

## **Don Druick**

Don Druick is an award-winning playwright, a baroque flautist, and an avid herb gardener. His plays have been produced on stage, radio and television throughout Canada, and in Europe, Japan, and the USA; and developed at Atlantic Playwrights' Resource Centre, Canadian Stage Company, Nightswimming Theatre, Playwrights Theatre Centre, Playwrights Workshop Montréal, Necessary Angel Theatre, the New Play Centre, and the Stratford Festival.

Don Druick was born in Montréal in 1945. From 1967 to 1985, Don lived in Vancouver where he was actively involved with a number of arts collectives: Intermedia, the New Era Social Club, the Western Front, Sessione Milano, the Video Inn, and Musique par Coeur. In Vancouver, his theatre work focused on structural research and experimental performance techniques, often incorporating music and media, narrative innovation, and non traditional venues.

In addition to his theatre work, he performed widely as a flautist in Canada and Japan. He also composed music for dancers and for feature films. His musical research included baroque music practice on period instruments, and the nohkan, a flute used in the Japanese Noh theatre. At various times, he traveled to Tokyo to conduct research in contemporary Japanese theatre and in Kabuki.

From 1985 to 1996, he lived again in Montréal. His work of this period was primarily as a playwright, embracing the traditional conventions of the theatre. Historiography became the subject of many of his plays. He was the resident playwright with a number of Canadian institutions. His research into the baroque theatre took him to Italy and France.

Having lived in Vancouver and Montréal, Don Druick currently lives with artist Jane Buyers in Elmira Ontario, a small village 125 km west of Toronto.

### **Commissions**

Recent commissions include: *Lizzie Stratas* (Grand Theatre); *Recipe for Murder* (CBC); *Monsieur Molière's French Scenes* (Theatre & Company); *The Frozen Deep* (Nightswimming Theatre); *Blue Hands*, a translation of Larry Tremblay's *Les mains bleues* (Centre des Auteurs dramatiques); and *Tulip* (Nightswimming Theatre).

### **Prizes**

1989 *Where is Kabuki?* Dora Mavor Moore award nomination, Outstanding New Play  
1991 *Where is Kabuki?* shortlisted for the Governor General's Award for Drama  
1997 *Where is Kabuki?* recipient of a Chalmers Canadian Play Award  
2001 The Kitchener Waterloo Arts Awards in Literature.  
2002 nominated for the Siminovitch Prize in Theatre.  
2005 *Through the Eyes* shortlisted for the Governor General's Award for Drama  
2005 nominated for the Siminovitch Prize in Theatre.

## **Grants**

Twelve Canada Council grants in Theatre, Creative Writing, Performance Art; as well as grants from the Ministère des Affaires Culturelles de Québec, the Japan-Canada Fund, the Laidlaw Foundation, and the Ontario Arts Council.

## **Residencies**

Savage God Theatre Company (Vancouver); Intermedia (Vancouver); Ontario College of Art and Design; Nova Scotia College of Art and Design; Banff Centre for the Arts; Image Forum (Tokyo); the Western Front (Vancouver); Concordia University; Centaur Theatre; Canadian Stage Company.

## **Professional associations**

Playwrights Guild of Canada; Writers Guild of Canada; SOCAN; CANCOPY.

## **Quote**

“I love the theatre, its constantly shifting perspectives of language and performance offering us a structure through which to move and act. The writing of plays has been a work of personal clarity throughout the journey of my life. I was always drawn to the theatre. Perhaps it was because my dear old Granny was an opera singer. Who can say? In any event, her passion for the stage lives in me still. Can it be the making of theatre is the microcosm of the world? Collaboration, common goals, commitment, kindness and generosity - all required of us in order to achieve this ancient and beneficial ritual of shared breath. Theatre is dangerous and difficult. Theatre is entertaining and passionate. Theatre is encompassing and personal.”

- Don Druick

