

SHADOW PATH

THEATRE
PRODUCTIONS



THEATRE OUT OF THE SHADOWS

A New Kind of Classical Festival

Featuring Female Playwrights



4 influential Playwrights
who shaped and are shaping the
world of theatre



4 Periods in Herstory
from antiquity
to the apocalypse



4 Countries
Germany, England, the USA
and of course, Canada

4 INFLUENTIAL PLAYWRIGHTS

Roswitha
935 - 1002



Hrotsvitha, also known as Roswitha was an historian, dramatist and poet from the Ottonian Dynasty. She is the first known female playwright. Working in Latin, she wrote legends, comedies and plays. Hrotsvitha kept her writings secret until the Abbess encouraged her to present her works publicly. Hrotsvitha's works presented a Christian alternative to the pagan writings of Roman playwright Terence. Where Terence told stories about women who were weak and morally corrupt, Hrotsvitha's focused on virtuous women with strong faith and who persevered through adversity. Deeply influenced by Latin and Greek legends of the early church, Hrotsvitha's plays explore themes of sacrifice and martyrdom. As one of few women to have written about her life during the Middle Ages, Hrotsvitha's work provides one of the only first-hand perspectives of women from that time.

Elizabeth Inchbald
1753 - 1821



As a successful actress, playwright, editor, novelist and drama critic, Elizabeth Inchbald was one of the leading literary figures of the late eighteenth century. Inchbald followed her brother George to London to pursue an acting career when she was eighteen years old. Because of a speech impediment, she had trouble establishing her career, but after marrying Joseph Inchbald (who was twice her age) her career picked up momentum. As well as writing original works, Inchbald also worked on translations and adaptations, including several pieces by the German dramatist August von Kotzebue. Those translations were especially popular because of Inchbald's flair for bringing characters to life. In 1791 Inchbald published a novel, *A Simple Story*. The first volume sold out in under a month and went on to become the most popular book written by a woman in over a decade.

Marita Bonner
1898 - 1971



Born on June 16, 1898 in Boston, Massachusetts, Marita Bonner was a talented pianist and excelled in music and German. In college, she majored in English while continuing to study German and music. Bonner went into teaching in Massachusetts, West Virginia, Washington DC and then finally in Chicago where her writing career took off. She became an accomplished writer, essayist and playwright who is commonly associated with the Harlem Renaissance. Bonner regularly discussed poverty, urban living, colorism, feminism, and racism in her works. She also was one of few who wrote about multi-ethnic communities. Her greatest achievement was emphasizing a strong racial and gender identity, as well she was the first to explore intersectionality, specifically the black female experience in the early 20th century.

Yvette Nolan
1961 -



Born in Saskatchewan to an Algonquin mother and an Irish immigrant father, Yvette Nolan graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1997. She is an accomplished playwright: her plays include *BLADE*, *Job's Wife*, *Annie Mae's Movement*, *The Birds* (a modern adaptation of Aristophanes' comedy), and *The Unplugging*. As a director, she has staged many productions for Gwaandak Theatre, Gordon Tootoosis Nîkânîwin Theatre, Signal Theatre, Globe Theatre and Western Canada Theatre, and served as the artistic director of Native Earth Performing Arts from 2003 to 2011. She is the author of *Medicine Shows: Indigenous Performance Culture* (Playwrights Canada Press, 2015). Most recently winning the Gascon-Thomas Award for Lifetime Achievement and the Gina Wilkinson Prize recognizing her successful career, Yvette is one of Canada's most influential theatre-artists working in various capacities, as a playwright, director, dramaturg and educator, to name a few.



Director:	Maissa Bessada
Sapientia:	Mandy Roveda
Hadrian:	John Echano
Antiochus:	Gordon Harper
Faith:	McKenna Ramsay
Hope:	Tahlia Zaloski
Charity:	Demi-Lee Bainbridge
Matron:	Blair Woodward

Written in the 10th century AD 970 by Roswitha, the first known female playwright Sapientia and her three daughters are newly arrived in Rome to spread the word about god.

But words are weapons. The emperor Hadrian decrees they must be stopped. After cajoling and entreating fail, the most brutal tortures and humiliations ever devised are brought to bear on the children.

Can the martyr's palm prevail against the might of Rome? Where does true power lie – with the armies of an empire or in the belief in the hearts of young children?



Maissa Bessada has worked with Shadowpath since 2013. In 2019, she was named Shadowpath Artist of the Year. Maissa writes and produces the sci-fi satire audio drama, *The Destiny of Special Agent Ace Galaksi*. acegalaksi.com



Mandy Roveda (she/her) is a theatre-maker and educator currently pursuing a Master's Degree in directing at York University with a focus on reimagining current theatre teaching methodologies and traditional rehearsal practices. Mandy has worked in TV, film, and theatre across Canada, Thailand, Taiwan, & South Korea. She was the recipient of Shadowpath's Artist of the Year award in 2016.



John Echano (he/him) is a Filipino-Canadian actor originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is a graduate of Humber College's Theatre Performance program and received training as a Factory Theatre Mechanical.



Gordon Haper is a Toronto-based actor who has been studying theatre and film work since graduating from the University of Guelph. Gordon works tirelessly to improve his work, further developing his understanding of storytelling through improv, screenwriting, voicework, and film production.



McKenna Ramsay (she/her) is a voicer and actor from Toronto, and beaming to share the works of Roswitha with you. As a theatre trained voice actor, McKenna has been working in animation, video games, and audio dramas from across the continent.



Tahlia Zaloski is a Toronto based actor that has been in a variety of productions that took place on stage, film, television, and animation. Her trademark voice can be heard in a variety of different productions.



Demi-Lee Bainbridge is a Toronto-based actor and singer currently completing her Bachelor of Performing Arts at Capilano University. Previously, she studied classical theatre at George Brown Theatre School. She celebrated her graduation in April 2019.



Blair Woodward is an actress in Toronto originally from St. Petersburg, Florida. She trained at the Pinellas County Centre for the Arts in St. Petersburg, Florida; the International Arts Institute in Kiefersfelden, Germany; and received her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with a music minor from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida.



Director: Erin Jones
Buddy: Sam Osei
Dot: Chantal Forde
Exit Mann: Cam Parkes

Written in 1929 by Marita Bonner - HARLEM RENAISSANCE

Meet Buddy and Dot. They are neither related or married, just very good friends for a very long time.

Dot wakes up one day and tells Buddy she has a date. The tension between the two rise to a point of no return as Exit Mann appears.

The play involves three characters, who are used as symbols to represent beliefs of the early 20th century, including colorism and sexism in America



Erin Jones is an actor, writer, digital storyteller, trainer and emerging director. She has performed on stages across the GTA and was recently part of Shadowpath Theatre and Newmarket Public Library's virtual production of Exit, An Illusion.



Sam Osei is extensively trained in film and television performance. He's studied at several well-respected acting studios in the GTA and is eager to increase his experience in all facets of the acting world. Sam is an immigrant from Ghana, a father to a one-year old boy, a husband to a wonderful wife, a lawyer and a fintech consultant. He uses these diverse worlds and experiences to bring his characters to life.



Chantal Forde is a writer, director, actor, and educator in the GTA with a passion for new works and theatrical opportunities that challenge and inspire. Chantal and her husband, Tim Cadeny, are the creative team behind Oakville's Holiday Pantomime for the last eight years, where they have created hilariously twisted up versions of Aladdin, The Wizard of Oz, Beauty and the Beast, and more.



Cam Parkes is a graduate of Second City's Pen-to-Performance writing program, as well as its Sketch Conservatory program. He is also a Toronto Fringe regular, half of the improv duo Fun People!, and performs (virtually!) in improv and sketch shows around Toronto.



Director:	Alex Karolyi
Lord Rakeland:	Letréal Farquharson
Sir Adam Contest:	Tim Cadeny
Mr. Contest:	Cam Parkes
Lady Autumn:	Jillian Welsh
Lady Contest:	Sofia Vacca
Mrs. Hamford:	Chandra Pepper (virtual) Jillian Welsh (live)

Written in 1794 by Elizabeth Inchbald POST-RESTORATION

A comedy in 2-acts featuring Sir Adam Contest and his new young bride, who has the happiness of constantly hearing herself compared to the much beloved first wife Sir Contest accidentally lost at sea. After a falling out with his son, Sir Contest finally agrees to allow him to return and make amends while also introducing his new love interest.



Alex Karolyi trained at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts, York University and the Randolph Academy. Alex created Shadowpath after performing at the magical 2003 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Reinventing herself as an Artistic Director, producer and playwright led her to receive innovation, entrepreneur and leadership awards, fellowships and playwright residencies. Her plays have been produced in Toronto, Vancouver, Vermont and the UK.



Sofia Vacca is an actor, dancer, performer, and creator. She recently graduated from the Acting Conservatory program at York University. Along with her theatre training at York, she has also been trained in film/tv at Armstrong Acting Studios, LB Acting Studio and improv training at The Second City Toronto.



Chandra Pepper is an accomplished actress, playwright, director and instructor. Her extensive and varied career has allowed her to explore many disciplines; theatre, film, television, improv, and even stand up! Chandra currently spends much of her time teaching and directing teens and adults with diverse abilities. She is passionate about giving opportunities for everyone to find their gifts and fly.



Tim Cadeny has a BFA in Theatre from UBC. He has spent the past eight years co-writing and acting in the Oakville Holiday Pantomime as well as working as a director for BurlOak Theatre Group. He is currently the President of BurlOak Theatre Group. Tim hosts and produces "Stage Presence" a podcast where theatre professionals share their process and stories to help Community Theatre artists take their craft to the next stage.



Letréal Farquharson is a Canadian actor with Jamaican roots. This play will be his third appearance with Shadowpath. Letréal is determined to tell the stories that the world wants to hear. He will continue to make a lane for himself while collaborating with great minds along the way.



Jillian Welsh she/her is a Dora nominated actor and winner of a Canadian Comedy Award. She's a current cast member of the Second City National Touring Company and the all-Queer sketch show Extravaganza Eleganza. You can also catch her on some popular T.V. shows including Working Moms, Baroness Von Sketch Show and Odd Squad Mobil Unit.



Cam Parkes is a graduate of Second City's Pen-to-Performance writing program, as well as its Sketch Conservatory program. He is also a Toronto Fringe regular, half of the improv duo Fun People!, and performs (virtually!) in improv and sketch shows around Toronto.



Director:	Rhonda Lucy
Elena:	Faith Howe
Bern:	Trina Moyan
Seamus:	Brady Madsen

Written in 2013 by Yvette Nolan CONTEMPORARY

Forced to rely upon traditional wisdom for their survival, Elena and Bern retreat from the remains of civilization to a desolate landscape where they attempt to continue their lives after the end of the world. When a charismatic stranger from the village arrives seeking their aid, the women must decide whether they will use their knowledge of the past to give the society that rejected them the chance at a future



Rhonda Lucy – Tsiktsinensawe Yakonkwe is a 2 Spirit Mohawk and European ancestry of Wolf Clan based in Toronto. She pulls from her Indigenous upbringing and European folk lore backgrounds for unique blends of story telling through different mediums. Founder of Sun Raven Arts and the Toronto Indigenous Filmmakers Collective. Named Indigenous Youth Leader of the year in 2016 by Inspirit Foundation for her 15 year plus social work.



Faith Howe is an avid participant and observer of life and as such follows where her heart leads. Her love of storytelling lives deep within her cells, with Mohawk, Six Nations, Turtle Clan and Celtic ancestral roots. Her 20-year career in the non-profit sector allowed her to shine a caring light on difficult community issues through published articles and columns. Today Faith feels fortunate to follow her inspiration into unexpected places as she enthusiastically dives deeper into her 3rd act as an award-winning budding filmmaker, author and now ACTOR!



Trina Moyan is nehiyaw iskwew (Plains Cree) from the Frog Lake First Nation in Northern Alberta, Treaty 6 medicine chest territory. Trina has worked in front and behind the camera for the length of her career and produced numerous independent productions for the CBC and APTN. She is a performer with the Encounter Collective, that mounted the first ever Indigenous play, *Encounters at the Edge of the Woods*, at Hart House Theatre in 2020. Trina's life and work are inspired by her two boys and her mother Jeanne, a residential school survivor.



Brady Madsen is a queer emerging theatre artist based in Toronto. He has produced with the Paprika Festival; interned with Theatre Gargantua; and taught at Ovation! Performing Arts Academy. Currently he performs for Pirate Life Toronto, doing children's theatre shows on a pirate ship! When not working in theatre, Brady serves as a member of the Canadian Naval Reserves.