

2002

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas Conference Program, June 13-16, 2002

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas

Follow this and additional works at: <https://soundideas.pugetsound.edu/lmdaconferences>

Recommended Citation

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, "Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas Conference Program, June 13-16, 2002" (2002). *LMDA Conferences*. 33.
<https://soundideas.pugetsound.edu/lmdaconferences/33>

This Program is brought to you for free and open access by the LMDA Archive at Sound Ideas. It has been accepted for inclusion in LMDA Conferences by an authorized administrator of Sound Ideas. For more information, please contact soundideas@pugetsound.edu.

Saturday, June 15

09:00-10:15 Play Development Workshops #1

Developing New Musicals (AQ4130)

How does the process of developing new musicals differ from the process of developing new plays? How are approaches different? What can each beg, borrow or steal from the other's process?

Facilitator: Liz Engelman

Plus: Maxine Kern, Vanessa LeBourdais, Ruth Margraff

Dramaturgy: Inside and Outside (AQ4140)

What is the difference between play development in institutions and processes outside institutions? What would you do differently with the same amount of money? What do you do when the needs of the institution are different than the needs of the development process?

Facilitator: Mark Lord

Plus: Brian Quirt, Lila Stromer, Paul Walsh

Redefining Risk: New Play Festivals (AQ4150)

How do we define success in new play festivals? How do we define, evaluate, and promote risk within new play festivals? What is the relationship between risk and failure, and risk and success?

Facilitator: Tanya Palmer

Plus: David Copelin, Nakissa Etemad, Yvette Nolan

10:15-10:45 Break

10:45-12:00 Play Development Workshops #2

Commission to Production (AQ4130)

Could your company develop the kind of work it produces? Does your company produce the work it develops? If not, why not? How are we negotiating the move from a commitment to develop to a commitment to produce? How are we articulating our assessments to our artistic directors?

Facilitator: Celise Kalke

Plus: Morgan Jenness, Gwen Orel, Vern Thiessen

Responding to Current Events (AQ4140)

Are we capable of creating work that responds to an event, crisis, or opportunity in our immediate community? How do we respond, both immediately and over the longer term?

Facilitator: Jeannie Barroga

Plus: Magda Kazubowski-Houston, Brad Rothbart, Jacob Zimmer

Issues in Artistic Leadership (AQ4150)

Are Literary Managers/Dramaturgs providing artistic leadership? What role do we play in creating a vocabulary of judgement? What does quality mean? What are the criteria for a good play? How do we evaluate our own work? Where is our ownership in the play development process?

Facilitator: Michele Volansky

Plus: Mark Bly, Lue Douthit, Bob White

12:00-02:00 Hot Topics Lunch (SFU Pub)

This meal is not provided. A leisurely lunch which allows delegates to move from table to table, and topic to topic.

Saturday, June 15 cont...

02:00-03:30 AGM, Part 2: New Business

(SFU Theatre)

President Elect Michele Volansky will chair a discussion of the Conference Proposal prepared by a Board Committee chaired by Tim Sanford. An agenda, copies of the proposal, and an email discussion in response to the proposal, are in the conference folders.

03:30-04:00 Break

04:00-06:00 AGM, Part 2 (continued)

(SFU Theatre)

The business meeting will continue with the remaining agenda items.

06:00-07:00 Break

A chance to nap, shower, and change clothes in preparation for the banquet.

07:00-07:30 Reception (Diamond Centre)

07:30-08:30 Banquet (Diamond Centre)

08:30-09:30 Awards (Diamond Centre)

Paul Walsh will present the 2002 Elliott Hayes Award, the LMDA Prize in Dramaturgy. Mark Bly will present the Lessing Award for Lifetime Achievement to Arthur Ballet.

09:30- Meet & Greet (SFU Pub)

A final chance to chat, and drink, and dance to the stylings of DJ Lush.

Sunday, June 16/02

09:00-10:00 Board Meeting (AQ4150)

10:00-11:00 Regional Breakfast

(SFU Theatre and Lobby)

Have a continental breakfast with LMDA delegates from your region. Discuss how you might invigorate regional LMDA activity. What information/experience from the conference can you share?

11:00-12:00 Conference 2003 Planning

Time for reflection, and goodbyes. Your responses to the 2002 Conference can help the next conference planners.

12:00-01:00 Executive Meeting (AQ41)

Disclaimer

The LMDA and Simon Fraser University will accept no liability for personal injuries sustained by or for loss or damage to property belonging to conference participants and their guests either during or as a result of the conference.

**literary
managers
& dramaturgs
of the Americas**

LMDA Conference 2002 New Play Development

Challenging Assumptions

Conference Program

June 13–16, 2002

Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, British Columbia

“Insanity (n.): the practice of doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting different results.” *—folk saying*

The reading. The workshop. The staged reading. The dreaded “talk-back.” And the resulting new play that looks... just like all the other new plays created or developed using these standard methods. Is it insanity to expect those methods to produce a variety of work? Or will the results be the same, every time?

So...why do so many new play development programs look alike? Are we producing plays that are unique in how they reflect our artistic vision? What role do we have as dramaturgs in defining what that vision is? What gains and losses have we taken in carving out programs and festivals that are intended to support and showcase new plays? How are we responding to and supporting the growth of new work that challenges, excites, and confounds us? What is not working in new play development?

If we can say that theatre is a way of communicating the world to our communities, then it is especially true that in new plays we have an opportunity to communicate the best of our imagination to our audiences, speaking directly from our hearts. It seems like it is time, now that we have won some ground in the debate about why new work is important at all, that we have a family discussion—an all-out in-house stay-up-late-pound-the-table session—about what is not working in play development. Because if we can’t have this discussion, who can?

This is the territory that we want to tread with you in Vancouver, British Columbia, at our June conference. We invite you to bring all your experience, passion, and imagination to the table to spend a few days challenging our assumptions about play development, and our role in the processes we create, sustain, promote, and tolerate.

2002 Conference Co-ordinators

Rachel Ditor, *Freelance Dramaturg, Vancouver*
Megan Monaghan, *Literary Director, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta*

New Play Development

Challenging Assumptions of the Americas

Conference Overview

Thursday, June 13/02

10:00-08:00	Registration
12:00-01:00	Lunch (<i>provided</i>)
01:00-05:00	University/Student caucus
05:00-08:00	Dinner
08:00-09:30	Keynote
09:30-	Meet & greet

Friday, June 14/02

08:00-09:00	Executive meeting
09:00-09:30	Introduction / welcome
09:30-01:00	Breakouts: Radical propositions
01:00-02:00	Bus to Granville Island
02:00-03:00	Lunch (with Canadian playwrights)
03:00-04:15	Playwright interviews
04:15-04:45	Break
04:45-06:00	AGM, Part 1: Reports
06:00-07:30	Playwright beer & cheese tasting (<i>provided</i>)
07:30-10:00	Dinner / performance options
10:00-11:00	Bus to SFU
11:00-	Meet & greet

Saturday, June 15/02

09:00-10:15	Play development workshops: A <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing musicals 2. Dramaturgy: Inside & outside 3. Festivals: Re-examining risk
10:15-10:45	Break
10:45-12:00	Play development workshops: B <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commission to production 2. Responding to current events 3. Issues in artistic leadership
12:00-02:00	Lunch
02:00-04:00	AGM, Part 2: New Business
04:00-04:30	Break
04:30-06:00	AGM, Part 2 (continued)
06:00-07:00	Break
07:00-08:30	Reception/Banquet (<i>provided with full fee</i>)
08:30-09:30	Awards
09:30-	Meet & greet

Sunday, June 16/02

09:00-10:00	Board meeting
10:00-11:00	Regional breakfast (<i>provided</i>)
11:00-12:00	Conference 03 planning
12:00-01:00	Executive meeting

literary
managers
& dramaturgs
of the Americas

Thursday, June 13

10:00-08:00 Registration (SFU Theatre Lobby)

All day conference registration. LMDA memberships and conference t-shirts on sale. Theatre-related books on sale by Biz Books. Display items from conference delegates. Refreshments.

12:00-01:00 Lunch (SFU Atrium)

LMDA provides a free barbeque for arriving delegates.

01:00-02:30 Student and University Caucus: Introductions (SFU Theatre)

University Caucus Chair Tom Shafer facilitates introductions, and encourages delegates to raise “hot topics” for consideration over the conference.

02:30-03:00 Break

01:00-02:30 Student and University Caucus

Student Survey—Delegates will briefly discuss a close-to-final draft of a survey of dramaturgy students prepared by Student Caucus Chair Jonathan Hammond. He wants your comments and suggestions.
Preparing Playwrights—A discussion about the way our various institutions teach playwriting and/or playmaking. What processes and pedagogy make up the teaching/learning of playwriting? Are techniques being presented that make sense in the “real” world, or would they prove useful if plays were developed in another way? How much do the playwriting programs involve dramaturgs?

05:00-08:00 Dinner

This meal is not provided—consult your conference folder for options. *Please note that the SFU pub has provided a coupon.*

08:00-09:30 Keynote: Erik Ehn (SFU Theatre)

Renowned playwright and founder of the RAT Conference, a U.S. national network of alternative theatre artists and producers, Erik Ehn will offer some thoughts to encourage us to challenge our assumptions about play development.

09:30- Meet & Greet (SFU Pub)

A big space, including a patio, with plenty of options for intimate conversation.

Friday, June 14

08:00-01:00 Registration (SFU Theatre Lobby)

08:00-09:00 Executive Meeting (SFU Theatre, Room 120)

09:00-09:30 Introductions (SFU Theatre)

LMDA President DD Kugler introduces Vancouver committee. Conference Coordinators Rachel Ditor and Megan Monaghan preview the entire conference, the day ahead, and the next session.

Friday, June 14 cont...

9:30-11:00 The Revolution Will Not Be Televised (various rooms, TBA)

What are radical propositions for play development? Breakout sessions to brainstorm ideas about how we might re-envision play development models. A chance to re-examine what we are doing, and what we could be doing, in play development. Facilitators: Mary Blackstone, Joan Channick, Joanna Falck, Kristen Gandrow, Nichole Gantshar, Gretchen Haley, Amy Jensen, Paul Kosidowski, Louise Lytle, and Geoff Proehl.

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-12:45 Reports (SFU Theatre)

Breakout groups reconvene to share results.

01:00-02:00 Bus to Granville Island (from SFU Theatre)

02:00-03:00 Bag Lunch with Canadian Playwrights (Arts Club, Upper Lobby)

Pick up a pre-ordered bag lunch, and find a nearby corner to huddle, snack, and chat with a local playwright. Each bag lunch will contain a question; your mission is to find the local playwright, or LMDA delegate, with the answer.

03:00-04:15 Playwright Interviews (Arts Club, Stage)

Conference Coordinators Megan Monaghan and Rachel Ditor interview Providence and Austin-based playwright Ruth Margraff, and Vancouver playwright Elizabeth Dancoes about the development process from the playwright perspective. Discussion to follow.

04:15-04:45 Break

04:45-06:00 Business Meeting #1 (Arts Club, Stage)

President DD Kugler chairs a series of reports about LMDA activity.

04:45-06:00 Playwrights Union of Canada Contracts Workshop (Arts Club, Upper Lobby)

Led by Contracts Chair Clem Martini and Director of Marketing Michael Petrasek.

06:00-07:30 Playwright Reception (Taproom, Granville Island Brewery)

Playwrights Union of Canada hosts a combined reception of LMDA delegates and local playwrights. Cash bar. One free drink ticket will be provided.

07:30-10:00 Dinner / Performance Options

An open evening for LMDA delegates to dine and/or take in a performance. Check your conference folder for dining and performance options.

10:00 First Bus returns to SFU

11:30 Second (and last) bus returns to SFU