



A CONVERSATION
ON CREATION

THU. OCTOBER 22 7PM/ REARVIEW
BY GILLES POULIN-DENIS

FRI. OCTOBER 23 7PM/ THE DESIRE PATH
BY MATTHEW HEITI

SAT. OCTOBER 24 9AM/ Conversation on Creation: A day-long
Conference on Theatre Creation in Northern Ontario

PLAY SMELTER

2015 OCTOBER 22-24, 2015
111 Larch Street Sudbury, ON

Message from the Mayor



On behalf of Council and all citizens of Greater Sudbury, I offer greetings and best wishes on the return of the PlaySmelter Festival.

Over the past three years, PlaySmelter has done much to develop a groundswell of playwright talent with our budding arts and theatre community.

In just three short years, ten original pieces have been developed by northern writers, for northern audiences.

This has helped showcase emerging talent and encourage others across the community and north to consider how they can unleash their creative side.

It is increasingly clear that art, in all its forms, serves an important role in ensuring Greater Sudbury vitality.

Quality cultural infrastructure like the PlaySmelter Festival is as important to the city's well-being as libraries, parks and recreation facilities, arenas, pools, community centres. We understand the value of public infrastructure in providing services to our citizens. Performances are gathering places for citizens of all backgrounds to share in a collective experience through art, spectacle, dance, music and storytelling, and to reflect and ask questions about each other.

Congratulations and on behalf of council and all citizens, we're all very proud of your work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Bigger'.

Yours sincerely,
Brian Bigger
Mayor of Greater Sudbury

P.O. BOX 5000 STN 'A'
200 BRADY STREET
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

CP 500 SUCC A
200 RUE BRADY
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

705.674.4455 ☎ ext.2514
705.673.3096 📠

www.greatersudbury.ca
www.grandsudbury.ca

PLAY SMELTER 2015



Pat the Dog Theatre Creation provides transformative support for playwrights and theatre creators. This laboratory for new voices and new ideas provides playwrights and their collaborators with resources to develop their work in a supportive yet rigorous environment and encourages them to define their own goals and creative process in pursuit of a unique vision.

Without an audience, there is no theatre. PTD is unique in its efforts to integrate audiences into the creative process from its initial stages. We recognize the kinetic energy that is shared by those who create plays and those who receive them, so PTD encourages a diverse community

to observe and participate in our work. We engage people of all ages in the process of making theatre because we see it as a model for community cooperation and problem solving.

Pat the Dog Theatre Creation has been serving emerging and established playwrights in Ontario since 2006. It is the only playwright development centre in Ontario open to theatre creators at all stages of their career. A registered charitable institution, Pat the Dog is a member of the Playwrights' Development Centres of Canada, the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and the Playwrights Guild of Canada.

Lisa O'Connell
Artistic Director

Matthew Heiti
Playwright-in-Residence

Angela van den Heuvel
General Manager

CONFERENCE ITINERARY

**LOCATION: ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
111 LARCH STREET SUDBURY, ON**

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22

7:00 pm: *Rearview*, by Gilles Poulin-Denis

FRIDAY OCTOBER 23

7:00 pm: *The Desire Path*, by Matthew Heiti

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24

9:00 am - 10:00 am: Registration and Sign-in

Coffee, tea and muffins will be available.

10:00 am - 12:00 pm: Capturing the Stories of Northern Ontario

Who speaks for the North? What are the challenges getting this to the audience? Are we Outliers, and if so, what does that mean in our creation?

Fresh off their workshops and workshop presentations, playwrights Gilles Poulin-Denis and Matthew Heiti join translation dramaturge Maureen Labonté in conversation. Joining them will be Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario's artistic director Geneviève Pineault, director of Poulin-Denis' workshop *Rearview*.

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Lunch (provided)

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: New Northern Generation

Dr. Ian McLennan is joined with staff from Thorneloe University at Laurentian to discuss their work, including transporting students and work in process to Taiwan and Hong Kong.

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm: Coffee Break/Stretch

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm: What's Been, What Is and What's Next

A conversation concerning trends in creation in Canada and beyond our borders with Bob White, Director of New Plays, Stratford Festival.

4:00 pm - 4:15 pm: Coffee Break/Stretch

4:15 pm - 5:00 pm: Next Steps

What do we need? Call for Action? What's on Your Mind?

THE PLAYS

REARVIEW

PLAYWRIGHT GILLES POULIN-DENIS

Translation Dramaturge Maureen Labonté

Director Geneviève Pineault

Actor Matthew Heiti

This play received an earlier workshop on this translation with Playwrights' Workshop Montreal.

THE DESIRE PATH

PLAYWRIGHT MATTHEW HEITI

Director Bob White

Dramaturge Lisa O'Connell

Carter Dan Roberts

Chorus Jenny Hazelton

Chorus Daniel Aubin

Chorus Alessandro Costanini

This play has been developed through the support of the Ontario Arts Council's Playwright-in-Residency program.

Daniel Aubin



Greater Sudbury's second-ever Poet Laureate, Daniel Aubin writes and performs poetry in both English and French, often switching back and forth between the two. His books of poems, *Plasticité* (2004) and *Néologirouettes* (2012), are published by Sudbury's own Éditions Prise de parole. Having studied theatre at Laurentian University, it's no surprise that Daniel enjoys reading his poems aloud and thusly crafts them with an ear for the musicality of the strung along words. He writes an original poem every week

for Le Voyageur newspaper in a column he's titled Primordialogues. As an actor, he most recently appeared as Abraham in Encore Theatre's 2015 production of *Abraham Lincoln Goes to the Theatre*.

Jenny Hazelton



Jenny is a professor of Acting and Mime at Laurentian University in Sudbury and a founding member of Encore Theatre Company. She has trained at Ecole International de Theatre Jacques Lecoq, in ensemble creation, physical theatre and mime; as well as

at the Mime Centrum Berlin in Berlin, Germany, training in Meyerhold's system of Biomechanics. For the last several years, she has continued her training in Clown and Bouffon training with John Turner of Canada's horror clown duo Mump and Smoot at the Manitoulin Conservatory for Creation and Performance. Jenny is also a director, designer, puppeteer, playwright, and a theatre technician.

Matthew Heiti



Born in Sudbury, Matthew is an award-winning playwright and a Genie-nominated screenwriter. His first novel, *The City Still Breathing*, is published

by Coach House Books and his play *Black Dog: 4 vs the wrld* is forthcoming from Playwrights Canada Press. Matthew runs the Playwrights' Junction at STC, a workshop for developing writers. As Playwright-in-Residence for Pat the Dog, Matthew coordinates workshops for emerging playwrights across the province.

Maureen Labonté



Maureen Labonté is a dramaturge, translator, and teacher. She has also coordinated a number of play development programs in theatres and playwrights' centres across the country. In 2006, she was named head of program for the Banff Playwrights Colony at the Banff Centre. She was dramaturge at the Colony from 2003–2005. She was also Literary Manager in charge of play development at the Shaw Festival from 2002–2004. Previous to that, she worked at the National Theatre School of Canada, first developing and running a pilot directing program and then

coordinating the playwrighting programme and playwrights' residency. She still teaches at NTS.

Lisa O'Connell



Lisa O'Connell is the founding Artistic Director of Pat the Dog Theatre Creation, the only playwright centre in Ontario open to theatre creators

at all stages of their career. PTD playwrights' work has been presented at the Magnetic North Theatre Festival, SummerWorks Theatre Festival, MT Space Theatre, Sudbury Theatre Centre, Theatre Aquarius, The Grand Theatre, among others. O'Connell serves on the Advocacy Committee of the Playwrights Guild of Canada, the Artistic Practices Committee of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and delivered the closing Keynote address at the Canadian Association of Theatre Researchers Conference in 2013. She is the recipient of both the Special Jury Award and the Gowlings Literary Award from Arts Awards Waterloo.

Geneviève Pineault



A graduate of the University of Ottawa's Theatre Department, Geneviève has been active as a professional artist for almost twenty years. Since July 2004, she has settled in as the Artistic Director of Greater Sudbury's Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario (TNO). She won Théâtre Action's 2009 Artistic Excellence Award for her staging of Mansel Robinson's *SLAGUE – L'histoire d'un mineur*, translated and acted by Jean Marc Dalpé. She is presently working on the

stage adaptation of Dalpé's novel, *Un vent se lève qui éparpille*, which will be presented at the National Art Centre in February 2016 and in Sudbury in March.

Gilles Poulin-Denis



Originally from Saskatchewan, Gilles Poulin-Denis is an actor, playwright, director, translator and dramaturg. He is a graduate of l'Université du Québec à Montréal's theatre program with a specialization in acting. As an actor he has worked for theatre companies across Canada. His first full-length play *Rearview* was produced in Saskatoon in 2009 and again in Brussels. The play was nominated in 2010 for the Governor general's literary arts award, it is published by Dramaturges Éditeurs. His second play *Status Quo*, was awarded the Sydney J. Risk award in 2013 and was finalist for the Prix de la Dramaturgie française de la SACD (France) in 2014. Since then he has written another full length play, *Dehors*, as well as numerous short plays performed in Montreal and Quebec theatres. He is also part of the artist collective *Les Petites Cellules Chaudes*, with which he created *The ishow*. From 2008 to 2012 Wajdi Mouawad named Gilles as one of the resident playwrights at the National Arts Centre's Théâtre français.

Dan Roberts



Danny is thrilled and honoured to be working with his old pal Matt Heiti and the team at Pat the Dog. Originally from Sydenham, ON, Danny has been working on stages across the country for almost a decade now. He is a Dora nominated actor who studied at Ryerson University and was a member of the Birmingham Conservatory at The Stratford Shakespeare Festival where he was awarded the Douglas Campbell Award. Currently, Danny lives in Hamilton with his amazing wife Kat. For more info please feel free to check out his website danielroberts.com.

Bob White



Bob White is in his fourth season as Director of New Plays at the Stratford Festival in Canada. Prior to his Stratford engagement, Bob spent twenty two years at Calgary's Alberta Theatre Projects, the last nine as Artistic Director. At ATP, he headed the annual Enbridge playRites Festival of New Plays, widely regarded as one of Canada's premier new play showcases. Other significant attachments include Co-director, Banff Playwrights Colony (1997-2009), Artistic Director, Factory Theatre, Toronto, (1978-87) and Dramaturge, Playwrights Workshop Montreal (1975-78). Bob is a member of The Order of Canada.



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Kim Fahner and the students at Marymount Academy**

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/WEB **MARK WALTON**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JORGE CUETO HERRERA**



Founded in 2006, Pat the Dog Theatre Creation are advocates for playwrights, playwrights' work and the plays distilled from that work. PTD is the only playwright development centre in Ontario open to playwrights at all stages of their career.

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