



## SUNSET THEATRE SOCIETY S-41346

Founded in 2000, The Sunset Theatre Society's Mandate is to: to nurture, develop, produce, and present professional theatre in the remote gold mining town of Wells BC, within the supportive environment of the Sunset Theatre.

The Sunset Theatre is Governed by a Board of Directors with one full-time volunteer staff person, Executive Artistic Director, Karen Jeffery. The Sunset Theatre has just celebrated its 10th Anniversary season.

### STAFF

Karen Jeffery - Artistic Director  
 Julia Mackey - Director of Presentations  
 Dirk Van Stralen - Director of Productions

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dorothea Funk - Treasurer  
 Holly Jones - Chair  
 Natasha McEwan - Secretary  
 Brendan Bailey - Director  
 Doug McKeag - Director  
 Chris Cooley - Director  
 Michelle Liefertz - Director

Stu Cawood - Sunset Cabaret  
 Chris Cooley - Sunset Cabaret

### CONTACT INFO

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### Overview

The Sunset Theatre is the crucible for theatre artists to create new works. The **Exploration Series**, launched in 2006 at the Sunset Theatre, supports the creation and development of new plays in the varying phases of the creative cycle from inception to full production. The format for each of the Exploration Series projects is as unique as each artist, at the varying stages of development. Sometimes it's a retreat for writing, and sometimes it's development, geared towards production. The Sunset Theatre's support of new Canadian plays has been at the core of the company's mandate from its inception - whether engaging a dramaturge, workshopping a script, scrapbooking initial ideas and concepts, or wanting to hear your play read in front of an audience for the first time. We look forward to you joining us in establishing the Sunset Theatre as a centre for excellence

### Outcomes

The intent behind each of our Exploration Series projects is to see your play premiere at the Sunset Theatre and then go on to have a life of its own - inspiring, informing, and entertaining audiences for years to come. Although we recognize that this goal is perhaps unrealistic on a practical level, our hope is that your project will live on long past the Sunset Theatre. Each project's path and trajectory is unique and customized to the artist or artists involved. The stage at which your project enters the Exploration Series is mutually determined.



Emma Jarrett working on, 'Breastless' at the Sunset Theatre with Danette Boucher as Dramaturge, Director. 'Breastless' is scheduled to premiere in 2019



Marcel Gagnon in 'Awakening of my People Through Sweat Lodge' in 2017, which became 'The Drum is Calling You Home' and premiered in 2018



Morag Northey and James Douglas in Whispers, which became '17', Directed by Dirk Van Stralen, Dramaturge Eugene Stickland and Premiered in 2017

## EXPLORATION SERIES HISTORY

2018

**\*\*THE DOUGLAS PROJECT** by Danette Boucher  
**A SONG FOR MY MOTHER**  
by Shawna Eileen Berry  
**GOOD HOSUEKEEPING** by Nicolle Nattress  
**\*BREASTLESS** by Emma Jarrett  
**\*\*\*HER BLOOD RUNS THROUGH MY BRAIDS** by  
Kym Gouchie with Michelle Thrush  
**ANATOMY OF LOVE** by Brendan Bailey

2017

**\*\*HER BLOOD RUNS THROUGH MY BRAIDS** by  
Kym Gouchie with Michelle Thrush  
**\*AWAKENING MY PEOPLE THROUGH SWEAT  
LODGE** by Marcel Gagnon  
**KOHKUM & ME** by Zach Running Coyote  
**\*THE DOUGLAS PROJECT** by Danette Boucher  
**\*INTO THE ROOTS** by Nicolle Nattress

2016

**ALWAYS** by Michaela Jeffery  
**GOING WEST** by Michaela Jeffery  
**\*KYM GOUCHIE - Artist Retreat**  
**\*\*\*WHISPERS TO 17** by Morag Northey  
**HIGHWAY OF FEARS** by Betsy Trumpner

2015

**\*\*WHISPERS** by Morag Northey  
**THE ONLY GOOD BOY** by Chelsea Woolley  
**FETCH** by Elena Belyea  
**\*\*GODHEAD** by Michaela Jeffery

2014

**21 REASONS**  
**\*GODHEAD** by Michaela Jeffery  
**LIGHT BOXES** by Michaela Jeffery  
**THREE STORIES UP** by Mack Gordon  
**BITS** by Patrick Kearns

2013

**\*UNSTOPPABLE LOVE** by Morag Northey

2012

**CARA LESLIE - Artist Retreat**

2011

**30 YEARS OF SONG**  
by Onalea Gilbertson & David Rhymer

2010

**\*POETRY, MUSIC AND SONG** – Morag Northey  
**ONALEA GILBERTSON - Artist Retreat**  
**KINGS COURT - Artist Retreat**

2009

**\*EXPLORATION** – Morag Northey

2007

**THE FRED WELLS SHOW** by Danette Boucher

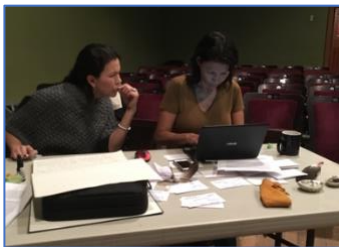
2006

**JAKE'S GIFT** - by Julia Mackey  
**THE BOX IN SPACE** by Mark Dawson  
**BOY BLUE** - by Michaela Jeffery

2005

**PIECES OF MONET** by Michaela Jeffery

**\* \* \* \* \*** Depicts projects still in development  
and the number of years involved.



Kym Gouchie working with  
Dramaturge and Director,  
Michelle Thrush on, 'Her  
Blood Runs Through My  
Braids' projected to  
premiere in 2020



The 2017 Exploration Series  
Team, Danette Boucher,  
Karen Jeffery, Nicolle  
Nattress, Matt Randolph,  
Michelle Liefertz, &  
Brendan Bailey



Andrew Hamilton in  
Godhead by Michaela  
Jeffery Directed by Tim  
Sutherland with  
Devon MacKinnon and  
Michelle Liefertz

### What Do I Need to Apply?

All you need is an idea, concept, or draft at any stage of the development. Time frame, number of artists, dramaturge, director are all part of the initial discussion.

### Do I Get Paid? Who Covers Costs?

Different levels of rates are paid to artists depending on the stage of development. This ranges from honorariums to help cover living costs to travel and artist fees. Although not a PACT theatre, rates are based on CAEA and PGC agreements, and endeavour to adhere to Best Practices for professional theatre in Canada. Fees are negotiated on a per project basis, based on technical and creative needs.

The Sunset Theatre is funded through various sources including Arts Councils, local and provincial governments, sponsorships, and fundraising earned revenue. Although projects are accepted on a year-round basis, the funds need to be in place prior to commencement and will be included in various funding applications. You will be required to provide outlines, script samples, artist statements, and bios.

### Where Do I Stay While I'm In Wells?

Artists coming for the **Exploration Series** or **Retreats** are typically housed next door to the theatre, lovingly referred to as 'The Good Eats', or in an alternate space at the theatre's discretion. Artists wanting to make their own arrangements will be responsible for any financial obligations.

### How Is A Retreat Different from the Exploration Series?

Retreats happen year round on an Ad-hoc basis and are similar to a rental or use of space. Typically artists coming on retreats have their own sources of funding in place and need a place to create, but not necessarily a theatre, i.e. a cabin.

### What Does The Theatre Provide?

This is determined on a per project basis but the Sunset typically provides: use of space, technical support, stage manager, director, and dramaturgical support. All TBD.

### Who Can Come With Me?

This is determined on a project basis. Your creative team is important to us, however any and all personnel must be preapproved before you arrive. Additional people will not be compensated above and beyond what has been agreed to for any given stage.

### Who Owns The Rights to My Play?

You do. The Sunset Theatre is not interested in taking ownership of your play. However we do ask to be acknowledged consistently wherever appropriate with the following: *This play in part or in whole was developed through the Exploration Series at the Sunset Theatre, Wells BC.*

### Publicity and Social Media:

The Sunset Theatre will lead any and all publicity, marketing, and social media posts. You will be asked to provide content, and we would love you to share far and wide. The Sunset has final approval on any and all content, photos, and descriptions. We will work with you to come up with a mutually exciting approach.

### Will I have To Sign A Contract?

We will issue a Letters of Understanding outlining the agreements.

### What Is The Presentation Series?

If you already have a full production in mind or want to premiere a play, our Presentation Series might be a fit for you. This is a done though Box Office splits, rental or co-presenter agreements, or a combination.