

Call for proposals:

**Performing Public Lives:
Exploring the Borders of History and Identity in New Canadian Work**

In response to the 2014 conference theme of “Borders Without Boundaries,” this roundtable explores the innovative ways contemporary Canadian playwrights and performers blur the lines between public and private identities, history and imagination, fact and fiction. As theatre practitioners explore the private lives of public figures onstage, they rely on the theatrical imagination to fill in the gaps in historiographical narratives. Theatre practitioners and audience members participating in the digital media landscape perform different identities for specific audiences, becoming public personae themselves as they leave traces of their presence in public spaces both onstage and off. Where does the personal become public and how do we reverse this journey? How do playwrights and storytellers make the public once again personal? What is gained or lost in the voyage? This roundtable considers how theatre scholars and practitioners negotiate these shifting identities, and how performance can provocatively and usefully explore the boundaries between public and private lives.

Theatre practitioners and scholars are invited to submit a new or recent script along with a 500-word statement that addresses how the script engages with the notion of the boundaries between the public and private self. Scripts and statements will be circulated in advance, and the statements will serve as the catalyst for roundtable discussion at the conference. The roundtable will discuss and engage with new Canadian works that provocatively explore the concept of performing public/private lives, including:

- investigations of borders between public and private identities, both online and off
- examinations of identity formation in relation to celebrity culture
- theatrical representations of online or digital media identities, memories, and oral histories
- explorations of different historiographical approaches to devising work based on public figures
- new approaches to older works

Please send proposals to Amanda Barker (amandajb@yahoo.com), Daniel Krolik (danielkrolik@gmail.com), and Susanne Shawyer (Susanne@susanneshawyer.com) by January 13, 2014. Participants will be notified of acceptance by February 1. Participants will share scripts or script excerpts online one month before the roundtable, and will share 500-word statements online two weeks before meeting at the conference. All accepted participants are required to join CATR. For more information please visit <http://catract.ca/>