



October 5, 6, 7, 2023
PAL STUDIO THEATRE
581 Cardero Street, Vancouver B.C
Directed/Facilitated by Johnna Wright

In our inaugural HAVE A SENIOR MOMENT FESTIVAL we celebrated three new works by emerging senior/elder playwrights. Our audiences were amongst the lucky few to explore and hear for the first time these new Canadian plays by Vancouver playwrights – all fabulous senior artists whose plays will be read by a wonderful array of Vancouver’s best actors.

The three plays were chosen via a call for submission and with the support of an adjudicator who did not know the name/ gender of playwrights to allow for an unbiased decision. Each playwright gets a four-hour workshop of their play with professional actors, a public reading at PAL Studio Theatre, and a digital recording of the event.

Artistic Director of Western Gold Theatre Tanja Dixon-Warren says, “I wanted to turn the notion of “have a senior moment” on its head! I wanted to change the perception of seniors “having a moment” while simultaneously giving senior artists “a moment.” I wanted to encourage the voices of senior artists who, with so much life experience, are daring to be bold and are writing from their hearts! I wanted to offer a platform for those who wish to leap and try something out!

My hope is the HAVE A SENIOR MOMENT FESTIVAL will discover new things for us all and morph into an annual festival celebrating the Western Gold Theatre tagline: *Creativity has no Expiry Date!*”

Thank you to our HAVE A SENIOR MOMENT FESTIVAL partner FULL CIRCLE FIRST NATIONS PERFORMANCE for their support of Jay Brazeau’s play *Fortunate Sons!*



READING #1

Fortunate Sons

By Jay Brazeau

Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Hysterical, heartbreaking, mysterious, and frightening - like a roller coaster you want to jump off of, but the longer you stay the longer you'll want to ride! The ride follows four generations of fathers and sons and takes you from 1937 to beyond. It's like a puzzle without a picture you throw up in the air and each act you watch is about putting the pieces together. It's definitely worth the ride!

Featuring: Nyla Carpentier, Tracey Olson, Judson Pooyak, Ray Thunderchild



READING #2

They're Naked, They're Ugly and They Owe us Money

By Susinn McFarlen

Friday, October 6, 2023 at 7:30 pm

This feminist comedy about a theatre company forced to rehearse in a decrepit biker clubhouse when the last rehearsal space in town closes takes us on a magical journey that is a love letter to an art form that is struggling but refuses to die. It's funny, it's angry, it's theatre!

Featuring: Jennifer Higgin, Nimet Kanji, Richard Newman, Sage Newman, Tracey Olson, Kathryn Shaw



READING #3

The Monarch

By Michael Vairo

Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 7:30 pm

In a dingy old boxing club in the basement of a rundown hotel in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, an old boxer and his one-time prodigy search for meaning in their lives and contemplate what could have been. Facing old age, eviction, and a slow slide into dementia, one man decides that it is not too late to sing his song in life and, with the help of his daughter, chooses to follow his dream.

Featuring: Nimet Kanji, Kim Kondrashoff, Nicola Lipman, Richard Newman, Judson Pooyak