

# *Myster-E Press*

*A Publication of Mystery Writers Ink Society*

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**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 10, 2008. 7:00 p.m. at the old Y**

**Mark Bellamy, whom many of you met at last month's theater event will discuss:  
"Plot and Character On Stage - The Mechanics of the Theatrical Mystery"**

Mark is currently Artistic Director of Vertigo Mystery Theatre, Canada's only fully professional theatre company dedicated to producing works based in the mystery genre.

Mark has been part of Calgary's professional theatre community since graduating from the University of Calgary in 1986. As an actor, director and choreographer he has worked across Canada, the United States and Britain.

His accomplishments include many prestigious awards for choreography and theatre production. As Associate Artistic Director of Vertigo Mystery Theatre, Mark directed: Dial M for Murder, Deathtrap, Laura, The Mousetrap and The Farndale Plays. His other selected credits include: Arsenic and Old Lace; Spider's Web; Strangers on a Train, and Shakespeare in the Park.

*Can you guess this month's mystery ink member?*

Clue #1: This member worked as an education docent at the Calgary Zoo, a teacher and as a coffee barista (before such we knew such a term existed).

## INK Members Review "The Mystery of Edwin Drood"

What a fantastic production! Never a dull moment in this three-hour long stage play, filled to the brim with song and dance, dramatic action and brilliant costumes.

The players (and there are 18 of them!) mingle and joke with the audience before the curtain rises, bringing everyone into the *olde tyme*

*music hall* mood of gaiety and fun. How can they make a death – or at least a disappearance – upbeat? Well, under Mark Bellamy's expert direction, a super production team, the best of local actors, a talented

writer (Charles Dickens who left this world – and the play in mid-act) – and Rupert Holmes who took the unfinished dark drama and turned it into a dazzling show, we were treated to an extraordinary experience.

Mystery Writers INK just keeps coming up with innovative ideas to amuse and educate its members, and so expands our knowledge in the field of writing about mysterious elements, real and imagined.

A great show! Our heartfelt thanks to Mark Bellamy, Artistic Director of Vertigo Theatre, for working with Marilyn Lewis-Steer to give us special treatment: our personal meeting lounge (The Empress Room) with our own private bar, and allowing us to bring Christmas goodies to munch on before the play and during intermission (leftovers went to the deserving actors.).

A memorable Christmas “meeting” for Inksters! I vote for making attendance at the Vertigo Theatre Christmas play an annual INK event!

**-Shirlee Matheson**

The *Mystery of Edwin Drood*, as performed by Vertigo Theatre, may not

have been exactly what Charles Dickens had in mind when he penned his last novel (uncompleted due to his death). But Dickens might approve of the bawdy, energetic, rollicking

good time the play provided.

Take the Rocky Horror Picture Show and add a Victorian flavour and you've got *Edwin Drood*. Artistic Director Mark Bellamy honoured the tradition of the Music Halls of the time with his delightful, over-the-top

interpretation, and Ink members had fun booing the villain and cheering favourites in this Victorian melodrama.

So if you missed this year's outing, watch for next year, we may have a repeat performance!

**-Sherry McEwen**

*"I found Clive Paget/John Jasper to be very similar to Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, because he constantly changed his character back and forth."*

*-Devon Scorey, guest*

*"The audience participation was a lot of fun and it really kept you paying attention. The characters were interesting - and funny."*

*-Susan Calder, member*

**Clue #2: Who are the mystery authors you enjoy reading?**

I love Patricia Cornwell, Janet Evanovich, Suzanne North, and Laura Crum.

Clue # 3: This mystery member confessed to the following: One little quirk of mine would be a tendency to search out old copies of Nancy Drew mysteries in used book stores looking for one with my name in it. I had the entire series as a child and sold them at a garage sale decades ago.

### **Member News:**

**Join Shirlee Smith Matheson** at the formal book launch of her latest book, *Maverick in the Sky: The Aerial Adventures of WWI Flying Ace Freddie McCall*. The launch will be held at the Glenbow Museum in the McCall display of the *Mavericks of Alberta* Exhibit, 2:00 pm, Monday, February 4, 2008.

Danger is Sweet!

*Maverick in the Sky: The Aerial Adventures of WWI Flying Ace Freddie McCall* by Shirlee Smith Matheson (ISBN 9781-897181-16-4) \$9.95

“From the perils of World War I aerial dogfights to the daring antics of his post-war barnstorming stunts, the adventures of Captain Freddie McCall, flying ace and maverick Calgarian, come to life in Shirlee Smith Matheson’s newest aviation story.”

*It's always the first book all over again but one idea can be told a thousand times. There are 88 keys on the piano, but you can make an infinite amount of music from those keys.*  
- Nora Roberts

### **Local Events:**

**The Alexandra Writers Centre Society** winter course session starts on January 22, 2008. You can register now for 8 week courses in Creative Writing, Playwriting and Poetry as well as Advanced Fiction Techniques (taught by INK member, Susan Calder). The Centre is also offering one day Saturday workshops on a variety of topics, including Show Don't Tell, And Then He Kissed Her, Novel Workshop and Co-op Fiction on the Net. For more information, visit the AWCS website [www.alexandrawriters.org](http://www.alexandrawriters.org).

**The Calgary Public Library**, Fish Creek branch, will be hosting an event Jan.26 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Entitled "Maverick In The Sky". INK member Shirlee Smith Matheson will discuss the aerial adventures of WWI flying ace Freddie McCall. Call 260-2620.

Mystery Writers Ink would like to welcome  
our newest member, Joanne Kormylo of Calgary.

**The Calgary Public Library**, Memorial Park Branch in conjunction with **The Writers Guild of Alberta** will be hosting small group workshops. Call 265-2226 to register.

- Linking Character to Action with Natalee Caple, Jan.26 and 27
- Playwriting Calisthenics with Clem Martini, Mar. 8 and 9
- A Poet's Toolbox with Weyman Chan, Apr.26 and 27

**The Calgary Public Library**, Central Branch will be hosting "Mischief, Mayhem and Murders of Calgary" hosted by Johanna Lane of Calgary Ghost Tours. Jan.12, 2:00-3:30 p.m. Call 260-2620 to register.

**The Calgary Public Library**, Central Branch has a Creative Writing Club that starts Jan.14th, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Call 260-2620 to register.

**The Calgary Public Library**, Crowfoot Branch will host our last month's speaker, Jeff Buick, as he discusses his writing process and his newest release "Delicate Chaos". Feb.25, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Call 260-2620 to register.

**Online class:** January 2-31, 2008 "Defeating Self-Defeating Behaviors: Allow Writing Productivity & Creativity To Soar" by Margie Lawson  
Registration \$30 at [www.WriterUniv.com/](http://www.WriterUniv.com/)

Clue #4:

This member completed NaNoWriMo in 2007, 'winning' the 50,000-word challenge. National Novel Writing Month is held every November, a fact the mystery member was unaware of until October 30, when the member made a spontaneous decision and registered for the contest.

Mystery Writers Ink Society  
223 – 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Calgary Alberta T2R 0G9

**Mission Statement:** *Mystery Writers Ink shall support writers of mystery fiction by providing networking opportunities and by educating and informing writers about writing techniques, publishing, and marketing.*

**Ink Board of Directors**

**2007-2008 Meeting Year**

President ..... vacant  
Vice President ... Bernie Visotto  
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Publicity..... vacant

**Program Committee:**

- Sherry Wilson McEwen
- Marilyn Lewis-Steer
- Davis Neave
- Shirlee Smith Matheson

**2008 Winter Meeting Schedule:**

**Second Thursdays, Old Y**  
**7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**  
(except where otherwise noted)

**Thursday, January 10, 2008:**

**Mark Bellamy**

“Plot and Character On Stage - The Mechanics of the Theatrical Mystery”

**Thursday, February 14, 2008:**

**TBA Check for updates at:**

**[www.mysterywritersink.com](http://www.mysterywritersink.com)**

**Who is our mysterious INK member?**

Pam McDowell. In her paying job as a freelance author, Pam writes about everything from barbershop quartets to dog racing to quilting grandmothers. Pam says it's great fun to learn about what other Calgarians are doing and share it with her readers.