



Sept. 29, 2021

TNB's Fall Festival of New Plays Returns

Following a successful inaugural year, Theatre New Brunswick's annual new play development workshop and live-stream event highlights the work of playwrights from New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada.

Theatre New Brunswick's 2021 Fall Festival of New Plays will run from October 1-3 and feature a selection of live-streamed readings of new plays in development by playwrights from New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada.

"This year's festival will take a decidedly different approach to what we presented in the fall of 2020," said Natasha MacLellan, TNB's artistic director. "This year we will feature plays both received through our summer call for submissions and work by some of the many playwrights we have commissioned over the past twelve months. We have such a wealth of writing talent here in New Brunswick and across the entire maritime region. I'm really looking forward to sharing some of these voices with you in the days to come."

Commissioned playwrights currently writing for Theatre New Brunswick include Kirsten Alter, Anthony Bryan, Beau Dixon, Ryan Griffith, Don Hannah, Jena McLean, and Natalie Sappier.

"The beauty of commissioning new scripts is that we have a greater awareness of what is being written by New Brunswick writers," said MacLellan. "It makes programming future seasons easier, as we are being proactive about ensuring there are new plays out there that represent the diversity of New Brunswick."

TNB's Fall Festival of New Plays was born out of pandemic isolation. Launched in 2020, the event paired new, emerging, and established playwrights with dramaturges, directors and a full cast of actors to bring their latest work to life. Scripts were workshopped, cast, and performed as live-streamed events. With help from the Province of New Brunswick, TNB was able to employ close to 50 playwrights, actors, directors and dramaturges resulting in 13 completed scripts ready for the stage. Two of the plays workshopped in our 2020 festival have since been produced by other companies, thus expanding the reach and voices of artists from our province.

With programming slowly returning to pre-pandemic familiarity, and with it more artists returning to regular work, this year's Fall Festival will involve the work of five playwrights receiving support from more than 30 artists culminating in a series of live-streamed readings running Oct. 1-3.

Additional events stemming from the Fall Festival and the ongoing commissions are being planned for the months ahead. These may take the shape of online discussions, workshops and an exploration of the creative process. Watch for news on these events coming in the weeks ahead.

This year's participating playwrights are David Hunter, Kaitlyn Adair, Ryan Griffith, Gordon Mihan and Don Hannah.

A full schedule and list of participating artists can be found below. Descriptions of each play can be found by visiting tnb.nb.ca.

Friday October 1 | 7:30 p.m.

Clynelish by David Hunter

Dramaturg – Lara Lewis

Stage Directions – Jena Mclean

Featuring Ryan Rogerson, Jake Martin and Kirsten Alter

Saturday October 2 | 2 p.m.

I Hope You Can See The Birds by Kaitlyn Adair

Dramaturg – Eric Coates

Stage Directions – Jena Mclean

Featuring TBA

Saturday October 2 | 7:30 p.m.

We Might Never Speak Again by Ryan Griffith

Dramaturg – Sherry Yoon

Stage Directions – Lara Lewis

Featuring Cameron MacDuffee, Ryan Cunningham, Stewart Legere, Kirsten Alter, Micha Cromwell, Katie Swift, Jackie Torrens, Natasha MacLellan and Sharisse LeBrun.

Sunday October 3 | 2 p.m.

Welcome to the Gallows by Gordon Mihan

Dramaturg - Genevieve Flemming

Stage Directions – Lara Lewis

Featuring Allie MacDonald, Jillian Hanson, Cameron McDuffee, Ryan Cunningham and Ian Leung.

Sunday October 3 | 7:30 p.m.

Resident Aliens by Don Hannah

Dramaturg – Ron Jenkins

Stage Directions – Jena McLean

Featuring Burgunday Code, Ryan Rogerson, Wesley Colford, Chris Hunt and Mélanie LeBlanc.

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Interviews and Media Opportunities:

To arrange an interview with TNB Artistic Director Natasha MacLellan, contact her directly at artisticdirector@tnb.nb.ca