

The Writing Toward a Just World Research
Cluster presents:

DIALOGUE AND DESIRE



Speaker:

DEBBIE PATTERSON

playwright, composer, director
and actor

Thursday December
8th 2022
12 PM - 2 PM CT

Online Webinar hosted
on Zoom and in person at
307 Tier, Fort Garry
Campus

Please address questions to umih@umanitoba.ca
Registration closes - Wednesday, December 7th, 2022

DEBBIE PATTERSON

Debbie Patterson is a Winnipeg playwright, composer, director and actor. She trained at the National Theatre School of Canada and the former Artistic Director of the Popular Theatre Alliance of Manitoba (PTAM). She was a member of the Playwright's Unit and served as Artistic Associate for Prairie Theatre Exchange from 2009 to 2018. She served as Playwright in Residence for Theatre Projects Manitoba 2013/14 season. In 2010/11 she was the Theatre Ambassador for Winnipeg's Cultural Capital of Canada celebrations and in 2012 she was the Carol Shields Writer in Residence at the University of Winnipeg.

She is a founding member of Shakespeare in the Ruins (SIR) and served two terms as Artistic Chair of that company. With Shakespeare in the Ruins she has acted in over twenty productions, directed six productions, composed music for four productions, written one full length musical and served as text coach for two. She coordinated and delivered a project to provide free weekly drama classes to clients of the Winnipeg Harvest Foodbank. Favourite roles have included Richard III, Titania, the Nurse in Romeo and Juliet, and Jenny in Threepenny Opera. Her musical Head, about the final days of Anne Boleyn was produced in 2006 by SIR to a completely sold out run.

Her other plays include *Zoom Lens*, *How it Ends* (Playwrights Canada Press), *Sargent & Victor & Me*, *Candy From a Baby*, and *Molotov Circus*, which was nominated for the Harry Rintoul Award and the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Her plays for young audiences, adaptations of Robert Munsch stories have been produced by Prairie Theatre Exchange, Festival Antigonish, Carousel Theatre, Neptune Theatre, Quest Theatre, Theatre by the Bay, Thousand Island Playhouse and Bumbershoot Theatre. Directing credits include *Taming of the Shrew*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Macbeth* for SIR, *Breaking Up is Hard to Do* for Rainbow Stage, *Becoming Dr. Ruth* for Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, *Saint Joan* for Theatre by the River and *The Crackwalker* for Sweet and Salty Collective. She has twice been shortlisted for the Gina Wilkinson Prize.

Debbie was the first physically disabled actor to play Richard III in a professional Canadian production (*Shakespeare in the Ruins*). Recipient of the United Nations Platform for Action Committee's Activist Award (2015) and the Mayor's Making a Mark Award (2017), she is a proud advocate for disability arts through her work as the Artistic Director of Sick + Twisted Theatre. She is the matriarch of a family of artists. She lives a wheelchair-enabled life in Treaty One Territory (Winnipeg) and in a cabin on the shore of Lake Winnipeg in Treaty Two Territory with her partner and collaborator, Arne MacPherson.