

Arts Club Theatre Company
Emerging Playwrights Masterclass with Marcus Youssef
August 24 & 25, 10am-3pm

The Arts Club is thrilled to invite submissions for a special 2-day playwrighting workshop as part of The BMO Radar: New Works in Process. Open to playwrights in the Greater Vancouver area, the workshop will be offered on August 24 and 25 and is free of charge to participate. **The deadline for submissions is August 10, 2026.**

This workshop is designed to help you both identify and nurture your own voice while developing a concrete sense of the playwright's craft. The class will offer participants a combination of lecture/provocations, conversation and exercises. Playwrights should be prepared to bring a short writing sample to share with the class.

Eligibility: Applicants must be artists who are in the early stages of their careers (or who self-identify as an emerging artist) and who have chosen playwriting as a focus. Playwrights must also live in the Greater Vancouver area.

The class will be held at the BMO Theatre Centre (162 West 1st Ave.) from 10am to 3pm each day. Students will also be given short writing assignments to work on outside of the workshop hours.

About the teacher: Marcus Youssef is a recipient of Canada's largest theatre award, the Siminovitch Prize, for his work as a playwright and mentor. His fifteen plays span various styles and genres, often resulting from long-term collaborations. Notable works include *Winners and Losers*, *A Line in the Sand*, *How Has My Love Affected You?*, *Ali & Ali and the axes of Evil*, *Jabber*, *King Arthur's Night* (now a feature film), *Peter Panties*, *Adrift*, and three iterations of Vancouver's *East Van Panto*. His plays have been produced in multiple languages in over twenty countries, including Canada, the US, off-Broadway, Germany, Austria, the UK, Hong Kong, Iceland, Romania, Italy, Ireland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, and the Czech Republic. Besides the Siminovitch Prize, Marcus has received Germany's Ikarus Prize, the Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award, an Honorary Fellowship from Douglas College, the Rio Tinto Alcan Performing Arts Award, the Chalmers' Canadian Play Award, a Seattle Times Footlight award, and the Vancouver Critics' Innovation award (three times). He was Artistic Director of Newworld Theatre until 2019 and co-founded Progress Lab 1422. Marcus works nationwide as an actor, director, educator, and freelance writer/broadcaster.

Submission requirements (please do not include additional materials):

- A statement (max. 1 page) explaining why you are interested in participating in class.
- A résumé outlining your training, plays written and produced, and any other related experience (max. 2 pages).
- A 5-page sample of your dramatic writing.

Please email application to Evann Hutton (New Works & Professional Engagement Assistant) at ehutton@artsclub.com **by Monday August 10, 2026**, using the subject line: "Masterclass Submission." **Please attach all materials in a single PDF.**

Arts Club Theatre Company is fiercely dedicated to being an organization that continually respects, champions, and uplifts underrepresented voices in all jobs. Our stages and stories aim to reflect the beauty, diversity, and nuance of our city. We strongly encourage submissions from those who self-identify as belonging to underrepresented communities. We want to work with artists from every walk of life; we want to see talent we haven't seen before; we want to see you and your art. Seriously!

Access and inclusion are incredibly important to us. For those artists who have barriers to access to any part of our process as laid out, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We will happily work with you to find a way that allows your artistry to be seen – in whatever format is easiest and accessible to you.

ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club Theatre Company, founded in 1964, is Canada's largest not-for-profit urban theatre company. Led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White, it offers professional theatre at three venues—the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, Granville Island Stage, and the Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre—as well as on tour throughout the province.

