

## Introducing the 2016-2017 ATP Playwrights Unit

### Michaela Jeffery

Michaela is a recent graduate of The National Theatre School of Canada in Playwriting. Writing credits include: *The Listening Room* (2016 New Words Festival, NTS) *Always* (2015 Dorothy White Award & Wildfire National Playwriting Competition, runner up), *GODHEAD* (The Sunset Theatre), *Sundogs* (Holding Hollow Productions; Edmonton International Fringe Festival; Alberta Playwriting Competition, honourable mention), *BROKE* (Parenthesis Company), *Lapse*, (Calgary Regional One-Act Play Festival), *Boy/Blue* (Calgary Regional One-Act Play Festival), *Fetish* (8-0-8 Productions; Calgary International Fringe Festival), and *RE: Generation* (TheatreBOOM). Michaela is the recipient of the 2015 Enbridge Playwrights Award (Emerging Category), and two-time recipient of the Alberta Drama Festival Association's 'Outstanding Original Script Award'.

### Arun Lakra

Arun has three jobs. Writer. Doctor. Dad. He hoped one of them would be easy. (He was wrong.) Writing-wise, Arun wrote a play called *Sequence*, which has been published, produced internationally, and won a few awards along the way. *Sequence* will have its Toronto Premiere this season at the Tarragon Theatre. In the world of cinema, Arun's feature film script, *Voices*, was a winner of the Praxis Screenplay Competition. This script has received funding from Telefilm Canada and Movie Central, and is presently in development. Arun's animated music video, *Must Sell Screenplay!*, enjoyed an award-winning festival run. Most recently, Arun wrote and directed his first live-action narrative short film, *Probability*, which will have its World Premiere in the World Competition section at this year's Montreal World Film Festival. In addition to his creative pursuits, Arun is an eye surgeon. He completed his medical school and ophthalmology residency program at the University of Toronto. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada and is also a member of the Board of Arts Commons. Arun lives in Calgary with his wife and two kids, and divides his work week between his creative endeavors and his ophthalmology practice.

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## **Makambe K. Simamba**

Born in Zambia and raised in the Caribbean, Makambe believes that every life should be lived passionately. She is a proud graduate of University of Lethbridge's Theatre and Dramatic Arts program, where she focused heavily on playwriting and acting. As a playwright, she has won provincial and national awards for her original play, *MUD*, and was a member of the 2013-2014 Playwright's Unit at Obsidian Theatre. On stage, select acting credits include *SIA* (Pyretic Productions), *Medea* (Chromatic Theatre), and *Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God* (Ellipsis Tree Collective). On screen, select acting credits include *Burn Your Maps* and *Young Dunk Punk*. Recently, Makambe wrote, produced and starred in *A Chitenge Story*, an autobiographical one woman show that creates a platform to discuss healing from sexual abuse, as well as the opportunity for audiences to connect with support networks in their local neighborhoods. *A Chitenge Story* has been performed in Calgary, Lethbridge, and recently received a workshop and public presentation at UnoFest 2016 in Victoria, BC. Makambe is thrilled to be living and working in Calgary, and is more than excited for the future of Canadian art.

## **Ken Cameron**

Ken is a multi-faceted artist, theatre director and playwright whose work fluctuates between traditionally constructed plays and alternative art projects. His art installation and theatre hybrid, *How iRan: Three Plays for iPod*, was featured in Canadian Theatre Review, Canada's foremost academic theatre magazine. *How iRan* is recorded entirely on iPod as the audience moves through installations set amongst the stacks of a downtown library. With the iPod set to shuffle, there are over 10.6 million versions of this story of immigration to Canada. Ken's new installation, *One Month In Canada* created in collaboration with Marko Mäetamm and Rita Bozi will be presented in Budapest in 2017 and Estonia in 2018. Ken's most traditional work, *Harvest*, has been produced across Canada to great acclaim. His musical *Dear Johnny Deere* won both the Betty Mitchell Award and the Theatre Critics Award for Outstanding Musical. His plays have been published in two collections: *Harvest and Other Plays* and *Dear Johnny Deere*. Ken's most recent work, *The Blogfather* was recognized with the Grand Prize of Alberta Playwriting Competition and his adaptation of *Cue For Treason* has been commissioned by The Stratford Festival.

## **Stephen Massicotte**

Stephen's play *Mary's Wedding* premiered in 2002 at the Alberta Theatre Projects' playRites Festival and was the winner of the 2000 Alberta Playwriting Competition, the 2002 Betty Mitchell Award, and the 2003 Alberta Book Award.

*Mary's Wedding* has received upward of a hundred productions, has been translated into French, and has been adapted into an opera by the Pacific Opera Victoria. His play *The Oxford Roof Climber's Rebellion* premiered as a co-production between the Tarragon Theatre and the Great Canadian Theatre Company and was a hit off Broadway. It won the 2007 Canadian Author's Association Award for Best English Language Play and the 2007 Alberta Book Award for Drama. His most recent play, *The Clockmaker*, premiered at the Alberta Theatre Projects' 2009 playRites Festival and won the 2009 Betty Mitchell Award for Best New Play and the 2011 Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best English Language Play. Stephen wrote the feature films *The Dark* and *Ginger Snaps Back: The Beginning* for which he won the award for Best Script/Drama over 60 Minutes at the 2004 AMPPIA's. He also wrote the award winning short film *June* and, most recently, Historica Canada's *Winnipeg Falcons* and *Nursing Sisters* Heritage Minutes.

### **Anna Chatterton**

Anna Chatterton is a librettist, playwright and performer. Her play *Within the Glass* recently received its premiere produced by Tarragon Theatre and her solo play *Quiver* will be produced by Nightwood Theatre in October. Anna is also a Playwright-in-Residence at both Tarragon Theatre and Nightwood Theatre. Anna writes and performs with the acclaimed theatre collective Independent Aunties (with Evalyn Parry and Karin Randoja). The Aunties have created six shows together, produced by Theatre Passe Muraille, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and the Theatre Centre. Their most recent play *Gertrude and Alice* was co-produced with Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore award for both Outstanding New Play and Outstanding Ensemble. Anna was named Best Supporting Actress for her performance as Alice in The Toronto Theatre Critics Awards. *Gertrude and Alice* will be published by Playwrights Canada Press in 2018. As a librettist Anna's work has been commissioned and produced by Canadian Opera Company, Tapestry Opera, World Stage/Harbourfront Centre, The Banff Centre and the Theatre Centre. Her opera *Stitch* was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Opera. This fall her opera *Sweat* will be produced by Centre for Contemporary Opera in Brooklyn, NY.