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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 Central Regional Representative, Jane Ogle welcomes registrants to the 2018 Writer's Challenge workshops on May 5 at East Helena City Hall.

## **Inside this Issue:**

*Winners in the 2018 MPN Writer's Challenge*

*Annual MPN Membership Meeting*

*September 15 MPN events in Helena*

*Details of the Verge Theater's first New Play Festival,  
"Spotlight on Process"*

*Details about MPN's 2019 Rolling Premiere Project*

*Opportunities for Writers*

*And more...*





# ***Congratulations to the Winners of the 2018 MPN Writer's Challenge!***



**The results are in!**

Our panel of judges has selected the winners of the 2018 MPN Writer's Challenge to be presented in staged readings on September 15 at the FLEX Theatre at Carroll College in Helena, Montana. Winning entries include **poetry, short stories, memoirs, and plays.**

Plan to join us at this one-night only, entertaining and inspiring performance made possible by *our sponsor, Opportunity Bank of Helena!*

See page 4 for more details about all MPN events to be presented on September 15.

## ***Charlie Russell Windshield***

Poem by Jay Kettering

## ***Roy's Day***

Short Story by Susan Gunn

## ***A Montana Fish Story***

Short Play by Pamela Jamruszka Mencher

## ***Active Shooter***

Short Play by Cynthia M. Webb

## ***Trust***

Monologue by Shaun Gant

## ***A Bad Play***

Short Play by Leah Joki

## ***The Cell***

Short Play by Jordan R. Mencher

## ***A Travel Tale***

Storytelling by Janice Jamruszka-Wilson

## ***Thinking About Moore, Montana***

Memoir by Jay Kettering

## ***Grief***

Poem by Shaun Gant



Pamela Mencher

## Greetings from the President

2018 is off to a great start! The first phase of MPN's 2018 Writer's Challenge on May 5 was a day filled with inspiring and practical workshops along with a special session that introduced the parameters of the Challenge competition. The facilities at East Helena's City Hall perfectly suited this event and it's quaint, historic environment created a welcoming setting for enthusiastic participants from throughout Montana. (For more details about this occasion and a preview of the second phase of the 2018 MPN Writer's Challenge, see page 4.)

I'm very pleased to welcome our newest Regional Representative, Patrick Scott-Wilson, as our affiliate in Eastern Montana, or as we call it, the "East End". You can read about him and the Sacrifice Cliff Theatre Company in Billings, on page 5.

I am quite excited to welcome many new writers and theatres to our Network. Our membership has more than doubled so far in 2018 as the organization continues to expand throughout Montana. Their bios are located on our website under the Membership tab at: [www.MontanaPlaywrights.org](http://www.MontanaPlaywrights.org).

Please plan to attend our Annual MPN Membership meeting on September 15 at 3:30 p.m. in the FLEX Theatre at Carroll College in Helena. The meeting is associated with a performance of selected works from entries in the 2018 Writer's Challenge, along with an inspiring and practical workshop to start the day at 1:00 p.m. The workshop and meeting are free to all MPN members. Interested members of the public are also invited to attend the workshop, evening performance, and following reception in the evening of September 15. (See page 4 for additional information.)

**September 15, 2018**

At  
The FLEX Theatre complex at Carroll College

**The Montana Playwrights Network  
And Opportunity Bank**

Present

**“Montana Tales & Other Stories”**

An evening of original stories, poems and plays

Created by Montana Writers

**7:00 p.m.**

**Tickets are \$10. (Cash or check, please.)**

Or, tickets may be purchased in advance online at [www.MontanaPlaywrights.org](http://www.MontanaPlaywrights.org)

Plus  
an inspiring and practical workshop for beginning & experienced writers:

**“DO IT WRITE!”**

Presented by Pamela Jamruszka Mencher

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

“Challenge your creativity and expand writing skills through hands-on,  
playful exercises for fiction and playwriting.”

**FREE FOR MPN MEMBERS**

**\$20 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

To register for the workshop, go to our website; or for more  
information, contact us at [montanaplaywrights@gmail.com](mailto:montanaplaywrights@gmail.com).

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

# INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MPN BOARD MEMBER!



## Patrick Scott-Wilson

MPN's "East End" Regional Representative

Patrick Scott-Wilson is the co-founder of Sacrifice Cliff Theatre Co. in Billings, Montana. He received his Bachelors in Art in Theatre and Communications from MSU-Billings. Raised on the Hi-line, Patrick is a 5th generation Montanan committed to making quality, cutting-edge work developed by local artists. Previous new work that Patrick has produced include *All Together Now*, *Protozoa*, *This is Butte You Have 10 Minutes*, *Post on the Prairie*, *Roots and Wings*, and *Conversion: An Inaugural Response*. Currently Patrick works for *This House of Books*, Billings' only community co-op Bookstore.



Sacrifice Cliff Theatre Co. is dedicated to the cultivation and development of local artists and their unique voices.

***IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER  
the first 2019 MPN Rolling Premiere Project!  
Send us your best today!***

Script Submission Deadline:

**August 8, 2018**

The Montana Playwrights Network (MPN) offers an exciting opportunity for Montana playwrights, called the 2019 MPN Rolling Premiere Project. The organization has engaged in a state-wide partnership with four theatre companies to offer full productions of original works by Montana Playwrights. Each of the four theatres will review script submissions and individually choose a full-length play, or series of one-acts to produce as part of their 2019 theatre season. Participating theatres include the Montana Actors Theatre of Havre, Verge Theater in Bozeman, Sacrifice Cliff Theatre Company of Billings, and at the FLEX Theatre at Carroll College Theatre in Helena.

Winning playwrights will receive a stipend to assist with travel costs as well as a royalty. Participating theatre companies will receive funds to assist with costs of the production. MPN will serve as project manager and as liaison between the companies and playwrights, and assist with dramaturgical processes.

For complete details and guidelines for submitting scripts, go to our website at [www.Montanaplaywrights.org](http://www.Montanaplaywrights.org).

# Verge Theater's First New Play Festival: *Spotlight on Process!*

The Verge's first new play festival was a resounding success on June 8 & 9 in Bozeman. Co-sponsored by the Montana Playwrights Network (MPN), it featured several staged readings of plays written by Montana Playwrights, and was presented by excellent directors and actors from the Bozeman Theatre community. It also included several stimulating and practical workshops for writers. The Verge Theater plans to offer another New Play Festival next year, and will be posting a call for plays for this event sometime this fall. MPN is proud to partner with the Verge Theater again in this exciting opportunity for writers and the general public to experience new plays in the development process.

## Here are some highlights from the Festival:

### Quotes from participants:

"I've needed the stimulus your presenters offered; participants were supportive, enjoyable so the nurturing you wanted to create did, in fact, occur. Brava!"

A playwright describing the effect of seeing her work performed by actors:  
"It deepened my understanding of what I had written."

"I didn't know what to expect, but it was amazing! So moving. Just great!"

"The unique and very effective casting of my script offered valuable insight into new possibilities of my play in full production. I was astonished and pleased by the director and actors' enthusiasm and talent in bringing my work to life on the stage."

### **FEATURED WORKSHOPS:**

#### **Playwriting for Beginners:**

**Pamela Mencher** guides participants over, around, and through some of the stumbling blocks many beginning playwrights face.

#### **Theatre for Social Justice:**

Join **Shira Hereld** for a two-hour crash-course in theatre for social change, where we'll discover how to bring today's most relevant and controversial subjects to life onstage.

#### **Freeing Creativity, Achieving Completion:**

With the guidance of **Jessie Sherman**, participants explore theatrical writing and related exercises; focusing on techniques for freeing creativity and achieving completion of a script.

### **FEATURED PLAYS:**

**Transgressions**  
by Steven Palmer

**Bananagrams**  
by Leah Joki

**Killing Pollyanna**  
by Pamela Jamruszka Mencher

A selection from **Driver's Ed**  
by C.M. Webb

**Way Station**  
by Shira Hereld



# 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
- **November, 2018.**
- 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).

## NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR MONTANA WRITERS!

### One Night Stand Theater Looking for Halloween Plays, Stories and Poems

One Night Stand Theater in Colorado is presenting "A One Night Stand Halloween" on October 28, 2018, a one-night-only evening of staged readings about the Halloween season. The theater company is accepting submissions for the performance: short plays, stories and poems about Halloween, horror, goblins, witches, ghouls, ghosts, and assorted relations.

The deadline for submissions is September 17, 2018; send submissions to the One Night Stand Theater email at [onenightstandtheatre@gmail.com](mailto:onenightstandtheatre@gmail.com) or to artistic director Jim O'Leary at [jimoleary65@aol.com](mailto:jimoleary65@aol.com). The company offers a small honorarium and two comp tickets for the performance at the Vintage Theater in Aurora, Colorado. Plays can be new or old; there are no restrictions on whether pieces have been previously produced.

You can learn more about One Night Stand Theater on their Facebook page or their website at [onenightstandtheater.org](http://onenightstandtheater.org).

MPN received a **Call for Submissions from the Tomo Suro Players in Vancouver, BC, Canada**. They are accepting play submissions for the 2018 About Love Festival of Short Plays. Please note there is a \$10.00 CAD fee for the submission of one script and \$15.00 CAD for two scripts. The fee covers the costs involved in the competition. They are hopeful that they can return to a free contest in the future. If any writer wishes to submit a script, and feels the fee is a challenge to meet, please follow the submission guidelines on their website and put ATTN: Gerald Williams in the body of your email.

For full guidelines: [tomosuruplayers.com](http://tomosuruplayers.com). Submit via email to [tomosuru@gmail.com](mailto:tomosuru@gmail.com), no later than **11:59 PM on August 31st, 2018**.