**Evenings at Government House**

**Playwrights Guild of Canada Nov 1, 2022**

**Catherine Banks**

Catherine Banks was inspired to begin writing plays after she saw a production of Michel Tremblay’s *Les Belles-Soeurs*. Plays by Catherine Banks have been performed across Canada and include: *Miss N' Me*; I*t Is Solved By Walking*; *Bone Cage*; *Three Storey, Ocean View*; and *Bitter Rose*, which aired on Bravo! Canada. Her work is poetic, darkly humorous, courageous, and beautifully theatrical, and her characters—Lud in *Three Storey, Ocean View* and Clarence in *Bone Cage*—have been described as Atlantic Gothic. *Bone Cage* premiered in 2007, and went on to win the Governor General’s Literary Award for Drama in 2008. *It Is Solved By Walking* won the Governor General’s Literary Award in 2012, was translated into Catalan by Tant per Tant, and was one of three Canadian plays to tour Catalonia in 2012. Catherine received Nova Scotia’s Established Artist Award for her body of work in 2008. Her play, *Miss N’ Me* (premiered Sarasvati Productions, Winnipeg 2015) is about a small-town hairdresser who steals her husband’s plumbing van to drive to New York to meet the American rapper, Missy Elliot. Her adaptation of *An Enemy of the People, In This Light*, premiered at Two Planks and a Passion 2019. Catherine's newest play *Downed Hearts* will premiere in 2023. She has adapted Ernest Buckler’s novel *The Mountain and the Valley* for the stage, and is writing a new play, *Downed Hearts and The King of Days*. Catherine holds the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (Honorary) from Mount St. Vincent University. *Bone Cage* has been made into a film and has won many awards on the film festival circuit.

**Lily Falk**

Lily Falk is an emerging theatre artist and co-Artistic Director of Gale Force Theatre in Kjipuktuk (Halifax). Her first play, *Crypthand*, was developed at the 2019 PARC Colony and won the Best Original Script award at the 2019 Halifax Fringe Festival. *Crypthand* is shortlisted for the 2022 PGC Tom Hendry RBC Emerging Playwright Award. Most recently, Lily co-created a show for very young audiences that was delivered to parks by tandem bike all over Nova Scotia. She’s currently developing a serialized audio drama for kids. When she isn’t writing, she works as a nature play professional, bringing the magic of the outdoors to kids of all ages and abilities.

**Josh MacDonald**

Josh MacDonald is an award-winning screenwriter, playwright and actor.

He is the writer of the feature film *The Corridor* (IFC Films; D Films), which won the “Next Wave” Award for Best Screenplay at Fantastic Fest in Austin, Texas– one of the world’s top genre festivals. He is also the writer of the feature film *Faith, Fraud & Minimum Wage* (eOne Entertainment), which is an adaptation of his stage play *Halo*.

*Halo* has gone into a 6th printing, and been produced by theatre companies around North America. *Halo*, *Whereverville* and *The Mystery Play* have all been published by Talonbooks, and are curriculum titles in high schools and universities in Canada. Josh is the winner of the Sharon Enkin Prize for TYA Writing from the Playwrights Guild of Canada for his adaptation of Robert Cormier’s *#IAmTheCheese*.

Josh is the writer-director of the short horror film *Game*, which has won prizes at festivals around the world, been selected as a “Vimeo Staff Pick” and a “Short of the Week,” been acquired by Blumhouse’s Crypt Monsters & Crypt TV, and viewed over a million times online. A short film Josh coproduced and costarred in, *Little Grey Bubbles* (by director Charles Wahl), was selected to debut at the prestigious SXSW Festival, and has also garnered a million views online.

Josh has written episodic series work for the National Film Board, the Smithsonian Channel, Reelz, CBC TV & Radio, Blue Ant, Vision, AMI, Eastlink and Teletoon.

Josh has been the playwriting and screenwriting instructor at Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design (NSCAD).