

Karen Hines:Writer

Artistic Director/Producer
Keep Frozen: Pochsy Productions
Calgary, Alberta
Canada

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www.pochsy.org

STAGE PLAYS

- **Citizen Pochsy** (*Head Movements of a Long-Haired Girl*)
- **Hello ... Hello** (*A Romantic Satire*)
- **Oh, Baby** (*Pochsy's Adventures by the Sea*)
- **Pochsy's Lips**
- **Pochsy Unplugged** - A neo-cabaret adaptation of the Pochsy trilogy

SHORT PLAYS:

- **Cuddling Class**
- **Young Man Praying**
- **Telemarketing: The Musical**

PLAYWRITING AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

- 2007 Winner, Alberta Writers Guild Award (*Hello...Hello*)
- 2005 Winner, Alberta Writers Guild Award (*The Pochsy Plays: Pochsy's Lips, Oh, Baby and Citizen Pochsy*)
- 2004 Finalist, Governor General's Award for Drama (*The Pochsy Plays: Pochsy's Lips, Oh, Baby and Citizen Pochsy*)
- 2003 Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination for Outstanding New Musical (*Hello...Hello*)
- 1999 Finalist, Chalmers Award for New Canadian Play (*Hello...Hello*)
- 1999 Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination for Outstanding New Play (*Hello...Hello*)
- 1994 Finalist, Chalmers Award for New Canadian Play (*Oh, Baby*)

FILMMAKING

Horribly Beautiful World

Director, Writer, Performer, Producer

2008: Shoots this summer; currently in pre-production

My Name is Pochsy: An Industrial Film*

Director, Writer, Performer, Producer

2007-2008 North American Film Festival Circuit

*FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

2008 Boston Underground International Film Festival (Audience Choice Award, Short)
2007 Kodak Canada Prize: Edmonton International Film Festival (Best Canadian Short)
2008 Dawson City International Film Festival Lodestar Award (Best Short)
2008 Female Eye, Toronto (Best Directorial Debut)
2008 Rutgers University Festival of Super 8 and Digital Video (Best Experimental)

Upcoming screenings: Mountainfilm at Telluride and Hazelwolf International Film Festivals

TELEVISION

WHEN MATT BECAME JADE (Story Consultant)
YOGADOTCALM (Co-Creator, development)

PUPPETS WHO KILL (Story Editor)
SECOND CITY LIVE (Contributing Writer)_

CTV/Motel Films
CTV/Alberta Filmworks/One Yellow
Rabbit
Comedy Network
CHCH TV

POCHSY PRODUCTIONS

Pochsy Productions was founded in 1992 for the company's first show, *Pochsy's Lips*, which won Hines a loyal cult following, and went on to play theatres and festivals across Canada and the U.S.A. Since then the company has produced four more stage shows: *Oh, baby (Pochsy's Adventures by the Sea)*; *Hello...Hello (A Romantic Satire)*, *Citizen Pochsy* and *Pochsy Unplugged*. Over the years Pochsy Productions has enjoyed a growing audience, and has had the good fortune to win numerous production and literary nominations and awards. It has also earned a reputation for provocative, original and hilarious theatre.

The company operates entirely independently, without a board or staff, and exists officially of one member, Karen Hines. However, over the past decade and a half, Hines has gathered a company of like-minded artists who have collaborated on the company's productions for the stage, and who continue to work on the company's more recent film productions and current stage works-in-progress. These productions are nearly exclusively satirical black comedies that focus on consumerism, environmental danger, and their intricate connections to the human soul.

The core artists include or have included:

Greg Morrison (composer/collaborator)
Sandra Balcovske (director/collaborator)
John Turner (director/associate producer)
Chris Earle (director/dramaturge)
Michael Kennard (collaborator)
Michel Charbonneau (designer, lights and set)
Darren O'Donnell (designer, set and costume)
Gary Mulcahey (photography and design)
Richard McDowell (sound design and technical supervision)

(For more on these artists, please see www.pochsy.org)

PLAYS: PRODUCTION AND PUBLISHING

The Mood Ring

An underground ring of renegade psychiatrists (a.k.a. the Mood Ring) suspects a physiological component in the degradation of the human soul (drugs in the groundwater, electro-magnetic vibrations in the atmosphere, hormones in the milk) and tap the historical wisdom of human organs in a bid for deliverance.

Playwright, director

Public and private workshops of work-in-progress (originally *Swampmasters*)

2006, 2008 One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre; Pochsy Productions

Upcoming: Production 2009/10

Pochsy Unplugged

A potent neo-cabaret fusion of the Pochsy trilogy.

Writer, performer, co-composer (with Greg Morrison)

Directed by Sandra Balcovske and John Turner

Upcoming: University of Toronto Literature Series, Bader Theatre, January 2009

2005 World Stage Festival

2005 Theatre Passe Muraille (late night cabaret: Pochsy Productions/Theatre Passe Muraille)

2004 University of Lethbridge, Alberta

Citizen Pochsy: Head Movements of a Long-Haired Girl

A mercury-poisoned factory worker peers through her ravaged mind's eye and grapples with mortality, karmic reckoning, and market-driven gods in the waiting room at an audit from hell.

Playwright, performer, co-composer (with Greg Morrison)

Director: John Turner

2004 Magnetic North Festival, Ottawa

KaBOOM Festival, Edmonton

Fire Hall Theatre, Vancouver (Ruby Slippers)

2004 Produced by One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre, Calgary*

2004 Published by Coach House Books in *The Pochsy Plays***

2002 High Performance Rodeo, One Yellow Rabbit

2000-2002 Developmental tour as *Head Movements of a Long-Haired Girl*

Comedy Arts Festival, Edmonton

The SPACE, Toronto

Factory Theatre, Toronto, late night.

(Citizen Pochsy has not yet been presented in Toronto)

****Winner: Alberta Writers Guild Award in *The Pochsy Plays* 2005**

****Finalist: Governor General's Award in *The Pochsy Plays* 2004**

Hello...Hello (A Romantic Satire)

An affectionate but unforgiving meditation that connects the dots between advertising, the six seas, and the escapist impulses that lie beneath that most escapist of entertainments, the Hollywood-style boy-meets-girl musical.

Playwright, performer, co-composer (with Greg Morrison)

Director: Chris Earle

2006 Published by Coach House Books*

2003 Produced by Tarragon Theatre, Main Stage**

1999 Produced by Pochsy Productions in Association with Factory Theatre (Studio Café)***

1998 Public Workshop at The SPACE, Toronto (Pochsy Productions)

***Winner: Alberta Writers Guild Award for Drama, 2007**

**** Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination: outstanding new musical, 2004**

***** Finalist: Chalmers Award for New Canadian Play, 1999**

***** Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations: outstanding new play, production, direction (Chris Earle), score (Greg Morrison with Hines), performance (Hines), 1999**

Oh, baby (Pochsy's Adventures by the Sea)

Weary from her job at Mercury Packers (where she packs mercury), Pochsy escapes to the seaside to try to put the roses back in her cheeks.

Playwright, performer, co-composer (with Morrison)

Director and collaborator: Sandra Balcovske

2004 Published by Coach House Books in "The Pochsy Plays"*

1994 Women in View, Vancouver East Cultural Centre

1993 Factory Studio Café (Pochsy Productions in Association with Factory Theatre)**

1993 Fringe Festival tour: Toronto, Sudbury, Edmonton

*** Winner: Alberta Writers Guild Award in *The Pochsy Plays* 2005**

*** Finalist: Governor General's Award in *The Pochsy Plays* 2004**

****Finalist: Chalmers Award for New Canadian Play 1994**

****Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations for outstanding production, direction (Sandra Balcovske), set (Michel Charbonneau), lighting (Charbonneau) performance (Hines) 1994**

Pochsy's Lips

Alone in her hospital room, Pochsy muses on her job at Mercury Packers, dances with her i.v. pole, fever-dreams about her doctor, and transforms complex consumer obsessions into gossamer fantasies.

Playwright, performer, co-composer (with Morrison)

Director and collaborator: Sandra Balcovske

2004 Published by Coach House Books in "The Pochsy Plays"*

1993-6 North American tours (selected):

Actors Theatre of Louisville

Dallas Theatre Centre

Mixed Blood (Minneapolis)

Denver Theatre Centre

Alice's Fourth Floor (N.Y.C)

1992 Poor Alex Theatre (Pochsy Productions)**

1992 Simon Fraser University

1992 Fringe Festival Tour: Orlando, Montreal, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria, Duncan B.C.

*** Winner: Alberta Writers Guild Award in *The Pochsy Plays* 2005**

*** Governor General's Award finalist in *The Pochsy Plays* 2004**

**** Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination, performance, 1993**

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS BY OTHER COMPANIES

Until recently, Pochsy Productions had not released production rights for its plays, as the company itself was engaged in all aspects of development, production and touring.

While the performing rights to the Pochsy plays are still not released in North America, the first overseas production is currently in the works, and *Hello...Hello* is imminently being produced or workshopped in Alberta and Quebec. *Hello...Hello* will be produced by the graduate program at **University of Calgary** in October 2008 and by **Kill Your Television Theatre** (Edmonton) in Spring, 2009.

Pochsy's Lips is currently being translated into German for a 2009 production at the **Vienna Theatre Project**.

SHORT PLAYS

Telemarketing: The Musical

Two anguished telemarketers fall in love and find the courage to hang themselves by their telephone cords.

Playwright, director

1995: Tarragon Spring Arts Fair (Office Play)

Cuddling Class

Three teenaged girls seek comfort from the United States Secretary of State with regard to the End of Days.

Playwright

Director: Eda Holmes

2004: The Wrecking Ball, Volcano Theatre

Young Man Praying

A young man prays for love before death.

Playwright

Director: Sullivan Canaday White

2001: Actors Theatre of Louisville, Humana Festival

PUBLISHING

BOOKS

2006 Hello...Hello (A Romantic Satire) – Coach House Books

2004 The Pochsy Plays – Coach House Books (third printing, 2008)

- *Pochsy's Lips*
- *Oh, baby*
- *Citizen Pochsy*

SHORT PLAYS

2005 **Telemarketing: The Musical**

Published in *Snappy Shorts at Tarragon Theatre* (Andy McKim)

2002 **Young Man Praying**

Published in "Heaven and Hell (On Earth), Actors Theatre of Louisville

PUBLISHED EXCERPTS (Selected):

2005 Excerpts from **The Pochsy Plays** in

- **Border Crossings**
- **Geist**

2000 **Ottawa Citizen Literary Page**

Full-page excerpts from *Citizen Pochsy (Head Movements of a Long-haired Girl)*

1994 **Taking the Stage** Playwrights Canada Press

1994 **Performing Gender in Comedy** (Shannon Hengen, Dissertation, University of Leeds)

ESSAYS AND ARTICLES (Selected):

2006 **State of the Arts in Toronto (Coach House Books)**

Author, prose piece: 'Hard Loft'

2003 **Brick Literary Journal**

Author, prose piece: 'Content Provider'

Various interviews

OTHER: 1993 Canadian Theatre Review – Pochsy's Lips, full script

LITERARY READINGS

PUBLIC READINGS FROM 'THE POCHSY PLAYS' AND 'HELLO...HELLO' (selected):

2008 Calgary International Spoken Word Festival
2007 The Scream in High Park (Toronto)
2006 This is Not a Reading Series, Pages (Toronto)
2006 The Drake Hotel, Gladstone, various (Coach House Books reading tour)
2005 The Scream in High Park
2004 Harbourfront, Coach House Books
2004 Border Crossings, Vancouver
2004 Word on the Street: Toronto, Vancouver

RESIDENCIES

2005 Banff PlayRites Colony (dramaturge: *Age of Arousal*)
1997 Banff Playwrights Colony
1996 CanStage Play Creation Group
1995-6 Tarragon Playwright in Residence
1994 Tarragon Playwrights Unit

DIRECTING AND DRAMATURGY - THEATRE

Age of Arousal by Linda Griffiths

Director and Dramaturge

2007 Alberta Theatre Projects - PlayRite's Festival
2005-6 Developmental workshops: Banff PlayRites Colony; Duchess Productions, Toronto; Playwrights Workshop, Montreal; CanStage, Toronto

Currently writing 'Age of Arousal Workbook' for Ms. Griffiths and Duchess Productions: a documentation of approach and staging for the ATP PlayRites premiere production as a resource for upcoming productions.

Mump & Smoot in 'Something,' 'Caged,' 'Ferno,' 'Something Else' and 'Flux'

by John Turner and Michael Kennard

Director and collaborator through development, 1988-2008

Selected:

2008 Theatre Network, Edmonton (Something)
2002 Alberta Theatre Projects; Theatre Network, Edmonton; Waterfront Theatre, Vancouver; Berkeley Street Theatre (Flux) *
1998-2000 ATP, Theatre Network, Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Yale Repertory Theatre, CanStage,

La Jolla Playhouse, World Stage Festival. California State: (Something Else)

1997 Pittsburgh Public Theatre (Something)

1996 La Jolla Playhouse (Something)

1995 Dallas Theatre Centre: (Caged)

1994 La Jolla Playhouse; American Repertory Theatre, Boston; Dallas Theatre Centre; Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven; Centre Stage, Baltimore (Ferno)

1993 Palestinian National Theatre, Jerusalem; Acco Theatre Festival, Israel (Something)

1992-1993 Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven, Astor Place Theatre, Off-Broadway (Caged)

1992 Yale School of Drama (Something)

***2002 Dora Mavor Moore Award for outstanding direction**

FILMMAKING (Selected films)

Horribly Beautiful World

A 30-minute film adaptation of the Pochsy plays.

Back and white, Super 8 film

The Canada Council, Pochsy Productions

Director, Writer, Performer, Producer

2008: Shoots this summer; currently in pre-production

A documentary-style account of the tragic life and impending death of Pochsy, an employee of Mercury Packers ... where she packs mercury. 'Horribly Beautiful World' is Pochsy's message in a bottle to a forgetful world: a subversively comedic ode to a century of industrial film propaganda, and a mindful attack on mindless progress. The comedy is black, but the aim is dead serious: poisoned, and poisonous, Pochsy is a spokesgirl for a human species on the brink.

My Name is Pochsy: An Industrial Film*

A 7-minute film adaptation of *Citizen Pochsy*

Black and white, Super 8 film

Bravo!FACT, Pochsy Productions

Director, Writer, Performer, Producer

Score by Greg Morrison

Cinematography: Greg Woodbury and Benny Zenga

Film editor: Jamie Francey

A mercury-addled factory worker's ode to life, death, karmic reckoning and the future of the human soul, this subversive, trans-genre ode to the industrial film was shot on Manitoulin Island and at the Sudbury Nickel Mines, and will form the basis for "Horribly Beautiful World."

2007-2008 North American Film Festival Circuit

***Festival awards:**

2008 Female Eye, Toronto (Best Directorial Debut)

2008 Rutgers University Festival of Super 8 and Digital Video (Best Experimental)

2007 Kodak Canada Prize: Edmonton International Film Festival (Best Canadian Short)

2008 Boston Underground International Film Festival (Audience Choice Award, Short)

2008 Dawson City International Film Festival Lodestar Award (Best Short)

Upcoming screenings: Mountainfilm at Telluride and Hazelwolf Environmental Film Festivals

TEACHING (Selected)

SEMINARS, READINGS AND MASTER CLASSES - UNIVERSITIES AND PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS:

Upcoming: 2009 University of Toronto, Literature for Our Times Series (Performance and Seminar)
2008 University of Calgary, Third Year Drama, Master Class (reading and workshop)
2007 York University, Canadian Writers in Person Series (readings and seminar)
2006 University of Lethbridge, Drama Program, Master Classes (Bouffon workshops, all years)
2005 The Second City, Toronto (Guest: Bouffon Workshop)
2004 University of Victoria, Drama Program, Readings and Master Class
2003 Queens University, Drama Program, Master Classes: Bouffon (all years)
1995-97 Equity Showcase Theatre (Clowning, Bouffon)
1994 Yale School of Drama, Graduate Program: Bouffon Seminar and Master Class
1993 Actors Theatre of Louisville Dramaturgy Interns (Bouffon and Pochinko-style clowning Seminars; Creation Techniques)

INDEPENDENT CONSERVATORY COURSES