

KAREN HINES began her theatrical career as an underground comedienne and has emerged as an acclaimed and award-winning playwright and two-time finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. She is also an award-winning director, performer, essayist and short filmmaker.

Hines' origins in the world of 'high performance' lace through all her literary work, from her signature role as 'Pochsy' to the 7-character *Drama: Pilot Episode* – but the dark humour '*pushes its impact past shock value through sheer ability and mastery of her craft*' (Toronto Star – Carly Maga). Her provocative meditations on modern confusion, narcissism, ecological disarray and market-driven hunger have been described as '*exquisitely crafted*' (Globe&Mail), and have inspired Toronto Life to name her '*One of the most original artists in the city,*' and the Toronto Star to name her '*One of the little gems of Canadian Theatre.*'

Karen's plays include *Crawlspace*, *Drama: Pilot Episode*; *Citizen Pochsy*; *Hello... Hello*; *Oh baby*, *Pochsy's Lips* and very recently *All the Little Animals I Have Eaten*, inspired by the Bechdel Test. She has also written several short plays, collaborated on literary cabarets, and is a regular collaborator as 'creation dramaturg' on new works by other artists.

All of her own plays have been published by **Coach House Books** and productions have been presented on main stages as well as in micro spaces. Venues have included **Soulpepper, Videofag, Tarragon Mainstage, Factory Studio, World Stage, Luminato, Magnetic North, One Yellow Rabbit, Alberta Theatre Projects (PlayRites), Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Boca del Lupo - Fishbowl, Firehall Theatre, Theatre Replacement - PushOFF (Vancouver), Debajehmujig Creation Centre (Manitoulin), Theatre Passe Muraille, Kill Your Television (Edmonton)** in Germany at **Beme** and in America at **Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Alice's Fourth Floor (NYC) Dallas Theatre Centre, Mixed Blood (Minneapolis), Denver Theatre Centre and Joe's Pub (Public Theater, NYC).**

Awards and citations include **twice-finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award, twice-finalist for the Chalmers Award for Canadian Plays, finalist for the PGC's Carol Bolt Award, Two Alberta Writers Guild Awards, The Betty Mitchell Award for Best New Play, Calgary Critics Award for Best New Play, three Dora Nominations for Outstanding New Play/Musical as well as two Dora Awards (for performance and direction) and eleven further Dora nominations for her productions**

productions (please see CV).

Karen's performances in her *Hello..Hello* and as 'Pochsy' have won her the Dora Award for performance, as well as further Dora and Betty Mitchell Award nominations. She appeared for three seasons as 'Karen' on the Emmy Award-winning (Canadian) '*Newsroom*,' and she has been nominated, singly and with the ensembles of *Married Life* and *Newsroom*, for Gemini and CableAce (previous to Golden Globe) Awards. Other favourite roles have included cameos in Douglas Coupland's Royal Shakespeare Company production of *September 10*, the feature film *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and Christopher Walkin's sidekick in *Man of the Year*.

Karen has taught workshops, given seminars and presented readings for students both of Drama and of Literature at universities including **University of Toronto** (Literature for Our Times), **York** (Canadian Visiting Writers Series), **Victoria, Calgary, Lethbridge, Alberta, Victoria, Queens, Yale** and at **Actors Theatre of Louisville**. She also teaches every year at the **Manitoulin Conservatory for Creation and Performance** and regularly through young western companies such as **Swallow A Bicycle, Handsome Alice, The Chop**, the **3.7 Initiative** and through **Alberta Playwrights' Network**.

As a director and dramaturg, Hines' collaborations include all of adult horror clowns **Mump & Smoot's** shows which have toured to more than three dozen cities from the Fringes to **Off Broadway, Yale Rep, La Jolla Playhouse** and in Israel, as well as the premiere of Linda Griffiths' *Age of Arousal* (ATP) which has gone on to productions across Canada, America and the U.K.

Chicago-born, Toronto bred, Karen moved to Calgary eight years ago and has shifted her focus primarily to writing. Since 2009, she has been Alberta Theatre Projects' **Playwright in Residence**, written **Western and National Magazine Award-winning articles**, written a **trilogy of internationally prize-winning short films**, adapted from *The Pochsy Plays* as well having three new plays published and produced.

In 2017, *All the Little Animals I Have Eaten* played to sold-out houses as **One Yellow Rabbit's High Performance Rodeo main stage show** and a remount of Videofag's production of her *Crawlspace* enjoyed a sold-out and extended run in **Soulpepper's Tank House Theatre**.

Karen will soon contribute as a writer with the ensemble on One Yellow Rabbit's *Moon, Moon, No Moon* to be directed by Blake Brooker and Denise Clark. She is currently writing two more plays, *The Dramaturg (A Thriller)* and *Lime Green Wow Factor*, an

immersive play commissioned by Calgary's Verb Theatre. A further commission with Vertigo Theatre is in progress: current conversations suggest a Studio production of an 'experimental psycho-horror' surrounding and concerning madness and authorship.

All the Little Animals and *Drama: Pilot Episode* have had post-premiere workshops and readings through **Alberta Playwrights' Network**, **The Chop Theatre (under director Anita Rochon)** and **Soulpepper (under director/dramaturg Guillermo Verdecchia)** in an effort to bring the plays into future production.