

MEDIA RELEASE

WORKSHOP WEST RELAUNCHES WELL-LOVED THEATRE IN OLD STRATHCONA AS NEW HOME

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 24, 2022

Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre (WWPT) is thrilled to announce its move to 8529 Gateway Boulevard, former home of Theatre Network and Catalyst Theatre. WWPT is relaunching the performance venue as **The Gateway Theatre** - dedicated to the development, production, promotion, and presentation of new Canadian playwrights and their plays.

Gerry Potter founded Workshop West in his personal apartment located in South Edmonton in **1978**. From the very beginning Potter's mission was to form a theatre company dedicated to showcasing the best and most exciting new Canadian plays to local audiences. In the original press release Potter said, "At Workshop West, we believe you deserve the opportunity to experience plays that accurately reflect your lives as Albertans and Canadians. Our scores of talented playwrights deserve a chance for their work to be seen regularly in this city."

- Gerry Potter

Over the company's **43-year history**, Workshop West has moved to several locations including the **McLeod building** and later, their **current home near Kingsway at 11516 103 St NW**, called 'The Third Space' by some, where they've operated for the past 29 years since 1993.

Heather Inglis took the helm as Artistic Producer in 2019/2020 on the cusp of the pandemic. "Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre is a professional company that is part of the intrinsic fibre of our city's cultural life. For 43 years WWPT has celebrated local stories, nurtured artists, and created space for cultural exchange. The new space will enhance Workshop West's ability to serve playwrights, allowing them to develop works in the space in which they will be performed. The Gateway Theatre will draw new audiences to a vibrant community hub dedicated to spotlighting and promoting local artists, continuing the company's legacy of giving new plays the chance to live and breathe in three dimensions in front of local audiences."

-Heather Inglis

Over the years, Workshop West has garnered a plethora of awards and accolades both locally, and across Canada. Some of the playwrights they've worked with include Carol Bolt, Sharon Pollock, Stewart Lemoine, Brad Fraser – premiering the international hit *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love*, Conni Massing, Vern Thiessen – with his work *Apple*, Marty Chan, Mieko Ouchi – with her play *The Red Priest: Eight Ways to Say Goodbye*, Daniel McIvor, Elyne Quan, Katherine Koller, Trevor Schmidt, Nicole Moeller, Kenneth Brown, Cat Walsh, Jason Chinn, Megan Dart, Cathleen Rootsart, Beth Graham, and Kenneth T. Williams – with his internationally renowned *Café Daughter*, to name but a few.

Workshop West prides itself on community building with its storied history of programs like the Loud & Queer Cabaret curated by the venerable Darrin Hagen and the Canoe Theatre Festival which was home to Black Arts Matter, and Sound Off: Deaf Theatre Festivals the last two of which have since become independent entities. With this community focus, Workshop West is looking forward to cultivating new relationships in the Old Strathcona Arts District. The move to the Gateway Theatre marks the first time in Workshop West's history that the company will manage its own, autonomous, public theatre venue.

Rapid Fire Theatre has joined Workshop West in residence at The Gateway Theatre through the 2022 theatre season.

WWPT is excited to continue with the remainder of the 2021-2022 season at The Gateway Theatre beginning with the return of the **Springboards New Play Festival** this **March 21-27**, followed by the world premiere of ***Tell Us What Happened*** by **Michelle Robb** **May 12-22**, and closing with **The Shoe Project** on **June 18 and 19**.

Contact Liam Salmon to book interviews and space tours in advance of the official Media Launch on February 24th, 2022.

Liam Salmon
Community Outreach & Audience Relations
community@workshopwest.org

Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre is a registered charity that relies on the generous support of donors, sponsors, and foundation and government funders. For more information on Workshop West's Mandate, Mission Statement and Vision, visit:
<https://www.workshopwest.org/about-us-mandate>