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[www.MontanaPlaywrights.org](http://www.MontanaPlaywrights.org)

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# MPN News

The official newsletter of the Montana Playwrights Network

## MPN HAS A HOME!



Featured in this issue:

- ⇒ Update on the 2019 Montana Premiere Project
- ⇒ Queen City Roundup of Cowboy Poets, Playwrights & Storytellers
- ⇒ Details about the Helena Avenue Theatre (HAT)
- ⇒ And more inside!



Pamela Mencher

## Greetings from the President

Hello, everyone! 2019 is off to a busy and productive start. MPN's 2019 Montana Premiere Project is up and running. Participating theatre companies have chosen scripts from among submissions from MPN members and are busy with pre-production plans. For the names of selected playwrights, winning scripts, and the producing theatre companies, go to page 5 in this issue.

The Queen City Roundup of Cowboy Poets, Playwrights & Storytellers has come together very well, and promises to be unique, informative and entertaining. Slated for April 26 & 27, more about this exciting event is on pages 3 & 4 of this issue. Complete details are posted on our excellent website at www.MontanaPlaywrights.org. Click on the link on the home page to see the schedule, presenter bios and workshop descriptions. Sign up today, as seating is limited. You can register for any of these events on the website.

The MPN Board of Directors is very excited to announce the creation of the new Helena Avenue Theatre! We are making final arrangements now, and expect the space to open in May, 2019. For more information, go to page 6 in this newsletter.

Don't forget to submit your stories, plays, poems or memoirs about Montana for our 2020 publication project. See details on the last page of this issue.

And, last but not least: we encourage you to renew your membership if you haven't already. We'll be updating the membership page on the website by March 15 and we don't want to drop anyone off the list. Most of MPN's services are only available to current members, (including conveniently receiving MPN News in your inbox) and we don't want you to miss out. As the organization continues to grow, we'll be creating more and more opportunities for all kinds of writers, performers, theatre companies and related businesses.

As you can see, MPN has a lot to offer, something for nearly everyone! Be a part of this state-wide network and connect with other writers and performing artists; take advantage of writing competitions and opportunities for publication that enhance your visibility and exposure; and plan on visiting us at our new home: the Helena Avenue Theatre!

# Montana Playwrights Network

Presents



## THE QUEEN CITY ROUNDUP OF COWBOY POETS PLAYWRIGHTS AND STORYTELLERS



### Featuring

- ⇒ Inspiring, Hands-on, Daytime Workshops
  - ⇒ Open Mic Daytime Session\*\*
- ⇒ Friday & Saturday Night Performances

#### APRIL 26th: "Raisin' a Ruckus!"\*

- ◆ A Theatrical Reading of *The Haunted Mine at Lonesome Place*
  - ◆ Fiddler: *Sapphire Ferguson Jetty*
- ◆ *Tales of Montana: Original Stories by Montana Writers*
  - ◆ Mike Jetty: *Stories from the Powwow Trail*

#### APRIL 27th: Fabulous Cowboy Poets & Judy and the Divine Bovines\*

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ◆ <i>Gwen Petersen</i> | ◆ <i>Margaret Wilhelm</i> |
| ◆ <i>Jim Hamilton</i>  | ◆ <i>Judy Williams</i>    |

\*For Event Details and Ticket Information, see reverse side of this flyer.  
\*\* To sign up for a time slot, send an email to [montanaplaywrights@gmail.com](mailto:montanaplaywrights@gmail.com)



## Queen City Roundup for Cowboy Poets, Playwrights & Storytellers

# APRIL 26 & 27, 2019

Daytime Schedule at  
Helena College: 1115 North Roberts St.  
Room 102: Downstairs by main entrance.

\*\*\*\*\*April 26\*\*\*\*\*

Conference Check-in: noon

Workshop I: 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm:

“Marrying Playwriting and Cowboy Poetry”

Presented by Pamela Mencher & Gwen Petersen

Workshop II: 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm:

“Cowboy Poetry, What to Write & How to Write It”

Presented by Margaret Wilhelm & Jim Hamilton

Workshop III: 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm:

“How to Perform Your Writing in a Public Setting”

Presented by Pamela Mencher

\*\*\*\*\*April 27\*\*\*\*\*

Workshop IV: 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm:

“Rhyme and Meter in Cowboy Poetry”

Presented by Gwen Petersen

Workshop V: 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm:

“Oral Traditions in Indian Country”

Presented by Mike Jetty

OPEN MIC PRESENTATIONS: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Readings of Original Works by Attendees

### Registration & Tickets

Full Event Pass: \$75

(Includes workshops, open mic, and evening performances)

Workshops & Open-Mic Session: \$60

(All Daytime events at Helena College.)

Tickets for Evening Shows: \$15 each

(Reservations recommended.)

Online Registration & Tickets:

[www.MontanaPlaywrights.org](http://www.MontanaPlaywrights.org)

For Reservations or more information,

Call: 406-235-0353 and leave a message.

Evening Performances at

Helena High School Theatre: 7:30 PM

1300 Billings Ave.

(West of Helena College, across the street.)

APRIL 26th:

### *Raisin' a Ruckus!*

Featuring:

A Theatrical Reading of a play:  
*The Haunted Mine at Lonesome Place*

Fiddler: Sapphire Ferguson Jetty

Tales of Montana  
by Montana Writers

Mike Jetty:  
*Stories from the Powwow Trail*

APRIL 27th:

### *Fabulous Cowboy Poets & The Divine Bovines!*

Featuring Montana Authors:

Gwen Petersen  
Cowboy Poet

Margaret Wilhelm  
Cowboy Poet

Jim Hamilton  
Cowboy Poet

Judy Williams &  
the Divine Bovines  
Comedy and Music

# MPN 2019 Montana Premiere Project

This event is the first of what we hope becomes an every-other-year project of the Montana Playwrights Network. The purpose of the MPN Premiere Project is to provide opportunities for playwrights to receive a fully realized production of their original scripts. As incentive for Montana theatres to take a risk in producing new, unknown plays, MPN agreed to provide participating theatres with a production stipend to offset costs.

For this first go-around, we put out a call for plays in 2018, and both one-acts and full-length plays were submitted by MPN members. These “blind” submissions were forwarded to three producing groups, who then selected either a collection of one-acts as a single production, or chose a full-length play from the many outstanding original scripts. Many thanks to our members for submitting their works for consideration, and to three theatre companies for being a part of this first-ever, 2019 MPN Montana Premiere Project!



## The Poppoviches

A Full-length Comedy

By

Leah Joki



## The Vorbit Incident

A Full-length Play

By

Jay Kettering



## “Plumb Local”: A Collection of One-Act Plays

Jay Kettering’s *Flotsam, Jetsam, and Bill*

Pamela Mencher’s *Montana Fish Story*

Cynthia Webb’s *Driver’s Ed*

The **Montana Playwrights Network** is thrilled to share the news that we are creating a **small performing arts and events facility**, the **Helena Avenue Theatre**, located in the historic district near the old train depot. MPN decided to pursue this plan after discovering a lack of appropriately equipped, affordable or available space for many of its events; and after visiting with independent producers and performing arts groups, we realized that others were faced with the same challenge in housing their own activities. As a result, MPN took action to make a space for itself and others to use.

The vision for the **Helena Avenue Theatre** is to serve as **an incubator-style space** for **individuals and organizations** to rehearse and present **theatre productions, recitals, music concerts, speakers, meetings, conferences, workshops, classes, receptions, unique fund-raisers, and other special events** within the Helena community.

Chances are that **you, someone you know**, or a group that you're involved with will **need a place to house meetings or special projects**. Beginning in **May, 2019**, this can be **available to you for an affordable rate** at the Helena Avenue Theatre!



Contact us as soon as possible to **reserve your time slot for your project** and for more details about the terms of use. **Send an email** of inquiry to **montanaplaywrights@gmail.com**.

Plans for the **Helena Avenue Theatre** include **73-75 seats for theatre audiences, control booth, box office, dressing rooms, costume studio, green room, stage, state-of-the-art lighting, sound equipment, and storage for costumes and stage properties**.

While MPN has resources necessary to cover basic remodeling costs, **we need assistance** funding theatre seating, stage and drapery, sound and lighting equipment. **Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated**, and may be submitted **on our website: [www.MontanaPlaywrights.org](http://www.MontanaPlaywrights.org)** or on our **GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/mpn039s-helena-avenue-theatre>**. Or, checks made payable to the Montana Playwrights Network may be **mailed to the Montana Playwrights Network, PMB 2052, 1 Jackson Creek Road, Clancy, MT 59634**. If you would like more information about specific funding details, please send us an email and we'll respond immediately. Thank you for your consideration and please join us today in making this vision a reality! Thank you for your support.

# Post Scripts



- On this **back page of MPN News**, we'll print any announcements you might like to share with our membership and the general public that highlight writers' news and associated events around Montana. Send us your information and we'll include it in the next MPN News issue to come out in May, 2019.
- If you want a **copy of MPN's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws**, just send a note to: [montanaplaywrights@gmail.com](mailto:montanaplaywrights@gmail.com).
- **Share this newsletter** with your friends and anyone else who you think might be interested in our events or joining the Network. Go to our **website** to get more information: [www.MontanaPlaywrights.org](http://www.MontanaPlaywrights.org).

**Take advantage of this "Members Only" opportunity!**

## Open Call for the "Montana Voices" Publication Project

**"Montana Voices" Competition Complete Guidelines available on our website.**  
(Previously titled "Montana Monologues" & "Montana Tales")

[www.MontanaPlaywrights.org](http://www.MontanaPlaywrights.org)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: October 1, 2019**

## MPN welcomes one of our newest Organizational Members: The Experimental Theatre Cooperative!

The non-profit Experimental Theatre Cooperative (ETC) supports the development of regional theatre artists, playwrights, and their work, producing an annual Play Fest in Helena, MT.

## Call for Plays Last Chance New Play Festival in Helena: 2019

All Montana playwrights are invited to submit short plays for a possible production in "Montana Short Cuts", a suite of ten-minute plays to be presented at the 2019 Last Chance New Play Fest. Plays must be original work, not previously produced or published, and written on the theme "Genetically Modified." Pieces must work with minimal sets and require no more than four actors. Submitted plays will be judged blind and must have a run time of 8-12 minutes.

Details at: <https://www.experimentaltheatrecoop.org/call-for-submissions>

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: July 15, 2019**