



# January 27 & 28, 2012: Playwriting with Greg MacArthur

## Friday Evening Presentation

### *Why I still write for the theatre*

Why, after almost twenty years, does Greg still write for the theatre? He will talk about what drives him to create, where his stories come from, his process of creation and why he feels the theatre is still important. Greg will speak about work that has and continues to inspire him, as well as discussing and reading excerpts from his own work.

## Saturday Workshop

### *Is theatre still relevant?*

How can theatre better address the current world we live in? How can it be more immediate? More engaging? More involved in speaking to today's audience?

This workshop will explore how plays can better reflect the world we live in. Using the world, current events and participants' personal experience, the workshop will explore how to create work that speaks of today in a more immediate and relevant fashion. Using examples of his own work-in-progress and methodologies, Greg will speak about how he approaches playwriting—how and why he writes what he writes. We will look at examples of some playwrights in the international cannon who are truly pushing the boundaries of theatre. The workshop will include practical writing exercises that will spark the creative process and, hopefully, inspire the participants to look at theatre in a different way both as creators and as audience members.

## Author Bio

Greg MacArthur is a playwright, dramaturg and, occasionally, a performer. His plays have been produced extensively across Canada, as well as in South Africa, Germany, the UK, Hungary and the United States. They have also been translated into numerous languages. Greg's work includes: *The Decameron: things we leave behind*; *Tyland: The Toxic Bus Incident*; *Recovery*; *Get Away*; *Snowman*; *girls! girls! girls!*; *Beggar Boy* (a play for children); and *Stem* (a collaborative collection). His plays are published by Coach House Books.

Greg has held residencies at Buddies In Bad Times Theatre (Toronto), Centre for the Book (South Africa), Playwrights Theatre Centre (Vancouver) and The Stratford Festival. He was Artist-In-Residence at Playwrights' Workshop Montreal from 2005 - 2011. He is currently the 2011 / 12 Lee Playwright – In-Residence at The University of Alberta.

### When we meet

The last Friday (8 pm) and Saturday (9:30 am – 4 pm) of September, October, November, January, February, March, and April and the last Friday in May. The Writers' Circle begins at 6:30 pm before Friday meetings; there is no writers' circle in May.

### Where we meet

Unless otherwise noted, meetings and workshops are held in Room 3-04 of Lacerte PAVILION, at Campus St-Jean, 8406 Marie-Anne-Gaboury Street (91st Street) in Edmonton.

### Applicable fees

CAA Members attend Friday meetings free and pay \$40 for Saturday workshops  
Non-members pay \$10 (first-time free) for Friday meetings and \$70 for Saturday workshops  
Register online at [www.canauthorsalberta.ca](http://www.canauthorsalberta.ca) or by email at [registrar@canauthorsalberta.ca](mailto:registrar@canauthorsalberta.ca)