



**Instructor:** Lydia Wilkinson

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**Course Number:** DRE200H5F

**Course Title:** Canadian Theatre History

**Course Description:** This survey course will introduce students to the study of Canadian theatre history from the 1960s to the present. The '60s is often noted as a turning point in Canadian theatre, as a generation of distinctly Canadian voices emerged to tell Canada's stories on its own stages. These artists were not born in a vacuum; they followed years of debate around the creation of a Canadian national voice, marked by the Massey Report in 1951, the creation of the Canada Council in 1957, and the formation of a number of regional theatre spaces through the 50s and 60s. The 1960s then provides a logical starting point for a study of recent Canadian theatre history as it illustrates the relationship between theatre production and cultural infrastructure. Over the course of this semester we will study ten Canadian plays from the last fifty years in their original contexts. Through this study we will consider the political, economic, and cultural factors that have influenced the production of modern Canadian theatre, not only by defining the issues at the centre of our dramaturgy, but by influencing the funding structures and cultural organizations that facilitate production.

**Required Reading:** Wasserman, Jerry, *Modern Canadian Plays*. Two vols.; critical readings posted online

**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:** *Fortune and Men's Eyes*, *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*, a collective creation

**Method of Instruction:** Lecture, Discussion

**Method of Evaluation:** TBA