



Think. Write. Play.

PTC

is the largest playwright development centre in Canada

has supported Canadian playwrights for 40 years

has successfully supported over 5000 new plays since its founding as the New Play Centre in 1973

THINK

Imagination + Conversation.

We are all about dialogue. PTC is the creative and conversational hub for theatre artists, fostering collegial discussion between playwrights, staff, directors, dramaturgs and actors. Through programs such as **The Associates** and **The Colony**, we create a close-knit community of theatre makers working together to find the language and essence of new works, and to discuss craft, style, resources and production plans.

WRITE

Space + Time to write.

PTC supports in-depth development for independent voices by providing playwrights with intensive writing time through residencies, workshops and writing retreats. Our professional development programs continue to empower writers to chart their own creative courses. **The Colony** brings four to six playwrights together with Artistic and Executive Director Heidi Taylor, Dramaturg Kathleen Flaherty and a nationally recognized guest dramaturg to develop their plays in a retreat setting. **Writers' Blocks** empower emerging and established artists to develop their writing craft and producing skills. Our newest program, **Write Space**, offers funded residencies ranging from one-week solo retreats to three-month office-based residencies, where the artist defines their project or program of work and PTC helps them match it to the best space resource.

PLAY

New works meet the public.

We exist to bring new plays to the public. All of our programs are engineered to provide playwrights with the tools for script development and production success. **The Fringe New Play Prize** assists a playwright to develop and present a new play at the Vancouver International Fringe Festival, with dramaturgical support and a guaranteed mainstage spot. **Flying Start** is a two-year development cycle for an emerging writer that brings their play to production in partnership with Touchstone Theatre and the Firehall Arts Centre.

More information about our programs ►

PROGRAMS

The Associates

Six writers join PTC for three years, to pursue their creative goals with uniquely designed dramaturgical support and workshop resources. The six selected writers receive creative and professional support, including a writing stipend in the second year of the program. The Associates participate in regular collegial discussions with each other and PTC staff. By the end of the third year, the Associates will each have a completed new play that has an articulated production goal.

The Colony

Four to six playwrights join Artistic and Executive Director Heidi Taylor, Dramaturg Kathleen Flaherty, and a nationally recognized guest dramaturg, to develop their plays. The focus is on the individual development of each playwright's work as well as the creation of a unique, supportive and productive community of playwrights, directors, dramaturgs and actors. Participating playwrights must be available for full-time residency during the Colony and will receive accommodation, a meal allowance and, where necessary, travel to and from Vancouver. The colony takes place over two weeks in November of each year.

Flying Start

Lead by Dramaturg Kathleen Flaherty, Flying Start is a two-year development cycle for an emerging writer that brings their play to production in partnership with Touchstone Theatre and the Firehall Arts Centre. PTC contributes process planning, ongoing dramaturgy, and workshop support.

Write Space

Write Space is a new program for PTC, to create funded residency periods for playwrights we are supporting dramaturgically. Residencies will range from one-week solo retreats to three-month office-based residencies. Serving emerging to mid-career playwrights, we have the potential to bring 15 writers into the program in the pilot year. Write Space will launch with four confirmed partnerships: Caravan Farm Theatre, The Only Animal's Joe Creek Retreat, Joy Kogawa Historic House, and Burnkit, a new media design company. Write Space addresses practical and relational issues in our community: a lack of affordable work space for writers; the need for living wages for artists; access to resources for diverse writers; and through the cross-sectoral partnerships and readings, the need for connection amongst Vancouver's citizens. Primary to the Write Space program is the freedom for the artist to define their project or program of work, and for PTC to help them match it to the best space resource.

Writers' Blocks

Block P: Self-production for emerging writers. To assist emerging playwrights in charting their own path to production, PTC offers a mentorship preparing three writers to apply for a BYOV at the Vancouver Fringe Festival. An accomplished theatre mentor offers the participants a template for small-scale self-production, from developing a creative team to budgeting and scheduling. Participants must be willing to raise their own funding to produce their projects, including application fees for the Fringe Festival BYOV program. The writers may choose to cooperate on a shared program or work individually.

Block A: Writers explore the fundamentals of playwriting in a lively, collegial environment under the mentorship of a nationally-recognized playwright. Participants should have some writing experience, but may cross over from other theatrical practices or writing disciplines. A small group (6-8 writers) meets once a week October to early December.

Block D: Open to dramaturgs, directors, writers, choreographers, and other creators interested in the conceptual architecture of new work, Block D is a dramaturgical discussion group led by PTC Artistic and Executive Director Heidi Taylor. The group meets biweekly for eight sessions (March – June), to engage in practical and theoretical discussions about the process of dramaturgy. Sessions are tailored to the experience and interests of the 6-8 participants.

Block G for Genre: A focused writing group, led by Dramaturg Emeritus Martin Kinch.

Block L for Libretto: A pilot project with the Canadian Music Centre starting in 2013/14.

The Fringe New Play Prize

PTC and the Vancouver International Fringe Festival created The Fringe New Play Prize to develop and present a new play at the 2013 Vancouver International Fringe Festival. The winning project will receive dramaturgical support from PTC and a free guaranteed mainstage spot at the Vancouver Fringe.

Dramaturgical Reading Program

Playwrights receive a professional dramaturg's report on completed one-act or full-length plays, including a detailed analysis of the script, constructive criticism and questions for consideration for the next draft.

Playwrights Theatre Centre (PTC)

is a dramaturgically-focused theatre company that finds, nurtures and advances the Canadian playwright.

We develop plays from creation to performance.

We engage with the professional theatre community nationally and internationally in the development of new work.

We foster playwrights and theatre artists that reflect our diverse community.

We invest in research and innovation in process, form and dissemination.

By supporting **in-depth development for independent voices**, we foster theatre's role in building a society that values critical conversations about how we choose to live our lives. We believe **live performance**, and theatre in particular, stimulates **human connection**. Inhabiting public space together to think, feel, laugh, cry, argue – or **to be astounded by the beauty and horror of the universe through acts of imagination** – is a uniquely human activity. **We want more of that.**

Our activities

What is a dramaturgically-focused theatre company? Think of us as the research and development wing of the theatre. We see dramaturgy as a process of creative conversation and critical discovery, and each dramaturg/ writer partnership is unique. **Consultation + conversation + collaboration.** The process may include research, script analysis, physical creation in the studio, or technical testing of theatrical innovation. PTC assists its writers in designing their own dramaturgical processes, while offering expertise in a wide range of approaches, from traditional drama to site-specific creation, audio walking plays to image-based physical work.

Our structure

PTC celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2013. We are the largest playwright development centre in Canada, directly supporting **over 40 writers a year**. PTC has two full-time artistic staff, and three part-time administrative staff. Our **membership of 115+ writers** extends nationally, with a majority based in BC. Our national **newsletter has a 700+ readership**.

Recent work

Since 2011, PTC has seen 16 plays it has developed go on to premieres, including the **11 PodPlays** (Newworld Theatre), **Re: Union** (Sean Devine, HHG), **Sea of Sand** (Eric Rhys Miller, The Only Animal), **Falling in Time** (C.E. Gatchalian, Screaming Weenie), **Shelter from the Storm** (Peter Boychuk, Touchstone/Firehall Arts Centre), and **The Idiot** (James Fagan Tait, Newworld/Vancouver Moving Theatre, PuSh Festival/Theatre at UBC).

Our Story

For over 40 years PTC has been at the vanguard of new play development in Canada.

Transforming over the last four decades from a play-reporting centre to a producing theatre company to a creative incubator for the best original plays, PTC is a leader in the Vancouver and national theatre ecology. Our aim is to build community amongst theatre-makers, stimulating experimentation and national and international productions.

Founded as the **New Play Centre** in 1970 by **Sheila Neville** and **Douglas Bankson**, PTC initially began as a script critique service with a mandate to “encourage and develop dramatic writing in British Columbia”. The 1970s were a time of great artistic and nationalist ferment in Canada, and in the theatre world this translated to a surge in original works by Canadian playwrights. With the hiring of its first managing and artistic director, **Pamela Hawthorn**, in 1972 the organization broadened its mandate and became an active producing theatre company dedicated to the production and presentation of new works. Under Hawthorn’s direction the New Play Centre premiered such renowned plays as ***Herringbone* by Tom Cone**, ***Ned and Jack* by Sheldon Rosen**, ***Under the Skin* by Betty Lambert**, ***Something Red* by Tom Walmsley**, ***Harbour House* by David King**, and ***Dreaming and Duelling* by John and Joa Lazarus**, among other major Canadian plays.

Operating as The New Play Centre through the 1980s, the company produced full length plays and the popular **New Play Festival**. More Vancouver companies – like The New Play Centre and Touchstone Theatre – were bringing new Canadian work to the stage, demonstrating the viability of Canadian playwriting.

In 1995, under the direction of Artistic Director **Kim Selody**, The New Play Centre merged with The Betty Lambert Society to become **Playwrights Theatre Centre**, and in 1999, under the leadership of **Chapelle Jaffe**, PTC acquired a permanent home on Granville Island. Jaffe created writers’ cabals that linked experienced and emerging writers, bringing a new generation to prominence. During her tenure, Governor General’s Award-winning plays like Kevin Kerr’s ***Unity (1918)*** and Vern Thiessen’s ***Einstein’s Gift*** were showcased at the Festival. Important voices like **Aaron Bushkowsky**, **Michael Lewis MacLennan**, **Marcus Youssef**, and **Janet Munsil** tested their work with PTC’s support.

Challenged to make PTC relevant and necessary in a tenuous theatre climate when he joined the company as Literary Manager and Executive Director in 2001, **Martin Kinch** transformed the organization from primarily a new play reading centre to a dramaturgically focused company that fosters Canadian playwrights. He created several new playwright-focused programs including **Flying Start**, **The Associates**, **The Writers Colony** and **The News**. He also pioneered the pod play – brainchild of Adrienne Wong – through PTC’s **PodPlays – The Quartet**, a collaboration with Newworld Theatre, the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival 2011 and CBC Radio One.

Heidi Taylor assumed the role of Artistic and Executive Director in 2012 and Martin Kinch became the company’s first Dramaturg Emeritus. Since joining the company in 2005, Taylor has dramaturged over 40 plays and worked with playwrights from across the country. She was instrumental in the rebranding of the company and new website in 2010, created the **Fringe New Play Prize**, and **Block P (self-producing for emerging playwrights)** as well as the newest PTC program **Write Space**, which launches in spring 2013. Former CBC Radio drama and documentary producer **Kathleen Flaherty** joined PTC as Dramaturg in the fall of 2012.

PTC moves into its fourth decade with a continued commitment to deepen the creative process for playwrights, and share their experiences with the community – locally and nationally.

PTC People

Heidi Taylor

Artistic and Executive Director

Heidi is a Vancouver-based dramaturg, director and performer. Since joining PTC in 2005, she has dramaturged over 40 plays, including 10 new short plays through **The News** commissioning program, co-created many site-specific and community-based projects, and worked with writers from across the country. Recent accomplishments include the **rebranding of the company and new website** in 2010, creation of the new **Fringe New Play Prize**, and **Block P (self-producing for emerging playwrights)** plus the newest program **WriteSpace**. Heidi is also a dance dramaturg, and has worked with Caroline Liffman (choreographer) during her residency at the Scotiabank Dance Centre, and through her own company Proximity Arts, with Susan Elliott and Tanya Marquardt.

Kathleen Flaherty

Dramaturg

A northern Albertan by birth, a theatre director and dramaturg by training, a producer of radio drama and documentary for **CBC Radio** for the last 20 years, Kathleen is a lover of theatre, music, art and literature. Her work in drama for CBC includes everything from adaptations of ***A Fine Balance*** and ***Stanley Park*** to the wildly original Thomas King series “**The Dead Dog Café Comedy Hour**”. Her dramaturgical work in the theatre began in the early 1980s and included work with Factory Theatre, Great Canadian Theatre Company, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Nightwood and Theatre New Brunswick as well as producing and directing original works for independent small theatre productions.

Martin Kinch

Dramaturg Emeritus

Throughout his impressive career, spanning four decades and multiple Canadian cities, Martin has been at the forefront of modern Canadian theatrical expression. He forged the movement toward the development of original Canadian plays in the early 1970s and spearheaded the creation of alternative theatres in Canada as founder of **Toronto Free Theatre** in 1972. He was a drama producer at CBC Radio (1980-86) and artistic director of Theatre Calgary from the late 80s to early 90s. He moved to Vancouver in 1993. Martin is also a writer, editor, director, dramaturg and UBC creative writing instructor and has written for television, film, radio and the stage. Over his trailblazing 10-year tenure (2002-12) at PTC, Martin transformed the organization from primarily a new play reading centre to a dramaturgically focused company that fosters Canadian playwrights. He is responsible for creating several playwright-centred programs at PTC including **Flying Start**, **The Dramaturgical Reading Program**, **The Associates**, **The Writers Colony** and **The News**. He also pioneered the pod play – brainchild of Adrienne Wong – through PTC’s **PodPlays – The Quartet**, a collaboration with Newworld Theatre, the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival 2011 and CBC Radio One.

Linda Gorrie

Administrative Director

Linda has been working as a professional arts administrator since 1984, most significantly as General Manager of the **Vancouver Fringe Festival** (1984-1988), Interim Executive Director of **Open Space Gallery** (1989) and Executive Director of the **Women in View Festival** (1990-95). Linda has been Administrative Director at Playwrights Theatre Centre since 1998 and divides her time between PTC and as a consultant and business manager to arts and other not-for-profit organizations. Her areas of expertise are financial management, grant and proposal writing and reporting, budget development, cash flow management, project management, board governance and strategic planning. Linda is a graduate of the Banff Centre School of Management Arts Management Program (1987) and was awarded the **Mary Phillips Prize at the 2005 Jessie Theatre Awards**. She is actively involved in the community as Treasurer of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT), Governor of Koerner Foundation and Director At Large for a women's health collective. She has also been a board member of New Performance Works (1994-2004), Mortal Coil Performance Society (2004-2007) and Touchstone Theatre (1990-1995).

Jessica Choi

Resource Development Intern

Jessica recently graduated from the University of Queensland in Australia with a Master's degree in public relations. She aims to create a stronger and more close-knit community amongst PTC's various supporters and participants.

Janice Valdez

Administrative Assistant/Membership Coordinator

A BFA graduate of the University of Victoria's Theatre program and New York University's Masters program in drama therapy, Janice brings with her a wide range of experiences from launching a volunteer patient simulation program to coordinating guest artists at the **Vancouver Queer Film Festival**. As administrative assistant and membership coordinator, Janice supports office operations and liaises with PTC members. Writing and distributing newsletters and media releases, processing program applications and interacting with playwrights across Canada are a few of her responsibilities. Janice has worked in performance, production or volunteer roles with companies such as: Puente Theatre, Theatre Inconnu, Belfry Theatre, Plays That Work, Urban Ink, Vancouver Playback Theatre Troupe, Victoria Broadway Chorus, and her private practice as an applied theatre practitioner. When not at PTC, Janice works on performing arts practices, organizing community and practicing Reiki. Janice's passion for creative community and sustainability keeps her busy with volunteering and leading MuMa bicycle rides for the community group she co-founded, Mumbai 2 Manila. Janice recently finished PTC's Block A and is now working on her first play. She blogs at janicevaldez.com.