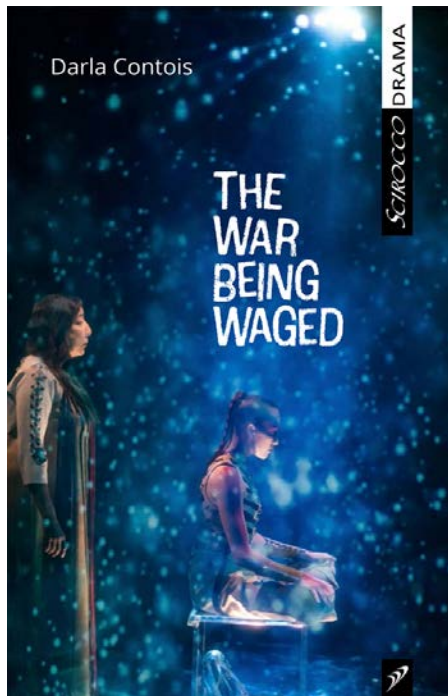




J. GORDON SHILLINGFORD
P U B L I S H I N G I N C

BOOKS THAT ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, AND INSPIRE

ESSENTIAL READING



“A searing portrait of Indigenous issues...Sovereignty, suicide, missing women, intergenerational conflict and connections are major themes told through the lives of women connected by blood and tragedy.”

—OnstageBlog

“The War Being Waged is a stunning piece of theatre. Darla Contois has created a story that is familiar, harrowing, compelling, nuanced, full of love, grace and art.”

—The Slotkin Letter

[The War Being Waged](#) by [Darla Contois](#) is a poetic and unflinchingly truthful examination of what happens when patriotism and sovereignty collide. An Indigenous mother becomes an activist while her brother becomes a soldier. A grandmother speaks to her granddaughter from prison. A granddaughter, filled with turmoil, struggles to accept her family’s history. Three generations of Indigenous women try to connect the pieces of their lives after experiencing all the ways Canada has torn them apart.

Finalist for the 2023 Eileen McTavish Sykes Award for Best First Book

Finalist for the 2023 Manitowapow Award

See More

THE INTERVIEW

Born in Toronto to settlers from Hong Kong, [Marjorie Chan](#) is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist who is also the Artistic Director of Theatre Passe Muraille. She primarily identifies as a writer with specific interest in contemporary opera and collective forms, while also maintaining an active practice as a dramaturge and director. Marjorie's plays include [China Doll](#), *The Madness of the Square*, *a nanking winter*, *Tails From the City*, and *Lady Sunrise*. Her award-winning libretti for operas include *Sanctuary Song*, *The Lesson of Da Ji*, *M'dea Undone*, and *The Monkiest King*.



Marjorie, you are a theatre Renaissance woman! You're a playwright and librettist, you're a director, you're a dramaturge, you're an actor, you're currently the Artistic Director of Theatre Passe Muraille, and you also mentor young theatre artists. You're obviously a very busy person! What projects are you working on currently?

In my personal projects, I am adapting the award-winning novel *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* by Madeleine Thien into a libretto for composer Tim Brady of Montreal. I feel really lucky to be trusted with this incredible book and tasked with finding the right way to communicate it in an operatic setting. After the first draft of this libretto, I have a few plays in amorphous shapes that need my attention.

You have received numerous awards for writing; for example, your play *China Doll*, which explored the early seeds of feminism in China, was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award and your opera *The Lesson of Da Ji*, with composer Alice Ping Yee Ho, won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Opera, as did your family opera with composer Abigail Richardson, *Sanctuary Song*. How do you think this kind of recognition helps theatre artists?

I think recognition of a work can be affirming and empowering. Certainly, there have been moments in my life where such acknowledgement gave me the self-confidence to continue on. It is so difficult to make anything—never mind to make something extraordinary—artists should feel emboldened by an award. At the same time, any accolade is a snapshot in time of a particular jury and a particular aesthetic. So, artists can't get too high, or too low about any such recognition. Hold it, celebrate and be proud, but then move on and put your energies to another awesome thing! (By the way, admittedly It is also nice to have

something on your bookshelf to show your family who might not understand the work that you do!)

Theatre Passe Muraille holds a regular “Meet Marjorie Day,” where artists chosen by lottery can come in for ten minutes to introduce themselves or showcase their projects. Two questions: Any fun stories you can tell us about Meet Marjorie Day? And also: Shouldn’t this be a reality show?

I don’t know if we have any fun stories, but we appreciate that artists need a more open and freeform way to connect with Theatre Passe Muraille. The first Meet Marjorie was planned just before the pandemic. Faced with closure, we made the experience virtual and we decided to see ALL 150 or so applicants. We felt it was the least we could do as the theatre world was shutting down. We have met artists we have hired and programmed. There is no agenda for the program, but just to see what relationship develops.

[Read the Full Interview](#)

CLASS NOTES

Want to share your story about how you use JGS titles in your classes? Let us know. We’d love to talk to you!



This month, JGS interviewed Alyssa English, the Education Coordinator at Ottawa’s [Great Canadian Theatre Company](#) (GCTC). Alyssa has worked for the Great Canadian Theatre Company in the role of Education Coordinator since the Fall of 2021. Her background is primarily in music performance and education, however, her passion for theatre has become an extension of her love for the performing arts and community driven initiatives.

Alyssa, Great Canadian Theatre Company has a number of different programs for young people. You even have a resident artists’ program for youth. Can you tell us about the 100 Watt Youth Ensemble?

Yes! The 100 Watt Youth Ensemble has been an exciting addition to our season and programming. Led by Kristina Watt Villegas, the 100 Watt Youth Ensemble — made up of youth under the age of 20 – began their time as artists in residence during our 2022–23 Season. Throughout the course of the season, they workshopped their own play titled *12* – a play that critically examines the climate crisis through the eyes of youth. The play was then presented as a mainstage production at the end of the season. It was a huge success! The 100 Watt Youth Ensemble will return again for our 2023–24 season... stay tuned for more information coming soon on our website and social media channels!

GCTC offers affordable student matinees for selected shows. How do you engage with the young people who come to see your work?

Our student matinees are certainly an integral part of our education programming. Throughout their experience, teachers and students can further their engagement through facility tours, lobby installations, curated study guides, and post-show talk backs. Our aim is to make meaningful connections both inside and outside of the classroom.

Great Canadian Theatre Company is well known for presenting Canadian plays that have social relevance. For example, last fall, GCTC presented Darrah Teitel's *Forever Young: A Ghetto Story*, about teens coming of age while trying to fight fascism. Are there any shows in your 2023/24 season that you think high school and post-secondary students will find particularly "relatable"?

There are so many great shows in our upcoming 2023–24 season, however, I think our co-production, with the National Arts Centre Indigenous Theatre and Native Earth Performing Arts, of *Women in the Fur Trade* by Frances Končan will be especially relatable and relevant to students. This lively historical satire of survival and cultural in-heritance shifts perspectives from the male gaze onto women's power in the past and present through the lens of the rapidly changing world of the Canadian fur trade.

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.

LAZY, HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER



[See More](#)

IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to [Lara Rae](#), who recently received an honorary doctorate from the University of Manitoba. The citation reads, in part, "The University of Manitoba is proud to

award a Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, to Lara Rae in recognition of her trailblazing impact on Canada's comedy scene, her dedication to the cultural and social life of Manitobans and her tireless advocacy for Winnipeg's 2SLGBTQ+ community.”

Toronto's 43rd annual [Dora Mavor Moore Awards](#) took place on Tuesday, June 27th. Congratulations to everyone who took home a Dora, including several Scirocco Drama authors:

- Kanika Ambrose, winner for Outstanding New Play (General Division) for *our place*, an upcoming Scirocco Drama Fall 2023 release.
- [Haley McGee](#), winner for Outstanding Performance by an Individual (Independent Division), for *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale* (Scirocco Drama 2020.)
- [Beau Dixon](#) and his fellow musical directors, winners for Outstanding Musical Direction (Musical Theatre Division) for *The Shape of Home*.
- [Sue Miner](#) and her associate directors, winner of the award for Outstanding Direction (Musical Theatre Division) for *Alice in Wonderland*.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

• IN THEATRES •

Bed and Breakfast by Mark Crawford
[Lighthouse Festival Theatre](#), Port Dover June 28–July 15, 2023.

The Will of a Woman by Steven Elliot Jackson
[Toronto Fringe Festival](#), Toronto, ON, July 5–16, 2023.

2 Pianos, 4 Hands by Ted Dykstra and Richard Greenblatt
[Laguna Playhouse](#), Laguna, CA, July 5–23, 2023.

New Canadian Curling Club by Mark Crawford
[Drayton Festival Theatre](#), Drayton, ON, July 13–July 29, 2023.

Prairie Nurse by Marie Beath Badian
[Capitol Theatre](#), Port Hope, ON, July 14–30, 2023.

Jake's Gift by Julia Mackey
[Sunset Theatre](#), Wells, BC, July 15 and September 8, 2023.

Adrenaline by Ahmad Meree
[National Arts Centre](#), Ottawa, ON, July 18–23, 2023.

Bed and Breakfast by Mark Crawford
[Lighthouse Festival Theatre](#), Port Colbourne, ON, July 19–July 30, 2023.

The Seat Next to the King by Steven Elliot Jackson
[Winnipeg Fringe Festival](#), Winnipeg, MB, July 19–30, 2023.

Where You Are by Kristen Da Silva
[Lighthouse Festival](#), Port Dover, ON, July 19–August 5, 2023.

Bed and Breakfast by Mark Crawford

[Orillia Opera House](#), Orillia, ON, July 26–August 11, 2023.

New Canadian Curling Club by Mark Crawford
[Huron Country Playhouse](#), Grand Bend, ON, August 3–20, 2023.

Where You Are by Kristen Da Silva
[Lighthouse Festival](#), Port Colbourne, ON, August 9–August 20, 2023.

Downed Hearts by Catherine Banks
[Ship's Company Theatre](#), Halifax, NS, August 16–27, 2023

Where You Are by Kristen Da Silva
[Port Stanley Festival Theatre](#), Port Stanley, ON, August 23–September 9, 2023.

The Real McCoy by Andrew Moodie
[Blyth Festival](#), Blyth, ON, August 24–September 9, 2023.

Bittergirl: The Musical by Annabel Fitzsimmons, Alison Lawrence & Mary Francis Moore
[St. Jacob's Schoolhouse Theatre](#), St. Jacobs, ON, October 4–December 24, 2023.

Jake's Gift by Julia Mackey
[Rose Theatre](#), Brampton, ON, November 9, 10, and 11, 2023.

The Waltz by Marie Beath Badian
[Great Canadian Theatre Company](#), Ottawa, ON, February 13–25, 2024.

• ONLINE •

A Time to Dream, a documentary about the extraordinary women of the CASA project.
[Playwrights Guild of Canada](#) production, available online now.

Inose/Field Trip, a sound walk created by Yolanda Bonnell in partnership with Dr. Jesse Popp that encourages participants to connect with the natural world.
[Common Boots Theatre](#). (A video ASL version of *Inose/Field Trip* is now available.)

Buffy, a five-part podcast about Buffy Sainte-Marie by Falen Johnson.
[CBC Listen](#). All episodes online now.

• ON SCREEN •

With Love and a Major Organ by Julia Lederer.
Starring Anna Maguire, Hamza Haq, and Veena Sood. Coming to theatres soon!

The Swearing Jar by Kate Hewlett.
Starring Adelaide Clemens, Douglas Smith, Patrick J. Adams, and Kathleen Turner. Now available to buy or rent on various streaming services including Apple TV and Digital TIFF Bell Lightbox.

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