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## MEDIA RELEASE

### WORKSHOP WEST PRESENTS *SPRINGBOARDS NEW PLAY FESTIVAL* FEATURING LOCAL, PROVINCIAL, AND NATIONAL TALENT

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre (WWPT) is proud to announce the line-up for their Springboards New Play Festival.** All festival events will be held at the **Gateway Theatre (8529 Gateway Blvd) from March 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2023, at 7:30pm.**

To make this event as accessible as possible, **all tickets are pay-what-you-wish at the door.** Advance tickets can be purchased online for \$15.

19 playwrights, 24 actors, 5 directors, and 3 dramaturges. A story-telling tsunami in a warm and welcoming cabaret setting, Springboards presents staged readings of plays, inviting audiences to play a vital role in supporting the evolution of these hot new works in progress. This year, Springboards expands its reach, featuring local, provincial, and national playwrights, including:

**Conni Massing (*Dead Letter*)** is one Edmonton and Alberta's long-standing venerable playwrights. *Dead Letter* is the 5th of her plays to be developed at Workshop West. Four of her previous plays have premiered at Workshop West (*Dustsluts, Homesick, Matara, and The Invention of Romance*).

**James Odin Wade (*Everyone Is Doing Fine*)** is a winner of the 2014 Alberta Playwriting Competition and the National One-Act Playwriting Competition. With a BFA from the University of Lethbridge and an MFA in playwriting from the University of Calgary, this gutsy young Calgary-based playwright explores the role and power of narrative in people's lives.

**Stephen Massicotte (*Stars on Her Shoulders*)** skyrocketed to international renown with his 2002 premiere of *Mary's Wedding*, which continues to be produced across the US, Canada, and the UK. His plays have premiered in Calgary, Toronto, and New York (Off Broadway). Workshop West is thrilled to bring his latest play to Edmonton Springboards audiences.

Additional staged readings include scripts from the **EdmonTEN** 10-minute play competition, featuring **Bridgette Boyko, Victoria Kibblewhite, AJ Hrooshkin, Linda Wood-Edwards, and Calla Wright**. The festival concludes with the lauded **Springboards Cabaret**, featuring new play excerpts from **Trevor Duplessis, Naomi Duska, Gavin Dyer, Linda Grass, Jacquelin Lamb, Danielle LaRose, Nicole Moeller, Shawn Marshall, Sabrina Samuel, Celia Taylor, and Cat Walsh!**

The Springboards Festival represents the very heart of Workshop West's identity: bringing artists and audiences together in support and celebration of Canadian talent, innovation, new voices, and new stories. Springboards is the most enjoyable celebration of playwrights and storytelling the season has to offer. Come as you are and pay what you wish.

## Summary of Events:

### March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 pm

**EDMONTen**, in partnership with Alberta Playwrights' Network

Featuring 10-minute plays by **Bridgette Boyko, Victoria Kibblewhite, AJ Hrooshkin, Linda Wood-Edwards, and Calla Wright.**

### March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30 pm

***Everyone Is Doing Fine* by James Odin Wade**

Art, sex, and capitalism collide in this fast-paced comedy-drama. When two listless art school friends are brought into the employ of a hedge-fund manager, liaisons are dangerous, the figures are high, and futures are bought and sold.

### March 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm

***Deadletter* by Conni Massing**

"Like all desperate people, she was hungry for omens." In this small-scale mystery by Edmonton favourite Conni Massing, Amy finds that the mundane mysteries of lost socks and redirected mail are much more the happenstance.

### March 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm

***Stars On Her Shoulders* by Stephen Massicotte**

From the author of the Canadian Classic *Mary's Wedding* comes a new play about what it means to be a war hero. In May 1918, No. 3 Canadian Stationary Hospital was bombed by a German plane. No one who was there was ever the same again.

### March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm

**The Springboards Cabaret – In Celebration of World Theatre Day!**

This smash-hit storytelling smorgasbord features the talent and skill of Albertan writers, close to home and beyond, with their freshest works in progress. This cheeky and cheerful evening of new play excerpts, delivered with imagination and verve, is not to be missed. Featuring playwrights **Trevor Duplessis, Naomi Duska, Gavin Dyer, Linda Grass, Jacquelin Lamb, Danielle LaRose, Nicole Moeller, Shawn Marshall, Sabrina Samuel, Celia Taylor, Cat Walsh,** and directors **Tracy Carroll, Darrin Hagen, Heather Inglis, Margaret Legere, Andrew Ritchie, and Davina Stewart.**

Tickets available at [workshopwest.org](http://workshopwest.org)

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For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:  
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Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre is a registered charity that relies on the generous support of donors, sponsors, and foundation and government funders. (See Below)

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