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www.MontanaPlaywrights.org

The official newsletter of the
Montana Playwrights Network

MPN News



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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

Sponsor

of the
Montana Playwrights Network .

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](https://www.eventbrite.com) (and at the door)

At the HAT!

RAVEN'S  FEATHER
PRODUCTIONS

GROUNDED

BY **GEORGE BRANT**

DIRECTED BY ROSS PETER NELSON

STARRING

**KATY
WRIGHT**



Winner, 2012 Smith Prize

*Top 10 London Play
-- The Guardian*

*Taut, terse...you get a chill
-- New York Times*

HELENA AVENUE THEATRE
1319 HELENA AVENUE
FEB 17 - MAR 5, 2022
\$20 Thu/Fri/Sat

Merlin Discussion
Feb 20 & 27 (Free)

Tickets on sale at
ravensfeather.org

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ARTS COUNCIL**
AN AGENCY OF STATE GOVERNMENT
Strengthening the Creative Economy of Montana

MPN Special Event

From Page To Stage



April 22-24, 2022

MPN 2022 Playwrights Conference

Offered by the Montana Playwrights Network, ***From Page To Stage*** is intended for writers of all levels of experience and genres; and also for creative artists involved in the process of developing original plays. This two-day conference features seasoned professionals who present practical and inspiring workshops in writing, directing and developing new plays, staged readings, performances and more.

Registration opens February 1.

For information, send email to:
montanaplaywrights@gmail.com.

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 its members.**

**MONTANA
CULTURAL
TRUST**



Partial funding for this project was provided by Montana's Cultural Trust.

slate

ARCHITECTURE



architecture

interiors

planning

tel | 406.457.0360

1470 North Roberts Street, Helena, MT 59601

www.slatearchitecture.com

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 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!