

COLLEEN MURPHY - CURRICULUM VITAE

PLAYS

Geography of Fire / La Furie et sa géographie, *Concert Presentation of PART I*, Sudbury Theatre Centre, Sudbury, ON, directed by Brian Dooley, May 2019 (Upcoming *World Premiere* of Parts One and Two TBA in 2023/24)

The Society For The Destitute Presents Titus Bouffonius, *World Premiere* at Rumble Theatre, Vancouver, BC, commissioned and directed by Stephen Drover with Michael Kennard, November 2017. Published by Sirocco Drama, 2021, USBN 9781927922774.

- **Winner of three Elizabeth Sterling Awards for Outstanding Production, Best Supporting Actor and Costume Design**
- **Winner of six Jessie Richardson Awards for Outstanding Production, Ensemble, Direction, Set Design, Music and Costume Design**

The Breathing Hole / AGLU World Premiere, Stratford Festival, Stratford ON, directed by Reneltha Arluk, 2017. Published by Playwrights Canada Press, 2020, ISBN 9780369101105, in both English and Nattilingmiutut, with Siobhan Arnatsiaq-Murphy, translated by Janet Tamalik-McGrath

- **Shortlisted for the 2018 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize (U.S.)**
- **Shortlisted for the 2018 Carol Bolt Award for Outstanding New Play**

I Hope My Heart Burns First (formerly Bright Burning) *World Premiere*, Timms Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, directed by Jan Selman, March 2017.

Pig Girl, *World Premiere*, Theatre Network, Edmonton, AB, directed by Bradley Moss, 2013. Published by Playwrights Canada Press, 2015, ISBN 978-1-77091-446-9. Also produced at Finborough Theatre, London UK, 2016; Imago Theatre, Montreal, 2016, and Sacred Roots Productions at The Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne (US/Canada), 2016.

- **Winner of 2016 Governor General Literary Award for Drama, English**
- **Winner of 2014 Carol Bolt Award for Drama**
- **Nominated for three Elizabeth Sterling Awards including Outstanding New Play**

Armstrong's War, *World Premiere* at Arts Club Theatre, Vancouver, directed by Mindy Parfitt, 2013. Published by Playwrights Canada Press, 2014, ISBN 978-1-77091-248-9. Also produced at Finborough Theatre, London UK, 2013; Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (provincial tour), 2014; Theatre Network, Edmonton; 2015; Canadian Rep Theatre, Toronto, 2015; Theatre Kingston, 2018; Western Canada Theatre, 2018.

- **Nominated for two Elizabeth Sterling Awards including Outstanding Production**
- **Nominated for five Jessie Richardson Awards including Outstanding New Play**

The Goodnight Bird *World Premiere* produced by Finborough Theatre, London, UK, directed by Bethan Dear, 2011. Published by Playwrights Canada Press, 2013, ISBN 978-1-77091-120-8. Also produced at Centaur Theatre, Montreal / Kay Meek Centre, Vancouver, 2015, and Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre, Antigonish, 2019.

The December Man (*L'homme de décembre*) *World Premiere* produced by Alberta Theatre Projects' Enbridge Festival of New Canadian Plays, directed by Bob White, 2007. Published by Playwrights Canada Press, 2007, ISBN 978-0-88754-595-5. Also produced at Citadel Theatre, Edmonton and Canadian Stage, Toronto, 2008; Green Thumb Theatre, Vancouver, 2008; Finborough Theatre, London UK, 2011; Prairie Theatre Exchange, Winnipeg, 2011; National Arts Centre, English Theatre, Ottawa, 2015; Théâtre de Namur, Belgium, 2018/19 tour.

- *Winner of the 2007 Governor General Literary Award for Drama, English*
- *Winner, Dora Mavor Moore Award, Outstanding Production of a Play, 2008*
- *Winner of 2008 CAA/Carol Bolt Award for Drama*
- *Winner of the 2006 Enbridge playRites Award*
- *Nominated for Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding New Play 2007*

The Piper, *World Premiere* produced by Necessary Angel Theatre in association with Factory Theatre, directed by Richard Rose, 2002. Published by Playwrights Canada Press, 2003, ISBN 0-88754-680-3. Numerous university productions in Canada

Beating Heart Cadaver, *World Premiere* produced by Necessary Angel Theatre in association with Canadian Stage Company, directed by Richard Rose, January 1998. Published by Playwrights Canada Press, 1999, ISBN 0-88754-567-X. Also produced at Hans Otto Theatre, Potsdam, Germany, 2004; Finborough Theatre, London UK, 2011

- *Nominated for 1999 Governor General's Literary Award for Drama, English*
- *Nominated for 1999 Chalmers Award for Best Play*

Down in Adoration Falling, work-shopped at Theatre Passe Muraille, 1994
Full manuscript published in 2008 in the Canadian Theatre Review, #132

All Other Destinations Are Cancelled, *World Premiere* produced by Tarragon Theatre, directed by Martha Henry, February 1987. Published by Playwrights Guild of Canada

OPERA (as librettist)

Fantasma composed by Ian Cusson, for the Canadian Opera Company, *World Premiere* in November 2021 at Imperial Oil Theatre, Toronto <https://www.coc.ca/productions/Fantasma>

Tapestry Opera Briefs: **Bring Me The Head Of Our President**, composer August Murphy-King / **The Snow Glob**, composer Ian Cusson / **Hydrophis Expedition**, composer Benton Roark / **My Eyes Are Bright And Sparkly**, composer Rene Orth. “*Bring Me the Head of Our President was a powerful polemic against the degradation of democracy in the Trump*

era while Hydrophis Expedition (Roark/Murphy) was an eerie exploration of the deep ocean during which the audience were asked to keep their eyes closed.” Opera Ramblings blog, September 15, 2018

Oksana G. *World Premiere*, Tapestry Opera, Imperial Oil Theatre, Toronto, composed by Aaron Gervais, directed by Tom Diamond, conducted by Jordan de Souza, May 2017.

- ***Nominated for seven Dora Mavor Moore Awards including Outstanding New Opera***

My Mouth On Your Heart *World Premiere*, Arts and Letters Club, Toronto, composed by August Murphy-King, for Toy Piano Composers/Bicycle Opera, directed by Liza Balkan, April 2016.

RADIO DRAMA

Pumpkin Eaters, 1990, a half-hour radio drama.

- ***Winner, 2nd Prize, CBC Literary Competition, 1990***

Mongoloids, 1988, a one-hour radio drama for CBC Radio (Anthology, **SEXTET III**)

Fire Engine Red, 1984, a fifteen-minute radio drama.

- ***Winner, 3rd Prize, CBC Literary Competition, 1984***

FILMS with Review Quotes

Director, **OUT IN THE COLD**, 2007, short, 16mm black/white, 29 min. Produced by Sarah Abbott and the University of Regina. Festivals: *World Premiere* at Vancouver Int'l Film Festival, 2007; American Indian Film Festival, San Francisco, 2008; University of Toronto Film Festival, March 2010, and Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association Showcase (SMPIA), 2009. Other 2009 festivals include Montreal First People's Festival; Cowichan Int'l Aboriginal Film Festival, Duncan, BC; Festival of Native Film and Culture, Palm Springs Festival of Native Film and Culture, CA; Sâkêwêwak Artists' Collective Storyteller's Festival, Regina; Sedona Int'l Film Festival and Spokane Int'l Film Festival. Distributed by Moving Images Distribution, Vancouver.

“Out in the Cold was one of the best films I have seen this year.” Mike Gosselin, Eagle Feather News, Saskatoon, November 2008

- ***Nominated for Best Live Short, American Indian Film Institute Motion Picture Awards***
- ***Best Special Effects Award, University of Toronto Film Festival***
- ***Mayor's Arts and Business Award for Innovation in the Arts, City of Regina***
- ***Nominated for five Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Awards including two Best Actor nominations for Gordon Tootoosis and Matthew Strongeagle.***

Writer/Director/Producer, **GIRL WITH DOG**, 2006, short, black/white, 19 min. Subjective Eye Inc. with Emily Hampshire. *World Premiere* and in competition at 2006 Festival des Films du Monde, Montreal; 2006 Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg, 2007 FIPA - International Festival of Audiovisual Programs, Biarritz, France; 2007 International Film Festival Rotterdam. Distributed by Cinéma Esperança Inc., Toronto

"A girl lives between garbage cans and containers – on the abandoned edge of an industrial city. The only living being there is a dog. After she has been raped only the dog remains at her side. A sad story of the silent effort to live." Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg

Writer/Director/Producer, **WAR HOLES**, 2001/2002, short, 35mm black/white, 4 min. Subjective Eye Inc. In competition at 2001 *World Premiere* at Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg, 2001; Montreal World Film Festival, 2002; Festival Tres Courts, France, 2003; Commonwealth Film Festival, Manchester, UK, 2003.

"Images of mutilated dolls are used to protest the death of children in war. The dolls are broken up, torn apart, burnt and covered in mud. Arms, holes torn in torsos, are dragged to and fro by the indifferent waves of the sea. A short disturbingly impressive film." Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg 2001

Writer/Director, **DESIRE**, 2000, feature film, 35mm colour, 95 min. Canadian/German Coproduction. Subjective Eye (Elizabeth Yake, Producer) with Bioskop Film (Eberhard Junkerdorf, Producer) and Buffalo Gal Pictures (Phyllis Lang, Co-Producer). *World Premiere* at 2000 Toronto Int'l Film Festival; 2000 Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg; Atlantic Film Festival; Local Heros (Winnipeg). Distributed in Canada by Remstar. Foreign Sales Agent, Filmoptions, Montreal.

"Desire, the Canadian/German film that opened this year's Mannheim/Heidelberg Film Festival, supplied sensation and enthusiasm, and stands a good chance to garner for its director Colleen Murphy the People's Choice prize of best film a second time (after "Shoemaker" in 1997). This truly grippingly directed psycho-thriller deserves to play in all cinemas." MA MORGEN, 14 November 2000

- ***Opening Film of the 2000 Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg***
- ***Nominated for Genie Awards for Best Actress in a Leading Role, and Best Actor in a Leading Role***

Director, **SHOEMAKER**, 1997, feature film, 35mm colour, 82 min. The Feature Film Project and Subjective Eye Inc (Elizabeth Yake, Producer). Festivals: *World Premiere* at 1996 Toronto Int'l Film Festival; 1997 Singapore Int'l Film Festival, (Canadian High Commission's highlighted film); 1997 Sydney Film Festival; in competition at the 1997 Mannheim-Heidelberg Int'l Film Festival; 1997 Flanders Int'l Film Festival; in competition at the 3rd Shanghai Int'l Film Festival; invited to the 1997 London Film Festival; Cinequest (San Jose); Seattle Int'l Film Festival; and opened the 1997 Braunschweig Film Festival, Germany. Distributed by Cinéma Esperança International Inc., Toronto.

"The story of a childlike shoemaker who falls in love with a self-confident but lonely woman distinguishes itself by its perceptible affection of its characters. The film retains its joie de vivre without romanticizing. The director offers a hopeful perspective simply by celebrating the magic powers of the moment and the strength of friendship." Ecumenic Jury, Mannheim-Heidelberg Int'l Film Festival (Germany)

- **Winner of Audience Prize at Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg**
- **Winner of Ecumenical Jury Prize at Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg**
- **Nominated for Genie Awards for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actor**
- **Nominated for the Claude Jutra Award for Best First Film**
- **Opening Film of the 1997 Braunschweig Film Festival, Germany**

Writer/Director, **THE FEELER**, 1995, short, 16mm colour, 29 min. Canadian Film Centre (Elizabeth Yake, Producer). Festivals: *World Premiere* at 1995 Toronto Int'l Film Festival; 1996 Festival de Cine de Huesca; 1996 Sydney Film Festival; 1996 Yorkton Short Film/Video Festival; 1996 Montreal Int'l Short Film Festival; 1996 Houston Int'l Film/Video Festival; 1995 Vancouver Int'l Film Festival; 1995 Cinefest; 1995 Atlantic Film Festival; 1995 Montreal World Film Festival. Distributed by CFC/Alliance.

"Obsessive and strangely moving, THE FEELER is unsentimental, searching drama... perceptively kinky, erotically charged. Murphy's screenplay is literate and darkly elliptical." ...Tom McSorley, Take One Magazine, Winter 1996

- **Nominated for Genie Award for Best Short Film**
- **Winner, Golden Sheaf Award, Best Performance, Yorkton Short Film Festival**

Writer, **TERMINI STATION**, 1989, feature, 35mm, colour, 105 min. Saturday Plays Limited, dir: Allan King. Festivals: *World Premiere* at 1989 Toronto Int'l Film Festival; Cinefest; Vancouver Int'l Film Festival; Chicago Int'l Film Festival. Distributed by Allan King Films.

- **Nominated for five Genie Awards including Best Picture and two nominations for Best Actress in a Leading Role**

"Darkly amusing, Murphy's screenplay is at once pointed in its psychological accuracy and flaky in a quasi-documentary way that gives the action an off-kilter spontaneity...the film's triumphs lie in the precision of its insights into familial wounds, and resentments that can explode like dynamite." ...Stephen Holden, The New York Times, 31 May 1991

TRAINING

Acting: The Lee Strasberg Institute, New York, 1977
 Ryerson University, Toronto (one year), 1973
 C.A.S.T (Centre for Actors Study in Toronto) 1978 – 82
 Film Directing: Canadian Film Centre, Toronto 1994 – 1997

RESIDENCIES

2018 - Writer in Residence, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton NB.

2017- 2018 - Orion Visiting Artist, University of Victoria BC.

2014 - 2017 - Lee Playwright in Residence, University of Alberta, AB (see Experience in Education and Educational Initiatives.)

2016 - Guest Playwright Residency, National Theatre School of Canada, Montreal QC.

2014 - Edna Staebler Laurier Writer in Residence, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo ON (*Lectures, Significant participation with students of English Literature and Creative Writing and Music*).

2013 - Writer in Residence, Berton House Writers' Retreat, Dawson City YK (*Created Author's Circle, Writing and researching The Breathing Hole*).

2012 - Artist in Residence, The NotaBle Acts Theatre Festival, (UNB) Fredericton NB (*Masterclass, Guest Readings, Dramaturgy for playwrights, Consultations with Directors and Actors*).

2011 - 12 - Playwright in Residence, Factory Theatre, Toronto ON (*Writing and researching Pig Girl*).

2011 - Playwright's Retreat, Stratford Festival, Stratford ON (*Writing Armstrong's War*).

2011 - Writer in Residence, University of Guelph, Guelph ON (*Lecture, Guest teaching, Writing and researching Deliver Me*).

2010 - 2012 - Canadian Playwright-in-Residence, Finborough Theatre, London UK.

2010 - Mabel Pugh Taylor Writer-in-Residence, McMaster University, Hamilton ON (*Consultations with Students, Guest Lectures, Writing and Researching Oksana G.*).

2008 - Playwright in Residence, Tapestry New Opera, Toronto ON.

2006 - 2007 - Playwright in Residence, University of Regina, Regina SK (see Experience in Education and Educational Initiatives).

1996 - 2002 - Playwright in Residence, Necessary Angel Theatre, Toronto ON

EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

2019 – Master Class, *Play Smelter – New Work Theatre Festival*, Sudbury ON

2017 - Sessional Instructor, Drama - *Playwriting*, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB.

2016 - Dramaturge for Playwrights Colony, Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre, Sackville NB.

2016 – Master Class, Imago Theatre, Montreal QC.

2014 - 2017 – Lee Playwright in Residence, University of Alberta - initiated the *U of A Playwrights Forum* held every week in order to bring university students, members of the community and professional playwrights together to work on their plays. Edmonton AB.

2014 - Master Class (2 days), *Urban Curvz*, Calgary AB.

2013 - Master Class, University of Lethbridge Drama Department, Lethbridge AB.

2013 - Master Class, Gwaandak Theatre, Whitehorse YK.

2013 - Master Class (3 days), Arts Club Theatre in association with the Playwrights Guild of Canada, Vancouver BC.

2011 - 2012 - Resident Dramaturge, Banff Playwrights Colony, Banff AB.

2010 - 2017 - Guest Playwright and Co-Creator of the *Playwrights Forum*, a intense, month long development platform with the Citadel Theatre and the Director of Play Development, Brian Dooley, Edmonton AB.

2010 - Sessional, *Text Examination: Dramaturgy*, Ryerson University, Toronto ON.

2010 - 2012 – Mentor, MFA creative writing students, University of Guelph, Guelph ON.

2010 - Opera in the Schools: wrote libretto for *Luminous*. Developed by the Alliance of Canadian New Music Projects (ACNMP) and Tapestry New Opera, Toronto ON.

2008 to 2010 – Instructor, University of Toronto School of Continuing Education: *Disturbing the Peace: Writing Plays with Emotional Punch*, Toronto ON.

2009 - Guest Artist at Play Works Ink, Calgary, Alberta. Keynote Address: *Confronting Ourselves – Writing Tragedy in a Godless World*, Calgary AB.

2009 - Participated in The Ark: The Theatre of Ancient Greece with Peter Hinton in partnership between the NAC English Theatre and the NTS. Lecture: *Confronting Ourselves – Writing Tragedy in a Godless World*, Ottawa ON.

2009 - Playwriting Instructor at Great Blue Heron Writing Workshop at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish NS.

2009 - Opera in the Schools: wrote two libretti *Hungry* and *Band Together* for initiative to bring the creation of contemporary opera into school classrooms. Developed by the Alliance of Canadian New Music Projects (ACNMP) and Tapestry New Opera, Toronto ON.

2008 - Playwright in Residence at Tapestry New Opera. Worked on an outreach program, INside Opera, with Tapestry New Opera and the Regent Park School of Music, Toronto ON.

2006/07 – Playwright in Residence at the University of Regina. Contributed to the Over Regina Playwrights Reading Circle; consulted for both the Theatre and Film Departments thereby initiating a student/professional/community film production using *Out in the Cold* as the first model; initiated a citywide high school writing contest called HOWL; initiated a full gallery installation with students from the Visual Arts Department entitled *Horses of Disaster: The Age of Nightmares* at the 5th Parallel Gallery. Delivered lecture for the Fine Arts Lecture Series: *Standing on the Rim of the Abyss*, Regina SK.

2006 to 2008 – Faculty, heading up the Playwrights Lab at Sage Hill Writing Experience. Gave Keynote in 2008, Lumsden SK.

1994 – 2019 – created and hosted the **Colleen Murphy Short Story Contest** for 25 years at Rosedale Junior Public School, Toronto ON.

SELECTED COMMENTARY / REVIEWS

Dr. Wendy Arons, Professor of Dramatic Literature, Dramaturgy Option Coordinator, School of Drama, Carnegie Mellon University U.S.A. “Climate Change and the CAPITALOCENE in Colleen Murphy’s *The Breathing Hole* (2017),” Presented 22 June 2019, at the CDC conference in Graz, Austria – Theatre of Crisis: Aesthetic Responses to a Cross-Sectional Condition.

Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism, Volume 31, Number 2, Spring 2017, pp. 73-98 (Article) Published by Department of Theatre, University of Kansas. Penny Farlan Women Playwrights and the News: Colleen Murphy and Judith Thompson on "Fact-Inspired" Drama <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/663573>

<https://12thnight.ca/2017/03/30/colleen-murphy-burning-brightly-at-studio-theatre/>

<https://alllitup.ca/Blog/2015/Dreaming-Awake-Reading-a-play-versus-seeing-it-performed#topofpostcontent>

<https://49thshelf.com/Blog/2016/11/212/The-Chat-With-2016-Governor-General-s-Award-Winner-Colleen-Murphy>

<https://www.cbc.ca/books/playwright-colleen-murphy-on-hiding-secrets-and-finding-sinister-shiny-things-1.4043811>

For more reviews www.colleenmurphy.ca

AWARDS, WRITING COLONIES, GRANTS AND JURIES

- 2019 Awarded a Lifetime Membership Award by the Playwrights Guild of Canada
- 2017 Awarded a Canada Council for the Arts **New Chapter Grant** for **Geography of Fire / La Furie et sa géographie**
- 2012 Winner of the Writer's Guild of Canada's **Sondra Kelly Award** (awarded to a woman screenwriter in mid-career for research and development of a project)
- Banff Playwrights Colony
- Recipient of grants from the Canada Council, the Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Chalmers Arts Fellowship
- Received film grants and funding from Telefilm Canada, the (former) Ontario Media Development Corporation, Movie Central and the Harold Greenburg Fund
- Served on juries including The Carol Bolt Award, Alberta Writers Guild, Toronto Arts Council, and film juries including the Saskatchewan Filmpool, Canadian Film Centre, Gemini Awards, Genie Awards, and Telefilm Canada

UNIONS AND GUILDS

Writer's Guild of Canada
Writers Union of Canada
Playwrights Guild of Canada
Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television
Dramatists Guild of America
SOCAN

REPRESENTATION

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