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www.MontanaPlaywrights.org

The official newsletter of the Montana Playwrights Network



Montana
Playwrights
Network



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Special thanks and recognition

are extended to

Slate Architecture

for their inspired design of the Helena Avenue Theatre, and as a

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For more information about Slate Architecture go to page 7 in this issue.



Pamela Mencher MPN President

Greetings from Pamela

Happy New Year! I am relieved to say that MPN has survived a 2nd year of the pandemic and is now entering its 5th year as a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and sharing stories about, by and for Montanans. In September of 2021, MPN finally was able to open the Helena Avenue Theatre (HAT) with *Bards of the Big Sky*,

featuring musical compositions by John Hosking and original plays by MPN members, Cynthia M. Webb, Jay Kettering and Pamela Jamruszka Mencher. Also at the HAT, the 9th annual Last Chance New Play Festival was presented by the Experimental Theatre Cooperative in November. On December 3, MPN offered the first *Winter Lodge Rendezvous*, featuring Native American music, dance & storytelling, and cohosted by scholars and humorists, Mike Jetty and Shane Doyle. Additional Native American performers featured *Supaman* aka Christian Takes Gun Parrish, Mariah Gladstone, Rachel TwoTeeth-Pichardo, and Sapphire Ferguson Jetty.

Now, MPN is busy working on several exciting projects for 2022, and are pleased to share the HAT facility with independent producers, theatre companies and other organizations in the coming year. You'll find information about many of these events in this issue of MPN News.

You can find us on Facebook and at www.montanaplaywrights.org. See you in the new year!

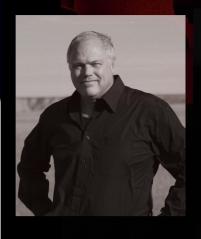


At the HAT!

A Valentine's Evening of Jazz Instrumental Originals

Steven Gores & Steve Kalling

with musical guests
Ed Stalling & Michael Kakuk
February 12, 2022
7 PM \$15









Helena Avenue Theatre 1319 Helena Ave. Helena, Montana

Info/Reservations. 406-461-3882

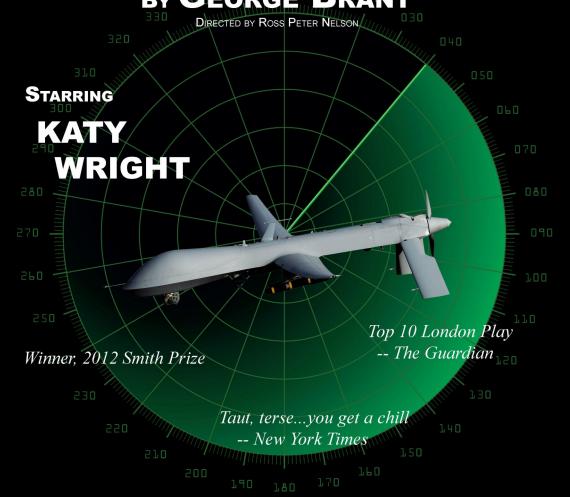
Tickets also available at Eventbrite.com (and at the door)

At the HATI



GROUNDED





Helena Avenue Theatre
1319 Helena Avenue
Feb 17 - Mar 5, 2022
\$20 Thu/Fri/Sat

Tickets on sale at ravensfeather.org

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AND



Merlin Discussion Feb 20 & 27 (Free)

MPN Special Event



MPN Special Event

UPDATE: The Scripts Are In!

MPN is pleased to announce that 17 original play scripts by MPN members were submitted for the MPN 2022-23 MT Premiere Project. These scripts are sent to selected theatre company producers to review and consider for inclusion in their respective 2022/2023 seasons in communities across Montana. Also, the Premiere Project is funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana's cultural and aesthetic projects trust fund: the Montana's Cultural Trust fund created in section 15-35-108, MCA, and administered by the Montana Arts Council on behalf of the Montana Legislature.

In this event, MPN partners with up to five theatre companies around Montana to choose either an original full-length script or a series of one-acts from submissions. Theatre companies in Helena, Havre, Missoula, Lewistown, Billings and Butte have expressed interest in being part of MPN's next MT Premiere Project. The list of participating theatre companies will be finalized soon.

The MPN MT Premiere Project promotes Montana playwrights in partnership with selected Montana theatre companies to produce original scripts in full production. Theatre companies rarely risk producing new plays that do not already possess public familiarity because of financial considerations and lack of name recognition. As a result, talented playwrights face formidable challenges in getting their work produced locally and may also be artistically inhibited by not seeing their works in live performance. MPN addresses this need by offering this exciting opportunity to the members.











architecture

interiors

planning



 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 March/April, 2022.

 If you want a copy of MPN's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, just send a note to:

montanaplaywrights@gmail.com.

- Share this newsletter with your friends and anyone else you think might be interested in our events or joining the Network.
- Go to our website for more information: www.MontanaPlaywrights.org.

Get Involved!

Volunteer at the HAT! MPN invites you to join us in many exciting creative projects at the HAT. Be an usher, join the stage crew, be in a show, or share your unique talents in an infinite variety of projects. MPN's volunteer policy honors volunteers' efforts in many ways. Ask for a copy today.

The HAT is available at affordable rates!

Chances are that you, someone you know, or a group that you're involved in will need a place to house meetings, training or special projects. The HAT may be just what you're looking for. Call for a tour today.

Contact MPN President, Pamela Mencher at montanaplaywrights@gmail.com or call or text 406-235-0353 for more information about volunteering; or the opportunity to use a fully equipped, performing arts and conference facility for your events!