

# Kendra Fanconi

## theatre creator

[fanconikendra@gmail.com](mailto:fanconikendra@gmail.com)

- 20 years' experience in practice-based work and University teaching
- Site-specific creator, director and playwright of over 30 theatre works.
- Co-Founder and Artistic Director of The Only Animal Theatre Society for 18 years.
- Canadian National leader in eco-restorative theatre practice.
- Founder of the Artist Brigade

## Honors & Awards

### National Awards:

- David Suzuki Foundation National Rewilding Award, 2022
- PACT Inaugural Green Award, 2022
- Magnetic North Theatre Festival (National) Best Show in Festival History, People's Choice Award in 2015 for *The One that Got Away*, a play in a pool
- Peter Wall Institute Collaboration Fund Award, University of British Columbia

### Vancouver Awards:

- Innovation Award for *The Magic Hour*, 2022
- **Critic's Choice Innovation Award**, five nominations
- **Critic's Choice Award** for *Nix*, theatre of snow and ice
- 30+ Nominations for Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production, Outstanding Original Script, Outstanding Director, Outstanding Design, Best Actress
- 10+ Jessie Richardson Theatre Award including:
- Significant Artistic Achievement for Outstanding Achievement in Integrated Design for *Nothing But Sky*, 2014
- Significant Achievement Award for Innovative Contribution to Artistic Community for Hive 2, Progress Lab, 2009
- Significant Artistic Achievement for Expanding the Scope of Site-Specific Practice, *Other Freds*, 2005
- Outstanding Production and four other Jessies for *The One that Got Away*, 2002
- Outstanding Director nomination for *Last Five Years*, 2004
- **Sam Payne Award for Most Promising Newcomer**
- **Ray Michal Prize for Best Emerging Director**
- Best Actress (Box2, 2000)

### Calgary Awards:

- Nominated for five Betty Mitchell Award: Best New Play, Best Production,
- Winner, Set design, Lighting design.

## Professional Experience: Selected Theatre Productions

[1000 Year Theatre](#)

concept & director

an eco-restorative act of planting theatre in a clear-cut, and stewardship of nature and art collaborations for the next thousand years, 2023

[Year One, 1000 Year Theatre](#)

writer/director/designer  
an audience-activated, immersive site-specific piece in five acts, set in a clear-cut, old-growth forest, 2023

[The Magic Hour](#)

playwright  
written by Kendra Fanconi, Presented by boca del lupo, March 2022. Based on **Magic Hour**, Site-Specific Production by Electric Company, August 2021, **Winner: Innovation Award, 2021**

[The City & The City](#)

concept/design/direction, immersive, audience-activated theatre adaptation of the novel by China Mieville, produced by Upintheair Theatre and The Only Animal for PuSH festival, 2018

[Slime](#)

Director/design concept, developed with playwright, Bryony Lavery. Premiere at Banff Centre for Arts and in Vancouver, Presented by The Only Animal, 2018

[Tinkers](#)

director/playwright  
Adapted from the Pulitzer-Prize winning novel by Paul Harding, site-specific in an old-growth forest, presented in 2016, produced by The Only Animal

[Nothing But Sky](#)

director/playwright  
premiered at Faris Studio Theatre in Vancouver, BC, 2014  
**Winner: Jessie Award Significant Artistic Achievement**

[NiX](#)

director/playwright  
Theatre of snow and ice, site specific, premiered at Enbridge Festival of New Plays, Alberta Theatre Projects 2009 presented as part of Cultural Olympiad 2010 in Whistler, BC  
**Nominated Betty Mitchell Award: Best New Play, Best Production, Winner, Set design, Lighting design**

[The One that Got Away](#)

playwright  
A play in a pool, site specific, co-produced with Electric Company, 2002, remount at Magnetic North Festival, 2007  
**Nominated for 10 Jessies including Best Script, Best Emerging Playwright. Winner of four Jessies including Outstanding Production, 2002**

[Other Freds](#)

director/playwright  
Site-specific on Granville Island, with cast of 200, birds, boats and a bicycle ballet, produced by The Only Animal, July 2005  
**Winner Jessie Award: Significant Artistic Achievement, Nominated for 5 Jessies including Best Director**

[CATastrophe](#)

director/playwright

a human-scale board game for disaster resilience, for Science World, COVID-cancelled, 2020

[Sticks & Stones](#)

concept/director  
Site-specific, original creation with puppets made from forest floor materials, with the Adeline Collective

[dog eat dog](#)

playwright/director/design concept  
set in an exploded house, what it means to be human in a world gone to the dogs, PuSH festival-Satellite show, 2007

[Sea of Hearts](#)

concept/direction  
Site-specific, set at Greta Thunberg's climate rally, a protest piece for 100 artists and 1000 climate protestors, October 2019

[Cedar Board Game](#)

director/playwright/designer  
A site-specific human-scale board game about survival in the natural world, 2012

[Finale](#)

short play for [Climate Change Theatre Action](#), 2017

[Idea Moose](#)

short play for [Climate Change Theatre Action](#), 2019

[This Play](#)

short play for [Climate Change Theatre Action](#), 2023

[Typing Pool](#)

co-writer, co-director  
Site-specific. With an aim to change the world at seventy-five words a minute! A short interactive play with 10 typewriters.

[The Club](#)

playwright  
Site-specific, a short play in an elevator, about intimacy and belonging, 2013, Theatre Yes, Magnetic North Theatre Festival, Banff Centre for the Arts

[you and the moon](#)

playwright/director  
Site-specific show for one audience member who falls in love, for Magnetic North Theatre Festival, 2008, remounted for the Cultch, 2010

**Winner: Significant Artistic Achievement for Progress Lab for Innovative Theatre Event for Hive 2**

[Sugar](#)

concept/direction  
Site-specific, miniature tales of bittersweet romance using baking ingredients and cookies. These intimate object theatre pieces staged on breadboards, Conceived and directed by Kendra Fanconi, March 2010

[Bedsheet Tempest](#)

co-writer/director  
Site-specific, text from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* to reveal the nocturnal struggles of a couple on the rocks, November 2006

## Films:

### [The Deep](#)

writer/co-director

Four short films that combine live action and animation, set in an old submersible, about your relationship with the ocean, and an immersive journey into the deep. November 2024, 12 minutes  
commissioned by Vancouver Maritime Museum

### <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKOcj0sglHM&t=3s>

writer/producer

VR version of the popular show, immersive and perapetetic, for Live 360 film festival, produced by boca del lupu in 2023, with Electric Company Theatre, 31 minutes

## Selected Collective Creations:

### *The Last Stand*

co-written, Site-specific performed with boca del lupu, 2002  
**Nominated: Critic's Choice Award for Innovation**

### *Box*

Site-specific a show in a diner, based on Schrodinger's cat, co-written, performed, Radix Theatre, Vancouver Fringe Festival, 1999

### *Box2*

Site-specific sequel to a show in a diner, based on Schrodinger's cat, co-written, performed with Radix Theatre, 2000, tour to Free Fall Festival, Toronto's Stem Diner, 2002  
**Nominated for six Jessies, including Best Production**  
**Winner: Jessie, Best Actress**

### *Transit Lounge*

co-written, performed in 2004

### *Box3,*

Site-specific co-written, performed, Radix Theatre

### *All Flesh is Grass*

Site-specific co-written, co-directed, and performed, a field trip into the vegetable mind, site-specific in an abandoned field, 1998

## Freelance Direction:

### *Last Five Years*

director  
Firehall Arts Centre, 2006

### *Deadline*

devised project/direction  
collective creation by second-year acting students at Studio 58, Langara College, 2008

### *Medea*

director  
United Players, Jericho Arts Centre, 2000

## Career Retrospectives

## Reviews

“When I am overwhelmed with feeling, my body sort of convulses — like I’m getting kicked in the heart. It’s a form of release, an opening. That happened again and again while I was experiencing *The Magic Hour* and I’m grateful for it.”

Colin Thomas, Critic, [Magic Hour review](#)

“It’s hard to imagine how the complex and layered story could be translated for the stage. But that is what The Only Animal’s Kendra Fanconi has done with the site-specific show *Tinkers*, set in the woods on the Sunshine Coast. It’s another ambitious project from a company celebrated for its unique stagings with 30 Jessie Award nominations and eight wins.”

Stuart Derdyn, Vancouver Sun, *tinkers*

“A unique theatrical adventure... ecstatic...”

Jan Degross, Coast Reporter, on *Tinkers*.

"There’s no end to the creativity in *Nothing But Sky*; the sky’s the limit.....The most visually interesting show we’ve ‘seen’ this season."

Jo Ledingham, The Courier, *Nothing But Sky*

“The perfect setting for a glorious evening of theatrical fun and wonder....brilliantly original.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (five stars)”

Bob Clark, Calgary Herald, *NiX*

“What a unique and Canadian experience, a treasure trove of surprises.”

J. Kelly Nestruck, The Globe and Mail, *NiX*

"Slippery as a fish. The *One That Got Away* almost defies description. Row, row, row your butt down to the Chutzpah! festival at the Jewish Community Centre to see this strange beauty for yourself, because no amount of description can convey the magic floating through many of its moments..."

Peter Birnie, Vancouver Sun, *The One That Got Away*

“Magic. A crescendo of comic brilliance, that includes a water ballet, an extended slo-mo pie routine and a huge musical celebration that has all the stars in the universe aligned in glorious harmony.”

Jerry Wasserman, The Province, *Other Freds*

“Don’t miss this outdoor extravaganza. Managing to be both laugh-out-loud-dumb, and charmingly intelligent, *Other Freds* is one of those only-in-Vancouver experiences to be savoured by locals and visitors alike...This is one more feather in the cap for Fanconi, and another big boost for our lovely city’s crazy creativity.”

Peter Birnie, Vancouver Sun, *Other Freds*

“A spectacular piece of extreme theatre that sings from the treetops and defies all conventions from the traditional stage.”

Alexandra Gill, Globe and Mail, *The Last Stand*

“Appealingly smart and evocative...Kendra Fanconi plays Connie with a kind of skinless bravery. And much of the story telling is gorgeously physical.”

Colin Thomas, The Georgia Straight, *Transit Lounge*

“This is, without a doubt, one of the best shows you’ll see all year. I like it so much that I don’t want to tell you about it; I want it to lie in wait for you, so that it can shower you with surprises, just as it did for me.”

Colin Thomas, Georgia Straight, *The Last Stand*

“Weird and wonderful...everyone in the audience was wide awake with delight.”

Peter Birnie, Vancouver Sun, *The Last Stand*

“Dreams as big and ever green as Stanley Park’s ancient cedars.”

Jo Ledingham, Vancouver Courier, *The Last Stand*

“Magic...the wonderous emerges from the mundane.”

Colin Thomas, Georgia Straight, *Box2*, Top Theatre Picks of the Year

## Media Appearances and Coverage

- *On the Artist Brigade, Ben Okri, Eco-Restoration, Eco-Grief & Re-authoring the World*, Conscient Podcast, episode 87, 2021
- *Towards Carbon Positive Work*, episode 36, Conscient Podcast, 2021
- *Eco-Restorative Theatre Practice*, Professional Association of Canadian Theatre, 2022
- *Sustainable Design*, The Title Block Podcast, panelist, September 2020
- *Documenting the Creative Process of Kendra Fanconi: The Force behind Freds*, Canadian Theatre Review, Issue 126, University of Toronto Press, Spring 2006
- **70+ preview interviews about new creations** in TV, radio, and press
- **100 + Reviews , pull quotes**

## Organizations Founded

- Co-Founder of [The Only Animal](#), an 18-year-old theatre company, that makes work with a deep engagement with place, and for solutionary outcomes to the climate emergency.
- Co-Founder and of the National Art Climate-Art Organization, ‘a network of networks’, [Sectoral Climate Arts Leadership for the Climate Emergency, SCALE](#). Mission Circle Member and Artist Mobilization Lead, 2020-2023
- Founder, [Artist Brigade](#), bringing arts and artists to the front lines of climate action.
- Co-Founder, [Living Forest Institute](#), using art to connect community to forest conservation, 2019
- Co-Founder of Professional Association of Canadian Theatre’s Environmental Sustainability Committee, 2021

## Research Experience

- Artist Brigade, bringing arts and artists to climate action, 100 member cohort, The Only Animal, 2020-2023.
- Co-Founder of Irresistible Worlds, National Research Project developing methodology for bringing artists to the climate crisis, 2021-present, Project Director
- [Year of the Typewriter](#) concept and lead researcher, a theatrical research project to translate the voice of the natural world, 2018-19

## Teaching Experience

### Adjunct Professor:

- Adjunct Professor at University of British Columbia, *Creating Original Theatre*, original curriculum, 2015
- Adjunct Professor at University of Victoria, *Playwriting for the Eco-Zoic Era*, original curriculum, 2022

### Instructor of Onsite:

- Curriculum development, instruction and mentorship in site-specific theatre making in partnership with Vancouver International Fringe Festival, 4-month course offered yearly from 2011-2019

### Instructor for Playwright's Theatre Centre:

- Site-Specific Theatre Making: 2000-2003
- Block A: playwriting, 2014
- PTC Associate: 2020-2022
- Wrightspace Residency: 2014

### Instructor of Site-specific theatre workshop one-offs:

- Magnetic North Theatre Festival, Ottawa, Canada, 2006
- Acco Theatre Festival, Israel, 2007
- Wildworks, Cornwall, 2018

### Guest Lectures:

- University of Colorado Boulder, ENVS 3173-THTR 4173, *Creative Climate Communications*, Beth Osnes and Max Boykoff, January 2021
- Simon Fraser University, *Sustainable Practices in the Arts*, July 2023
- Simon Fraser University, Graduate Seminar, *Sustainability in the Arts*, March 2022
- University of Winnipeg, *Role of the Artist in the Climate Crisis*, October 2021
- University of British Columbia, *Role of the Artist in the Climate Crisis*, THTR 471, October 2021
- Simon Fraser University, *Climate Change Reset, Seminar Series*, Steering Committee and Panel Speaker, June 2020
- Simon Fraser University, *Eco-Approaches in Theatre Production*, Sept 2021
- Simon Fraser University, *Professional Practice*, September 2017
- Professional Association of Canadian Theatre, National Conference 2022
- Green Sessions, National Arts Centre, 2020
- Climate Art Series for Simon Fraser University, 2020
- Lecture on Climate Art at SPEC, 2021
- Lecture on Climate Art at Soulpepper, 2021
- Lecture on Climate Art at Centre for Theatrical Research, 2021
- Lecture on Climate Art for Professional Association of Canadian Theatre, 2022

### Other Academic:

- [UBC Maker's Lab](#), with Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, two-day artist and academic collaborations on new climate-art initiatives, co-director and producer, June 2023
- *The Climate Imaginary Series*, Below the Radar Podcast, [The Art-Shaped Hole in the Climate Crisis, Episode 193](#), Simon Fraser University, November, 2022
- *MFA Thesis Committee Member*, Ian McFarlane, 2018

### Mentorship *Year-Long, emerging artist mentorship in creation and production*

- Lindsay Reoch and Nita Bowerman, 2006
- Ella Simon and Lindsay Angell, 2008
- Josette Jorge and Dustin Harvey, 2010
- Caitlin Murphy, 2014
- Nancy Tam, 2015
- Lisa Goebel, 2018-22
- Emma Zablowksi, 2018
- Panthea Vatandoost, Medusa Theatre, 2021-22
- Minah Lee, art action earwig, 2021-22
- Evan Medd, Playwrights Theatre Centre, 2021
- Andrea Scott, Artistic Director, Floating World Theatre, UK, 2023, and upcoming in 24-25

### Dramaturgy *commissioning and dramaturgical support to original creations*

- [Bear With Me](#), an art-engaged campaign to save Dakota Bear Sanctuary, successful! directed/curated by Kendra Fanconi, 2021. Includes:
  - *We're Logging More than Old-Growth Forests*, by Bill Hawley and 123w, bus shelter ad campaign, 2021
  - *Tracker* by Jessica Harvey, original song and music video, 2021
  - *Ancient Wonders of Dakota Bear Sanctuary*, by Trent Maynard, documentary, Indigenous storytelling, 2020
  - *Forest Walk* by Teo Saefkow, soundwalk, 2022
  - *'deum primitus'* by James King, poems for an endangered forest
- *The Split*, by Jordan Hall, Cli-Fi podcast, 2023
- *一字千景: a thousand scenes*, by Wen Wen Lu, Chinese Calligraphy Animation, 2023
- *Instructions for grieving this change/ instructions for changing this grief*, six instructions pieces in public parks, 2022
- *In the Songbird Forest*, mask performance in an endangered forest, 2022
- *Remembering Mothertongue*, Textile/poetry exploration of the legacy of our interdependence with animals and the land, 2022
- *來跟我在林里做夢 | Come dream with me in the forest* by Wen Wen Lu, based on the word “木”, which means tree, 2022

### Publishing

- [Dear Animal](#), commissioned by The Only Animal, a year-long photo and essay series documenting falling in love with a new land, September 2023-September 2024
- [Theatrical Calls to Climate Action: Excerpts of a Conversation](#), Shelia Christie, Beth Osnes, David W. Geary, Dennis Gupa, Ian Garrett, Kendra Fanconi, Jordan Hall, Katie Welch, Kimberly Skye Richards, Scott Sharplin, Theatre Research in Canada, University of Toronto Press, May 2022.

- [Head Under](#), Canadian Theatre Review, Issue 173, University of Toronto Press, Winter 2018
- [This Sentence](#), for howlround, September 2018
- [I can't go on. I'll go on](#), for howlround, September 2015
- **Place Remembers**, with contributions by Eric Miller Canadian Theatre Review, Issue 145, February, 2011
- **Box2**, Canadian Theatre Review, Issue, January, 2014
- **"Yes to Everything"—A Conversation about Theatre and Ecology with Daniel Brooks, Marie Clements, Kendra Fanconi, and Karen Hines**, Canadian Theatre Review, Issue 144, October 2010
- **Place Yourself**, Summerworks Journal, Issue 1, Summer 2008

## Conferences Presentations

- Keynote speaker at [Stories that Make a Difference, Climate Narratives for a New World](#). Simon Fraser University, 2019
- [Reimagining Performance for an Equitable, Survivable and Thrive-able Future, Association for Theatre in Higher Education \(ATHE\) Annual Conference](#), panelist, August 2021
- [National Climate Art Summit](#), National Arts Centre of Canada Featured Artist-Speaker on Eco-Theatre practice, Banff Centre, 2019
- [How Artists Respond](#), The Green Room, National Arts Centre of Canada, Panelist and Steering committee, 2020
- [Climate and Art, GREEN SESSIONS](#), hosted by Soulepper Theatre, panelist, May 2021
- [Role of the Artist in Climate Crisis](#), Seminar Facilitator, Arts Club Theatre, 2022
- [How the Arts Help Us Navigate the Climate Crisis](#), an International Panel, Mass Culture and SCALE, 2023
- [Everything is Connected to That](#), Mixed Reality Performance Atelier, University of British Columbia, 2020

## Administrative Experience

- *22 Years of Artistic Direction, producing over 40 shows and events, administration, Board Management, reporting, fundraising/budgeting/production over \$5,000,000 of art making.*

## Residencies *invitations to create*

- Playwright Colony, Banff Centre, Selected Playwright in 2008, 2015, 2016
- Playwright Colony, Banff Centre, Selected Director, 2014
- Leighton Studio Residency, 1997, 2006
- Pico Iyer Series, Invited Artist, 2016
- PTC Associate: 2020-2022
- Wrightspace Residency at Playwrights Theatre Centre: 2014

**Grants** *Over 20 years, raised, managed and dispersed over 5 million dollars from public art grants, foundations, earned revenue (box office, fees and guarantees, and co-production revenues) corporate and individual giving. Successful grants include:*

- Canada Council for the Arts Composite, Multi-Year Funding

- Canada Council Strategic Innovations Cultivate Multi-Year Funding
- British Columbia Arts Council, Operating Funding
- City of Vancouver Annual Operating Funding
- Vancouver Foundation Multi-Year Funding for Operations
- Province of British Columbia (Gaming)
- Canada Council for the Arts Project Grants
- British Columbia Arts Council, Project Funding
- British Columbia Arts Council, Capacity Grant
- British Columbia Arts Council, Early Career Development
- Vancouver Foundation Multi-Year Systems Change Grants
- Vancouver Foundation Project Grants
- TELUS Community Foundation
- Canadian Heritage Resilience and Recovery Funding
- Hamber Foundation
- Koerner Foundation
- McLean Foundation
- Service Canada Summer Jobs
- Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC)
- Sunshine Coast Community Foundation
- Rural Grants in Aid: Sunshine Coast Regional District
- Canada Council for the Arts Individual Artist Support for Playwrights
- British Columbia Arts Council, Project Assistance for Writers
- Canada Council, Individual Project Award
- Canada Council Leadership for Change
- Canada Council for the Arts, Travel Grant
- Also Earned Revenue of Box Office, Fees and Guarantees and Co-Production Revenue, In-Kind donations and Individual Giving
- Granville Island Cultural Society
- Calgary Foundation

## **Partnerships** *collaborative creation partnerships including:*

David Suzuki Foundation, Pembina Institute, Science World, Vancouver Emergency Management Association, UBC Botanical Gardens, Royal Municipality of Whistler, Alberta Theatre Projects, Arts Club Theatre, Roundhouse Community Centre, PuSH Festival, Up in the Air Theatre, Electric Company Theatre, Theatre Replacement, Ghost River Theatre, Magnetic North Theatre Festival, Theatre Conspiracy, GICS, Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Progress Lab, Playwrights Theatre Centre, University of British Columbia, Living Forest Institute, Elphinstone Logging Focus, Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC) and others.

## **Education**

- Permaculture Degree, 2011-12, Delvin Solkinson, Roberts Creek
- SITI Company Summer Intensive, 2004
- SITI Company Intensive, 2004, San Francisco
- SITI Company Intensive, 2003, San Francisco
- Ecole du Phillippe du Gaulier, 1993-4
- Central School of Speech and Drama, U.K. 1992-3

- University of Oregon, 1988-92, BA in Theatre Arts, minor on Art History, Valedictorian of Speech and Communication School, Magna Cum Laude