

Playwriting and Beyond: Playwrights Discuss Moving into Writing Different Forms

Panelists

-Beth Kander is an author, playwright, and teaching artist. Her next three works all debut in 2023, including a children's picture-and-recipes-book called DO NOT EAT THIS BOOK. She's the resident playwright for Ashland New Plays Festival out West and represented by Stimola Literary Studio out East, but most often you'll find Beth with her family in Chicago. www.bethkander.com

-Dan O'Brien is a playwright, poet, librettist, and essayist whose recognition includes a Guggenheim Fellowship in Drama, two PEN America Awards, and the UK's Fenton Aldeburgh Prize for Poetry. In 2021 he published his fourth poetry collection, *Our Cancers*, and an essay collection entitled *A Story That Happens*. He lives in Los Angeles. www.danobrien.org

-Charise Castro Smith is a playwright, TV writer, screenwriter, director and producer. Her credits include Walt Disney Animation's *Encanto* and Netflix's *Haunting of Hill House*.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charise_Castro_Smith

Moderator

Jacqueline Goldfinger is an award-winning playwright-librettist-dramaturg, author of *Playwriting with Purpose* and the upcoming *Writing Adaptations and Translations for the Stage*, co-authored with Broadway and West End Translator Allison Horsley from Routledge. www.jacquelinegoldfinger.com

Questions

- (1) When did you first consider making the transition from playwriting to another form? What gave you the bravery to make the transition - either publicly and/or privately?
- (2) What form did you transition to, and how did you find that transition affected you personally?
- (3) Please remind us what form you transitioned into, and then let us know how you had to adjust your thinking when it came to the new form. This could be using craft techniques differently, or anything which shifted in you to broach this new form.
- (4) What advice would you give to playwrights considering transitioning into another form?
- (5) Any final thoughts?

Links

-Article Mentioned from *American Theatre Magazine*:

<https://www.americantheatre.org/2019/08/27/dont-quit-your-day-job-no-really/>

-Writers mentioned whom you may not know: Tanya Saracho

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanya_Saracho), Sheila Callaghan

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheila_Callaghan), Jeremy Slater

(<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2916300>), Marcus Gardley

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Gardley)

-Dan O'Brien's *Our Cancers*: <https://bookshop.org/books/our-cancers-poems/9781946724427>

-Dan O'Brien's *The Angel in the Trees*: <https://bookshop.org/books/the-angel-in-the-trees-and-other-monologues/9781913630669>

-Dan O'Brien's *A Story that Happened*: <https://bookshop.org/books/a-story-that-happens-on-playwriting-childhood-other-traumas/9781628973839>

-Beth Kander's *Original Syn*: <https://bookshop.org/books/original-syn/9781947003996>

-Beth Kander's *Born in Syn*: <https://bookshop.org/books/born-in-syn/9781947003507>

-Beth Kander's *Syn & Salvation*: <https://bookshop.org/books/syn-salvation/9781947003811>

-Jacqueline Goldfinger's *Playwriting with Purpose*: <https://bookshop.org/books/playwriting-with-purpose-a-guide-and-workbook-for-new-playwrights-9781032003818/9781032003818>