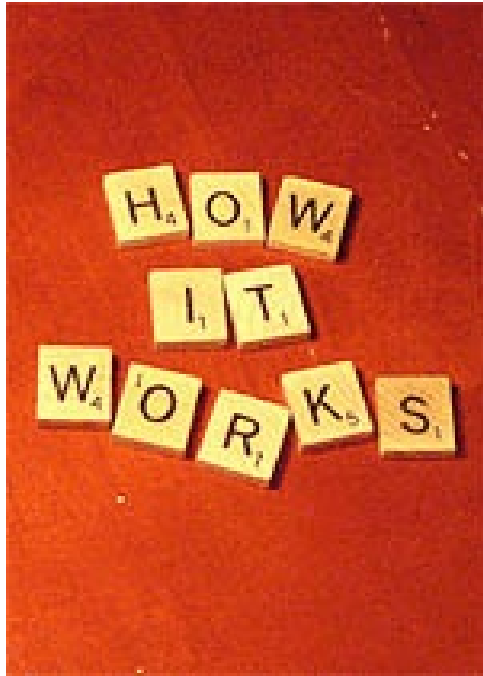


# Daniel MacIvor's



## A Playgoer's Guide

“blazingly brilliant, full of surprise...sheer theatrical delight... *How It Works* is pure joy” Stephen Pedersen, *The Chronicle Herald*

## About Daniel MacIvor



Daniel MacIvor was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia, on July 23, 1962, and studied theatre at Dalhousie University in Halifax and then at George Brown College in Toronto. In 1986, he co-founded a touring theatre company called “da da kamera,” and continues to serve as its Artistic Director to this day. During the last 15 years, he has written and performed in dozens of plays, most of them solo works. His plays have been nominated six times for the

Chalmers New Canadian Play Award and have won numerous Fringe Festival awards -- nationally and internationally.

He is also an acclaimed actor. His acting career began in 1986, when he appeared on an episode of the hit Canadian series *Street Legal*. The next year he appeared in his first feature, *Night Friend* (1987). His next non-theatrical role would be in the true story *Justice Denied* (1989) about a wrongly imprisoned man. Daniel also appeared on an episode of the TV series *Forever Knight* in 1992 and costarred in the feature *I Love A Man in Uniform* (1993), which was nominated for six Genie Awards that year.

In 2002, Daniel's Governor General's award-nominated play *Marion Bridge* was made into a feature film directed by Wiebke von Carolsfeld, and won the Best Canadian First Feature Film at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2002.

That same year, Daniel wrote, directed and starred in his first feature film, *Past Perfect*. Daniel was recently awarded an Obie for the New York production of his play *In On It*, and he was awarded the Best Actor award for *Past Perfect* at the Atlantic Film Festival as well as Best Screenplay for *Marion Bridge*.

## da da kamera

MacIvor founded the theatre company *da da kamera* in Toronto in 1986, to specialize in producing new works. The company is now managed by MacIvor, Daniel Brooks and Sherrie Johnson. The company's name was originally a pseudonym, which allowed MacIvor to produce his own works. Among the company's productions are MacIvor's *Monster*, *Here Lies Henry* and *House*, as well as *The Lorca Play*, *The Soldier Dreams* and *Insomnia*. They have toured their works extensively, across the country and abroad (*Monster*, for instance, played Calgary, Dublin, New York, Montréal and Sydney, Australia among other centres).

## The Mulgrave Road Theatre

MacIvor's work has long been associated with Mulgrave Road Theatre. A group of energetic young artists and playwrights founded the company in Guysborough County in 1977. From its earliest beginnings, the company's vision has been to create, develop and produce theatre inspired by the Atlantic Canadian experience.

Mulgrave Road Theatre is dedicated to making theatre accessible to communities throughout the province. Because of the company's commitment to touring, East Coast audiences have had the opportunity to experience first-hand, acclaimed works by some of Atlantic Canada's most respected playwrights. The company's production roster has included Robbie O'Neill's much-loved play *Tighten the Traces*, Marguerite McNeils' *An Island Woman*, Catherine Bank's *Three Storey Ocean View* and Mary Vingoe's adaptation of Sheldon Currie's *The Company Store*.

Many of the works originating at Mulgrave Road have gone on to be produced at theatres throughout the country, including Daniel MacIvor's *Marion Bridge*. The theatre has steadily fostered a tradition of support for regional playwrights, by offering writers

the opportunity to create new works in the inspiring and supportive environment of the Mulgrave Road Theatre Centre.

At the Theatre Centre, playwrights work towards the creation of a first draft, a subsequent development workshop, and a possible first production.

[Adapted from the Mulgrave Road Theatre Web site.]

## A note on the play

Daniel MacIvor, one of Canada's most celebrated playwrights, has created, for and with Mulgrave Road Theatre, an intensely articulate teenage girl whose world has crumbled after her parents' divorce. What breaks a family apart and what can bring them back together? *How It Works* is a tremendously witty and moving play that looks at parenting and how we can re-create the idea of family in the modern world.

This guide was researched by  
**The *How It Works* Task Force**  
Brian Sparks, Norah Barry, and John Batt

and assembled and edited by  
Matthew Hines, Virginia Wilbur, Peter Carr, Clayton Beaton,  
Amanda Gillespie, and Russ Hunt

English 2223  
St. Thomas University English 2223:  
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