

ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY SILVER COMMISSION PLAYWRIGHT DOROTHY DITTRICH WINS GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S LITERARY AWARD

IN BRIEF The Arts Club Theatre Company's Silver Commission playwright Dorothy Dittrich has won the Governor-General's Literary Award for Drama for her play *The Piano Teacher*.

VANCOUVER, B.C. (November 22, 2022)—The Arts Club Theatre Company's Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** and Executive Director **Peter Cathie White** are excited to congratulate Arts Club [Silver Commission](#) playwright **Dorothy Dittrich** on winning the Governor-General's Literary Award for Drama for her published play *The Piano Teacher: A Healing Key*.

Written by the award-winning playwright, composer, musical director, and sound designer Dorothy Dittrich, *The Piano Teacher* follows a renowned classical pianist named Erin who, after experiencing great loss in her life, is unable to find solace in the music that once brought her so much joy. As she struggles to play her beloved instrument, an unconventional piano teacher helps release her past and a new friend invites possibilities for the future.

Commissioned by the Arts Club in the 2012–2013 season, *The Piano Teacher* premiered April 2017 at the Newmont Stage (formerly Goldcorp Stage) at the BMO Theatre Centre and later went on tour through the province. In September of this year, the play was published by Talonbooks. This is the first time an Arts Club Silver Commission has received an award of this stature.

Each year, the Silver Commissions program provides funding for a playwright as they create a brand-new work, with the goal of producing it on one of our stages. The program has issued 32 full and three partial Silver Commissions since its inception in the 2006–2007 season, and 18 scripts have been given premieres at the Arts Club. This includes the four premieres in the 2022–2023 season: *Redbone Coonhound*, *Mom's the Word: Talkin' Turkey*, *Forgiveness* (co-commissioned with Theatre Calgary), and *The Cull*. The program has become a critical step in the Arts Club's creative process as the company takes new works from script to stage. It would not be possible without the generosity of our Silver Commissions Patrons **Stan and Kathy Hamilton**.

In celebration of this award, Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran said, "At the Arts Club, we strongly believe in supporting local writers and telling local stories, and our Silver Commission program affords us the opportunity to invite two local writers a year to share a story they believe will resonate with our audiences. We were so excited when Dorothy Dittrich's beautiful play about loss, love, and the healing power of music was published this fall, as this makes it more easily known to other theatre companies. But the news has gotten even better with this amazing Governor-General's Award—the first time an Arts Club Silver Commission has received this honour!"

The Arts Club's Board Chair **Art Vertlieb** added, "The Arts Club is a major development centre for new theatrical works nationally. This prestigious award for Dorothy and her Silver Commission, *The Piano Teacher*, is an important validation of what the Arts Club accomplishes in the creation of new plays for local, provincial, and national audiences."

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ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club, one of the largest not-for-profit theatre companies in the country, is the principal gathering place for the theatrical arts in British Columbia. Comprising three unique venues across Vancouver, the Arts Club welcomes more than a quarter million guests annually, tours provincially and nationally, and engages students and artists alike through educational and professional programs.

Above all, the Arts Club is dedicated to the advancement of local artists telling stories from around the globe and, in particular, those of our region. From this, we believe that culture expands, an understanding of differences is nurtured, and art bursts forth. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.

The Arts Club Theatre Company is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, in particular the [xʷməθkʷəy̓əm](#) (Musqueam), [Skwxwú7mesh](#) (Squamish), and [səlilwətaʔt](#) (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We are honoured to live, work, and create on this land together.

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