



# Merlin Simard

ACTOR, WRITER, DRAMATURGE & FILMMAKER

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## PLAYWRITING

### FEAR OF MEN

- Developed and read at the Paprika festival - 2019, Read at the Parkdale New Works Festival (Assembly Theatre - dir. Bilal Baig) - 2019
- In development at Theatre Passe-Muraille BUZZ - 2020- and workshopped at TPM - 2021 (dir. Bilal Baig)
- Supported by the TAC, OAC, CCA, Nightwood Theatre & Buddies In Bad Times.

### TRANSACTIONS/E-TRANSFERS (Co-Written with Gabe Maharjan)

- Developed by Buddies In Bad Time, BCcurrent and National Theatre School, presented online as part of the Emerging Creator's Unit (dir. Catherine Hernandez) - 2020
- E-transfers: In development at MBAM (2022)
- Recipient of an #ArtApart grant by The National Theatre School - 2020, A Canadian Stage Microgrant (2020) & A LiveTO Research Grant (2021)
- Recipient of the CBC/Radio-Canada and the CCA Digital Originals Grant (2020), TAC Theatre Project Grant (2020) CCA Research and Explore grant (2020) and one RGTC (2021)
- Workshopped in Montreal (2021)

### ORLANDO (VR)

- VR adaptation of *Orlando* by Virginia Woolfe, adapted by Sarah Ruhl, co-created with Raven John commissioned by Talk Is Free Theatre and presented at the Ego Festival - 2021

## PLAYWRITING (CONT.)

### ZADDY ISSUES

- Recipient of a Recommender Grant - 2020
- Originally developed at Ergo Arts Theatre (Dramaturgy by Kama La Mackerel) - 2020
- Developed with Théâtre Français/Catapulte/TNO - 2021-22
- Reading and Audio Drama Recording at Feuilles Vives - 2022

### A FREE BRITNEY

- In development at Nighthood Theatre through Write From the Hip - 2021-22
- Recipient of a recommender grant.

## SCREEN WRITING

### POILS ANYWAYS

Short film commissioned by Fittonia Inc. (Dir. Marie-Claire Marcotte) and presented at the Louisiana Rainbow Festival and Trans Stellar Film Festival - 2022

### ORLANDO

VR Film adaptation of *Orlando* by Virginia Woolfe, adapted by Sarah Ruhl, co-created with Raven John commissioned by Talk Is Free Theatre - 2020-21

## LANGUAGES

ENGLISH

FRENCH

## **FACILITATION**

### **Workshop Facilitator, Reel Canada**

2023

Film industry workshops with youth

### **Orlando: What We Learnt About VR and Community, PXR**

2022

Presentation of Interactive Workshop on the Making of or Orlando. Presented in VR (Alspace) as part of PXR Conference 2022

### **Theatre Translation Workshop, Tarragon Theatre**

2021

Theatre translation classes with high school students

### **All About Sort Of, ActraCon 2021**

2021

Moderation of panel + q&a with Bilal Baig, Fab Filippo, Gray Powell, Ellora Patnaik & Amanda Cordner

### **Sovereign Bodies, Sovereign Stages, Theatre Passe Muraille & Red Dress Prod.**

2021

Moderation of a panel + q&a with Yolanda Bonnell & Aria Evans on artistic ceremonies.

### **Recommender Grants One-On-Ones, Theatre Passe Muraille**

2020

One-On-One discussions in English, French and Tibetan co-lead with Rinchen Dolma with emerging artists to discuss recommender grants.

### **HOT TOPIC: From Paprika to Published – Maintaining Your Voice In the Process**

2020

Discussion and Q&A with Bilal Baig presented by Paprika Festival and Playwrights Canada Press

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **PLAYWRIGHT'S CANADA PRESS**

"2SLGBTQIA+ Monologue Anthology", 2023

### **DANCEMAKERS**

200 affirmations for Trans people, presented as part of Goodie Bag, 2023

### **DRAMATURGY: THE BASICS 1ST EDITION**

Contributor, Written by Anne M. Hamilton & Walter Byongsok Chon, 2022

### **CANADIAN THEATRE REVIEW**

"LET US GUIDE YOU: A Series of 2s/Trans/Non-binary Monologues" Iss. 186, 2021

### **FEELS**

"I Felt That.", Vol. 13, 2021

### **SOLILOQUIES ANTHOLOGY**

"JUDITH AND HOLOFERNES GO ON A ROADTRIP, VOL 25.1, 2020

## **TRAINING**

### **PROFESIONAL MENTORSHIP:**

- Lighting Design with Nick Blais, Outside The March - 2019
- Direction with Marjorie Chan, Ergo Arts Theatre - 2019

### **PROGRAMS & EDUCATION**

- Stage To Screen Intensive, Rose Napoli - 2022
- Emerging Creators Unit, Buddies In Bad Times/BCurrent - 2020
- Artistic Accomplice, Outside The March - 2019
- Soulpepper, Monologue Training - 2019
- Playwright's Unit (Mentored by Bilal Baig, Jeff Ho & Polly Phokeev), Paprika Festival - 2019
- BA in Liberal Studies, Queens University - 2020-2026
- Diploma in Professional Theatre Program, Dawson College - 2014-2017

## **THEATRICAL TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE**

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- Mentee, Mother Tongues, The Frank Theatre, 2021
- Associate Artist, Staging Change, Outside The March/Metcalf/EmcArts, 2021
- App Tester, ARIA, Talk Is Free Theatre, 2021
- Content Developer, Generator, 2020
- Language Coach, Little Red Theatre, 2019
- Sound Operator, Dawson Theatre, 2016/17
- Lighting Operator, Dawson Theatre, 2016/17

## **CURATION / GRANT READER**

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### **OAC Recommender Grants**

2020 – 2023

Selection committee for Theatre Passe Muraille's RGTC

### **Théâtre Français de Toronto, Les Zinspirés**

2023

Selection committee and writing coach for the 2023 edition of Les Zinspirés

### **TAC Playwright's Grant**

2022

Selection committee for TAC's Playwright's Grant

## **AWARDS**

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Queer Emerging Artist Award, Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 2020

## **WORKSHOPS**

- Puppetry Workshop, Little Red Theatre – 2018
- Motion Capture Workshop, Ubisoft – 2017

## **DRAMATURGY**

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### **WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT**

- La Déception M'a Ouvert les Yeux by Edwige Jean-Pierre / TPM, Diaspora Dialogue – Dramaturge
- The Effeminates by Raf Antonio / Pencil Kit – Dramaturge
- I Don't Feel Pretty/chu pas cute by Nancy Kenney / TPM – Dramaturge
- Wall With Door by Katie Ready-Walters (In development at Theatre Passe Muraille) – Assistant Dramaturge to Marjorie Chan

### **PAST WORKS**

- choti choti batain by Saawan Theatre & Theatre Passe Muraille (2021) – Dramaturge
- *Ether* by The Forum Collective presented as part of BUILD FROM HERE by FoolsFURY (San Francisco, CA) and LMDA
- *Centre Court* by the Centre Court Youth Cohort presented as part of the 2021 Paprika Festival, produced by Theatre Passe Muraille in partnership with Scadding Court Community Centre

### **TRAINING/INTERNSHIPS:**

Intern Dramaturge at Theatre Passe Muraille with Marjorie Chan – 2020/21 (11:11 by by Samson Bonkeabantu Brown, Wall With Door by Katie Ready-Walters)

### **AWARDS/GRANTS:**

ECD Residency Grant, Literary Managers and Dramaturges of the Americas (LMDA), 2020

## **FILM TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE**

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First AD (dir. K. Paoli), Toast and Butter Productions, 2019