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LMDA New and Noteworthy, September 2020

Bryan Moore
Martine Kei Green-Rogers

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Hi, everyone…

I hope everyone is doing well. We have reached the fall season, which feels a lot different for many of us than previous falls. The pandemic still brings a lot of uncertainty to the theatre community. Through this time, LMDA strives to continue offering for our membership whatever support and resources we can at this time, in order to strengthen our field and to help each other provide our dramaturgical best. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us and let us know how we can serve you, or if you have an idea or issue that we should be considering.

We are excited about the continuation of many of our digital programs, including the Case Study and Conversations series and the weekly Dramaturging the Phoenix forums (every Tuesday at noon ET). We have also collaborated with artists and organizations on new initiatives, including the Dramaturgy Microgrant Project and the International Dramaturgy Lab; we hope you consider participating and supporting either of these opportunities. Our Regional VPs are working hard to provide ways to connect throughout the year, so please check out your region’s Facebook page to stay updated.

We’re also looking ahead to next summer, when we hope the pandemic and other factors allow us to gather in Mexico City for our annual conference. We do have a “hybrid” approach in mind, as we hope to integrate some of the asynchronous programming that many members enjoyed from this year’s virtual conference, as well as explore ways to involve more people both on-site and from afar. We look forward to sharing more details over the next few months.
help others as possible. If you would like to and have the ability to help us support and
serve your dramaturgical peers, please consider doing so. There are ways to donate your
time and ideas on a number of committees, or to donate financially to support the activities
and grants we provide. Please check out our website, or
you may contact me at President@lmda.org, and I would
be happy to share your comments, ideas, and questions
with others. Many ideas and comments from our
members have resulted in initiatives and practices that
have provided long-term benefits for the membership
and organization. We must continue to work together to
make a stronger LMDA and theatre community.

Take care and be safe,
Bryan Moore
President, LMDA

Hello, everyone! I am on the other side of the LMDA conference and my term as President
and I, once again, want to thank you all for the support you gave me and the LMDA
Executive Team during our time in leadership. We learned a lot over the course of the two
years, including what a pandemic will do to our industry and our specific field. As such, we
are committed to figuring out how to continue to serve all of our members during this
unprecedented moment.

I am writing to share some of the projects that I have for myself during my term as Past
President as well as to solicit your thoughts about ways we can be of service during this
time.

As you may know, we made a firm commitment to Anti-Racist ideology in our organization
a few years ago and as conversations about race relations within the country and our
industry continue to ebb and flow, we are still committed to actionable and sustainable
change. As such, to continue moving forward, we began an Anti-Racism task force, which
will meet monthly to discuss and work towards implementing the necessary changes for
the organization and our industry. If you are interested in joining, please email me
as pastpresident@lmda.org.

In addition, we are looking to revamp the listserv and the website in order to make it more
accessible, user-friendly, and inviting as a knowledge sharing space. If you have thoughts
or desires about the functionality of these spaces, please feel free to connect with me.

As we continue to navigate these difficult times, we hope that you will share with us the
ways you envision us supporting you.

Sincerely,
Awards and Grants 2020 Recipients

LMDA is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2020 grants and awards programs.

The Elliott Hayes Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dramaturgy
This award recognizes excellence in dramaturgical work on a specific project over the past two years. It is named in honor of Elliott Hayes, the former dramaturg and literary manager at The Stratford Festival and a dual citizen of Canada and the USA. It has been awarded by LMDA since 1999.

The recipient of the 2020 Elliott Hayes Award is Emma Tibaldo for her exemplary leadership of the Playwrights Workshop Montréal, where she serves as Artistic and Executive Director.

Tibaldo's nominators praised her visionary, compassionate, and indefatigable leadership and innovative projects; and her nurturing of artists, projects, and communities; which have helped to make PWM a leader in developing new Canadian drama and performance.
“I am honoured by this recognition, and share it, unequivocally, with the PWM dramaturgical team, whose artistry and dedication I am in awe of - Fatma Sarah Elkashef, Jesse Strong, and Maureen Labonté; with the exceptional stewardship of General Manager Lesley Bramhill and the profoundly dedicated team of Marc Duez, Heather Eaton, Harris Frost and Danielle Eyer; with the tireless PWM board of directors; and most importantly, with the PWM community of exceptional creators and dramaturgs who put everything on the line, so that we can expand our understanding of humanity. The Elliot Hayes Award from LMDA is a celebration of PWM's unwavering dedication to the development of new creation for performance – and for that, I rejoice.” – Emma Tibaldo

For more information on The Elliott Hayes Award, and a list of the past recipients, please visit:
https://lmda.org/elliott-hayes-award-outstanding-achievement-dramaturgy.

The Innovation Grant
LMDA is pleased to announce the recipient of our inaugural Innovation Grant, which awards $1500 to support an artist who is pushing the boundaries of dramaturgical work. The first annual Innovation Grant has been awarded to Lojo Simon for The KISS Project: Keeping Intimacy Safe on Stage for Young Performers, a guide for theatre educators working with actors ages 10-18.

Consent has become the watchword for social and business relationships. Nowhere has this effort been more evident than in theatre, film and television, all of which have developed protocols for safe expression of intimacy on stage and screen. The KISS Project builds upon these existing foundational movements to explore consent-based practices for keeping intimacy safe on stage with young actors. A research-based report, The KISS Project summarizes the current state of consent-based theatre education and explores the potential application of best practices in intimacy choreography in educational settings. You can view the report on the LMDA website.

More details on all of these dramaturgs and their projects can be found at our website.

Review
Looking for Contributors to the 2021 Issue of LMDA's Journal Review

LMDA's journal Review is currently accepting submissions for the 2021 issue. The editors are particularly interested in pieces that engage with relevant issues and trends in the field. The mission of the journal is to provide a venue for exploration of dramaturgy, and for ongoing conversation about the work of the dramaturg and the literary manager and their relationship to all aspects of theatre-making. Review publishes peer-reviewed scholarly articles, along with work in other formats such as expanded essays and interviews from the LMDA Newsletter, conference presentations, manifestos, and book reviews. Review welcomes submissions by all writers regardless of professional affiliation, as well as...
Review is an annual publication. This year’s deadline for paper submissions and proposals is November 1, 2020.

To submit an article for peer review, please email the following as two separate documents:
The full paper submission, double-spaced 4,000-5,000 words as a MS Word file (No PDFs please!), formatted according to MLA style guidelines. Articles can contain footnotes and should include a Works Cited page. To ensure a fair blind-review process, the author’s name should be omitted from this document.

A title page that includes the author’s name, email address, telephone, and institutional affiliation (if applicable), as well as a brief biography.

For alternative submissions:
Please submit a proposal of approximately 500 words as a MS Word file. This document should include the author’s name, email address, telephone, and institutional affiliation (if applicable), as well as a brief biography. The editors welcome proposals that engage with practice, process, and scholarship in a variety of formats including but not limited to:

- Excerpts from production archives and rehearsal notebooks
- Travelogues
- Visual forms of storytelling
- Conversations and interviews
- Critical reflections on topics related to the field
- Collaborative methods and other dramaturgical processes

Please send submissions to editor@lmda.org. Editors Kristin Leahey and Elizabeth Coen will directly receive inquiries and submissions from this address. Review acknowledges receipt of submission via email in 1 to 2 weeks and response time is 2 to 3 months from the submission deadline.

Previous issues of Review can be found here. More information and Spanish translation of this information will be available on our website.

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Dramaturgy the Phoenix

“Yes, I’m using Boal techniques with my toddler. The more we play, the more we both are able to understand and support each other in this difficult time.” - Who Gets Left Behind?
by Christina Hurtado-Pierson
COVID-19, LMDA challenged its members to imagine what might emerge from the ashes with an essay prompt titled "Dramaturging the Phoenix". Our initial call resulted in over 50 essays, covering a broad array of perspectives on our current moment. As the pandemic continues to shed light on inequities in our culture and our profession, we feel it’s vital to call our community of brilliant dramaturgs to contribute a second round of essays prior to the November 3rd election. Looking to the future, we hope to continue expanding this collection, now aiming for 200 essays.

Essays are around 500-1000 words, please email them to freelance@lmda.org anytime between now and October 31st.

The Dramaturging the Phoenix team also invites you to join us at our weekly forums, Tuesdays at 12pm ET via zoom. Stay tuned for future newsletter and online updates, as the “Dramaturging the Phoenix” continues to evolve in this difficult time.

If you are interested in contributing an essay or joining our forums please email freelance@lmda.org Thanks!

- The Phoenix Team (Anne, Heather, Ken, Jess, and Finn)

Contribute to the Newsletter!

Have an idea, process, approach, etc. you'd like to share with the LMDA? Pitch your piece for the next LMDA Newsletter. Our next newsletter will be published September 2020! Email communications@lmda.org.

Upcoming Regional Events

Philadelphia:
Philly Dramaturgs Meetups have been happening and resulting in actions toward justice! Now solely on Zoom, Philly dramaturgs come together for deep conversations around topics such as radical transparency and best practices. One outcome from the past meetups has been the creation of a Philly Dramaturg Community Value System which is hoped to be a resource like that of Not In Our House and We See You, White American Theatre.

Bay Area:
LMDA's long-time partnership with foolsFURY continues with a brand-new art form we call Microturgy!
We have matched 17 international dramaturgs with the ensemble companies presenting Art Shares during their BUILD from Here convening (Sept 12 & 13). Microturgs conversed
the country who are breaking the boundaries of our theatrical expectations.

**Mountain West:**
A memorial for Douglas Langworthy will be livestreamed on October 24, 2020 at 2pm MST.
Tune in to celebrate the life and work of an exceptional Dramaturg and Literary Director.
More information will be shared via LMDA listserv and social media.

**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**  
**Mexico**  
**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)

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**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](mailto:subscribe@lmda.org).
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!

- Subscribe to our listserv

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