

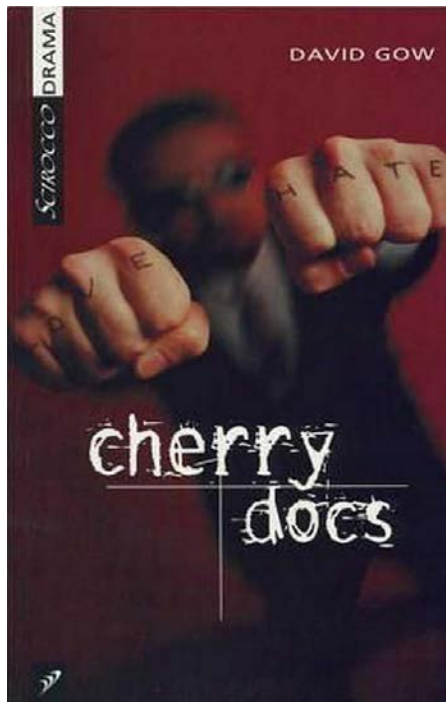


J. GORDON SHILLINGFORD

P U B L I S H I N G I N C

BOOKS THAT ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, AND INSPIRE

ESSENTIAL READING



“With divisive politics and fringe ideologies dominating the public’s consciousness of late, David Gow’s *Cherry Docs* can seem like a premise ripped straight from today’s news headlines, thanks to its plot, which is structured around a hate crime and its consequences. The fact that the play was written over 20 years ago dulls none of its incendiary actions; instead, it highlights its urgency and wisdom in a current climate of social unease.” — *Georgia Straight*

“*Cherry Docs* advocates the hard work of emotional, spiritual and visceral transformation on all sides, without which racial animus can never be overcome.” — *Los Angeles Times*

“... a provocative exploration of the inescapable and insidious presence of hatred in our society.” — *Toronto Star*

September's featured title is David Gow's *Cherry Docs*. In this widely produced two-hander drama, a Jewish lawyer is assigned by Legal Aid to defend a neo-Nazi skinhead charged with a racially motivated murder. As he develops a defence for the skinhead, the lawyer is forced to examine the limits of his own liberalism, and the demons underlying it. *Cherry Docs* is an unblinking examination of hatred, the explosive effect it has on our society, and the hurdles that confront us as we attempt to eradicate it. Although *Cherry Docs* was first produced in 1998, the play's themes are more relevant than ever.

Cherry Docs is now available in both [paperback](#) and [audiobook](#).

[See More](#)

THE INTERVIEW

Beverley Cooper is a writer, teacher, and actor. Her plays include: *Clue in the Fast Lane* (with Ann-Marie MacDonald); *Thin Ice* (with Banuta Rubess, Chalmers/Dora Award); *The Eyes of Heaven*; *The Woman in White* (from the novel by Wilkie Collins); *The Lonely Diner: Al Capone in Euphemia Township*; *Janet Wilson Meets the Queen* (nominated for the Prix Rideau Award), *If Truth Be Told* and *The Other: A Strange Christmas Tale*. *Innocence Lost: A Play about Steven Truscott* was a finalist for a Governor General's Literary Award and was on the *Globe and Mail* bestsellers list, a first for a Canadian playwright. She has also written for television, film, and extensively for CBC Radio Drama. Beverley is the coordinator of PGC's The CASA Project, which supports women playwrights living in South Africa.



What do you like most about being a playwright?

I love all the different elements, each using different parts of my brain and psyche, that go into making a play. The curious part of my brain loves researching strands of the play that can be historic, scientific, or cultural (though I have to be careful not to get lost down the research rabbit hole for too long). The solitary, searching part of my brain loves taking my coffee up to my office in the morning and working through a scene: endlessly trying to understand what it means to be human. The collaborative, social part of my nature loves being in rehearsals and watching the creative team bring my words and ideas to life, working through problems together. And then finally, sharing it all with an audience; which is both exhilarating and terrifying. I suppose that part represents my daredevil side...?

Can you tell us about some of the work you have done during the pandemic?

I've found it hard to write. There are so many life-altering distractions! But, with no productions, I still need to put food on the table. I've been very lucky to have creatively fulfilling work, teaching, dramaturging plays, and directing audiobooks for Penguin Random House. I have a small grant to relook at my work through an audio lens. I worked in radio drama for years, so this work takes me back to my roots! I also run a small charity that supports women playwrights in South Africa, so that also keeps me very busy.

[Read the Full Interview](#)

IN THE NEWS

On September 30, 2021, Canadians will observe a new federal statutory holiday: the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day serves as a reminder to us all that the real work of reconciliation has not yet begun, and it asks us to contemplate the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools.

If you are interested in reading more:

[*Reckoning*](#) by Tara Beagan and Andy Moro (Article 11 Theatre) deals with the effects of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process on those who testified, and on those who witnessed their testimony.

[*Let the People Speak: Oppression in a Time of Reconciliation*](#) by Sheilla Jones looks at the history of treaties across the country and how the annuities associated with them could be fairly honoured and more equitably distributed.

Corey Payette's powerful musical [*Children of God*](#) explores one family's experience of residential school and its painful aftermath.

The dramas [*bug*](#) by Yolanda Bonnell and [*In Care*](#) by Kenneth T. Williams feature characters who experience intergenerational trauma caused by residential schools.

Many of our authors are available for classroom visits, in person or via Zoom. If there's an author you'd like to invite to your class, [contact us](#) for more information.

SEPTEMBER IS WORLD ALZHEIMER'S MONTH



[See More](#)

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- ***In Theatres:***

Chase the Ace by Mark Crawford

[Blyth Festival](#), Blyth, ON, September 8–19, 2021

Serving Elizabeth by Marcia Johnson

[Stratford Festival](#), Stratford, ON, August 28–September 26, 2021

[Thousand Islands Playhouse](#), Gananoque, ON, October 7–30, 2021

[Belfry Theatre](#), Victoria, BC, November 23–December 19, 2021

I Don't Know by Ahmad Meree

[Impact 21 Festival](#), Kitchener, ON, October 1–3, 2021

Spinning You Home by Sally Stubbs

[Jericho Arts Centre](#), Vancouver, BC, October 7–31, 2021

A reading of *Welcome to My Home* by Falen Johnson

[Her Words Festival](#), Toronto, ON, October 24

Miss Caledonia by Melody Johnson

[Thousand Islands Playhouse](#), Gananoque, ON, November 4–28, 2021

The Runner by Christopher Morris

[Tarragon Theatre](#), Toronto, ON, January 2022

[Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre](#), Winnipeg, MB, March 31–April 16, 2022

Controlled Damage by Andrea Scott
[Grand Theatre](#), London, ON, February 22–March 12, 2022

Light by Rosa Labordé
[Tarragon Theatre](#), Toronto, ON, February–March 2022

Orphan Song by Sean Dixon
[Tarragon Theatre](#), Toronto, ON, March–April 2022

The Herd by Kenneth T. Williams
[Citadel Theatre](#), Edmonton, AB, April 2 – 24, 2022

[Tarragon Theatre](#), Toronto, ON, May–June 2022

Online:

Inose/Field Trip by Yolanda Bonnell
Imagining Climates, a project of the Guelph Institute for Environmental
Research
Playing now at: <https://sites.uoguelph.ca/gier/field-trip/>

Year of the Rat, including a monodrama by Rosa Labordé
[Factory Theatre](#), February 24–March 5, 2022

PlayME dramas are now being broadcast on CBC Radio and Sirius XM. Scirocco plays such as *Prairie Nurse* (Marie Beath Badian), *The Runner* (Christopher Morris), *Vitals* (Rosamund Small), *Bed and Breakfast* (Mark Crawford), *Better Angels* (Andrea Scott), and *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)* (Rose Napoli) are available as PlayME dramas. You can also find PlayME plays on demand at: cbc.ca/playmeCBC

On the Screen:

The film version of Kate Hewlett's *The Swearing Jar*, starring Kathleen Turner, Adelaide Clemens, and Patrick J. Adams, has a release date of Spring 2022.

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