



A READING SERIES  
OF NEW PLAYS

WED. MAY 6 / CURVED  
BY KRISTIN SHEPHERD

THU. MAY 7 / DOUBLE BLIND  
BY NINA NESSETH

FRI. MAY 8 / THE SURVIVANCE PROJECT  
BY SARAH GATHSTONE

SAT. MAY 9 / BURNING BELL's  
BY MITCHELL GAUVIN

**PLAY SMELTER**

**2015** MAY 6 - 9 7PM NIGHTLY  
178 Elm Street Sudbury, ON

pat the dog theatre creation presents

# PLAY SMELTER 2015

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

PlaySmelter is more than an annual springtime event; it's a yearlong commitment to the creation of new works by local writers and theatre creators about their home. In a very short three years, our feisty little festival has assisted in the creation of many thought-provoking plays by members of this community. We are honoured to present this year's crop of 'Smelters, and will continue to work to ensure that all of our playwrights' stories see life on stages here and all across the country.

The work is strong, resonant and incredibly entertaining. I confess that at times we at Pat the Dog struggle to keep up with the sheer creative energy of these playwrights. As in all good collaborations, it forces us in the best way to be inventive and agile so that we can provide the supports necessary to satisfy their insatiable creative curiosity.

I am thrilled to announce that for the first time our annual springtime celebration of New Works for Theatre will be followed by a second PlaySmelter this fall.

From October 21-24, 2015, Pat the Dog will host Conversation on Creation: Creating Theatre in Northern Ontario. This national conference will include a new translation of an award-winning work, readings in both English and French, and several days of professional development intensives for theatre creations. The time is right for this support and we're thrilled we can make it happen.

Thanks for coming tonight. We couldn't do it without you. Sit back. Listen to our playwrights. Grab a glass and a snack (or two!) as we discuss the work and the heart that created it. The conversation has begun and we'll be here to help keep it coming. Join us please this October – and all through the year.

Lisa O'Connell  
Artistic Director | Pat the Dog Theatre Creation

P.O. Box 3090, 5th Fl  
200 Brady Street  
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## PROGRAM NOTE

The ink is still drying, the paper's still warm from the printer – this is PlaySmelter, theatre at its freshest and most raw.

This festival, most importantly its playwrights and their creations, is a yearly revelation for me. It's forever breathless work, but at the other side of it, I always feel closer and more connected to my community – both where it's been and what we are making it.

Thank you for coming to support our six creators this year. Your involvement as audience, on any or all of our evenings, is vital. PlaySmelter is an incubator for theatre creators. For the past six weeks we've been hard at work with these writers, watching them grow their pieces to this stage. This is when we will share them with you, an audience, for the first time. After tonight, your fingerprints will be on these works now too and will help shape them as they eventually reach full production.

It's time for us to speak and listen to our stories. And I don't mean quaint, back-patting stories of smokestacks, giant coins and black rock. Our stories can be powerful visions of the realities we face here. And these visions are not always rosy. Only we can speak for life in the North -- nearly, near or far – of our province. It's time for our theatre creators to be heard and embraced here and championed elsewhere.

It's been my privilege to work with Kristin, Nina, Sarah, Mitchell, Abby and Eric. Please stay after the reading to join in the conversation.

Matthew Heiti  
Festival Coordinator

## THE PLAYS

### CURVED

**PLAYWRIGHT KRISTIN SHEPHERD**

*Director* Matthew Heiti

*Dramaturge* Lisa O'Connell

*Wavy* Cora Eckert

*Del* Anita Ansamaa

*Granny Wave* June Keevil

*Chloe* Cassandra Rene

*Estelle* Judi Straughan

### DOUBLE BLIND

**PLAYWRIGHT NINA NESSETH**

*Director* Judi Straughan

*Dramaturge* Lisa O'Connell

*Molly* Morgan St. Onge

*Lauren* April Perrin

*Susan* Lara Bradley /  
Tamara Parker

*Roger* Michael Emond

*Jamie* Michael Boyce



## THE SURVIVANCE PROJECT

**PLAYWRIGHT SARAH GARTHSHORE**

*Director/Dramaturge* Lisa O'Connell  
*Woman #1* Pandora Topp  
*Woman #2* Vanessa Ominika  
*Woman #3* Lois Apaquash  
*Man* Greg Tremblay  
*Hand Drummer* Darcy Trudeau

## BURNING BELL'S

**PLAYWRIGHT MITCHELL GAUVIN**

*Director/Dramaturge* Matthew Heiti  
*Bell* Will Himsl  
*Person* Rick Duthie



## Closed Door Workshops

## THE MASTER PIANIST /LE MAÎTRE PIANISTE

**PLAYWRIGHT ERIC LAPALME**

*Director* John Turner  
*Dramaturge* Matthew Heiti  
*Movement Coach* Lauren Foy  
*The Master* Rick Duthie  
*Woman* France Huot  
*Young Man* Joel Giroux

## HIGHWAY HEROES

**PLAYWRIGHT ABBY YZEREFF**

*Dramaturge* Matt Heiti  
*Greta* Meaghan McKinney  
*Darren* Ethan Bleskie  
*Liz* Natalie Callewaert

## Anita Ansamaa



Having spent 20 years working in Theatre both on and off stage, Anita is proud to return as a performer for this year's PlaySmelter.

Some of her favourite credits include: Cinderella at the STC, working for the Gros Morne Theatre Festival in Cow Head Newfoundland, and working at the Blythe Festival for one season as Property Master. She is currently the Owner of anew-Upcycled Living, repurposing found objects and furniture and doing small custom upholstery projects. Thanks again for the opportunity, and thanks to Pat the Dog for helping to encourage Northern Playwrights.

## Lois Apaquash



Lois is delighted to participate in the birth of The Survivance Project. She would like to say Gchii-Miigwech to Sarah for her unflappable fearlessness, and Pat the Dog Theatre for embracing an opportunity to creatively raise awareness. Awareness is key in promoting a much needed paradigm shift towards broader knowledge, acceptance and reconciliation of the truth.

## Michael Boyce



Michael is starting his second year at the George Brown Acting Conservatory this September. He's acted with the STC's Young Company in The Velveteen Rabbit, and recently in Black Dog: 4 vs the World by Matthew Heiti. He often works with Yes Theatre, with whom he'll be performing in American Idiot this June at the Grand Nightclub and Fiddler on the Roof this August at the STC.

## Ethan Bleskie



Ethan Bleskie has studied both technical theatre and theatre performance here in Sudbury at both Cambrian College and Laurentian University. His past performance credits include The Pirates of Penzance, Hay Fever, The Memory of Water, Cabaret, Comedy of Errors, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, as well as PlaySmelter last year.

## Lara Bradley



Lara Bradley moon-lights as a playwright, theatre reviewer and sometimes fiction writer. She would like to give Pat the Dog a giant high five and a basket of puppies for all the work they do to unlock northern voices and stories.

## Nat Callewaert



Nat will be graduating from Thorneloe's Theatre program this June with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. She has been in a few of their mainstage performances as well as being involved this year with Verve and Awkward Owl productions. She is very excited to get to be involved in this festival with such talented people.

## Rick Duthie



Rick is excited to be part of yet another PlaySmelter with Pat the Dog. Rick has recently completed his MA in History at Laurentian University, and he is looking forward to working with a very talented

ensemble of local playwrights and artists as they tackle these wonderful and challenging stories. His most recent acting credits include various roles at the STC Playwrights' Junction public readings. He also appeared as Laurel in Encore Theatre's production of Abraham Lincoln Goes to the Theatre. Rick is also an aspiring playwright and intends to stage some of his work in the near future.

## Cora Eckert



Cora Eckert is a graduate of Thorneloe University's BFA in Theatre Performance and of Cambrian College's Theatre Arts Technical Production course. Eckert has previously participated in PlaySmelter as a playwright for her plays that received a workshop in 2014 (Conception) and a public reading in 2013 (Aftercare). She is part of the collective creation team of #TheWaterTower, premiering at the Sudbury Theatre Centre in April 2016.

## Michael Emond



Michael Emond is pleased to be back with PlaySmelter. Michael has been active in theatre since playing a sailor in South Pacific in high school. His favourite roles over the years have been the Mad Hatter, in Alice in Wonderland, Montecelso in the White Devil, Scandal in "Love for Love", Frederick in "Noises Off", and Almyd in "The Play's the Thing". Lately he has turned his eye to stand-up comedy with the Sudbury Comedy Scene.

## Lauren Foy



Lauren is often a choreographer and guest performer for Sudbury's young dance company, earthdancers, having worked with the dancers for many seasons. Lauren has been a dance instructor in Sudbury for the past 10 years. In 2011, Lauren choreographed the opening and closing ceremonies for Les Jeux de la Francophonie Canadiennes and created a full length production called The Imagination Project, which was supported by the Ontario Arts Council. Her choreography has also been featured in music videos for a Sudbury-based band, Pistol George Warren and Le Paysagiste, as well as in the short film Dancing is Meaningless by GREENBOOTS Productions.



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## Sarah Gartshore



Sarah Gartshore is an Ojibwe playwright, actor and teacher who lives in Sudbury. She is excited to be a part of the vibrant expanding arts community in her

city and grateful beyond measure to Lisa O'Connell and Matthew Heiti for their time, encouragement and expertise in the development of The Survivance Project. To Darcy, Vanessa, Pandora, Greg and Lois - Gchii-Miigwech a thousand times!

## Mitchell Gauvin



Mitchell Gauvin is a Toronto-born, Sudbury-based writer whose credits include fiction, non-fiction, and poetry in variety of publications, including

Feathertale Review Online, NEST by Gutterbird, The Varsity, and CanCulture

Magazine. A graduate of the University of Toronto (B.A.) and University College Dublin (M.A.), he was a member of Sudbury Theatre Centre's 2014-15 Playwrights Junction and his debut fiction novel, Vandal Confession, will be released this fall.

## Joel Giroux



With an immense love for stories, be it through acting or writing, and a hope to one day make a living off of storytelling, Joël Giroux hopes to one

day bring stories of his own to life. He's taken part in a dozen plays, from Theatre Cambrian, to school productions with Macdonald Cartier's theatre troupe "Les Draveurs". He's currently studying French Theater at Laurentian University.

## 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. As Playwright-in-residence at STC, Matthew runs the Playwrights' Junction, a workshop for developing writers.

## Jorge Cueto Herrera



Jorge Cueto Herrera graduated from the History Program at Laurentian University in Sudbury in 2005 and the Photojournalism program at Loyalist

College/Belleville in 2008. Being a photographer has allowed Cueto to witness and document the changes that have occurred in Sudbury, Ontario from an industrial, historical and social perspective.

## Angela van den Heuvel



Angela is a graduate of the University of Regina where she received her BFA in Theatre: Stage Management & Design. She has

worked as a Production Stage Manager, Stage Manager, Arts Administrator, and Event Coordinator for various Production Companies and Arts Organizations across Canada. Angela has worked on notable events including Skills Canada, The 101st Grey Cup and the Spring Festival of New Plays (SPC). Previous

productions that she has been involved with include Speculation (Leslie Ting), The Nutcracker (Class Act Theatre Co.), L'elisir d'amour, Fiddler on the Roof (Opera Nuova), In Flanders Fields (The Golden Apple Theatre) and KaleidoCycle (Globe Theatre).

## France Huot



France Huot holds a B.F.A in Theatre from Laurentian University and is currently a master's student at the University of Ottawa in theatre theory and

dramaturgy. While living in Sudbury, she has worked in both French and in English local productions such as Ti-Jean et le nénéufar de la destinée with Production Roches brûlées; as the solo performer in Alphonse; and most recently in the ensemble of Lenin's Embalmers with Encore Theatre Company.

## June Keevil



June Keevil has performed in theatres across Canada including the St. Lawrence Centre, Tarragon, Factory Lab, and Passe Muraille,

in Toronto, at the Centaur and Saidye Bronfman in Montreal, the Citadel in Edmonton, The Vancouver Playhouse, and The Cleveland Playhouse in the US. Recent work in the north includes Clara in Half Life for Gateway Theatre Guild and Janine in the TV series Hard Rock Medical.

## Eric Lapalme



As a student in the Programme de théâtre at Laurentian University, Eric Lapalme, age 20 is always very excited for new theatre projects. Recently, he's been in a clown show and a few plays from Awkward Owl production, a local youth theatre company.

## Meaghan McKinney



Meaghan McKinney is a recent graduate of Laurentian University with a double major in Theatre Arts and Religious Studies. She is thrilled to be a part of PlaySmelter this year with Highway Hereos.

## Nina Nesseth



Nina Nesseth would like to thank Pat the Dog Theatre Creation for inviting her back to theatre after a years'-long hiatus, especially with such a great opportunity to support local works. Past performances include Les Belles Soeurs (Rhéauna) and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Peaseblossom) with Thorneloe University, and As You Like It (LeBeau) and Twelfth Night (Priest) with the Thorneloe Summer Players.

## 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,

MT Space Theatre, Sudbury Theatre Centre, Grand Theatre, Theatre Aquarius, among others. O'Connell serves on the Advocacy Committee of the Playwrights Guild of Canada and the Artistic Practices Committee of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres. She is the recipient of a Waterloo Region Arts Award and delivered the closing Keynote address at the Canadian Association of Theatre Researchers Conference.

## Vanessa Ominika



Vanessa is from the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory located on the beautiful Manitoulin Island. Its been 7 years since she's been on the stage and she's honored to be part of Sarah's creative process of her new play. "Thank you Sarah for bringing me back to my passion for theatre! You always bring me back just like that first day". xox V

## Tamara Parker



Tamara began her training in performing arts at Sudbury Secondary School, and has now returned after a long hiatus to acting. She also participated

in PlaySmelter 2014.

## April Perrin



April is currently a second year student in St. Lawrence College's Musical Theatre Performance Program. There, she performed as Patricia Fodor in Crazy for You, was a featured dancer and soloist in a Pop/Rock music revue called Now and Forever: A Diva Spectacular and in both productions was the dance captain. She is extremely excited to be



back in Sudbury and participating in this project.

## Cassandra Rene



Cassandra Rene just finished her first year at Laurentian University as a BFA in Theatre Performance. She is also Co-Artistic director of Awkward Owl Productions here in Sudbury. She was recently in Hay Fever at Thorneloe University casted as Jackie Coryton.

## Kristin Shepherd



Kristin Shepherd is a playwright, actor, and filmmaker from North Bay, ON. Curved is her third play.

## Morgan St. Onge



Morgan is back in Sudbury after completing her first year at George Brown Theatre School in Toronto and is

honoured to return to the PlaySmelter Festival after reading last year's 'The Intermediaries' by Karen Thistle. Select theatre credits: Black Dog: 4 vs the Wrlld, Charlotte's Web (STC), Muskeg & Money (North Road Theatre). Thank you so much for joining us this evening to support our local artists. Love to my family.

## Judi Straughan



Judi is truly pleased to be part of Playsmelter 2015. Her rewarding career includes: 31 years of teaching English and Drama, 9 years of teaching Theatre at Thorneloe,

16 years of working at Sudbury Theatre Centre. She admits to being related to Methuselah. She feels fortunate that highlights of her teaching and theatre career are too numerous to mention. A standing O to each of the talented playwrights in the Smelter. Thank you to Lisa and Matthew for making it all happen; hats off to everyone present for supporting new works.

## Pandora Topp



Pandora's work includes the world premiere of *The (Post) Mistress* by Tomson Highway at Magnus Theatre (2011), the lead role of *La Mère*

in *Sahel* with Le TNO and recently North Road Theatre's *The Unplugging* by Yvette Nolan. She is best known for *Café Piaf* and will be performing June 23rd at Casa Loma. Catch her this August in YES Theatre's *Fiddler on the Roof* in the role of Golde. Pandora is a nominee for the Mayor's Celebration of the Arts Awards in the category of Outstanding Mid-Career Artist, to be announced May 21st.

## Greg Tremblay



Greg has appeared in a number of PTD performances and has also documented the process for two years as a filmmaker. As a screenwriter he is

currently shopping around a television series, "Park Brown" and developing a feature thriller for a local producer. Performing in PTD allows him to grow as a writer and stay connected with some of this city's greatest artists and performers.

## Abby Yzereef



Abigail Yzereef is a graduate from the Bachelor of Fine Arts program at Laurentian University majoring in Theatre Performance and minoring in Motion

Picture Arts. She participated in this year's Playwright's Junction and has done a few original works in town such as Verve's collective creation *Wired and Disconnected* and Verve's *Christmas Special Snowed In*. She aspires to continue her education at Guelph University for a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing.

## MASTER CLASS

### Physical Theatre Creation with Trevor Copp

Saturday, May 9, 2:00pm – 6:00pm



PlaySmelter also offers the chance for creators to develop through their annual master classes. This year, Trevor Copp, international touring artist and Artistic Director of Tottering Biped Theatre, will teach this class on how to create a script working with images and physical notations. This workshop is especially tailored for creators working with movement. Participants are encouraged to bring a small piece of text with a strong image. Space in the class is limited – to reserve a spot, please contact: [matthew@patthedog.org](mailto:matthew@patthedog.org)

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**Matkai Burmaster-Hansen, Camil Rochon and The Verve**  
**The Caruso Club**  
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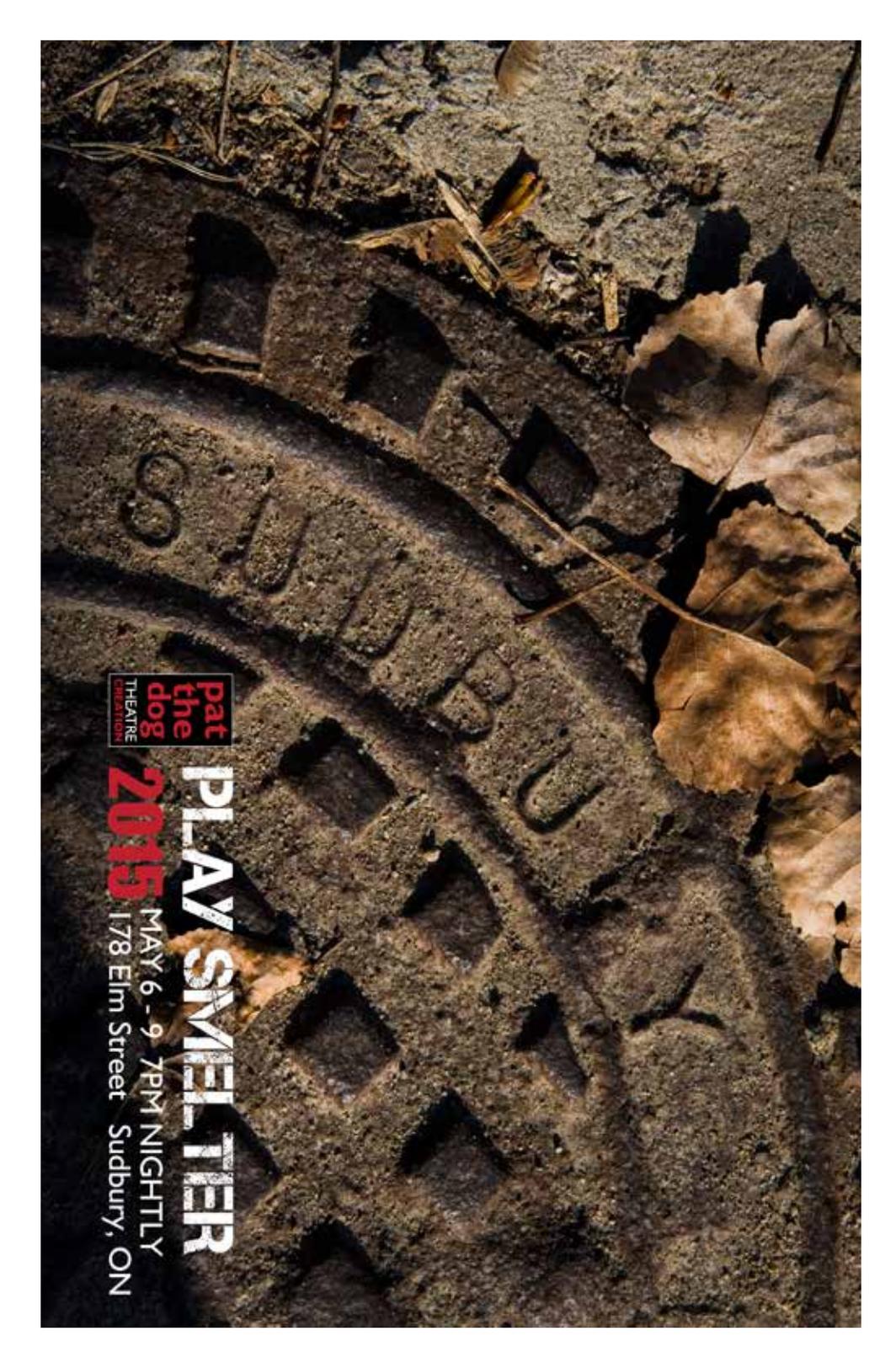
## PLAY SMELTER

FESTIVAL COORDINATOR **MATTHEW HEITI** ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **LISA O'CONNELL**  
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GENERAL MANAGER **ANGELA VAN DEN HEUVEL**  
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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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