

**THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA 2021**

2021 Merritt  
**CELEBRATION**



# Nova Scotia: **Creativity and Community**

Alba Nuadh: Cruthachalachd  
agus Coimhearsnachd

Kisite'tmumk Tla'sitew  
Telo'ltimkewey No'pa Sko'sia

Nouvelle-Écosse : Créativité et  
communauté

**[novascotia.ca/culture](http://novascotia.ca/culture)**



**NOVA SCOTIA**

# 2021 Merritt CELEBRATION 2021



Welcome to the Theatre Nova Scotia annual Robert Merritt Awards celebration. Traditionally we would be honouring more than 50 productions, and the hundreds of performers, directors, designers, composers, playwrights and technician engaged by our professional companies across the province. As we contemplated a different kind of event this year, the reasons to bring this celebration to you tonight were clear—to come together and to highlight the incredible things you have been doing during a unique and intense time.

Tonight's event showcases your talents, your projects, your ingenuity, your discussions, your inspirations and your triumphs. In working to prepare this production, Theatre Nova Scotia has only been able to air a snapshot of the artistic offerings and musings of the past year. It is a clear indication that theatres have not really been dark, but full of creativity, learning and visioning for the future.

The Merritt Awards take place in late March to complement World Theatre Day on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Theatre Nova Scotia is proud to help champion our provincial contribution to the craft of theatre. In the fall we saw and heard amazing messages of the importance of theatre from many Nova Scotians. The Canadian World Theatre Day video shares more wonderful stories of the power of this medium. <https://bit.ly/31ojnZR>

Tonight marks the last Merritt event in which I will participate as Executive Director of Theatre Nova Scotia. I am uniquely pleased this is a celebration, an extravaganza of talent and tenacity, of strength and adaptability and a time to find smiles amidst challenging times. I wish each of you health, happiness and inspiration. Break a leg for years to come!

Nancy Morgan, Executive Director



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Executive Director: Nancy Morgan  
Communications Coordinator: Erin Taylor  
PERFORM! Coordinator: Pamela Halstead  
Administrator: Adriana Loewen  
DramaFest 2021 Administrator: Naomi Vogt

We would like to acknowledge that the Merritt Awards take place in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

## 2021 TEAM

**Producer: Erin Taylor**

**Assistant Producers: Adriana Loewen & Nancy Morgan**

The 2021 Merritts were conceived and organized by the Theatre NS team.

Thanks to all the contributors who helped ensure tonight's success, especially the Board panel that considered the special performances and the Co-Chairs for writing the Artistic Directors' message.

Shout out to Trina Annand and Elissa Barnard for contributing the interview questions for our producers!



**Red Carpet Host: Avery Jean Brennan**

Many thanks to Avery Jean for organizing and hosting the pres-show Red Carpet event!

**Red Carpet Guests:** Stevey Hunter, Sansom Marchand, Nathan D Simmons and Madeleine Tench

### Theatre Nova Scotia Board of Directors

Chris O'Neill & Colleen MacIsaac—Co-Chairs,  
Erin Neidermeyer—Vice Chair, Alex Mills—Treasurer,  
Logan Robins & David Zinck—Co-Secretaries,  
Eunice Abaga, Andrea Boyd, Kiran Deep,  
Franziska Glen, Nancy Henry, Kristi Wenaus,

Theatre Nova Scotia wishes to thank the 2020-2021 Merritt Award Jury. Their deliberations will form the basis of the 2022 nominations and recipients.

Elissa Barnard

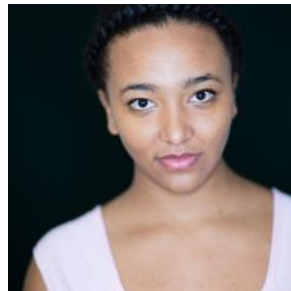
Rachel Lloyd

Kevin Kindred

Nathan Simmons

Koumbie

Susan Stackhouse



### Special Thanks:

Paetra Addison, Mona Agada, Kimberly Bungay, Poet Comeau, Kiran Deep, Pamela Halstead, Alex Higgins, Bruce Klinger, Grace MacDonald, Colleen MacIsaac, Chris O'Neill, Renae Perry, Logan Robins, Alexander Smart, Strategic Arts Management, Mario Terzoli, Kerri Trainor.

## BEVERAGE SPONSORS



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# PROGRAM

Opening Keynote by Trevor Gould

Co-Chairs Welcome by Chris O'Neill & Colleen MacIsaac

Sponsor Welcome by Support4Culture

*4 Clowns in Search of a Stage* by TeaTime Creations Co.

Artistic Directors' Message

"How has the pandemic impacted your artistic practice?"

Interviews

Play Reading: *Downed Hearts* by Catherine Banks

Halifax Circus presents the TNS Scholarship

Maritime Marionettes Spotlight

Chrysalis Emerging Artist Award

"What has 2020 taught you?"

Interviews

Bus Stop Theatre Spotlight

In Memoriam

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[theatrens.ca](http://theatrens.ca)

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[merrittawards.ca](http://merrittawards.ca)

# PROGRAM

Play Reading: *Mi'kmaq Stories, Past & Present* by Shalan Joudry

*How Quickly Things Change* by XO Secret Theatre

Theatre Nova Scotia Legacy Award

*Get Outta Here* from *Dear Rita*, by Lindsay Kyte

PARC Lifetime Memberships Presentation

"... the word 'pivot'?"

Play Reading: *#IAMTHECHEESE* by Josh MacDonald

Radical Access Spotlight, Highland Arts Theatre

Play Reading: *Good Grief* by Richie Wilcox

Wes Daniels Design Award

Fringe Festival Spotlight

"Hopes for the Future"

Interviews

*Mr. Blue's Grand Theatre* Theatre du Poulet

*I'll be here tomorrow, alive and well and thriving  
I'll be here tomorrow, my talent is surviving*

Jerry Herman, *The Grand Tour*

# CREDITS

## *4 Clowns in Search of a Stage*

Written and directed by Tea Time Creation Co

Clowns: Kathleen Dorian, Ailsa Galbreath, James MacLean and Gina Thornhill  
Actors: Sylvia Bell (and Riley), Francine Deschepper, Nathan Simmons, Koumbie, Alex McLean, Catherine Banks, and Kevin

Thank you: Henri Gielis, Jeremy Webb & Neptune, AFCCOOP

## ***HOW QUICKLY THINGS CHANGE***

hyper biography told through a costume quick-change

## **XO Secret Theatre**

Created by: Dustin Harvey

Animations by: Aiden Searle

Performed by: Stephanie Yee, James MacLean, Luke Mohan, Mary Kitterling

Background performances by an audience

Costumes by: Leesa Hamilton, Catherine Campbell

Music by: Rich Aucoin 'Eulogy of Regret' from the album 'United States'

Costume Internship provided with support from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design

## ***Get Outta Here* from *Dear Rita***

Written by: Lindsay Kyte using the music of Rita MacNeil

Performers: Darrel Cameron, Kelley Edwards, Lindsay Kyte, Brad Reid, Ian Sherwood

## ***Mr. Blue's Grand Theatre***

## **Theatre du Poulet**

Written, performed and produced by Carmen Lee and Chun Shing Au (Roland)



# MERRITT EVENT SPONSOR



## CEREMONY SPONSORS



THEATRE NS LEGACY AWARD



CHRYSALIS/WES DANIELS DESIGN



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of the arts.**



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The following TNS Member Organizations have received support from the Nova Scotia Gaming Support4Culture Program:

2b theatre  
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Highland Arts Theatre  
Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia  
Mulgrave Road Theatre  
Shakespeare by the Sea  
Ship's Company Theatre  
Two Planks and a Passion Theatre  
The Villians Theatre  
Zuppa Theatre

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