LMDA Newsletters: Canada and the United States

LMDA New and Noteworthy, April 2021

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Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas

LMDA 2021 Conference Update

Dear members,

We are happy to get in touch with you again with more information about *Without Borders: Dramaturgy in the New Decade*.

We know there are concerns surrounding this year's in-person conference in Mexico City, and we want you to know that the Conference Committee has carefully read your replies to both surveys. We are working to ensure everyone's safety by completely following the sanitary measures and protocols that our venue, hotel, and the city require in order to host this gathering.

We are looking forward to hosting our first conference in Mexico and formally inaugurating LMDA México (LMDA Mx) at this event on June 28/29. This long standing project is dear to our hearts and has been envisioned for many years with the goal of expanding the community of LMDA by embracing the community of dramaturgs and performing artists in Mexico.

Thanks to the support of INBAL (the National Institute of Fine Arts and Literature in Mexico) and the team of LMDA Mx, we feel confident and safe to reunite and host the third part of the conference 2021 at Teatro Julio Castillo from Centro Cultural del Bosque, icon of the theater scene in Mexico City.

However, we understand that some of you may feel reluctant to travel and that some of you will not be able to make it due to the protocols of your countries or other pandemic
geographical, political, and cultural borders and together re-imagine what dramaturgy will look like in the new decade.

We are also looking forward to the rich exchange that will take place during the asynchronous and synchronous parts of the conference, which will feature dramaturgs from all over the world in conversations about the impact, purpose, process, and evolution of dramaturgy.

This new hybrid (digital + in-person) and fully bilingual format is another way to show our commitment to making our conferences more inclusive and accessible.

Whether digitally or in-person, we are looking forward to connecting with you, deepening our friendships, and promoting the important role that dramaturgs and literary managers play in the creation of performing arts.

LMDA’s Conference Committee is working everyday to make this shared experience the best it can be. Thank you for your support in making all this possible.

Registration for *Without Borders: Dramaturgy in the New Decade* will open on May 3rd; we cannot wait to meet with you again.

Warmly,
LMDA’s 2021 Conference Committee
Lindsey R. Barr
Ken Cerniglia
Lourdes Guzmán
Martine Kei Green-Rogers
Bryan Moore
Anne G. Morgan
Brenda Muñoz
Brian Quirt

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**International Dramaturgy Lab Check In**

**By Finn Lefevre (they/them)**

We all wear glasses. It’s part of a running joke from the first few meetings of my International Dramaturgy Lab group. It’s grown into a metaphor for the way our group imagines our work.
International Dramaturgy Lab is a project in which dozens of dramaturgs from across the globe were organized into small groups—some based around a project concept, others on shared interests—to collaborate over the course of the year.

My group is made up of 6 people from 5 countries speaking 8+ languages. We all see through different lenses: lenses from our identities, lenses from our experiences and knowledges, lenses from our cultures and languages. We are learning to see through each others’ lenses. And if not see—then listen, hear, try to understand. Our way of working is steeped in this ethic. We move slow, stew over an idea for several weeks.

A lot of what I’ve learned has been about process. Each of us came in with a different way of working: one of us is fast and goal oriented. One of us works on 5+ projects at a time. One of us works on one project for 2+ years. Together, we’ve decided to take our time. We don’t have a particular final end product in mind yet, but we’ve dug deep into our overlapping experiences and created a beautifully vulnerable space. Sometimes the energy will ramp up when we pull on just the right thread—the Black Madonna is a recurring theme, as are Las Soldaderas. Other times, we sit with one another in thought, reflecting on the work we are doing, making room for breath. Building a space that feels welcoming to both those energies has been one of the most exciting parts of the group for me.

We’ve spent a lot of time talking about gender. It’s a shared lens. This past March 8 sparked an ongoing conversation around how our various communities respond to International Women’s Day. Some folx shared images and music or made jam boards. Each of us had a distinct experience—from mine as a trans person, another member’s as witnessing the commercialization of the day, to another who was a part of a community that came together in protest that day. Feminism and queerness are large parts of most of our work as well. Sharing our work has become a way for us to share strategies—talk about the way our communities have and are using art to make change. It is powerful to move beyond the bubble of my small community to see how the world is reckoning with sexism.
You can watch this video to learn more about our group’s inspirations and core questions.

Read more about the International Dramaturgy Lab HERE.

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**Dramaturging the Phoenix 2.0: A Renewed Challenge for LMDA Members**

**Call:** To amplify the collection of Dramaturging the Phoenix essays inaugurated at the beginning of the pandemic, LMDA seeks further dramaturgical responses – videos, creative works, and social media threads, other essays, among other formats – that boldly inspire, provoke, and explore theatre’s potential to transform through global crisis.

**Eligibility:** Current LMDA members (to renew or join, click here)

**Deadline:** Monday, May 3rd, 2021

**Prompt:** One year after COVID-19 rapidly shuttered venues of all sizes, theatre and the millions of people who create and experience it in North America and many other parts of the world continue to be on hiatus in order to save lives, but the return is beginning to feel… soon(ish)? LMDA now invites its members to look back on their experiences of challenge and transformation in the past twelve months and to continue to imagine ways in which our art form will emerge from this crisis, changed for the better.

As we enter the second year of life with COVID and look to recovery and reopening, what will theatre look like this time? How can we center equity and be more inclusive? When we resume and reconnect, how might we do so more profoundly? What big ideas will transform theatre and its institutions for the next era? Which assumptions and habits will we be free to leave behind?

For DRAMATURING THE PHOENIX 2.0, let’s continue to imagine the “radical dramaturgy” that will lead theatre and performance into the next year, decade, and century. How do we build the foundations to heal from this year and move our communities, nations, and the globe forward? How do theatre artists lead as essential workers? How can dramaturgical actions and practices seeded in imagination shape the theatrical phoenix that will rise?

**Target:** LMDA wants to put its members’ incomparable brains and innovative impulses to work for the benefit of our community and the many others we touch, to showcase dramaturgy’s vital capacity to contextualize and articulate the possibilities of where we go from here and what it might mean. Our goal is to get EVERY MEMBER OF LMDA to contribute a response, whether individually or in collaboration (cuz that’s what we do best!).
Thank You, Five (Podcast): Spotlighting Dramaturgy

The hosts of Thank You, Five, Matt Welsh and David Baxter, invited Amy Marie Seidel, Company Dramaturg at Tectonic Theater Project, to be a guest to discuss her journey as a dramaturg. Give it listen HERE!

Renew Your Membership Today!

Our 2020 memberships expired on January 20th, so now is the time to renew! Please visit our website to select one of the following memberships, all of which include full member benefits, voting rights, and eligibility for office:

- Institutional: $200 – for theatres, universities, agencies, and other organizations; includes up to four individual memberships with individual member profiles
- Individual: $80 – regular ol' professional membership!
- Early Career: $40 – discounted individual membership for students, interns, and those within five years of graduation
- Introductory: $25 – a first-year discount for new members (tell your friends and colleagues!)
- Pay What You Can: $5-$75 – a new option this year to lower the barrier for becoming a member of LMDA in light of the ongoing financial impact of the pandemic

Please log in to www.lmda.org to renew your membership and update your profile for 2021 now! Should you have questions or concerns about the renewal process or your membership, please contact LMDA Administrator Lindsey Barr at lmdanyc@gmail.com.
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<th>Region Facebook Groups</th>
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<td>Canada</td>
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<td>Mountain West                 (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado)</td>
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<td>Greater Midwest               (IL, IN, IA, western KY, MI, MN, OH, WI)</td>
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<td>Southwest                     (Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, California)</td>
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<td>Third Coast                   (Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas)</td>
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If you want to get more involved with dramaturgs in your region, please email regional@lmda.org.

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On the Amazon App:

1) Open the Amazing Shopping app on your phone
2) Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
3) Tap 'AmazonSmile' and fo
4) Select 'Get Started' and click through the instructions
5) Add LMDA as your charity

Thanks for your continued support!

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