

Public Abstract

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Title:Women of the Northern Stage: Gender, Nationality, and Identity and the Work of Canadian Women Stage Directors

Canadian women directors have been and continue to be underrepresented in professional Canadian theatre venues in relation to their male counterparts, and their work is overlooked and understudied – in Canada and beyond. Despite these disparities, Canadian women stage directors are creating innovative theatre and re-visioning traditional works. Using a combination of feminist historiography and qualitative case study methods, this study addresses investigates the work of four prominent Canadian women directors: Nina Lee Aquino, Kim Collier, Jillian Keiley, and Kelly Thornton. Through one-on-one interviews, rehearsal and performance observations, and available critical reviews and archival documents, this project considers these directors' artistic contributions, directorial methods, and the ways that gender, nationality, and other intersecting identities such as race, class, sexuality, and regionality impact their work.