

5th Annual



Ten. Minute. Plays.

Week 1: January 17-19

**WAKE ME WHEN
IT'S OVER**
by Mike Byham

THE REAL THING
by Marjorie Williamson

**FIVE MILES LONG,
TWO HUNDRED
FEET HIGH**
by Maripat Allen

**DR. J's MAGIC
SPRAY**
by Jay Rehak

HATCHED
by Michael Towers

**THE
SASKATCHEWAN
SASKWATCHERS
CLUB**
by Ramon Esquivel

Week 2: January 24-26

DREAM MEANING
by Rebecca Kane

MEET CUTE
by Emily Beck

**NUN OF THE
ABOVE**
by Daniel Curzon

**LATER ON WE'LL
CONSPIRE**
by J. Bartz & R. Hearn

**AN AUDIENCE
OF ONE**
by Michael C. O'Day

STARGAZERS
by Greg Gould

A NOTE FROM FMCT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JUDY LEWIS

Hello FMCT Friends and Families,

Welcome to the Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre's 5th Annual 10-Minute Play Festival! We are so excited to present these plays to you live at the Hjemkomst! This evening's scripts were selected from the works of 189 playwrights from all over the world. We're honored to bring these plays to life in our community.



Thank you to the cast, crew, and creative teams of each of these plays. Not only does this festival provide an opportunity to present new written works for the stage, but it also provides an opportunity for artists to try their hand at directing and gives actors the chance to do what they love best – bring fictional characters to life in a world of their own.

To our guests, whether it's your first time seeing a production at FMCT, or you're a long-time patron of our productions, on behalf of everyone at FMCT I'd like to welcome you. Your support means everything to us. Please grab a drink from the bar, settle in, and enjoy the stage debut of some really fine plays. Theatre is one of the most collaborative art forms on the earth – and you, the audience, is the final player – welcome to the festival!

With joy,
Judy Lewis
Executive Director, FMCT

THE SASKATCHEWAN SASKWATCHERS CLUB

Week 1
Jan 17-19

Director

C. C. Manstrom

Cast

Jeanie Smith-Murphy as PREZ
Anthony Birklid as VEEP

Written by Ramon Esquivel - San Luis Obispo, CA



Ramón Esquivel is a playwright, director, dramaturg, and educator living on the Central Coast of California. Recent world premieres include *Fallenstar: The Watchoverers* at New Native Theatre and *Dulce* at Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA). Published plays: *Dulce*, *The Hero Twins: Blood Race*, *Luna*, *Nasty*, *Nocturnal*, and *The Girl Who Talks to Spiders*. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Ramón is currently Assistant Professor of Theatre, Playwriting at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Director

Gaige Jevne

Cast

Jacob Kalvoda as Bobby
Addison Ettish as Madison

Written by Michael Towers – Westford, MA



Michael Towers earned his MFA in Playwriting from Boston University under the direction of Kate Snodgrass, Melinda Lopez and Ronan Noone. His plays have been read and produced throughout the United States and have been recognized on four continents. His short play, Pole Position, has been produced in Sydney, Australia and named a Short+Sweet Finalist in Hollywood, CA; Essex, UK; Perth, AU; Dubai, UAE, and most recently Illawarra AU. Pole Position was awarded with The Honneger Prize for Best Short Play by the Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport, MA. Molting has earned notoriety with stage, film zoom and radio productions including selections by the Samuel French Off Off Broadway Play Festival,

Village Playwrights during their June Pride Celebration and the Think Fast Short Play Festival (Union, NJ) where it earned the Judges Prize and the Audience Favorite Award. Most often, Michael's plays explore subjects that mystify and inspire him (the natural world, marriage, religion and the dynamic relationships between teachers and their students.) In his thirty-year career as a theater educator, Michael has been blessed with the opportunity to play the roles of husband, father, director, actor and playwright.

WAKE ME WHEN IT'S OVER

Week 1
Jan 17-19

Director

Jim Hagel

Cast

Linda Hinrichs as Louise
Craig Roath as Freddie
Jessica Hayes as Jodie
Rikki Walter as Amy
David Wilhelmi as Sam

Written by Mike Byham – Southlake, TX



Mike Byham has had several productions on the community theatre and scholastic level. Mike's plays have also won multiple awards. Mike works as an engineer for a major airline headquartered in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Mike is a member of the Dramatists Guild and the American Association of Community Theatre.

FILE MILES LONG, TWO HUNDRED FEET HIGH

Week 1
Jan 17-19

Director

Jordan Franzen

Cast

Sarah Nelson as Jennifer
Clayton Perala as Jason

Written by Maripat Allen - Manistee, MI



Maripat Allen is a Michigan native whose inspiration for this play comes from scary but beautiful drives across the Mackinaw Bridge. She has had plays produced in various states and three countries, been published in on-line literary journals and has twice won the first place Community Theatre Association of Michigan award for full length plays.

Her plays can be seen on the New Play Exchange at <https://newplayexchange.org/users/51017/maripat-allen> and on her website <https://www.maripatallen.com/>

THE REAL THING

Week 1
Jan 17-19

Director

Troy Brewster

Cast

Aimee Klein as Pamela
Hailey Parsons as Ellen

Written by Marjorie Williamson - St. Louis, MO



Marjorie Williamson has worked in St. Louis theater as a graphic designer and scenic painter for many years. Prior to her seventieth birthday she had never written anything more creative than a grocery list, but in the last few years she has cranked out a dozen or so (mostly) short, (mostly) comic plays that have been produced all over the country. She is enjoying herself immensely.

DR. J's MAGIC SPRAY

Week 1
Jan 17-19

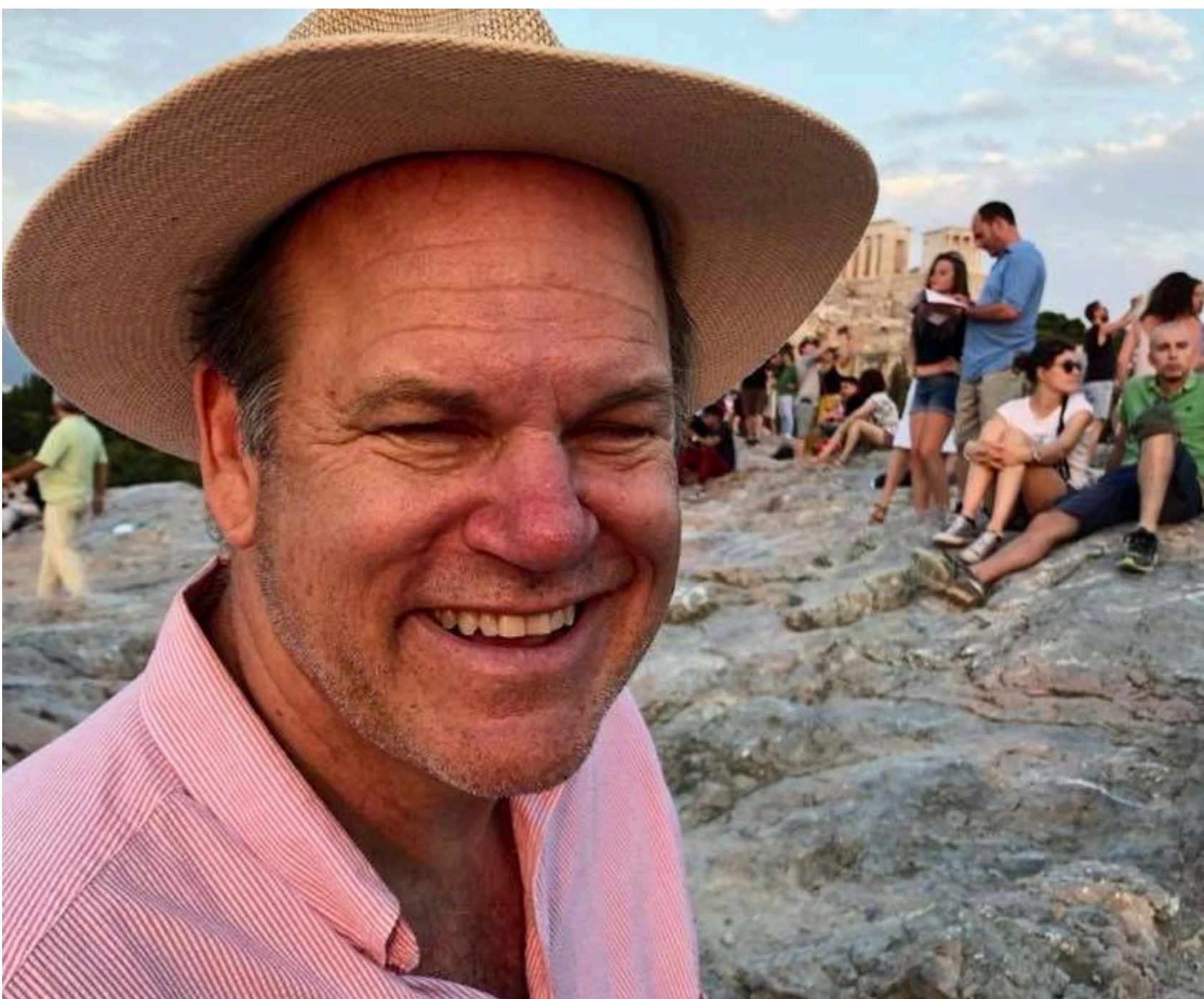
Director

Craig Roath

Cast

Reid Strand as Doctor J
Jackson Buckingham as Connor
Rikki Walter as Kristen

Written by Jay Rehak - Chicago, IL



Jay Rehak has been a writing teacher for 34 years; he is the author of 27 produced short plays and has co-written 14 novels with his students and friends.

Honored as the 2014 Chicago Public Schools Tech Innovator of the year, Jay has spoken at numerous educational conferences around the country; his TedX Northwestern talk, [“How to Teach Empathy through Collaborative Writing”](#) is available on YouTube. In 2013, Mr. Rehak created and co-authored the award winning 30 Days to Empathy, the world's first high school class sourced novel.

His non-profit organization, the Sideline Foundation helps promote financial and social emotional literacy. Jay is married to award winning children's singer, Susan Salidor and he has three children, Hope, Hannah and Ali.

Director

Olivia Landsverk

Cast

Hanna Stout as Minnie
Skylar Steffan as Charlotte

Written by Rebecca Kane – Astoria, NY



Rebecca Kane's writing has appeared in numerous theatres, festivals, and readings in New York City and beyond, with credits including Lanford Wilson New American Play Festival, Last Frontier Theatre Conference, William Inge New Play Festival, the National Women's Theatre Festival, and many more. Publications include repeated features in Smith & Kraus's "Best of 2023" and "Best of 2024" collections and internationally published literary magazines. She's developed a solo show devoted to preventing opioid overdoses.

LATER ON WE'LL CONSPIRE

Week 2
Jan 17-19

Director

Rick Lewis

Cast

Jordan Franzen as Dad
Jeanie Smith-Murphy as Mom
Liz Wilhelmi as Heather

Written by Jerry Bartz & Rod Hearn - Reno, NV



Jerry Bartz and Rod Hearn have been cowriting short plays in Reno, Nevada for the past 2 1/2 years. So far their various works have been selected for performance at 4 different 10-minute play festivals.

Jerry, a retired television host, is a native Minnesotan who attended Morehead State University a long, long time ago. In fact, he got his television start as the weekend weatherman at KXJB-TV in Fargo. He then moved to KFVR-TV in Bismarck and was the weatherman there for seventeen years. The latter half of his TV career was spent as an on-air host for several national home shopping networks where he learned the art of never shutting up—a skill he holds to this very day! He loves the idea of this play being performed in his old stomping grounds, which brings back lots of great memories of people and places...but not winter!

Teaching theatre for more than thirty years, Rod still makes time to act and direct locally. Favorite shows include roles in *The Quality of Life*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *Man of La Mancha*; recent directing highlights include *The Foreigner*, *Clybourne Park*, and *The Legend of Georgia McBride*. A native of Arizona with degrees in English, Theatre, and Education from the University of Arizona, Rod has called Nevada home for nearly three decades.

Avid theatre-goers and -supporters, Jerry and Rod believe the arts play a vital role in a community's quality of life, bringing entertainment, inspiration, empathy, and joy to those who support it. They thank FMCT for supporting new works and producing this festival.

Director

Clayton Perala

Cast

Mickey Porter as Danny
Hanna Stout as Becky
Anthony Birklid as Dr. Ludwig

Written by Greg Gould – Thursday Island, Australia



Greg Gould is an Australian writer. His short plays have been performed in over 50 festivals throughout Australia, New Zealand, the UK, the USA, UAE, Thailand, Canada, Bahrain, Vietnam, India, and the Philippines. His latest 10-minute play, 'There's a Zombie in the Garden, Frank!', won Best Play at Short+Sweet Hollywood 2024. His short play collection Last Drinks and Other Short Plays was published in 2020. To learn more, go to nowordfor.com.

Director

Henry Radoc

Cast

Jeanie Smith-Murphy as The Vendor
Percy Johnson as The Hero
Kellie Meehlhause as The Maid
MacRae Dirkach as The Jogger
Mickey Porter as The Customer

Written by Michael C. O'Day - Brooklyn, NY



Michael C. O'Day is an actor and playwright living in Brooklyn. His plays have been featured at the Valdez Theatre Conference and presented by the Playwrights Theatre of East Hampton, Old Academy Players (Philadelphia, PA), Lower East Side Festival of the Arts, Stage Troupe (Boston University), O.C. Play Fest, and the Clementine Players (NYC). He is a two-time finalist for the Shakespeare's New Contemporaries competition (American Shakespeare Company, Staunton VA). Since 2019, he has served as Co-Creative Director of the Tuesdays at Nine cold reading series, run by the Naked Angels theatre company in New York.

Director

Olivia Desing

Cast

Amy LaBounty as Nun
Jeff Rondeau as The Man

Written by Daniel Curzon - San Francisco, CA



With a career spanning several decades, Daniel Curzon has skillfully explored diverse themes, showcasing a unique voice that challenges norms and invites readers to ponder the complexities of the human experience. A trailblazer in the realm of LGBTQ+ literature, he has been an influential figure in bringing queer perspectives to the forefront of literary discourse. His life experiences, academic background, and passion for storytelling have shaped a body of work that transcends genres and captivates audiences with its depth and authenticity.

Director

Liz Wilhelmi

Cast

Emma Byer as Malerie
Skylar Steffan as Amy

Written by Emily Beck - Fargo, ND



Emily Beck is a film fanatic, proud auntie, and devoted fan of all things spooky. Emily received a bachelor's degree in Film Studies from MSUM in 2006. She joined the Fargo Theatre team two years later and has served as Executive Director since 2011. Emily's play 'Demonized' was produced as part of the FMCT's 2024 10 Minute Play Festival. After sharing that deeply personal reflection on trauma, revenge, and actual/literal demons, she thought it might be fun to write a romcom. Set in a haunted house. Well. At least she is consistent.

Emily lives in Fargo with her extremely supportive husband Adam and her collection of Stephen King books. She is thrilled to have her play selected for this festival!

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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Cody Rowe, Hanna Stout, Jordan Franzen, Noah Franzen

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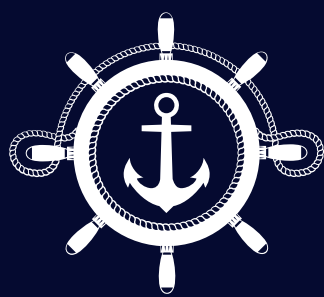


ROCK *the Boat*

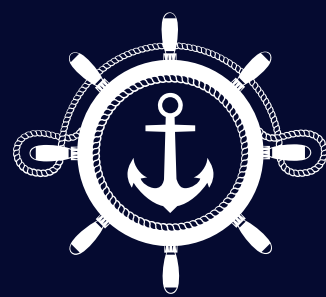
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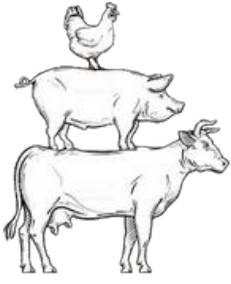




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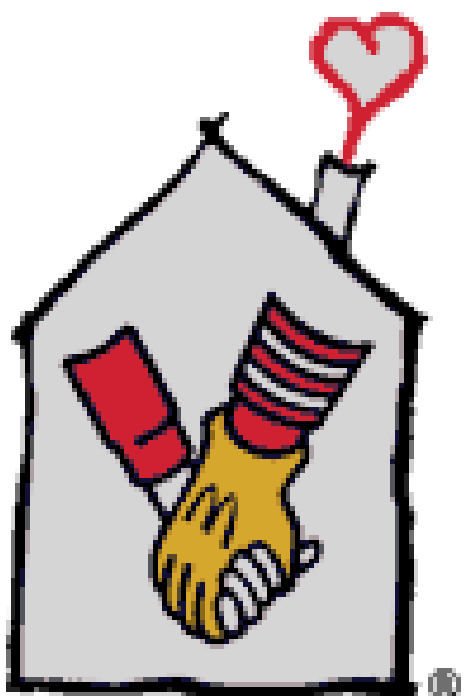


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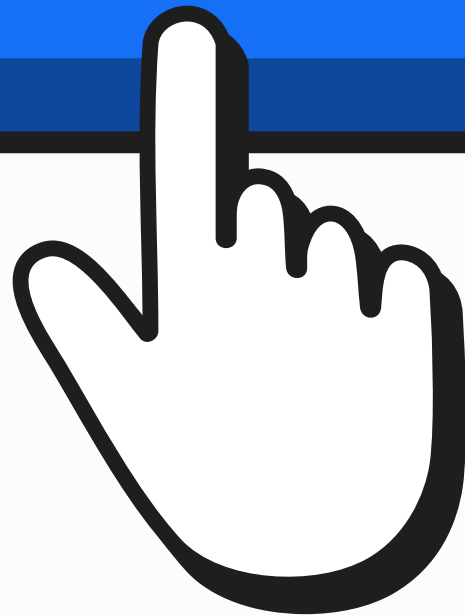
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GRADES 3-5: Harry Potter, Hiccup Meets Simba, Dog Man, Lilo & Stitch, Disney Heroes vs. Villains

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“With the establishment of a Community Theater, residents of Fargo-Moorhead now share with people in many other cities of the nation the opportunity to regularly see offerings of the legitimate theater. With continuation of the present support the Theater will soon find its permanent place in our community.

The Theater was organized in February after several meetings of people with varying interests and backgrounds but a common interest in the stage; there were potential actors, designers of costumes and scenery, stagehands, directors, makeup artists, house managers, producers—and some folks who just liked to see plays. Each was able to contribute something to the development of a well-rounded organization. A play was selected, a director secured and production started. Public response to ticket sales already assures the Theater of being self supporting...

...it is the purpose of the Theater to present professionally produced legitimate stage plays for the entertainment of patrons, to provide opportunities for those people who are interested in working in the theater either as a hobby or preliminary to a professional career and to make these opportunities available to everyone without regard to race, creed, color or position in life.”