University of Puget Sound
Sound Ideas

LMDA Newsletters: Canada and the United States

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LMDA New & Noteworthy, March 2020

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Hello All,

The world has changed so much since we last updated you about the conference. At the moment, the Executive and the Board of LMDA are in discussions about how to move forward with the conference. We will update everyone in the next newsletter about the plan for the 2020 conference.

Until then, please stay safe.

Best,
Martine Kei Green-Rogers

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Tribute to Doug Langworthy
This goes without saying: Doug Langworthy set an example for us all.

Also known at to several of us dramaturgs, theatre leaders and playwrights alike at Hedgebrook as “Susan,” Doug was an example of grace, generosity, gentleness. He (and at times, with us, she) was the epitome of kindness, of superhuman support, of constant championing, and of deep listening. No matter what ever transpired, Doug sported a smile and sparkle.

If there has ever been a Lessing in our midst, it was Doug.

In tribute, I’d like to honor Doug by doing for him what I expect that he, as the consummate dramaturg, would do with any name in any text: examine it to know it.

**Doug, or Douglas:**
From a list of Shakespearean name origins, the meaning of the name Douglas is: King Henry IV, Part 1; Archibald, The Earl of Douglas.

Doug was indeed a nobleman of our profession.

From the Anglo-Saxon the meaning of the name Douglas is: dweller by the dark stream.

This dark stream-dwelling may have come as a surprise to many of us; it is helpful to know that Doug sensed from where he sprung.

From numerology: people with this name are excellent at analyzing, understanding, and learning, and tend to be mystics, philosophers, scholars, and teachers, and tend to be quiet and introspective.

Say no more: this is Doug as both dramaturg and human.

Additionally, within the word Doug lives:
DO: Doug was a doer, he created countless translations, wrote his own plays, and built a nationally renowned new play festival.

DOG: Doug was loyal to text, to playwrights and collaborators, to friends, institutions, and to the field. And unconditionally friendly to us all.

DUG: Doug doggedly dug deep into every playworld, getting to the bottom of its foundational meaning, unique voice, beating heart and spirit.

Langworthy:
Langworthy means the habitational name from either of two places in Devon, from Old English lang ‘long’ + worðig ‘enclosure’.

Doug was indeed a long enclosure: throughout his esteemed and enduring career, Doug created intimate spaces for examination, exploration, conversation, and collaboration for all of us to feel held safely in our work.

LAN stands for a computer network that spans a relatively small area.

Doug was indeed our LAN: whether it was in a single rehearsal room, the entire theatre building or across institutions, Doug connected us creatively over any and all distances.

LANG: a surname of Germanic origin, closely related to Lange, Laing and Long, all of which mean "tall."

Doug stood tall in our field; his upright stature and nature was felt and admired by all of us who knew him.

Lang is also a surname in Hungary, a cognate of the Hungarian word for "flame."

Doug was the creative spark for so many projects, plays, and productions spanning the decades. He lit the fire under so many collaborators – and provided warmth and comfort with his flame. He was a hearth for all of us.

WORT: “the sweet infusion of ground malt or other grain before fermentation.”

Doug was the ultimate sweet infusion. His dramaturgical insights and wisdom were the malt that his collaborators fermented into their beautiful plays and productions that resulted from the process.

THY: an old-fashioned, poetic, or religious word for 'your' when you are talking to one person.

I am talking to you now, Doug. I honor thy spirit, heart, and dedication. I will honor thy
WORTHY: honorable, meritorious; a person of outstanding worth or importance.

For all these reasons, Doug is (long, praise) WORTHY.

The below also came up on my online search as a Langworthy alternative. It might as well have been written for him.

In honor of Doug’s impish nature and eye-twinkle, I include this, as he would have in his own dramaturgy packet.

L is for lofty, your ambitions are high!
A is for absolute, for you know your mind.
N is for nifty, how neat!
G is for glisten, a sparkle in your eye.
W is for wise, more tomorrow than today.
O is for organized, you always know where things are
R is for respect, earned through your actions
T is for tough, for you are not easily broken
H is for hero, as you appear to many.
Y is for young, the years never show!

Doug, you were indeed our hero. To examine you is to know you is to love you.

Long may you live!
(Accompanying this is a WordCloud I created based on the emails and outpourings I received from friends and colleagues upon the news of Doug’s passing.)

Words word words for a master of them.

For additional videos, photos, memories, and kind words, visit In Memoriam - Douglas Langworthy.

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**LMDA Freelancers Gather Weekly for Community**

Saturdays at 4pm EST/1pm PST in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic
Contact: Heather Helinsky at freelance@lmda.org for Zoom video link

We also want to acknowledge that this crisis is impacting all of us in different ways. Many of us are processing feelings of fear, isolation, confusion, anger, and sadness around this pandemic and how it is being handled by our respective governments. Let’s avoid traps of racism and individualism. We encourage you to put yourself in other people’s shoes and engage with sensitivity and care. While voluntary social distancing may be necessary to protect our health and the health of those with underlying conditions around us, it is increasingly important that we come together to work through this crisis.

Let’s think through this crisis TOGETHER! How can we continue to build relationships in this time of physical social distancing? What are the ways we can support our educators who are navigating moving classes online? What are the ways we can support our freelancers who have just lost much-needed income in the wake of this pandemic? These and other questions are within our capacity to tackle!

This is a casual, low-key online gathering via Zoom. Come when you're feeling ready, and feel free to take all the time you need to grieve job loss and uncertainty on your own. LMDA will be here for you in this standing meeting.

Heather Helinsky
VP of Freelance

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**Upcoming Regional Events**

Times for all regional events are listed in the time zone of the actual event.
All Region Online Conversation

Monday, May 4 @ 8-9pm (EST)
Dramaturg-Director Hyphenate Jam - Members Only
Calling all Dramaturg-Director Hyphenates! A number of members have shared interest in discussing the pros and cons of both dramaturging and directing - either doing it all on one show or switching hats for various shows. In May, we’ll come together for a relaxed discussion about being a dramaturg-director, what that means to different people, and the challenges/rewards you face. Email regional@lmda.org who will verify your members and send you log-in information. For our online activities, we use Zoom. To learn more about Zoom, watch this short video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFhAEoCF7jg

Great Plains
Late May
LMDA at Great Plains Theatre Conference - Event TBA!

If you are not sure which region you belong to, find out here: https://lmda.org/map. You are welcome to belong to multiple regions or, if you are traveling, attend events in multiple regions.

Make sure to join your regional Facebook page and watch the ListServ for details about the below events as well as new events added throughout the season.

Region Facebook Groups:
Canada
Mountain West (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado)
Greater Midwest (IL, IN, IA, western KY, MI, MN, OH, WI)
Metro Bay Area
Metro Chicago
Metro NYC
Metro Boston
Central Appalachia (WV, VA, eastern KY, northern TN, and western NC)
Florida
Metro Philadelphia
Mid-Atlantic (DC/Maryland/DE)
Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York State, Rhode Island, Vermont, Pennsylvania)
Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, Washington)
Southern California
Plains (Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)
Southeast (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, eastern North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, southern Tennessee, western NC)
Southwest (Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, California)
Third Coast (Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas)

Regional questions? Reach out to the VP of Regional Activity Jacqueline Goldfinger (regional@lmda.org).

Your Dramaturgy Ad Here!

We’re reserving this high-value newsletter real estate for our Institutional Members. Do you have a job posting you want our readers to see, an M.F.A. program looking for a well-qualified applicant pool, or a festival you want to make sure smart dramaturgs have on their radar? This is the place for it! Institutional Memberships are only $200, and they come with four individual member profiles for your organization to divvy out as you see fit.

Let your organizational leadership know that we’d love them to join the LMDA party!

Interested in contributing to the next newsletter? Have content ideas?
E-mail communications@lmda.org.

Want to keep up with the conversation about the latest in dramaturgical activity?

- Follow us on Social Media (@LMDAmericas) by clicking on the logos below!

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