

act2studio
WORKS PRESENTS

**ONCE UPON A
SHIPPING CONTAINER**



PALMERSTON LIBRARY THEATRE

OCTOBER 19TH 2PM & 7PM
OCTOBER 20TH 2PM & 7PM

Six short “genre” plays,
all written, directed, and
performed by members of
act2studioWORKS

PALMERSTON LIBRARY THEATRE
560 Palmerston Ave, Toronto
(near Bathurst and Bloor)

TICKETS: bit.ly/shippingshow

We acknowledge that this theatre is built on traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (aka. the Six Nations Confederacy), the Wendat, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We gratefully acknowledge these Indigenous nations for their guardianship of this land. It is also within the Dish with One Spoon treaty between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Anishinaabek and allied nations, to peaceably share and care for this land, its waters, and all of the biodiversity in the Great Lakes region. All those who come to live and work here are responsible for **honouring this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect.**

THE WRITERS' CHALLENGE

Why a festival of plays set in shipping containers?
To create a collision of necessity and creativity.

Restriction is usually the best stimulant for creativity.
Without it, we are not forced to think unconventionally or invent novel solutions to practical problems.



Nicole Wilson

We limited our playwrights to 15 minutes, no more than two actors and this unlikely setting, and gave them each two popular genres they had to choose from. The playwrights more than rose to that challenge. With only very minimal sets, costumes, and lighting, these six works span a range of genres from the terrifying to the hilarious to the heartbreaking, and act2studioWORKS actors, directors and team have realized these visions with startling talent and energy. We are so proud of the work that has been done, and cannot wait to share it with you.

Welcome to the mysterious worlds that inhabit mundane objects!

act2studioWORKS

This non-profit charitable organization is dedicated to enhancing the artistic growth of older adults and to creating works of social relevance to the wider community from the perspective of long life experience.

Artistic Director

Nicole Wilson

President, Board of Directors

Linda Gray

Office Administrator

Alexander Offord

Founding Artistic Director Emerita

Vrenia Ivonoffski

act2studioworks.ca

facebook.com/act2studio

PROGRAM

Plays and Assigned Genres

Seeing Red -- Slasher

by Paul Bilodeau

The Cruise – Theatre of the Absurd

by Susan Rogers

The Fear – Magical Realism

by Cathy Shilton

INTERMISSION

Thisbe and the Lion – Heroic fantasy

by Annie Massey

Start All Over Again – Dystopia (with music)

by Robbie Norquay

If You Can Pay, You're Okay – Mockumentary

by Janet Lewis

Seeing Red – Slasher



Barbara Haber
Hack



Olga Zamora
Buwie



Paul Bilodeau
Playwright



Sue Foster
Director

Slumped at my desk, seeking an idea for a short “slasher” play, I saw my artist partner dabbling at her latest painting. That’s when it came to me: what could be more cut-throat than the world of fine art?

The Cruise – Theatre of the Absurd



Laurie Finer
Defendant



Leslie Rennie
Judge



Susan Rogers
Playwright



*Tobi Lemberg-
Kaufman: Director*



Jan Boase
Rehearsal Manager

The Judge. The Defendant. The Crime...Nothing appears as it seems.
Cruise along with us in this theatre of the absurd piece for a
hilarious ride to the unknown

The Fear – Magical Realism



Ruth Miller
Mother



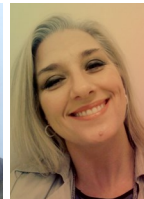
Brenda Stewart
Son



Cathy Shilton
Playwright



Paul Bilodeau
Director



Elizabeth Friesen
Asst Director



Holly Kirkconnell
Rehearsal Mgr

The Fear looks at the boxes we live in and the power we give them.
Surrounded by stuff, a mother and her grown son
explore the issues of letting go.

Thisbe and the Lion – Heroic fantasy



*Annie Massey
Playwright & Lion*



*Tobi Lemberg-
Kaufman: Thisbe*



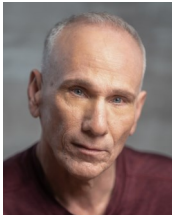
*Barbara Hyland
Director*

Magically transported from Shakespeare's Forest of Arden, a lovelorn maid and a very hungry lion face off in an epic battle of love vs survival.

Start All Over Again – Dystopia (with music)



*Saul Kaufman
Adam*



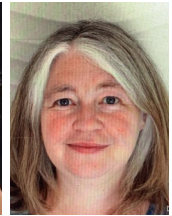
*Paul Wernick
Steve*



*Robbie Norquay
Playwright*



*Ivana Obradovic
Director*



*Joy Vertes
Rehearsal Manager*

It's 2042, after the civil war. Adam has shielded Steve from the authoritarian government's housing solution. Steve, his partner for 40 years, arrives back burdened by a guilty secret. Can the two men bridge the chasm they've created?

If You Can Pay, You're Okay – Mockumentary



*Janet Lewis
Playwright & Lucinda*



*Alta Louise Doyle
Hector E. Rector*



*Cathy Shilton
Director*



*Rowena Moyes
Rehearsal Manager*

With a provincial election on the horizon, student film maker and activist Lucinda Johnston attempts to expose Premier Hector E. Rector's broken promises. But hey, he doesn't seem bothered at all. In fact, he's lovin' it.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	Ivana Obradovic
Assistant Stage Manager	Glenn Mosher
Production Co-Managers	Ivana Obradovic & Robert McNeely
Sound Technician	Andy King
Lighting Board Operator	Ivana Obradovic
Wardrobe Manager	Edna Zuber
Show Graphic	Connor Quinn
Program Coordination/Design	Rowena Moyes
Publicity.....	Cathy Shilton & Rowena Moyes
Front of House Coordinators	Michel Crête & Robbie Norquay
Online Ticketing	Judy Malkin, Ginny Thomson & Brenda Stewart

Save the date!

An Unexpected Kiss



May 15 to 25, 2025 - Alumnae Theatre

Two men with troubled histories are buffeted by events in a changing sexual and political landscape.

A new play by Robbie Norquay, directed by Ivana Obradovic from Elderberry Productions

Fostering generational and cultural connections

Inspired by real events, “An Unexpected Kiss” is a queer romance for our times!



Curious about act2studioWORKS,
a theatre production group
for the 50+ crowd?
Then join us for

Information Day

Jan 20, 2025 - 1 - 4 pm
Jorgensen Hall, Pod 250
380 Victoria St., Toronto

www.act2studioworks.ca

Want more drama in your life?

Everyone acting in and working on
this show is over the age of 50 and
has taken theatre classes with us.

We invite you to join the fun.



continuing.torontomu.ca/actwostudio

Toronto
Metropolitan
University

The Chang School
of Continuing
Education



Some of Our Previous Productions



act2studio WORKS PRESENTS

TMU STUDIO THEATRE 345 YONGE STREET
TORONTO M5S 1A5

MAY 30 - JUNE 2, 2024

Thu May 30 - 1:30 & 7:00 pm
Fri May 31 - 7:00 pm
Sat June 1 - 1:30 & 7:00 pm
Sun June 2 - 1:30 pm

Full cast of regulars

WARNING: LANGUAGE, CONTENT, DRUGS, SMOKE, ALCOHOL, SEXUALITY & BLOOD

act2studio WORKS PRESENTS

DIRECTORS' ELITE SHORT PLAYS
ONE FINE SHOW 11

AKI STUDIO
345 YONGE ST. E. # 350
TORONTO

WRITTEN BY DAVE CARLEY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: NICOLE WILSON

Thu Feb 29 - 7:00-8:30 pm
Fri Mar 1 - 7:00-8:30 pm
Sat Mar 2 - 2:00-4:30 pm
Sun Mar 3 - 2:00-4:30 pm

JUNE 2023

A LYSISTRATA
COMEDY + LOVE + SOMETHING DIFFERENT

DIR. BY DE
ALUMINUM THEATRE - 79 BRACKLEY STREET, TORONTO

Directed by NICOLE WILSON

Get tickets at: bit.ly/lystrata

MARCH 2023

act2studioWORKS presents

fresh picks!

The Sandra Kerr New Plays Festival
Art Studio, 881 Dundas Street East, Toronto

Friday March 3 7pm
Saturday March 4 2pm and 7pm
Sunday March 5 2pm

Tickets on sale at: bit.ly/230Amd

BEGINNINGS 2022

15 short plays about life-changing beginnings.

Written, directed and performed on zoom by members of act2studioWORKS

act2studioWORKS presents

fresh picks!

THE SANDRA KERR NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL

Admission: \$10 per show or \$40 for a season ticket
\$20 per show at the door

Nothing Matters

Thursday, Oct 10, 2024
8:30 pm

COMMUNITY ROOM
Meighan Health Centre, 555 Alwood Rd, Toronto

a sensitive and upbeat play about frailty, dementia, languages, memory and respect + Q&A session after

Supported by: [Logos]

I'm Still Here!

THREE ARE GOOD DAYS AND ONE...
AND ONE MORE THING TO GET UP AND GO TO WORK!

Based on the words of real people living with Alzheimer's and Dementia and their loved ones for parents, the heartwarming and poignant play is brought to you by act2studioWORKS Theatre. Come and see some of the challenges and struggles that are faced, and share your own funny stories.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 9, 2024
7:15 - 8:15 pm

ST FRANCIS CENTRE

Followed by an audience participation session

Prepared for laughter and tears as these important stories are shared in this unique way

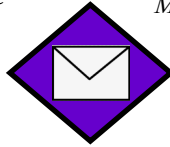
NEXT UP: **FRESH PICKS** SPRING 2025

WE GOT MAIL

"After a long delay and with much anticipation, let us honour the Muse of Fire which ascended to the loftiest heights of creativity to inspire everyone involved in this play festival. Now, imagine the stage as a humble shipping container within which six tales will be performed. They are certain to engage, entertain and captivate all who behold them. Heartiest congratulations to the playwrights, directors, actors and crew!"

You've worked hard, learned and hopefully had some fun too. We can't wait to see the explosion of creativity on stage. Congratulations to all involved in the production!

Robbie



"WHOEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD BE THIS SELF CONTAINED?"

Message in a Bottle to all actors, directors, SMS, playwrights and volunteers: "Ship Ahoy!" and "Bon Voyage!" Merde! Leslie Rennie

Can't "contain" my enthusiasm for this show. Grats to all. Mother

"WON'T YOU LET ME TAKE YOU ON A SEA CRUISE?"

Big thanks to director, cast and crew who have to mop up after Seeing Red. - Hieronymus Bosch

Congratulations to the playwrights, directors and actors for the *Once Upon a Shipping Container* show. You hung in there.



"THISBE AMAZING!"

Congratulations to all - you've finally made it into (and out of) those containers! Break legs, everyone! Judy Malkin

Cruise Team: It was a joy cruising together. You guys all rock! Hugs. Tobi

YOU'RE BETTER THAN OKAY, YOU'RE THE BEST!"

To all the wonderful directors, actors, playwrights, stage managers, costume fitters, and front of house volunteers - BEST WISHES for a very successful run of your intriguing **Once Upon a Shipping Container** ... and thank you, act2studioWORKS, for keeping my Mom off the streets!!!
Jeff Pestell (son #3)

"BLOOD WILL HAVE BLOOD."

Amazing what tales a shipping container can reveal! Congrats to playwrights, directors and actors. Hack/B

Can't wait to see this amazing show. Congratulations to everybody. It'll be so much fun!

Dorothy Pestell

"FEAR NOTHING!"

Congratulations Tobi and Annie. It has been so much fun working with you on this brilliant script! BH

It's been incredible watching all of you discover layers of possibility in this piece! It's a definite Wrap! R