



**CAITLIN  
OLESON**

**PLAYWRIGHT  
STORYTELLER  
CREATOR**

# About Me

I am a second generation Canadian, female-identifying playwright with a disability. I currently make my home on Treaty One Territory, the traditional land of the Cree, Oji-Cree, Anishinabeg, Dene, and Dakota people and the birthplace of the Métis Nation. My city is also known as Winnipeg.

Like many nascent playwrights, I wrote my first script in high school: *Storytellers* was performed by my drama class and staff selected *A Christmas Miracle* as the school's holiday production. When I graduated, I gave up my dreams of a creative life to pursue a more reliable and lucrative career in the public service.

It wasn't until I was introduced to the Fringe Festival that I realized I still wanted to create theater and could do so without formal training. Since 2015, I have worked on developing my skills as a playwright, storyteller, and theater artist by taking workshops, seeking mentorship, and simply learning through experience with lots of trying, failing, growing, and trying again.

My approach to creating new works is to use humor, curiosity, and compassion to explore, interrogate, and investigate critical issues like climate change, gender based violence, mental illness, or racial tensions. I draw on first hand accounts, my own lived experiences, and secondary research to develop scripts that reflect the complexities of these challenges with the utmost care and respect.

Generally speaking, my goals are:

- to bring diverse perspectives to a broad audience;
- to leave the audience with more questions than answers; and,
- to inspire the audience to learn more and take action.

I consider my work successful if someone sees their reality reflected on stage and feels seen, and/or if someone has their mind or heart open to a new idea. These are big tasks that I believe are best accomplished through the disarming nature of entertainment. Although my work focuses on serious topics, I don't want to write "serious plays." I always try to infuse comedy, fun, and playfulness to my work.

The world feels depressing, scary, and exhausting enough without me adding more bleakness through my art. I want to build awareness *and* bring joy too.

# My Projects

The following are projects in development or seeking production. I am also open to collaborating on new concepts or joining existing teams on works in progress.



## Cool With It

*Winner of the 2022 Sybil Cooke Award for Outstanding Play for Children or Young People (Ottawa Little Theatre)*

Cupid tries to advise a nine-year old Black boy on how to deal with his first crush before realizing that crush is on another boy. Cupid then tutors the boy on how to be proud of his queerness and live his truth.

Characters: (2) One pre-teen Black boy, and one adult man

Status: Finished draft

Seeking: Sensitivity readers and/or dramaturg

## Stripped

*Supported in part by an Ontario Arts Council Grant*

*Developed in part through the Ottawa Fringe Festival's Playwrights in Quarantine Unit*

*Early Draft Presented at Fresh Meat Festival 2019*

When Roxanne discovers the woman she loves wants to become an exotic dancer, she decides to invent the world's first bionic stripper in the hopes of eradicating the industry. She discovers too late that the choice to enter sex work is empowering for her partner.

Characters: (3) All adult women

Status: Expanding 15 minute script into a one-act show

Seeking: Collaborators and/or co-creators



## Goodbye George, Love Sam

*Winner of the 2020 Sybil Cooke Award for Outstanding Play for Children or Young People (Ottawa Little Theatre)*  
*Developed in part through the Great Canadian Theatre Company's Emerging Creator's Unit*



George is a giant tortoise who escaped from his enclosure on the Galapagos Islands. Sam is a nine year old separated from her tour group. Will George risk his freedom to help her? Will Sam tell George the secret that will change his life? And who's this annoying lizard that keeps following them?

Characters: (3) One pre-teen girl, one tortoise, one lizard

Status: Completed script, looking to stage or tour

Seeking: Director and/or producer

## Crushed

*Performed at the 2019 Kingston Storefront Festival*

*Performed at the 2015 Ottawa Fringe Festival*

This one-woman autobiographical storytelling show tells the tale of a twenty-something navigating dating and relationships, including surviving an abusive one. The narrative questions why women place such high value on being coupled and encourages a fierce, proud single life for anyone who desires it.

Characters: (1) Adult woman

Status: Completed script, looking to stage or tour

*Would also be interested in revising script*

Seeking: Director, producer, and/or dramaturg



Additional information for any of the above scripts, or works in earlier concept stages of development, is available upon request. Please reach out, I'd love to chat!



# Credentials and Experience

## Theatre Training and Education

Craft Bites: Playwrights in Discussion, Playwrights Guild of Canada	<i>Upcoming</i>
Creatryx: A Zoom of One's Own, Nightwood Theatre	2022
New Works Dramaturgy Program, Theatre Wakefield ( <i>Peter Haworth</i> )	2018
Writer's Space (Eight Week Course), The Acting Company ( <i>Pierre Brault</i> )	2017

Plus various webinars and online workshops with Citadel Theater, Studio 180 Theatre, Nightwood Theatre, Theatre Wakefield, Ottawa Little Theatre, and TACTICS.

## Theatre Community Work

Juror, Prix Rideau Awards	2016 - 2018
Participant, Ottawa Theatre Challenge	2018
Theatre Reviewer, OnStage Ottawa	2014 - 2016
Social Media Strategist, artsScene Ottawa-Gatineau	2013/2014
Volunteer, The Grand Theatre	2010/2011

## Storytelling Performances

Canada Celebrates Folklore Series, Mindful Habitats	2022
Stories in 180 Mentorship Program, Ottawa Storytellers ( <i>Marta Singh</i> )	2021
"One Big Long Awkward Teenage Experiment", GRTTWAK Podcast	2018

## Non-Theatre Writing

Certificate in Creative Writing, Humber College ( <i>Tim Wynne-Jones, O.C.</i> )	2022
Emerging Writers Intensive, The Banff Center ( <i>Michelle Good</i> )	2021
Bachelor of Arts in Communications, Carleton University	2010

Publications include: *The Lögberg-Heimskringla*, *What's Hers* magazine, *What If?* magazine, the *girlSpoken* anthology, and *The Brandon Sun*.

## Additional Skills: Aerial Arts Performances

Dementia Society Fundraiser, <i>Ghosttown</i> (Solo Routine)	2021
Sinners and Saints Showcase, <i>My Songs Know</i> (Solo Routine)	2019
Golden Glitz and Glamour Gala, <i>Ashes</i> (Doubles Act)	2019