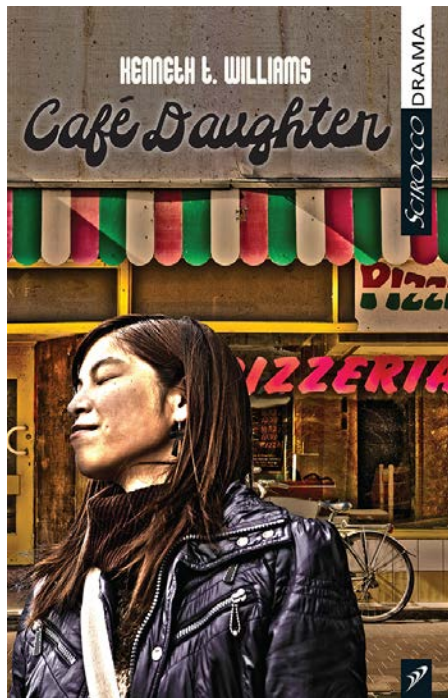




**J. GORDON SHILLINGFORD**  
P U B L I S H I N G I N C

BOOKS THAT ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, AND INSPIRE

## ESSENTIAL LISTENING



*"Café Daughter* serves an unnerving but inspired look at prejudice."

— *Calgary Herald*

"We want to hug and comfort the scared little girl, laugh with the rebellious First Nation girlfriend, knock down the insensitive bullies, rage at the thoughtless teachers who discriminate and put down the dreams of youth....a poignant, stirring and funny look at one girl's journey to realize that potential."

— *What's Up Yukon*

A fast-moving and uplifting story that proves that despite all odds, if you know yourself, believe in yourself, and seek your place in the world you can realize your dreams."

— *Alberta Native News*

In Saskatchewan in the 1950s and '60s, Yvette Wong must fight prejudice as she follows her dreams. Yvette's Chinese father runs the town café. Her mother Katherine, a residential school survivor, has charged Yvette with a secret: to never tell anyone she's part Cree. When Katherine dies, Yvette must carve a future uniquely her own.

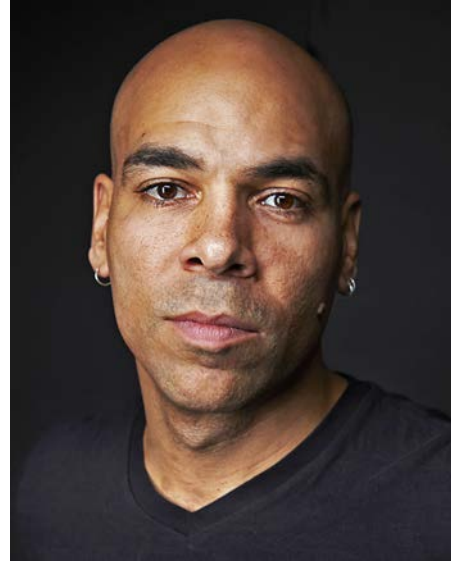
[Kenneth T. Williams's](#) solo-actor/multi-character drama is inspired by the true story of Senator Lillian Quan Dyck, a world-renowned doctor of neuroscience.

*The Café Daughter audiobook stars PJ Prudat. PJ is a Toronto-based, northern Saskatchewan-hailing, proud Métis actor and a writer of plays, poetry and creative fiction.*

See More

## THE INTERVIEW

**Beau Dixon** is a multi-award winning playwright, actor, composer and sound designer. Four of Beau's one-act plays have been performed in elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools throughout Canada. [\*Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story\*](#) won two Dora awards (Best New Play and Best Performance/ TYA Division), the Calgary Critics Award (Best Individual Performance), and two Betty Mitchell nominations (Best Touring Play, Best Male Performance). In 2016 he was a KM Hunter Award finalist and was also inducted into Peterborough's Pathway of Fame for his leadership in the dramatic arts. Beau is artistic director and co-founder of Firebrand Theatre. He continues to write and perform, dividing his time between Peterborough and Toronto.



**Beau, you have performed *Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story* many times in many different cities and towns. Do you know approximately how many shows you've done?**

I can't be too clear on how many shows I've done in total. It was originally created as a touring show for students in 2013. The first three years, I performed two shows a day for two months of the school year...So, that's 180 shows...Then, I started performing in theatres throughout Canada...So, maybe 500 performances...Wow! That's a lot!

**While you were researching Maurice Ruddick's life, you met with some of his family members. Can you tell us more about that experience?**

When I was doing research on the Springhill mining disaster, I knew it was important to hear from the community and anyone related to Maurice. His wife had just passed away, but I managed to get hold of one of his daughters. She was helpful, but not into sharing that much information about her father. A few weeks later, her older sister Valerie reached out to me and said she'd be willing to chat. Valerie was very helpful. I'd send her a draft of the script and she'd send it back to me with notes and offer certain changes for historical accuracy. As the playwright, it was such a gift to have close contact with someone that not only knew the protagonist so well, but Valerie was also a strong and positive force in

getting the play to where I wanted it to land for the audience. She was so enthusiastic, she actually asked me to write her into the play. So I did! That's where I got the idea of having her twelve-year-old self as one of the narrators of the story.

**When you wrote *Beneath Springhill*, you collaborated with Susan Newman and Rob Fortin, who wrote the music and lyrics, respectively. How did you decide to work together? How did that process work?**

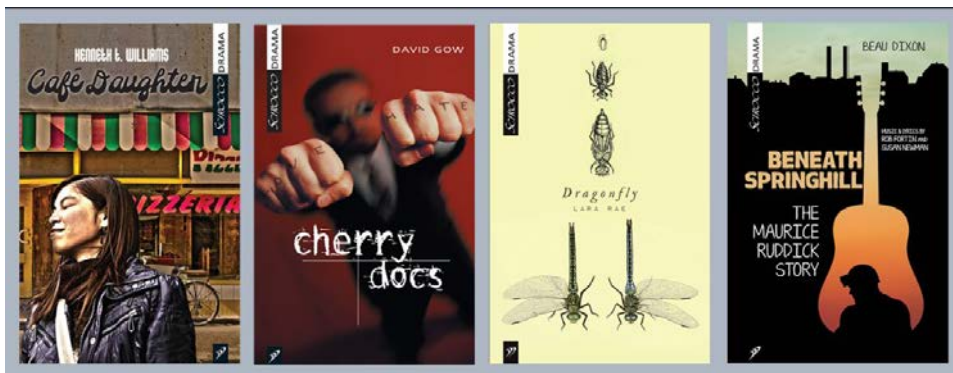
I've always been a fan of Susan and Rob's work. I consider them Canada's "Rogers and Hammerstein." There are very few writers like them in the theatre industry these days. The style of musicals has evolved so much—for better or worse. I knew I wanted to collaborate with writers who could write for a certain era, writers who understood the lifestyle of the working class in the mid-'50s. I gave them the script with asterisks scribbled in where I wanted music and lyrics. I had already booked a school tour, so I was on a bit of a deadline to get the play finished. They sent me songs two weeks later. And that was that. It was the most proficient writing partnership I've ever been a part of.

**Last month, you recorded an audiobook version of *Beneath Springhill* for Scirocco. How was that different from performing in front of a live audience? Why do you think it's important to have an audiobook version of the play available?**

It was really fun recording an audiobook of the play. It felt very natural. I've always wanted to do it. I think it's the perfect play for an audiobook. There's so much action in the dialogue, and the storytelling really takes you back to the radio days—it's a reminder of how effective a simple story is as a source of entertainment. I learned a lot about my writing and what to do with future storytelling. It's important to have an audiobook version of the play because it makes the story more accessible. It makes me happy to know that potentially anyone in the world can now hear my play. Of course, there's nothing like seeing it live in a theatre. But, sometimes it's nice to let your own imagination be guided by just the words.

[Read the Full Interview](#)

## ALL THE BEACH'S A STAGE



SUMMERTIME, AND THE LISTENING'S EASY

School's out for summer, but we know that educators will be using a good portion of their holiday time to plan for their upcoming courses. If you're looking for a fun and relaxing way to explore drama titles for your class reading lists, try listening to our new audiobook versions of plays! We're excited to announce our first four audiobooks — *Café Daughter*, *Cherry Docs*, *Dragonfly*, and *Beneath Springhill*.

- *Café Daughter* by Kenneth T. Williams, our featured title this month, stars PJ Prudat as Yvette Wong, a young mixed-race girl facing prejudice as she navigates life in a small Saskatchewan town.
- David Gow's *Cherry Docs* is a searing and all-too-relevant drama about a Jewish legal aid lawyer who is tasked with defending a neo-Nazi murderer. Ari Cohen and Patrick Horan star.
- In *Dragonfly* by Lara Rae, performers Sarah Constible and Eric Blais illuminate the inner life of a trans woman, from her 1960s Scottish childhood to the present day.
- Beau Dixon performs his popular solo musical *Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story*, based on the extraordinary life of Nova Scotia's famous "Singing Miner."

More audiobooks will be available later this month, including Yolanda Bonnell's *bug* and Julia Mackey's *Jake's Gift*, both performed by the authors.

Our drama audiobooks range from 60 to 90 minutes in length, making them eminently suitable for playing in class. This allows students to experience the plays in performance, as well as on the page.

[See More](#)

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### • IN THEATRES •

**2 Pianos 4 Hands** by Ted Dykstra and Richard Greenblatt  
[Royal Alexandra Theatre](#), Toronto, ON June 6–July 17, 2022.

**Where You Are** by Kristen Da Silva  
[Theatre Ravensburg](#), Ravensburg, Germany, June 2–continuing, 2022.

**Harlem Duet** by Djanet Sears  
[Bard on the Beach](#), Vancouver, BC, June 15–July 17, 2022.

**The Great Shadow** by Alex Poch-Goldin  
[4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre](#), Millbrook, ON, June 28–July 23, 2022.

**Beyond the Sea** by Kristen Da Silva  
[Victoria Playhouse](#), Victoria, PEI, June 30–September 4, 2022.

**Stag and Doe** by Mark Crawford  
[Capitol Theatre](#), Port Hope, ON, July 7–30, 2022.

***Sugar Road*** by Kristen Da Silva

[Upper Canada Playhouse](#), Morrisburg, ON, July 7–31, 2022.

***Falling: A Wake*** by Gary Kirkham

[Inspired Acting Lab](#), Colchester, ON, July 28–August 7, 2022.

***Where You Are (Dove Ci Sei Tu)*** by Kristen Da Silva

[Festival Teatrale di Borgio Verezzi](#), Borgio Verezzi, Italy, August 2–3, 2022.

***The Waltz*** by Marie Beath Badian

[Blyth Festival](#), Blyth, ON, August 11–27, 2022.

***Beyond the Sea*** by Kristen Da Silva

[Festival Players of Prince Edward County](#), Bloomington, ON, August 24–September 4, 2022.

***Salt Baby*** by Falen Johnson

[Theatre Aquarius](#), Hamilton, ON, September 14–October 1, 2022.

***The Runner*** by Christopher Morris

[Magnus Theatre](#), Thunder Bay, ON, September 29–October 15, 2022.

***My Sister's Rage*** by Yolanda Bonnell

[Tarragon Theatre](#), Toronto, ON, October 11–November 6, 2022.

***Cowgirl Up*** by Anna Chatterton

[Alberta Theatre Projects](#), Calgary, AB, October 18–October 30, 2022.

***The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale*** by Haley McGee

[Soulpepper Theatre](#), Toronto, ON, October 18–November 6, 2022.

***Serving Elizabeth*** by Marcia Johnson

[Theatre Aquarius](#), Hamilton, ON, October 19–November 5, 2022.

***The Waltz*** by Marie Beath Badian

[Factory Theatre](#), Toronto, ON, October 22–November 13, 2022.

***New*** by Pamela Sinha

[Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre](#), Winnipeg, MB, November 3–19, 2022.

***Jake's Gift*** by Julia Mackey

[Rose Theatre, Brampton](#), ON November 11–12, 2022.

***Let's Run Away*** by Daniel MacIvor

[Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre](#), Winnipeg, MB, December 1–17, 2022.

***Controlled Damage*** by Andrea Scott

[Grand Theatre](#), London, ON, January 17–January 29, 2023.

***The Gig*** by Mark Crawford

[Theatre Aquarius](#), Hamilton, ON, March 8–25, 2023.

***The Birds and the Bees*** by Mark Crawford

[Persephone Theatre](#), Saskatoon, SK, March 29–April 23, 2023.

**New** by Pamela Sinha

[Canadian Stage](#), Toronto, ON, April 25–May 14, 2023.

**The Birds and the Bees** by Mark Crawford

[Globe Theatre](#), Regina, SK, May 4–21, 2023.

• ONLINE •

**Buffy**, a five-part podcast about Buffy Sainte-Marie by Falen Johnson

[CBC Listen](#). Several episodes online now.

**5 Short Films Inspired by the Five Senses** featuring “Super Taster” by Mark Crawford and Britta Johnson, and “All the Colours” by Marcia Johnson and Danika Loren, [Bad Hats Theatre](#). Online now.

• ON SCREEN •

**The Swearing Jar** by Kate Hewlett.

Starring Adelaide Clemens, Douglas Smith, Patrick J. Adams, and Kathleen Turner,

[Release date: September 23, 2022.](#)

## IN THE NEWS

- Congratulations to Falen Johnson, whose play [Two Indians](#) has been nominated for the [2022 Toronto Book Awards](#)! *Two Indians* tells the story of cousins Win, who lives on the rez, and Roe, who lives in the city, where she fled after a terrible family tragedy. After years apart, the two cousins reunite in a Toronto alley to attempt to recreate a ceremony from their childhood.
- Congratulations also to C.E. (Chris) Gatchalian, who is one of eleven individual recipients of the [B.C. Lieutenant Governor's Arts and Music Awards](#), awarded in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. These one-time awards recognize individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, creativity, community engagement, and commitment through fostering and mentoring others in the fields of Visual Arts, Music, or Performance.

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