

# Toronto Playwright's Win Means \$25,000 is Heading West

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The latest winner of the richest prize in Canadian theatre is Toronto playwright Daniel MacIvor. Thanks to a generous provision in the Siminovitch Prize, good fortune has also smiled on a pair of up-and-comers in Vancouver theatre.

This week MacIvor was named the 2008 recipient of the Elinore & Lou Siminovitch Prize in Theatre. The award is worth \$100,000 — with the unique provision that the winner must give a quarter of that away to a protégé.



**Daniel MacIvor**

MacIvor chose Medina Hahn and Daniel Arnold, playwrights and performers who had recently been mentored by the prodigious playwright. In a telephone interview, Hahn and Arnold revealed they learned of the \$25,000 gift two weeks ago.

"We were so excited," Hahn said, "but we couldn't tell anyone. So we would just tell each other."

"Over and over," Arnold adds. "It was definitely hard to keep under wraps."

The pair are best known in Vancouver for their outstanding one-act two-hander titled *Tuesdays and Sundays*, last seen here in 2007.



**Medina Hahn**

Their working relationship with MacIvor began in 2003 with an emerging-artist scholarship from Alberta Theatre Projects, which allowed the artists to study *A Beautiful View*, MacIvor's final production for *da da kamera*, the theatre company he'd created in Toronto.

"What we wanted to do," said Arnold, "was mentor under someone who creates lots of new plays, kind of like we do, writing and then performing them."

"It's a nice relationship, to have someone who's been through it a lot help us with our new creation."

*Any Night* is that new creation. First seen at Victoria's Belfry Theatre in February, it went on to win an award as outstanding new play at the recent Summer-Works Festival in Toronto.

Here's what we can look forward to when it reaches Vancouver:

"A troubled young woman suffers from night terrors. The young man living above her becomes her guardian and lover. But the only safe place may be in their minds."

In their minds, Arnold and Hahn have already devoted parts of their prize to tackling some debts and paying back some of the people who helped them through the creation of *Any Night*.

"We have a website that hasn't been updated in some time because we just haven't had the money to do that," says Arnold.

"And maybe," he adds with a laugh, "we'll do a hot-tub party!"



**Daniel Arnold**