

## **BRIAN DRADER - Biography**

*Affiliations – Playwrights Guild of Canada, Writers Guild of Canada, Manitoba Association of Playwrights, Playwrights Workshop Montreal, ACTRA, Canadian Actors Equity Association*

Brian is a writer, dramaturg, teacher, actor, and artistic administrator. He was brought up in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he received his Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Manitoba, and his theatre education at the University of Winnipeg.

His writing career has spanned 35 years, with plays produced in Canada, the United States, and Europe. Awards for his writing include the Herman Voaden National Playwriting Award (winner 1998, 2nd place 2017), the Philadelphia Brick Playhouse New Play Award, and the prestigious Lambda Literary Award for Drama (USA), as well as nominations for the Governor General's Literary Award and the McNally Robinson Book of the Year. Published work includes *The Norbals*, *Prok* and *Liar* (Scirocco Drama), and *Curtsy* and *To Be Frank* (Signature Editions). Screenplays include *Woo* (Ocular Productions), *Please Mr. Please* (Full Stop Films), and *The Return of the Fabulous Seven* (Markham Street Films), all supported by Telefilm Canada. A short film, *Iris and Nathan*, won the National Screen Institute Drama Prize. An early play, *The Fruit Machine*, has recently been optioned by Inferno Pictures Inc.

Brian has acted in over seventy professional theatre productions across Canada, as well as numerous films, television projects, and radio dramas. He was the Associate Artistic Director for Prairie Theatre Exchange in Winnipeg, as well as the facilitator and dramaturge for the PTE/MAP co-sponsored PlayBlitz and Young Emerging Playwrights programs.

Brian has supported the development of hundreds of plays through his dramaturgical practice, from experimental Fringe Festival work to Cirque du Soleil's *MJ ONE* at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. Other commercial engagements include contracts with Montreal's GSM Projects writing the audio components for *Indiana Jones and the Adventure of Archaeology* (with Jodi Essery) and video components for *Star Wars Identities*, both touring museum exhibitions (Lucas Films/National Geographic), providing dramaturgical support for the 2017 revamp of The Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa, and stylizing content for the Anchorage Museum Alaska Exhibition.

Brian served as the Director of Playwriting at the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal from 2004 to 2017. In August of 2017, he was appointed the position of Executive Director of the Manitoba Association of Playwrights. He also teaches Playwriting at the University of Winnipeg.

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