

Oil Sands: What Future?

An evening of theatre and discussion presented by the Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership and the Carleton University Centre on Values and Ethics (COVE)

Highway 63: The Fort Mac Show - created and presented by Emergency Architect Theatre
Followed by a conversation with Andrew Nikiforuk - with audience participation

7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 15
Kailash Mital Theatre, Carleton University

Location: see <http://www.carleton.ca/ims/Theatre/Kailash%20Mital-Theatre-Campus-Map.pdf>

Public transit: O-train, buses 4, 7, and 117. Ample parking is available in Parking Garage P9. Limited parking is available in Lot P1 with access from Colonel By Drive via Library Road.

Highway 63: The Fort Mac Show

Every Canadian experiences the benefits and controversy generated by the oil sands, yet few have traveled up Highway 63 in Alberta to discover daily life at the epicentre of a boom town.

From engineers to teenagers, social workers to the Newfoundlander in the mines, the just-arrived to the First Nations people, *Highway 63: The Fort Mac Show* explores the diverse voices of Fort McMurray and uncovers the stories behind the headlines.

Review: "The show itself is a remarkably balanced, well-written, thoughtful, funny window into the lives of a dozen different Fort Mac characters. There's a Newfoundlander who works on the oilsands, digging up the ground. He rents a room from a reclamation scientist trying to figure out how to put the ground back together after the oilsands workers tear it apart. There's Mary, a young dancer who has hit her expiration date in Fort Mac and is headed for Toronto to attend dance school, until she falls into a relationship with the oilsands guy. There's an old aboriginal man who tells stories about the increase in the cancer rate in Fort Chippewa, four days up Lake Athabasca from the oilsands, and a preacher from Texas who hears the calling and relocates to Fort Mac."

<http://communities.canada.com/shareit/blogs/canadianvoices/archive/2009/03/28/review-highway-63-the-fort-mac-show.aspx>

Andrew Nikiforuk

For the last two decades, Andrew Nikiforuk has written about energy, economics and the West for a variety of Canadian publications including *The Walrus*, *Macleans*, *Canadian Business*, *The Globe and Mail's Report on Business*, *Chatelaine*, *Georgia Straight*, *Equinox* and *Harrowsmith*.

In the late 1990s, he investigated the social and ecological impacts of intensive livestock industries and the legacy of northern uranium mining for the *Calgary Herald*. His public policy position papers on water diversion in the Great Lakes (2004) and water, energy and North American integration (2007) for the Program on Water Issues at the University of Toronto's Munk Centre sparked both discussion and reform.

Nikiforuk's journalism has won seven National Magazine Awards since 1989 and top honours for investigative writing from the Association of Canadian Journalists. His dramatic Alberta-based book, ***Saboteurs: Wiebo Ludwig's War Against Big Oil***, won the Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction in 2002. ***Pandemonium***, which examines the impact of global trade on disease exchanges, received widespread national acclaim. His latest book, ***The Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of the Continent***, examines the world's largest energy project, and is a national best seller. It recently won the 2009 Rachel Carson Environment Book Award and was listed as a finalist for the Grantham Prize for Excellence In Reporting on the Environment.

Nikiforuk and his wife and three sons, Aidan, Keegan and Torin, live in Calgary, Alberta. Whether speaking or writing about melting glaciers, educational shams, peak oil, or the destruction of the boreal forest, Nikiforuk has earned a reputation as an honest and provocative voice in Canadian journalism.

Review: "Andrew Nikiforuk is one of the most astute, relentless and original writers of his generation. This book, which reveals the true cost of the Alberta tar sands, shows why he's so admired in some quarters and so feared in others." – Gary Stephen Ross, Editor-in-chief, *Vancouver Magazine*

Emergency Architect Theatre

Emergency Architect is an eclectic group of theatre artists from across Canada, all of whom traveled together to Fort McMurray, in the heart of the oil sands, and spent 3 weeks there to research and create *Highway 63*.

Georgina Beaty – Actor/Creator/Producer

Georgina is an actor, creator and the co-founder of Emergency Architect Theatre. Acting credits include Sissy in *Unity (1918)* (Alberta Theatre Projects), for which she received a Betty Mitchell nomination, Mildred in *Ah, Wilderness!* (Chemainus Theatre, *Suspended (Boca del Lupo)*, *Pig* (Winnipeg Fringe), and *Queen Lear* (Urban Curvz). She also created and performed in her solo pieces, *Beyond Freedom and Dignity* (Roxy theatre, Nextfest) and *Squeeze Machine* (Motel), and wrote *Fire Ally* (Sage and Studio 58). In the upcoming season, she looks forward to acting in Downstage's production of *Bone Cage*, touring *Pig* to Edmonton (Canoe festival) and Calgary (High Performance Rodeo), and bringing *Highway 63: The Fort Mac Show* around Canada. She is a recipient of the Nextfest Emerging Artist Award, a graduate of the University of Alberta (BA) and the acting program at Studio 58 in Vancouver.

Jonathan Seinen – Actor/Creator/Producer

Jonathan Seinen is a director, playwright, and actor, and co-founder of Emergency Architect Theatre. Recent directing credits include: *Deathwatch* (lemonTree theatre creations, Toronto Pride 2009, and *The Red Devil* (SummerWorks 2008, Outstanding Direction - NOW Magazine). Selected acting credits include: *The Nick Drake Project* (SummerWorks 2009), *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Romeo & Juliet* (Theatre Prospero, Edmonton), *Maggie-Now: Part 1* (Workshop West, Edmonton), and Orlando in the queer re-imagining of Shakespeare's comedy, *You Like It*. (SummerWorks 2006). Television: *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. Playwriting credits: *Invisible Things* (2009 10 Days of Madness 24HR Playwriting Competition Winner, Edmonton), *Unknown Pleasures* (Sage Theatre, Calgary), *Regeneration* (Theatre Network, Edmonton), and *[ice land]* (Walterdale Theatre, Edmonton, recently published in *Hot Thespian*

Action! (Athabasca UP). Jonathan holds a BA (Honours) Drama from the University of Alberta and is an Acting grad of the National Theatre School of Canada.

Layne Coleman - Director

Layne Coleman is the former Artistic Director of Theatre Passe Muraille. He recently played the Magistrate in the 40th anniversary production of *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe* at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and the Western Canada Theatre Co. in Kamloops. He is co-authoring a film with Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman entitled *Falling From Grace*. His most recent credits as a story editor/director have been on the collective creation *Highway 63*. Layne will be acting in *Goodness*, directed by Ross Manson, and produced by Volcano, the play begins in Toronto, goes to Rwanda, and then Winnipeg, in early fall. Layne lives on a farm near Kingston, Ontario and is writing a book.

Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman – Director/Creator

Charlotte Corbeil Coleman grew up in the theatre, playing on sets and sleeping in greenrooms. She graduated from the National Theatre School of Canada (2008) in the playwriting program. She finished the year by writing two companion plays for her graduating class: *John...Sudden Death*, about the last night of hockey goon John Kordic, and *Cindy...A Perfect Circle* about his Fiancée, a stripper working in a fetish fairytale club in downtown Montreal. During the three-year program Charlotte wrote *My Fish Stick Play*, *Purple*, *Which Bed Do You Want?*, an adaptation of Raymond Carver's short story, *Cathedral*, and a one woman play entitled, *The Holey Chicken Bone*. Other writing credits include a CBC radio play, *The Summer of February*. *The End of Pretending* won the 2002 SummerWorks Eye Audience Choice Award, and went on to do a run at the Regent Theatre in Picton, Ontario. *Scratch*, which won The Herman Voaden Award in 2007, opened Factory's 2008/2009 season. *The King's Conscience* will be doing a run with Theatre Kingston in the fall of '09. She just returned from Alberta where she developed and directed a collective creation, *Highway 63: The Fort Mac Show*. Charlotte currently lives in Toronto where she is the Playwright-In-Residence at Factory Theatre and is developing a screenplay, *Falling From Grace* and working on a collection of short stories, entitled; *I've slept in every room but the Kitchen...*

Greg Gale – Actor/Creator

Greg is a native of Corner Brook, NL and in 2007 he graduated from the National Theatre School of Canada's acting program. While there, he received the Hnatyshyn Foundation's Emerging Artist Grant given annually to one young artist in Canada who shows special promise and talent in their area of study. While at school, Greg performed the roles of Yasha in "The Cherry Orchard", the King of France in "All's Well that Ends Well" and Aleksander Petrovitch in the Russian farce "The Suicide", among others. Since graduating, Greg has worked in theatres from Newfoundland to Alberta. Highlights include "Saltwater Moon" with Rising Tide Theatre in Trinity, "Speakeasy", an original play by the young Montreal company SaBooge, "Dance of the Red Skirts", a collaborative creation produced by Toronto's clown based company Theatre Columbus and "Woody", a solo show about Pinocchio that was produced by western Newfoundland's Free Radicals Theatre. Greg is currently working with the Gros Morne Summer Music Festival in Newfoundland organizing musical events, playing the guitar and trying to get people to smile.