hundreds of students occupied a computer centre at what is now Montréal's Concordia University to protest the mismanagement of a racism complaint lodged by Caribbean students against their biology professor. When an agreement to end the occupation fell through, riot police were called in, resulting in widespread damage, a mysterious fire, and nearly a hundred arrests. Created and devised by some of Montréal's most prolific artists, *Blackout* re-examines the events that led to the occupation and protests, asking how race relations have changed in Québec and Canada.

"It is an education, an ambitious portrait of fury and a really fun, triumphant work of art." —Sarah Deshaies, *Cult MTL*

"*Blackout* is a work that isn't afraid to be political, or to take sides, or to make difficult calls." —Tara McGowan-Ross, *BroadwayWorld*

The premiere production in 2019 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the protest.



**FEBRUARY | \$18.95**

128 pages | 9780369104168

7 roles | first produced by Tableau D'Hôte  
in collaboration with Playwrights' Workshop  
Montréal at D.B. Clarke Theatre, Montréal,  
in February 2019

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Iphigenia and the Furies*  
(*On Taurian Land*) & *Antigone: 万* by Ho Ka  
Kei (Jeff Ho) and *Other Side of the Game* by  
Amanda Parris



**TAMARA BROWN** is an award-winning multidisciplinary performing artist and creator based in Montreal who acts, sings, directs, and writes poetry for both the stage and screen. An occasional educator and perpetual student with a love for storytelling, natural sciences and the environment, alchemy, decree, harmony, and social justice, Tamara is one of the founding members of Metachroma Theatre, created to address the under-representation of IBPOC artists in Quebec and Canadian theatre since 2010. Her work as a director has been seen on stages in Montreal, Toronto, Sherbrooke, Winnipeg, New York, and Stratford.



**KYM DOMINIQUE-FERGUSON** is a poet by birth, a theatre performer and filmmaker by training, and a producer by nurture. For over a decade he has serenaded Montreal and international audiences with his blend of spoken-word poetry and theatre. He successfully produced and performed his first one-man show to a sold-out audience back in August of 2015: *The Born Jamhaitianadian*. Ferguson has also been a radio host on *Soul Perspectives*, CKUT 90.3FM, since 2012, a show that talks about the issues affecting the Black community in Montreal, across Canada, and internationally. He is honoured to be working on the development for his first play, *The #DearBlackMan Project*, officially commissioned by Black Theatre Workshop.



**LYDIE DUBUISSON** is a playwright, director, and curator from Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. She studied theatre and graduated with distinction from Concordia University. Her work examines intersectionality, dystopian reality, collective memory, and multilingual creative processes. Dubuisson wrote *Quiet/Silence* (2018 Discovery Series, Black Theatre Workshop and Maison de la culture NDG), *Sanctuary/Sanctuaire* (Black Theatre Workshop and Théâtre Aux Écuries), and *Sharing Our Stories, Telling Our Lives* (Teesri Duniya Theatre). She is currently writing a play about the Shelburne riots.



**MATHIEU MURPHY-PERRON** is an award-winning producer, playwright, and director. He is the co-founding artistic director of Tableau D'Hôte Theatre. He served as co-idéateur of all the company's projects, alongside co-founder and former artistic director Mike Payette, from 2005–2016, before moving forward with his singular vision for the company after Payette's departure. Playwriting credits include *Journey to Exodus*, *Return to Sender*, *PrAgression*, *Blackout*, and *En Pointe*, an episodic bilingual series of 20+ short street plays staged since the pandemic. His directorial aesthetic is heavily focused on heightened movement, physical humour, ensemble work, and imagery of collectiveness, resistance, and defiance.

# WINTER OF 88

## زمستان شصت و هشتم

MOHAMMAD YAGHOUBI, TRANSLATED BY  
NAZANIN MALEKAN AND MOHAMMAD YAGHOUBI

A new apartment should be a warm and welcoming signal to a fresh chapter of life. It shouldn't be where a family waits in the dark, surrounded by unpacked boxes, as missiles rain down around them.

Already eight years into the Iran–Iraq war, Nasrin and her two adult children—daughter Nahid and son Mahyar—just want to feel safe and settled. Tensions are already high, from bickering over who gets what room and what goes where to why Nahid's husband left her. Mahyar leaves the apartment in a heated moment, leaving Nasrin wracked with fear. As the missiles start to strike and the power goes out, Nahid tries to hold everything together. From that moment on, it's about survival.

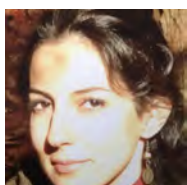
This heart-wrenching meta-autobiographical play, presented in both English and Farsi, is a window into days when death was practically a neighbour in war-torn Tehran. It's a dedication to those who are left behind with the trauma of war and survivors' guilt. Author Mohammad Yaghoubi survived it, so he had to write about it.

"The story shows the true cost of war." —Deanne Kearney, *Mooney on Theatre*

"A beautiful, painful truth is laid bare here: life—in all its nasty, sweet and frustrating aspects—seems so precious when you are forced to acknowledge how quickly it can be lost." —Istvan Dugalin, *Istvan Reviews*



Born and raised in Iran, Mohammad Yaghoubi is an award-winning playwright, director, and screenwriter. He moved to Canada in 2015 and co-founded the Toronto-based NOWADAYS THEATRE company in 2016. His plays have been translated into six languages. Select awards include the Promising Pen Prize from Cahoots Theatre for his 2021 play *Persimmon*, winner of the Iranian Playwrights Society and third place of the New Play Contest at the 2016 Toronto Fringe Festival for Outstanding Writing for *A Moment of Silence*, and the Tehran Theatre Festival Award (Fadjr) for Outstanding Direction and Writing for *Winter of 88*.



Nazanin Malekan is a graduate of English translation from Iran, with an acting background in both Farsi and French. She moved to Canada in 2005 and was involved with the NAGS (Nomads Acting Group) between 2006 and 2011, where she acted in minor roles and helped with the props, stage management, and productions. She attended Aida Keykhai's acting workshop in 2016 and was cast in *Dance of Torn Papers* as the workshop's final acting project in Toronto. She joined NOWADAYS THEATRE shortly after and collaborated with the company in areas such as script translations, grant applications, and other admin-related tasks. Nazanin joined Mohammad Yaghoubi's acting workshops between 2017 and 2018 and was cast in *Angels in Iran* as the workshop's final acting project in Toronto and Waterloo. She is a utility corporate planner from nine-to-five, and an art and theatre lover the rest of the day.



**MARCH | \$20.95**

192 pages | 9780369104199  
4 f, 4 m | first produced in English at the  
Next Stage Theatre Festival, Toronto, in  
January 2020

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Lady Sunrise* by Marjorie  
Chan and *The Children's Republic* by  
Hannah Moscovitch

NEW TITLES

# FALL ON YOUR KNEES

BY HANNAH MOSCOVITCH WITH ALISA PALMER  
BASED ON THE NOVEL  
BY ANN-MARIE MACDONALD

In an adaptation of the classic Canadian novel, this epic play follows three generations of a Cape Breton Island family in a tale of forbidden love, inescapable bonds, and devastating betrayals, all while harbouring secrets that threaten to shatter the family entirely.

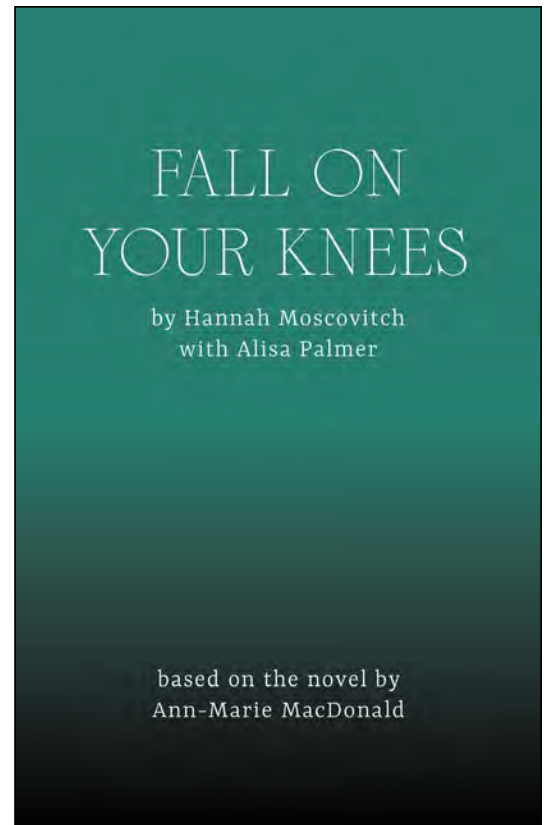
At the dawn of the twentieth century, a young piano tuner named James Piper and thirteen-year-old Materia Mahmoud fall into a whirlwind romance. As their family grows, the couple is strained by dark revelations that lead to dangerous consequences. Their headstrong daughters Kathleen, Frances, Mercedes, and Lily grow up haunted but fiercely connected in ways they must learn to fully understand. A richly layered story by turns both heartbreaking and joyous, *Fall On Your Knees* is a vivid portrayal of love, desire, and the quest for truth and redemption.

Hannah has been working with Alisa and Ann-Marie on this script for over a decade.

Ann-Marie started as a playwright, *Fall On Your Knees* was in fact originally written as a play but instead became her first novel published in 1996.

The novel was a selection in Oprah Winfrey's Book Club.

Hannah had already loved the book and was floored to be asked to adapt it.



**MARCH | \$20.95**

288 pages | 9780369104229

8 f, 5 m, doubling | first produced in a joint production between Canadian Stage in Toronto, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Grand Theatre in London, Neptune Theatre in Halifax, and Vita Brevis Arts, from January to March 2023

**ALSO AVAILABLE:** *The Russian Play and Other Short Works* | *East of Berlin* | *The Mill Part Two: The Huron Bride* | *This is War* | *Little One and Other Plays* | *Infinity* (with Njo Kong Kie) | *Bunny* | *What a Young Wife Ought to Know* | *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* | *Secret Life of a Mother* | *The Children's Republic* | *Post-Democracy*

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Secret Life of a Mother* by Hannah Moscovitch with Maeve Beaty & Ann-Marie Kerr and *August: Osage County* by Tracy Letts





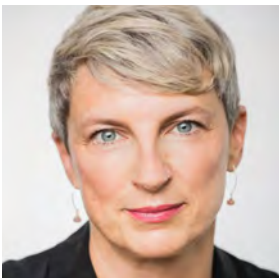
**HANNAH MOSCOVITCH** is an acclaimed Canadian playwright, TV writer, and librettist whose work has been widely produced in Canada and around the world. Recent stage work includes *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* and *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story* (co-created with Christian Barry and Ben Caplan). Hannah has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama, Trillium Book Award, the Nova Scotia Masterworks Arts Award, the Scotsman Fringe First and the Herald Angel Awards at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and the prestigious Windham-Campbell Prize administered by Yale University.

She has been nominated for the international Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, the Drama Desk Award, and Canada's Siminovitch Prize in Theatre. She is a playwright-in-residence at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto. She spends her time between Halifax and Los Angeles.



**ANN-MARIE MACDONALD** is an award-winning novelist, playwright, actor, and broadcast host. Her writing for the stage includes the plays *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, *Belle Moral: A Natural History*, and *Hamlet-911*, along with the libretto for the chamber opera *Nigredo Hotel*, and book and lyrics for the musical *Anything That Moves*. She is the author of the bestselling novels *Fall On Your Knees*, *The Way the Crow Flies*, and *Adult Onset*. Ann-Marie is a graduate of the acting program of the National Theatre School of Canada. In 2018 she was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in recognition of her contribution to the arts and

her LGBTQ2SI+ activism. She is married to theatre director Alisa Palmer, with whom she has two children.



**ALISA PALMER** is an award-winning theatre director, playwright, and producer and has developed, premiered, and toured original and provocative theatre creations for over twenty-five years. Her work crosses genres, including the classics, contemporary plays, collaborative creations, musicals, and operas and is characterized by vivid performances, a bold use of music, and a passionate commitment to the body politic. She is the recipient of numerous awards both in Canada and internationally, including six Dora Mavor Moore Awards, three Chalmers Awards, and a Harold Award for her contribution to independent theatre. She is a three-time finalist for the

Siminovitch Prize and a recipient of the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts. She was the artistic director of Nightwood Theatre, where she oversaw the commissioning and development of landmark plays including *Harlem Duet* by Djanet Sears and *Smudge* by Alex Bulmer, the first professional play by a blind playwright. She spent eight seasons at the Shaw Festival and three seasons at the Stratford Festival, where she recently directed the world premiere of *Hamlet-911* by Ann-Marie MacDonald, developed through Vita Brevis Arts. Ms. Palmer is Executive Artistic Director of the National Theatre School of Canada, English Section, and Artistic Producer of Vita Brevis Arts. She is married to author Ann-Marie MacDonald, with whom she has two children.



# HAVEN

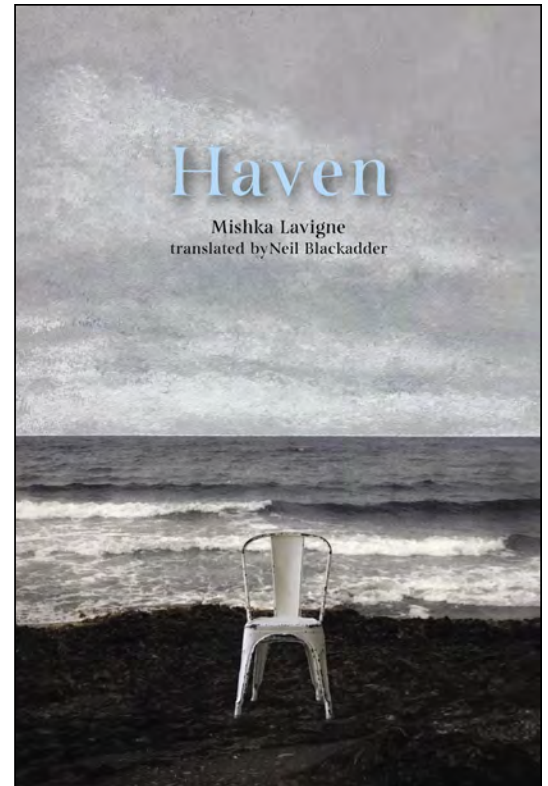
## MISHKA LAVIGNE, TRANSLATED BY NEIL BLACKADDER

Strangers Elsie and Matt are both feeling great voids in their lives. Elsie, a literature professor, is grieving her famous novelist mother's sudden death. Matt, a city engineer, is trying to regain childhood memories from living in war-torn Yugoslavia. When a sudden sinkhole in front of Elsie's apartment building swallows a car that happens to contain a copy of Elsie's mother's novel, their paths cross, and the two find they can help each other heal.

*Haven* is a beautiful portrait of how certain life events leave individuals deeply isolated, and of the connections that can occur when people unexpectedly enter our lives.

"Mishka Lavigne's storytelling provides us with a fine example of the resilience of the human spirit." —John Jane, *Review Vancouver*

"In highlighting emotions, grappling with regret and remorse, combining the horrors of war with the redemption that only art can provide, and juxtaposing all that's superficial in our era with the real depth of love, this play brings to mind the work of Wajdi Mouawad. Even as she remains very much of her time, the playwright privileges human connection over making speeches, feelings over ideas, life experiences over schools of thought. By granting to her characters the power of narration—an approach that calls to mind the early plays of Daniel Danis—Mishka Lavigne writes with admirable sensitivity, in prose that is delicate yet not lacking a sharp edge." —Christian St-Pierre, *Lettres québécoises*



**MARCH | \$19.95**

96 pages | 9780369104250

1 f, 1 m | First produced in French by La Troupe du Jour, Saskatoon, in 2018.

First produced in English by United Players of Vancouver in January 2022.

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Pretty Goblins* by Beth Graham and *Armstrong's War* by Colleen Murphy



**MISHKA LAVIGNE** (she/her) is a playwright, screenwriter, and literary translator based in Ottawa/Gatineau. Her play *Havre* was awarded the 2019 Governor General's Literary Award for Drama (French). Her play *Copeaux*, a movement-based poetic creation piece with director Éric Perron, premiered in Ottawa in March 2020 and was also awarded the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama in 2021 as well as the Prix littéraire Jacques-Poirier—Outaouais. *Albumen*, her first play written in English, received the Prix Rideau Award for Outstanding New Creation in 2019 and the QWF Playwriting Prize in 2020.



**NEIL BLACKADDER** translates drama and prose from French and German. His translations of plays by Mishka Lavigne, Lukas Bärfuss, Ewald Palmetshofer, and Rebekka Kricheldorf have been produced in London, New York, Chicago, and elsewhere, and many others have been published and presented in staged readings. His translations of prose have appeared in journals including *Two Lines*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, and *Chelsea*. Other playwrights Neil has translated include Evelyne de la Chenelière, Ferdinand Schmalz, Thomas Arzt, and Maxi Obexer. Neil has been awarded grants by the National Endowment for the Arts, PEN, and the Howard Foundation, and

held residencies at the Banff Centre and Art Omi.

**NEW TITLES**

# BODY SO FLUORESCENT

AMANDA CORDNER AND  
DAVID DI GIOVANNI

What happened last night on the dance floor? Gary knows he went to the club with his friend Desiree, but now all he has is a fuzzy memory and a text saying, “We’re done.” Desiree has known something’s been up with Gary, but she always kept her thoughts to herself. Until last night ended in an explosive fight. As Gary and Desiree retrace their steps to figure out the chain of events, perspectives shift from self to alter-ego to untangle the facts. And after the dust settles, can their friendship be rebuilt? *Body So Fluorescent* is an electrifying exploration that asks difficult questions about Blackness, otherness, and appropriation.

“*Body So Fluorescent* is poetic, heartbreaking, and insightful.”  
—Andrea Warner, *Georgia Straight*

“The script holds nothing back—though the characters seem to wish it would.” —Mae Smith, *alt.theatre*

“*Body So Fluorescent* is brilliant. The show is ferocious and moving.”  
—Bruce McCulloch, *Kids in the Hall*

Will be part of Buddies in Bad Times’s 2022-2023 season with a production in April 2023.

The play was adapted into a short film in 2020 and presented at the Inside Out Film Festival.

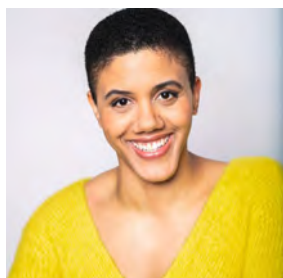


**MARCH | \$18.95**

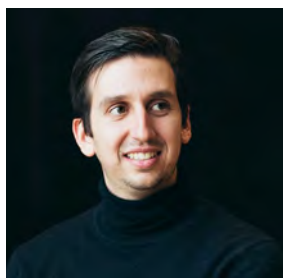
88 pages | 9780369104281

1 f | First produced at the IGNITE! Festival,  
Calgary, in June 2017

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Take d Milk, Nah?* by  
Jivesh Parasram and *Every Day She Rose* by  
Andrea Scott and Nick Green



**AMANDA CORDNER** is a Toronto-based creator and performer. Within her company Madonnanera, Amanda and creative partner David di Giovanni developed and toured the award-winning solo show *Body So Fluorescent* across North America. Madonnanera’s second show, *Wring the Roses*, was featured in Why Not Theatre’s RISER Project in 2019. Amanda is also pursuing a career in film and television as a creator and actor. Her company adapted *Body So Fluorescent* into a short film in 2020, which was presented at the Inside Out Film Festival and won the Emerging Canadian Artist Award. TV credits include *Sort Of*, *The Expanse*, and *Baroness von Sketch Show*.



**DAVID DI GIOVANNI** is a theatre director and creator currently living in Toronto. He holds an M.F.A. in Theatre Directing from York University. In 2017, he co-founded Madonnanera, a rich creative collaboration with Amanda Cordner that is invested in making outrageous and intersectional theatre work. He has won awards for Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Play, and Outstanding Production (*NOW Magazine*’s Best of Summer Works) and Emerging Canadian Artist (Inside Out) for *Body So Fluorescent* and was nominated for Outstanding Ensemble (Dora Mavor Moore Awards) for *Wring the Roses*.

**NEW TITLES**

# CALPURNIA

## AUDREY DWYER

Julie, a young Jamaican Canadian screenwriter, is passionately working on an adaptation of one of the most beloved American novels of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, telling the story from the perspective of the Finch family's Black maid, Calpurnia. But within the safe confines of her wealthy father's home, and despite all the encouragement from their Filipina housekeeper Precy, Julie struggles with writer's block and numerous distractions as her family prepares for an important dinner party. When her brother challenges her, saying she's appropriating a culture she doesn't belong to, she goes to dramatic lengths to prove her point, only to find she has much to learn.

*Calpurnia* is a witty and highly charged look at the complicated entanglements of intersectionality and allyship, exposing motives and biases that are clear as a bell one moment, and drowning in ambiguity the next.

"How is it possible that a single play can simultaneously make you cheer and cringe? *Calpurnia* is an unforgettable masterpiece crafted by a playwright in her element. Dwyer paints each character into a corner where they are forced to face the most difficult conversations with each other, and, more importantly, with themselves." —Catherine Hernandez, award-winning author of *Scarborough* the novel and screenwriter of *Scarborough* the film

"*Calpurnia* is a romp of a play with a biting commentary on race, class, and privilege. I remember seeing it during its premiere run in a packed house at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. But moreover, I remember the conversations, reverberations, and discoveries in the days and weeks well after I had left the theatre. In the context of Canadian theatre, I think it is a milestone in the canon that is not only contemporary and challenging but fearless and hilarious too." —Marie Beath Badian, author of *The Making of St. Jerome* and *Prairie Nurse*



**AUDREY DWYER** is an actor, director, playwright, teacher, artistic director, facilitator, and mentor based in Winnipeg. Her writing includes *The D Cut*, an award-winning six-episode series on Crave and Shaftesbury Film's KindaTV YouTube channel. She was one of the winners of the CBC Creative Relief Fund to create a television pilot called *The Gordons*. She wrote the musical *Come Home—The Legend of Daddy Hall* for Tarragon Theatre, which was produced in their acoustic season in 2021. She wrote her first libretto called *Backstage at Carnegie Hall*, which will be produced in Montreal in 2022. She's been commissioned by Nightswimming Theatre to

write *The Generations*, an epic five-hour drama about the legacy of a Black family over many thousands of years. She's the associate artistic director of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. She graduated from the National Theatre School of Canada.

Calpurnia  
Audrey Dwyer

APRIL | \$18.95

144 pages | 9780369104311

3 f, 3 m | first produced by Nightwood Theatre and Sulong Theatre at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Toronto, in January 2018

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *The Flood* by Leah Simone Bowen and *BANG BANG* by Kat Sandler



# BURNING MOM

## MIEKO OUCHI

After nearly a year of mourning her husband's death, sixtysomething Dorothy needs to feel alive. So she pitches a road-trip idea to her family—attending Burning Man, the massive arts festival known for its carefree nature that draws half a million people, and she wants to drive there in the RV she had purchased with her husband before he died. After she learns how to drive the RV and her family gets over their shock, Dorothy's son and his friend join her for her journey, sleeping in parking lots along the way, visiting a sex shop for costumes, and showing her around the massive, dusty grounds in Nevada. But once Dorothy starts to explore alone, whether its finding hilarious chaos in the middle of a naked bike ride parade or experiencing sweet solace and acceptance through art, she learns that she can do more in life than she ever imagined.

This comical play, which is based on author Mieko Ouchi's mother's own experiences, shows that the search for courage and independence can be lighthearted even when rooted in grief.

This is a true story!

The show will premiere at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg in April 2023.



Writer, director, dramaturg, and actor, **MIEKO OUCHI** trained at the University of Alberta's BFA Acting Program, the Women in the Director's Chair Program, and the National Screen Institute. Her award-winning films have screened at over thirty festivals, including the Toronto and Vancouver International Film Festivals and Asian American film festivals in San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Her plays *The Red Priest (Eight Ways To Say Goodbye)*, *The Blue Light*, *The Dada Play*, *Nisei Blue*, *I Am For You*, *Consent*, and *The Silver Arrow* have been translated into six languages, been finalists for the 4 Play Series at the Old Vic, UK;

the Governor General's Literary Award; the Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award; the City of Edmonton Book Prize; and Sterling Awards, and have been recognized with the Carol Bolt Award, Betty Mitchell Awards, and the Enbridge Playwrights Award for Established Canadian Playwright. Her work as a director and dramaturg—both at Concrete Theatre where she was Co-Artistic Director and Artistic Director for thirty-one years, and with writers and companies across the country—spans TYA to indie to large-scale work. Mieke now works as Associate Artistic Director at the Citadel Theatre. She lives in Edmonton with her husband Kim and their dog Nara.

### *Burning Mom* Mieko Ouchi

**APRIL | \$18.95**

144 pages | 9780369104311

1 f | first produced by the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Winnipeg, in April 2023

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Hilda's Yard* by Norm Foster and *Speed Dating for Sperm Donors* by Natalie Meisner

**ALSO AVAILABLE:** *Mieko Ouchi: Two Plays* | *I Am For You*

# AMONG MEN

## DAVID YEE

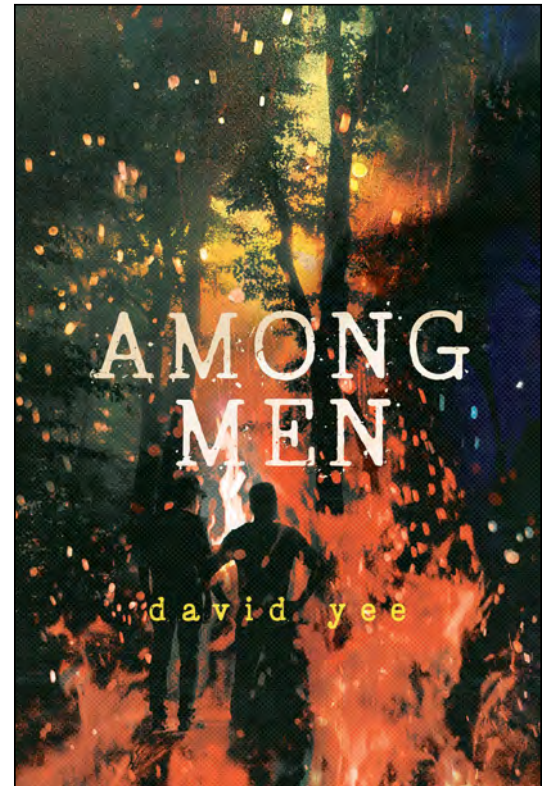
1959, Ameliasburgh, Prince Edward County, Canada. On the edge of spring, two men are finishing an A-frame cabin on Roblin Lake. In the coming decade all three of them—Al, Milt, and the A-frame—will become famous and change the face of Canadian poetry. But now all they have is the stench of sweat, whiskey, and words. From Governor General’s Literary Award–winner David Yee, *among men* is a poetic and charged portrait of male friendship in uncertain times, and a story of how Canadian literature was changed forever.

“David Yee has taken a footnote in Canadian literature and created a play that is raucous, lively, crude . . . and extremely moving.”  
—Glenn Sumi, *NOW Magazine*

“A laugh-out-loud, moving piece of art.” —Janine Marley, *A View From the Box*

“Masterful storytelling.” —Joe Szekeres, *Our Theatre Voice*

David was inspired to write this after reading Al Purdy’s poem “House Guest,” the only poem that really records this period of Al Purdy and Milton Acorn’s lives.

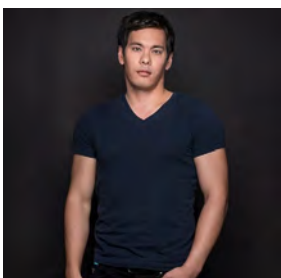


**APRIL | \$18.95**

96 pages | 9780369104373  
2 m | first produced by Factory Theatre,  
Toronto, in April 2022

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Blow Wind* by Daniel Macdonald with music by Eileen Laverty and *Never Swim Alone & This is a Play* by Daniel MacIvor

**ALSO AVAILABLE:** *acquiesce* | *carried away on the crest of a wave* | *paper SERIES* | *lady in the red dress*



**DAVID YEE** is a mixed-race (half-Chinese, half-Scottish) playwright and actor, born and raised in Toronto. He is the co-founding artistic director of fu-GEN Theatre Company, Canada’s premiere professional Asian Canadian theatre company. A Dora Mavor Moore Award–nominated actor and playwright, his work has been produced internationally and at home. He is a two-time Governor General’s Literary Award nominee for his plays *lady in the red dress* and *carried away on the crest of a wave*, the latter of which won the award in 2015, along with the Carol Bolt Award in 2013. He has worked extensively in the Asian Canadian community as an artist and an advocate.

**NEW TITLES**

# THE JUNGLE

## ANTHONY MACMAHON AND THOMAS MCKECHNIE

Can Jack and Veronyka ever get ahead? In this all-too-relatable love story in a city suffocating under late-stage capitalism, a young couple is pitted against odd after odd in a way that isn't about testing one's character anymore—it's simply reality.

Jack, a second-generation Chinese Canadian cab driver meets Veronyka, an undocumented factory worker and waitress from Moldova, as he's bringing her from one job to the other. Their chance encounter blooms into an unlikely romance, stolen in moments between shifts, and then a hasty marriage, which solves migration issues but brings the pair even deeper into the challenges of providing for themselves and their families. The painful death of both of Jack's parents and the sense of helplessness that has dogged both of their families leads Jack and Veronkya to desperate measures to escape. Some hard work mixed with some political blackmail brings them to a new life, but at what cost?

"[A] powerful political parable." —Glenn Sumi, *NOW Magazine*

"This play isn't about Jack and Veronyka: their love story is the bait—well, let's call it an invitation—for audiences to consider how it is that systems consistently fail decent people." —Karen Fricker, *Toronto Star*

"A punch to the gut: very real and very much told with eyes wide open . . . It moved me and kept me thinking, long after curtain call."  
—Isabella O'Brien, *Mooney on Theatre*

# The Jungle

Anthony MacMahon  
and Thomas McKechnie

MAY | \$18.95

88 pages | 9780369104403

1 f, 1 m | first produced by Tarragon Theatre,  
Toronto, in October 2019

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Every Day She Rose* by  
Andrea Scott and Nick Green and *Bone  
Cage* by Catherine Banks



**ANTHONY MACMAHON** is a Canadian playwright currently working in Toronto. His works include *Animal Farm*, *The Voyager Concert*, *The Dead* (Soulpepper), *Trompe la Mort*, and *Wild Dogs on the Moscow Trains* (SummerWorks). He was until recently a planning advisor to former city councillor Joe Cressy and is currently a project lead at the City of Toronto in Solid Waste Management. He's honoured to be an alumni of the Soulpepper Academy, Concordia University, and the University of Saskatchewan.



**THOMAS MCKECHNIE** is a Toronto-based playwright and union organizer. They were a part of the 2013–2015 Soulpepper Academy as a writer. Writing credits include *The Jungle* (Tarragon Theatre, co-written with Anthony MacMahon), *12 Letters from Your Lover*, *Lost at Sea* (with Hannah Kaya), *Worm Moon* (the Theatre Centre's Residency Program), *4 1/2 (ig)noble truths* (zeitpunktheatre/Why Not Theatre, presented in Toronto, Victoria, Vancouver, and more), and *Remembering the Winnipeg General* (ziepunktheatre). They are a founding member of Artists for Climate and Migrant Justice and Indigenous Sovereignty.

NEW TITLES



# THE PARTY & THE CANDIDATE

## KAT SANDLER

In these two entwined, fast-paced plays, the hilarious goings-on behind the scenes of a controversial election chaotically unfold first at the fundraiser that will decide the party's nominee and then months later at a debate the night before the election.

The top candidates for the Left are Bill Biszy, a gay Black man who's also the star of the *Sharkman* film franchise, and Heather Straughan, the tough woman who's still hampered by the public knowledge that her husband cheated on her many years ago. Both are the guests of honour at Butch Buchanan's fundraiser—whomever he decides to donate to will get the party's nomination, and will run against his brother, the leader of the Right. But so many things stand in Bill and Heather's way before the night ends. Many months later, when the final debate ends in the need for extreme damage control, it's clearly the worst time for everyone's secrets to be revealed, but what fun would it be without some election-day drama?

With a large cast of frenzied characters and piercing dialogue, *The Party & The Candidate* will make sure you never look at politics the same way again.

"As ambitious and complex a theatrical endeavour as you could imagine . . . This is an ingenious, audacious, fun and delightful concept."  
—Marsha Lederman, *The Globe and Mail*

"The media and celebrity culture and politics, in the sack together in an ungodly three-way, political correctness platitudes and their vicious old-school reverse, earnest idealists and pop culture trash-talkers . . . they all get teased or defrocked or compromised in the course of *The Party and The Candidate*." —Liz Nicholls, *12thnight.ca*

The two plays were performed in tandem, with cast members running back and forth between theatres during the productions.

The story is "loosely based" on real politicians.



**MAY | \$20.95**

288 pages | 9780369104434  
5 f, 5 m | first produced by the Citadel Theatre, Edmonton, in April 2019

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *The Empire* by Susanna Fournier and *1979* by Michael Healey

**ALSO AVAILABLE:** *Yaga* | *BANG BANG* | *Mustard* | *Punch Up*



**KAT SANDLER** is a playwright, director, screenwriter, and the artistic director of Theatre Brouhaha in Toronto. She has staged seventeen of her original plays in the last eight years, including *Yaga* and the concurrent double bill of *The Party* and *The Candidate*, where the same cast raced back and forth between two theatres to perform two simultaneous plays. Her play *Mustard* won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play and *BANG BANG* was nominated for the same award. Kat is a graduate of the Queen's University Drama Program and is based in Toronto.

**NEW TITLES**

# FROM THE ASHES: SIX SOLO PLAYS

## EDITED BY SHAUNTAY GRANT

*From the Ashes* collects solo plays by Black Canadian women and womxn that together celebrate the hope, humour, and healing that can come after devastation and loss. From lighthearted comedies to heavy dramas, this anthology contains a multitude of stories on Blackness, love, motherhood, sexuality, trauma, racism, mythology, and more.

In *Georgeena* by Djanet Sears, a bride speeds down the highway, struggling to make sense of what led her to that moment. In *benu* by d'bi.young anitafrika, a young woman faces motherhood while still coming to terms with her own motherlessness. Makambe K Simamba's *A Chitenge Story* follows a young woman who travels to her native Zambia to find and confront the man who abused her as a child. Ngozi Paul's *The Emancipation of Ms. Lovely* chronicles a woman throughout different stages of her life that relate to her sexual awakening. In *The Sender* by Cheryl Foggo, a woman working for a global racism-elimination project encounters some technical difficulties when someone unexpectedly objects to the project's restrictions. And in Kalale Dalton-Lutale's *Cry Baby*, a young woman falls in love for the first time, which opens a well of questions about her identity.

# FROM THE ASHES

## Six Solo Plays

edited by Shauntay Grant

JUNE | \$34.95

400 pages | 9780369104465

**YOU MAY LIKE:** *Digital Performance in Canada* edited by David Own and *Fronteras Vivientes* edited by Natalie Alvarez



**SHAUNTAY GRANT** is a Canadian playwright, poet, author, multimedia artist, and co-creator of *Maridzambira*—a musical solo play developed in collaboration with Zimbabwean mbira player Hope Masike. Grant's work largely examines Black Nova Scotian and African diasporic histories, narratives, and cultures. She is an associate professor of creative writing at Dalhousie University, and former poet laureate for the City of Halifax. Grant's other honours include a Joseph S. Stauffer Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts, a Robert Merritt Award from Theatre Nova Scotia for her stage play *The Bridge* (Playwrights Canada Press), a Marilyn Baillie Picture Book

Award from the Canadian Children's Book Centre for *Africville* (Groundwood Books), and the inaugural Black Artist Recognition Award from Arts Nova Scotia. Connect with her online at [shauntaygrant.com](http://shauntaygrant.com).

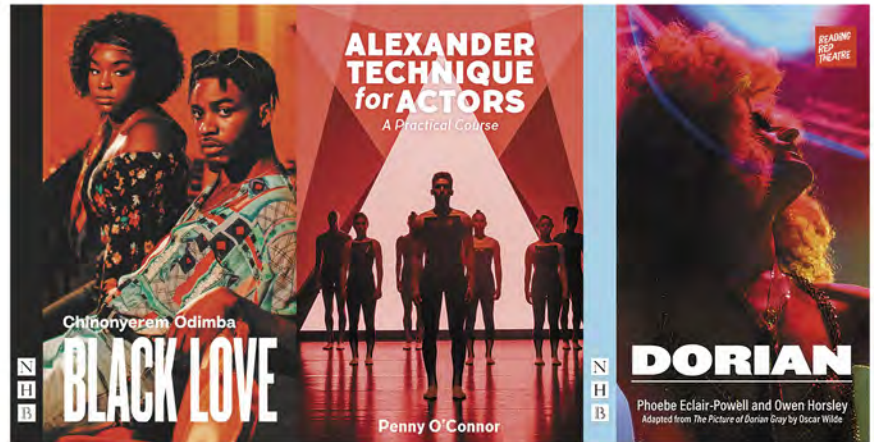
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