

## MEDIA RELEASE

### WORKSHOP WEST RELAUNCHES THE POPULAR SPRINGBOARDS NEW PLAY FESTIVAL WITH 23 PLAYWRIGHTS FEATURED

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre (WWPT)** announces the lineup for the **Springboards New Play Festival**. **23 playwrights' work will be featured**, read by 33 Edmonton actors from March 22 – 27<sup>th</sup> at **Gateway Theatre, 8529 Gateway Blvd NW**. Springboards will mark the grand opening of Workshop West's re-invention of this well-loved Edmonton theatre venue.

The Springboards New Play Festival invites audiences to play a vital part in the construction of hot up-and-coming works in progress. This small-scale festival features staged readings of plays in development in a welcoming cabaret setting, showcasing Edmonton's playwrights in a series of not-to-be-missed staged readings which offer audiences a peek behind the curtain into the heart of a playwright's creation process.

The festival **will feature 4 mainstage readings of new plays** by Mūkonzi Wa Mūsyoki, Josh Languedoc, Cat Walsh and Liam Salmon. **As well as two cabarets** featuring the works of Stephen Allard, Jessy Arden, Joanna Blundell, Brett Dahl, Pat Darbasie, Chris Dodd, Bevin Dooley, Collin Doyle, Seth Gilfillan, Linda Grass, Katherine Koller, Leslea Kroll, Marina Mair-Sanchez, Rebecca Merkle, Hayley Moorhouse, Nicole Moeller, Amanda Samuelson, Amena Shehab, and Trevor Schmidt.

Since the beginning of her tenure at Workshop West, it has been Artistic Producer Heather Inglis' intention to bring back this wildly popular program from the '90s, originally spearheaded by former Artistic Director, David Mann. For Inglis, the festival represents the very essence of what makes Workshop West special. It brings artists and audiences together to celebrate Canadian talent, innovation and new thought.

"When you come to Workshop West, you are being invited into the ground floor of what is up-and-coming in our city and our province. You have the opportunity to see which playwrights you should watch for and the artists you are bound to see on stages in the coming months and years to come. You are being invited into the heart of new artistic creation in our city.– Heather Inglis.

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Summary of Events: (More at: <https://www.workshopwest.org/springboards-2> )

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**Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 PM**

***Fumbo*** by Mūkonzi wa Mūsyoki

In Nairobi, a Kenyan woman is willing to go to the ends of the earth to take care of her sister. Born out of the modern African world yet still influenced by traditional culture, *Fumbo* explores the knotty ways we try to 'be there' for our loved ones, even as we trip over the weight of that responsibility.

**Director:** Vern Thiessen

**Dramaturg:** Abigail Ameley Quaye

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**Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 PM**

***Under Pressure: A Cabaret***

This cabaret evening showcases 4 short dramatic works about courage, resilience, and how pressure inevitability creates diamonds. The evening begins with excerpts from the work of four up-and-coming playwrights' **Marina Mair-Sanchez, Amanda Samuelson, Amena Shehab & Joanna Blundell**. Part 2 features a short one-act play by **Leslea Kroll** *The Light Fishers* that asks us to consider what it means to care for the most vulnerable among us.

**Directors:** Amy DeFelice / Glenda Sterling

**Dramaturg:** Beth Graham

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**Thursday, March 24, 7:30 PM**

***IN-COR-RI-GI-BLE: The Legend of Thundervoice*** by Josh Languedoc

This comic-book-inspired journey is based on the true story of two Indigenous brothers on the road to becoming young men. Thundervoice and Thunderfist battle life as survivors of the 60's scoop. What is their true identity? Where do they belong? What does it mean to have a family? How can they triumph over the terrors of the foster care system?

**Director:** Yvette Nolan

**Dramaturg:** Darrin Hagen

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**Friday, March 25, 7:30 PM**

***The Feast of All Saints*** by Cat Walsh

On Halloween night, Grace insists her children participate in a memorial for their recently deceased sister. But as the tricks and treats become more and more horrifying, the family realizes that not all monsters wear masks.

***\*\*\* THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS IS INSPIRED BY CLASSIC HORROR FILMS AND AUDIENCES SHOULD EXPECT CONTENT THAT HONOURS THE TRADITIONS OF THE GENRE.***

**Director:** Jim Guedo

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**Saturday, March 26, 7:30 PM**

***Subscribe or Like*** by Liam Salmon

Rachel and Miles are struggling. They work long hours at low-paying jobs and struggle to find meaning. Will their lives ever really take off? With few options available, they turn to the 'wild west' of the internet. How far will they go for digital fame and fortune?

**Director:** Heather Inglis

**Dramaturg:** Beth Graham

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**Sunday, March 27, 7:30 PM**

***Alive and Kicking Cabaret*** - Presented in Partnership with Script Salon

Pssssst. Edmonton is host to one of the finest theatre communities in the country. This evening of songs and excerpts from 12 exhilarating works in progress penned by some of Edmonton's most exciting artists, is a celebration of the creative riches our city has to offer. Featuring works by **Stephen Allard & Seth Gilfillan, Jessy Ardern, Brett Dahl, Pat Darbasie, Chris Dodd, Bevin Dooley, Collin Doyle, Linda Grass, Katherine Koller, Rebecca Merkley, Nicole Moeller, Hayley Moorhouse, and Trevor Schmidt** - *Alive and Kicking* will be a spirited finale to the festival not to be missed.

**Curator:** Darrin Hagen

**Director:** Tracy Carroll

**Festival Staff:**

Festival Dramaturg - **Darrin Hagen**

Festival Design Facilitator - **Brian Bast**

Cabaret Lighting By - **Roy Jackson Design**

Festival Sound Designer - **Paul Morgan Donald**

Festival Stage Manager - **Betty Hushlak**

Production Assistants - **Bevin Dooley** and **Galen Hite**

Festival Technician - **Erin Birkenbergs**

Festival Admin Assistant - **Betty Hushlak**

Photo and Poster Design - **DB Photography**

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For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

Liam Salmon

Community Outreach & Audience Relations

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Workshop West, Playwright's Theatre is a registered charity that relies on the generous support of donors, sponsors, and foundation and government funders.