

SUMMARIES and PLAYWRIGHTS



CRACKED

STARRING: Beth Carlson as Woman

DIRECTED BY: Phyllis Hagen

Part cooking show, part ritualized grief ceremony, Cracked transforms the simple act of opening an egg into a manic, panicked, hysterical, transformative, unforgettably high-wire emotional experiment.

WRITTEN by GWYDION SUILEBHAN of Silver Spring, MD

Gwydion Suilebhan is the author of Reals, The Constellation, Cracked, The Faithkiller, Abstract Nude, Let X, The Great Dismal, The Butcher, and The Treehouse. His plays have been produced, workshopped, and read at the Ensemble Studio Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Source Theater Festival, Active Cultures, Rorschach Theatre, Taffety Punk Theatre, Kennedy Center, National Theater, Capital Fringe Festival, Maieutic Theatre Works, Towne Street Theatre, Point of Contention Theatre, Hot City Theatre, and Theater of the First Amendment. Cracked was originally commissioned by the Intentional Theatre Group for production at the Midtown International Theatre Festival, where it earned Best Production and Best Actress awards. Gwydion has received two Individual Artist Fellowships from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and has been accepted into the Mead Theatre Lab program three times. In 2009 he was a finalist for Outstanding Emerging Artist at the DC Mayor's Arts Awards. His work has also been commissioned by the Ensemble Studio Theatre, Source Theatre, and the Taffety Punk Theatre Company.

THE FUGLY TRAIN

STARRING: Alex Adams as Callista; Alyssa Berg as Chloe; Isaac Kronlokken as Conductor; AND Deb Bennett, Sherry Bah and Julia Walchuck as Riders

DIRECTED BY: Molly Smith

Callista and Chloe are riding the subway, when they notice all the women around them are fugly. Is this just a coincidence, or a sign of a more insidious problem?

WRITTEN by DUNCAN PFLASTER of Astoria, NY

Duncan Pflaster is the author of several critically-acclaimed plays, including the multi-award-winning fantasies The Thyme of the Season, Prince Trevor Amongst the Elephants and Eternity: Time Without End, as well as The Starship Astrov, Suckers, The Empress of Sex, Sleeping in Tomorrow, Admit Impediments, The Wastes of Time, Dik and Jayne Are Not The Same, Amazing Dædalus, book and lyrics for the musical Eskimo, Wilder & Wilder, and a panoply of shorter pieces that have been seen in festivals all over the place. He is also an award-winning actor and theatre reviewer. www.duncanpflaster.com.

SUICIDE BY PUNCHBOWL

STARRING: Katherine Lewiston as Jenny; AND David Peterjohn as Virgil

Virgil has had enough of his wife's cold, controlling behavior, but Jenny refuses to back down. What lengths will they go to in order to get their way? This splashy little comedy examines marriage, communication, stubbornness, and one couples' interpretation of 'til death do us part.

WRITTEN and DIRECTED by WHITNEY ROWLAND of Minneapolis, MN

Whitney is delighted to have her work, Suicide by Punchbowl, shown at the MN Shorts Festival. She is relatively new on the playwriting scene, having recently received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Kansas. She has accrued a number of academic awards and honors for her plays, including several from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, where she was named five-time "Ten Minute Play Festival" Regional Finalist. Whitney's work has recently been seen at the "Very Short Play Festival" at the Northfield Arts Guild and "An Evening to Hang Your Hat On," at the Rochester Rep. Whitney lives and works in the Twin Cities.



Thanks to the 4Playwrights Project for their help with this festival.
Also to KMSQ for promoting theater in the Playhouse Off 90 series.

Minnesota Shorts Play Festival



7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10

Dog Day Afternoon
by Claudia Haas

The Horror of it All
by t.d. barna

Here to Serve You
by Barbara Lindsay

JoAnna
by Mitch DeDeyn

How to Make a Brain Souffle
by Roy C. Booth

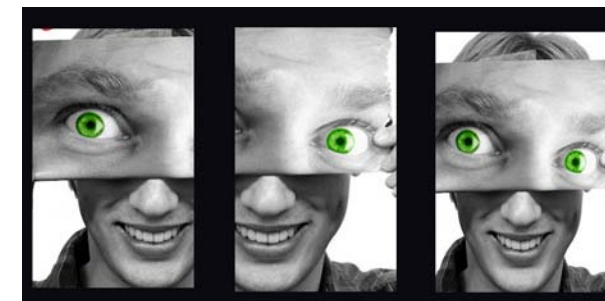
Circus of Fate
by T.James Belich

Cracked
by Gwydion Suilebhan

The Fugly Train
by Duncan Pflaster

Suicide by Punchbowl
by Whitney Rowland

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Don't miss the 4Playwrights Twin Rivers Gala production of "Snapped Shot," a tale of how a news photographer hilariously finds a way to empathize with victims of tragedies he sees every day.

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DOG DAY AFTERNOON

STARRING: James Crews as Scout; AND Matt Berg as Socks

DIRECTED BY: Jan Arford

As Scout waits in anguish for the two-legged creatures to return, Socks plans an escape.

WRITTEN by CLAUDIA HAAS of White Bear Lake, MN

Claudia Haas has been writing plays for teens for 18 years and ten-minute plays for six years. Her youth plays have been honored with 12 national awards and have seen over 600 productions in every state in the USA and abroad. Her ten-minute plays have seen almost 100 productions and she has received "Best of the Festival" twice. She has been a teaching artist in the Twin Cities for 23 years. Thanks always to her muses: Paul, Matthew and Kirsten. And love to her father who always said she would be a writer.

THE HORROR OF IT ALL

STARRING: David Peterjohn as David; AND John Zehnder as Andy

What lurks in the mind of David? We sense something ghastly, something best left unspoken. But we want to know. We need to know. But we are afraid. Andy is not afraid. He should be.

WRITTEN & DIRECTED by t.d. barna of Eagle Lake, MN

Local dramatist and lyricist, t.d.barna has penned eight full-length plays including three musicals. His recent work, GodWorks contains 17 original songs (teaming with regional composer Patricia Swanson). In 2010, productions include Big Girls Don't Cry (Northfield Short Play Festival) and The Chronicles of Francis Xavier. Currently in rehearsal is Barna's new fringe play, The Vanquished Victim. His latest comedy, Girlz-Girlz-Girlz has received the endorsement of Mr. Frank Moreno, "Las Vegas Entertainer of the Century." Barna is a member of The Dramatist Guild and The Playwright's Center.

HERE TO SERVE YOU

STARRING: Andy Josephson as Ted; Matt Berg as Tim;

AND James Crews as Todd

DIRECTED BY: Jan Arford

Two weary travelers in an airport terminal find a lone shoe. One of them reports it to security, and the situation escalates from there.

WRITTEN by BARBARA LINDSAY of Shoreline, WA

Barbara Lindsay's first full length play, FREE, won the NY Drama League's 1989 Playwriting Competition and was given its premiere production in London in 1991. Since then there have been more than 170 national and international productions of her plays and monologues. Her full length play I-2195 won the Women's Playwriting Award at UM St. Louis and was produced there in Nov. 2005. Her short play HERE TO SERVE YOU won the 2008 Peace Play Prize awarded by Goshen College, IN. Babs is a fifth generation Californian living in Seattle, WA, married to an amazing man, and ridiculously happy.



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JOANNA

STARRING: Natalie Schleusner as Jo; Emma Ottoson as Anna;

AND Matt Gilbertson as Voice

DIRECTED BY: Matt Gilbertson

A young woman who suffers from bulimia confronts her own body image and struggles with the pressures of the outside world. She alternates between revulsion and resigned acceptance of her disease. We are shown the causes of her sickness, both from the media and from society, and are given a glimpse into her psychological state as she attempts to find meaning in her fractured life.

WRITTEN by MITCH DEDEYN of Mankato, MN

Mitch DeDeyn is a senior undergraduate student at MSU studying literature and philosophy. Earlier this year, his debut one-act play "Private Lives" premiered as the closing play of the Twenty-Four Hour Theater Show at Winona State University and his full-length play "Cardboard Walls" received a staged reading at the Twin Rivers Center for the Arts through the Blue Earth Reader Workshop. He is a member of the 4Playwrights Project.

HOW TO MAKE A BRAIN SOUFFLE

STARRING: Mitch Berntson as Aldrich Byrne; Eric Nelson as Announcer;

AND Cynthia Booth as Suzy McConnell

DIRECTED BY: Howard Preston

Famed author, businessman, and TV personality Aldrich Byrne is dead. And though he looks as rotted as the next zombie, he has managed to keep some of his intellect and motor skills, and because of this Aldrich has dedicated himself to the noble pursuit of "elevating" the zombie race by means of literature...and haute zombie cuisine a la Martha Stewart on local access cable television.

WRITTEN by ROY C. BOOTH of Bemidji, MN

Roy C. Booth is a published author, comedian, poet, journalist, essayist, screenwriter, and an internationally award winning playwright (with 53 published plays to date with 670+ productions worldwide in 27 different countries) based out of Bemidji, MN where he runs a comic book/used books/gaming shop while raising his three wonderful boys with his lovely and talented wife, Cynthia. Roy can also be found on MySpace, Facebook, and at www.roycbooth.com.



CIRCUS OF FATE

STARRING: Jennifer Dee as Minerva; Lauren J. Trynor as Diana;

AND Becka Linder as Cassandra

DIRECTED by Linda Bruning

Having just seen her boyfriend Troy together with Minerva, her best friend and his ex-girlfriend, Diana stumbles behind the circus tents and encounters Cassandra: juggler, clown... and prophet. Torn between her desire to reconcile with Troy and to have it out with Minerva, Diana seeks Cassandra's advice. But will she listen to Cassandra's warnings or allow jealousy to push her into making a terrible mistake?

WRITTEN by T. JAMES BELICH of St. Paul, MN

T. James Belich is the author of two dozen plays which range in genre from children's to mystery to religious, including "The Princess and the Moon: A Fairytale" which took 2nd place in the 2009 East Valley Children's Theatre's Aspiring Playwrights contest. His works have been performed as near as Minnesota and as far away as Africa and New Zealand. James has been heavily influenced by the works of C. S. Lewis, and his favorite playwrights include Pirandello and Chekhov. James is also a longtime actor whose roles include Malvolio in "Twelfth Night" and Father Flynn in "Doubt, a Parable." He has also produced his own work, including his one-man physics show "Schrödinger's Cat Must Die!" at the Minnesota Fringe Festival. In addition to his career as a playwright, James has a background in the sciences, having studied physics at both Bethel University and the University of Minnesota. James currently resides in Saint Paul, Minnesota, with his wife Kelly and son Jasper.

