

infinithéâtre

**THE
PIPELINE
PLAY READING SERIES**

DEC 14-17TH, 2023



THE PIPELINE

play reading

December 14th, 7pm - InfiniPRESS Publication Launch

December 16th, 1:30pm - Leila Roils the Seas by Lily Chang (Write-on-Q Winner)

December 16th, 7pm - The One by Mara Lazaris

December 17th, 2pm - Lettuce Meat by Lily Lachapelle

Infinithéâtre Team

Zach Fraser - Artistic Director

Tristynn Duheme - General Manager,
Production Manager, Technical Director

Riley Wilson - Outreach Manager

Emily Enhorning - Box Office Manager

Trinity McQuillan - Season Intern

Georgia Holland - Assistant Technical Director

Corey Weiser - Apprentice Stage Manager

Patricia Saxton - Bookkeeper

Ashe Lang - Graphic Design

Fabien Bonnefoi - Poster Design

Infinithéâtre's Board

Gerry Lipnowski - President

Richard Santo - Treasurer

Helen Malkin

Gabriel Safdie

Caroline Hart

Hanna Hershman

Elisha Conway

Write-on-Q Jury 2023

Oren Safdie - Chair

Sophie-Thérèse Stone-Richards

Leila Ghaemi

Murdoch Schon

Gerry Lipnowski

A NOTE FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome!

We're thrilled to have you joining us for our 2023 line-up of Pipeline readings as well as the official launch of our InfiniPRESS publications.

This year, we begin with readings from our six recent InfiniPRESS publications of plays developed and produced over the years at Infinithéâtre. This has been a new adventure for us over the last couple years and we're ecstatic to see these publications come to life in printed form. Copies of these plays are available for purchase throughout the Pipeline Reading Series. Special thanks to Summersett for filling out the launch with their delectable musical treats.

It's an inspiring period in the year when we sit down to read the multitude of plays submitted for consideration from our Write-on-Q playwriting competition. This year we had over 50 submissions! It's an honour to discover these new works by established and emerging playwrights as they explore a vast range of writing styles, storytelling, themes and societal complexities. Big thanks to our 2023 Write-on-Q jury and reading committee.

We're thrilled with our three Pipeline selections for 2023! ***Leila Roils the Seas*** by Lily Chang, this year's WoQ winner, is a beautiful examination of complex family dynamics across generations. ***The One*** by Mara Lazaris is an energetic and punchy script that immediately grabs the audience in our seats. ***Lettuce Meat*** by Lily Lachapelle is a quirky and surprisingly tender tale of love and limbs.

Pipeline is also a special moment in the year when we get to work with many of our artistic friends, as well as a chance to discover new artists. Thank you to this year's Pipeline directors and actors for jumping into these short yet sweet examinations of new plays.

Infinithéâtre still has a full season ahead of us. Stay tuned for two upcoming premiere productions; *Dominoes at the Crossroads*, based on the novel by Kaie Kellough, and *Open House*, Drew Hayden Taylor's newest work.

Wishing you all a beautiful holiday season full of love, compassion, kindness, and laughter.

Zach Fraser

Artistic Director, Infinithéâtre

*infini*PRESS

CELEBRATING OUR 6 PUBLICATIONS!



Fight On!
by Guy Sprung
[Available for \\$20.00](#)

A meta-Brechtian, multi-media, historical roller-coaster ride through the occupation of the Canadian West in the late 19th Century. Drew Hayden Taylor provides a running commentary that sends up, from an Indigenous perspective, the Dickensian ironic romantic Settler story.

In over 50 years as a director, writer, actor and as Artistic Director of four different theatres across Canada, Guy Sprung's commitment to theatre as a unique symbiosis of entertainment and social and political discourse has never wavered. Among his many notable contributions to Canadian theatre is conceiving and building the amphitheatre in High Park which has given well over one million Torontonians the pleasure of experiencing accessible outdoor Shakespeare performances. For twenty years as founder and Artistic Director of Infinithéâtre, Mr. Sprung developed, produced and brokered the work of Québec English-language playwrights as a contribution to the dialogue on the future of the Québec Nation.



Seventeen [Anonymous] Women
by Carolyn Guillet
[Available for \\$20.00](#)

Seventeen women gather around the metaphorical fire of a lit theatrical stage to tell their stories, to dip their ladles into the bubbling stew-pot of humanity's collective tales, some new, some old.

Writer, actor, director, producer, and teacher, Carolyn Guillet has devoted herself to the study and practice of theatre for over four decades. After seven years working with Guy Sprung at Infinithéâtre, eventually becoming the company's Co-Artistic Director, Guillet spent the following decade teaching and directing in the Professional Theatre Program at Dawson College. Notable acting roles include Queen Elizabeth in Richard III at the Manitoba Theatre Centre, playing opposite William Hurt, as well as starring roles in her own one-woman shows, Plucked, Hammered and Strung (Infinithéâtre), and The Beggar's Ballet (Montreal Fringe). Guillet holds an MA in Drama from the University of Toronto, and an MFA in Performance from York University.

LEILA ROILS THE SEAS

By Lily Chang

Presented on Saturday, December 16th, at
1:30PM

directed by Sophie Gee

Synopsis: Upon receiving news that her grandmother has fallen into a coma in Taiwan, Leila leaves her home in Canada to return to her birthplace, only to find that she alone can see and interact with Pǒpó's consciousness outside her comatose body. When Pǒpó pressures Leila to help her spirit move on to the celestial realm of Pure Land Buddhism, Leila must suppress not only her nonbelief in the afterlife and her grief over losing her beloved grandmother but also her anger at Pǒpó's contradictions and history of violence.



Lily Chang
(Write-on-Q WINNER)

Lily Chang (*She/They*) is a queer Taiwanese-Canadian writer, editor, and director/producer based in Tiohtiá:ke/Mooniyang/Montréal. She is a graduate of Concordia University's MA program in creative writing. Their work has been published by Room Magazine, Frog Hollow Press, HerStry, Dark Helix Press, and Asian Canadian Writers' Workshop. She is a 2023-2024 Nightwood Innovator, the recipient of FringeMTL 2023's Frankie Award for Most Promising Emerging English Producer, and a finalist for the 2018 CBC Nonfiction Prize. Their projects have been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, Access Copyright Foundation, and Barbara Deming Memorial Fund. For their portfolio, visit lilychang.art and canasianarts.com/artist/lilychang/.

THE ONE

By Mara Lazaris

Presented on Saturday, December 16th, at
7:00PM

directed by Ellen David

Synopsis: *The One* is a satirical take on the reality TV show called "The Bachelor" and its portrayal of women. While I find reality TV undeniably addictive and hilarious, it often reduces women to stereotypical roles, perpetuating the notion that they exist solely to find true love. However, as we all know, women are far more complex and multi-dimensional than those kinds of narratives. "The One" operates in two worlds: one that mirrors the stories viewers are accustomed to and another that delves into the intricacies of womanhood, showcasing the richness of our minds and experiences.



Mara Lazaris
(Honourable Mention)

Mara Mariana Lazaris recently graduated from Concordia University's creative writing program and is also a 2012 Domie alum. She started writing as a way to understand her emotions and continues to as a way to protect her energy as well as celebrate and empower the people she loves. She is often nauseous, is prone to receiving the evil eye and is always tired. Despite these challenges, she lives to be invited to social events even though she most likely won't go.

Beyond that, she teaches an embodiment dance class, collects coffee mugs and watches too much reality TV. If she were a housewife, she would embody Dolores Catania's energy and Lisa Vanderpump's taste in plastic surgery.

LETTUCE MEAT

By Lily Lachapelle

Presented on Sunday, December 17th, at
2:00PM

directed by Summer Mahmud

Synopsis: Inspired (very loosely) by a reddit post about a motorcyclist who lost his leg in an accident and gathered his friends to sample it post-amputation, Lettuce Meat explores the ideas and societal reactions around the act of cannibalism.



Lily Lachapelle
(Honourable Mention)

Lily Lachapelle is a playwright, musician, actor, and recent graduate of the Queen's Musical Theatre program. Previously produced works include: ONE NIGHT ONLY (Youth Infringement Festival, 2022) and Subject To Change (Dan Exposition Series, 2022). She is immensely grateful for the opportunity to be sharing her work for the first time in the Montreal theatre space and looks forwards to continuing to do so in the future.

CAST

Leila Roils the Seas, by Lily Chang

DIRECTOR.....Sophie Gee
LEILA.....Rae-Michelle Comodero
AUNTIE MĂMĂ.....Shiong-En Chan
JOHNNY.....Yue Qi
PÖPÓ.....Julie Tamiko Manning
SILENT MAN.....Albert Kwan

The One, by Mara Lazaris

DIRECTOR.....Ellen David
HANNAH M.....Vassiliki Giocopoulos
TARYN.....Tarika Kaur
HANNAH B.....Audrey-Shana Ferus
HANNAH Q.....Rosie Callaghan

Lettuce Meat, by Lily Lachapelle

DIRECTOR.....Summer Mahmud
DIANA.....Katrine Mangin
MARJORIE.....Felicia Shulman
ELAINE.....Monika Schneider
MONIQUE.....Bénédicte Bélizaire
SHAWNA.....Alyssa Angelucci-Wall


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PRESENTS

DOMINOES AT THE CROSSROADS

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY KAIE KELLOUGH
ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY ZACH FRASER

MARCH 7-16TH
3680, RUE JEANNE-MANCE
MONTRÉAL, QC

BOX-OFFICE@INFINITHEATRE.COM - (514)-987-1774
INFINITHEATRE.COM




infinithéâtre
PRESENTS

OPEN HOUSE



APRIL 18-28TH
2024

A NEW PLAY BY DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR
DIRECTED BY DIAN MARIE BRIDGE

INFINITHEATRE.COM

INFINITHÉÂTRE'S

PLAY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Infinithéâtre is proud to offer the following play development initiatives for Québec-based playwrights and artists:

Write-on-Q, our annual English-language playwriting competition open to Québec writers and Indigenous writers from across Canada. Up to ten finalists are announced mid-Fall with cash prizes totalling up to \$3,000 announced by mid December.

The-Write-Stuff, our 10-minute playwriting competition for Québec youth, ages 12-19, with cash prizes up to \$500.

Pipeline, our year-end public reading series, featuring the winning plays from Write on-Q.

Park 'n Play Open-Air Play Reading Series, featuring the winning entries from The-Write-Stuff, in partnership with Les journées de la culture.

Emerging Voices Mentorship Program for Young Writers & Theatre Creators, a way to further expand our playwriting competition for youth by offering free writing and theatre creation workshops to a wide range of schools.

Infinite Voices - Establish & Emerging Artist-in-Residence Program, including mentorship and support from the company.

Big Bang Artists' Laboratory, providing time and space for projects in development in the form of extended exploratory residencies. These include free public presentations of works in progress.

Action Infini, Extended Outreach to Students via live performances, talkbacks and study guides.

infiniPRESS, our in-house play publication service, further extending the life of the plays developed and produced at Infinithéâtre.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

Infinithéâtre acknowledges that we are located on the unceded lands of Tiohtiá:ke/Montréal, a place which has long served as a site of meeting, exchange and creativity amongst many First Nations including the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Huron/ Wendat, the Abenaki, and the Anishinaabeg (Algonquin).

As theatre artists, we cherish dialogue, collaboration, and always seek new ways to connect and to break down barriers. Infinithéâtre strives to support the Kanien'kehà:ka and Haudenosaunee Peoples, among other First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, as they create and tell their stories through theatrical means, and we savour every opportunity to come together in work & play.

Across all our activities, Infinithéâtre seeks to foster a safe space for creating art through collaboration and respectful dialogue. We strive to promote values of inclusion, respecting differences of ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental or physical capacity, age, religion, economic or social status, political ideology, and identity. The work is ongoing, and we are committed to hearing and learning from our colleagues and the wider community.

Infinithéâtre actively reflects upon the ways in which we can continually be more inclusive in our play selection and programming, in our work opportunities for artists, and within our administrative team and Board. We have made progress, but there is much more we can and should do.

In the spirit of a shared commitment to change, Infinithéâtre continually encourages submissions from applicants from all walks of life, including for our two annual playwriting competitions.

MANDATE

Infinithéâtre stages exciting, entertaining, relevant theatre that explores and reflects the issues, challenges, and possibilities of contemporary Québec from the perspective of its diverse English-language minority. Our work is driven by the fundamental belief that theatre that speaks to and about the lives, the hopes, and the challenges of its home community has the best possibility of creating an electric connection between stage and audience that is the essence of great theatre.

Infinithéâtre develops, promotes, produces, and brokers plays written or adapted by Québec writers and Indigenous writers from within the territory called Canada. We do this because we believe fundamentally that producing our own writers will generate subject matter and themes relevant to Montréal and Québec and result in the strongest possible engagement and live interaction with our audience.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to say a huge thank you to our 2023 Write-on-Q Jury, composed of Oren Safdie (Chair), Sophie-Thérèse Stone-Richards, Leila Ghaemi, Murdoch Schon, and Gerry Lipnowski. Additional thanks go to Ibraheem Youssef, Rapido Books, Gio Imola, Banafsheh Hassani, Summersett Band, Teesri Duniya, Cité-des-Hospitalières, Ashe Lang, Fabien Bonnefoi, Richard Santo, Hanna Hershman, Helen Malkin, Caroline Hart, Elisha Conway, Gabriel Safdie, Aki Matsushita, and Nikita Ourazbaev.



Conseil
des arts
et des lettres
du Québec

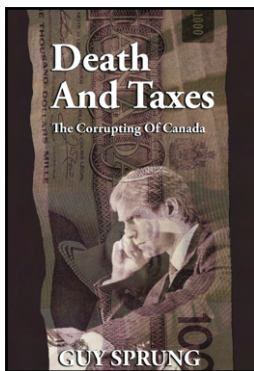


The Daily Miracle
by David Sherman

[Available for \\$15.00](#)

It is another night on the news desk where a few battle-scarred copy editors wrestle with fractured syntax and crushed ideals to get the next edition out. Tempers frayed from layoffs and corroded ambitions; it is a miracle they get the paper out at all.

David Sherman is an author, playwright and singer/songwriter. He has written for and edited newspapers and magazines and produced radio for the CBC and documentary films for TV. He is also a recovering squash and cycling junkie, an Asian food addict and an unrepentant gym rat. When not recovering from whatever joint he tortured in the weight room, he cooks passionately, albeit badly and walks nightly with his partner, Reisa.



Death And Taxes
by Guy Sprung

[Available for \\$20.00](#)

Death and Taxes is an explosive docu-drama that dramatizes the moral evolution of post WWII Canada. The life of fictional tax-lawyer Nathan Carter is mirrored by headlines and video clips of the real political scandals corruption and influence peddling of the period.

In over 50 years as a director, writer, actor and as Artistic Director of four different theatres across Canada, Guy Sprung's commitment to theatre as a unique symbiosis of entertainment and social and political discourse has never wavered. Among his many notable contributions to Canadian theatre is conceiving and building the amphitheatre in High Park which has given well over one million Torontonians the pleasure of experiencing accessible outdoor Shakespeare performances. For twenty years as founder and Artistic Director of Infinithéâtre, Mr. Sprung developed, produced and brokered the work of Québec English-language playwrights as a contribution to the dialogue on the future of the Québec Nation.



Trench Patterns
by Alyson Grant

[Available for \\$15.00](#)

Jacqueline is a wounded Canadian Forces combat officer returned from Afghanistan after a mission gone fatally wrong. Solace comes from ghostlike visitations including her great grandfather, Jacques, a French Montrealer conscripted into World War One and executed for desertion and cowardice.

Alyson Grant is a Montreal award-winning writer and teacher of English Literature at Dawson College. *Trench Patterns* was her first play, winning Infinithéâtre's prestigious Write-on-Q! competition and going on to enjoy an acclaimed run with the theatre, followed by celebrated productions of her two next plays, *Progress!* and *Conversions*.



Love, Child
by Anana Rydvald

[Available for \\$12.00](#)

A play about the cyclical pain a mother can pass on to the next generation unless one goes through a self reflective journey of one's own history. Lina peels away the layers of her past, revealing the people who influence the person she is today.

Anana is originally from Denmark, and first came to Montreal to study at Les Grands Ballets Canadiens at the age of 12. She later trained as an actress and mask artist in both Europe and Canada and performed for several years with the renowned Scandinavian theatre group Cantabile 2 that creates site-specific performances around the world. She is the artistic director of Level 4 Theatre which has produced her three award-winning one-woman shows, *Section O*, *Love, Child* and *The Sighlence of Sky*. Anana has taught mask work at Cirque du Soleil, at an orphanage in India, and mime at the School of Stage Arts in Denmark. She has been teaching mime and improvisation at John Abbott College since 2005 and works as an actress in film and television, doing voice and mo-cap work, and coaching actors for film and theatre. Anana lives in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC with her husband and children.

SUMMERSETT



Listen to *Summersett* on Bandcamp **HERE**

To keep tabs on their upcoming work, visit **summersettband.com**

Summersett is an indie-folk band sprung from the stages of the Montreal theatre scene. They perform as both a piano-vocal duo (Nick Carpenter/Patricia Summersett) and an eight-piece ensemble, expanding their moody songs with radiant vocal and lush string arrangements. Following the release of *Act One* (2015), *Summersett* played Pop Montreal, Canadian Music Week, the Fringe and WildSide Festivals, Nuits d'Afriques and were featured at the Centaur Theatre's 50th Anniversary Gala as well as the 2017 ACTRA Awards. They were twice nominated for Greenland Awards for their performances at the Montreal Fringe Music Series.

Summersett resumes with album number two, *More of the World*: a collection of rueful and jubilant songs that brush the worlds of chanson, classical and cabaret. The album builds upon the band's signature earthy intimacy, reflecting — through deft orchestrations and obsessively revised lyrics — a world coming to terms with its own sublime delusions. The album's release is a setting-free of fantasies, griefs and miniatures; each piece a character unto itself, channeled by the dark burgundy of Patricia's supple voice.

