

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recipient Named for the 2020 Guelph Arts Council Youth Opportunities Award

Guelph, ON – December 3, 2020 – Guelph Arts Council is pleased to announce that the 2020 Youth Opportunities Award goes to Deanna Kruger of Guelph. An award-winning professional playwright, Deanna has worked as a facilitator and playwright mentor, and has served as a playwright-in-residence supported by both Canada Council for the Arts and Ontario Arts Council.

Deanna submitted her application for support in offering an innovative online playwriting workshop free of charge to youth ages 14 to 17 in Guelph and Wellington County. The workshop will be in three parts, each session exploring a different aspect of playwriting and theatre. Youth will be “inspired and empowered to discover their inner playwright, gaining the fundamental tools needed to begin crafting short plays and scenes.” They will also be able to share their writing with the group as well as receive individual feedback from Deanna.

The award jury commended Deanna for an excellent, well-thought-out proposal. They applauded the accessibility of a free, online workshop, especially in these pandemic times when “teenagers are experiencing unprecedented isolation.” Deanna further noted that those interested in theatre have been doubly impacted because theatre is a collaborative art so “social distancing has caused a necessary but monumental disruption in education and performances.” The jury also appreciated her optimistic outlook, especially her hope that the “playwriting tools that youth learn during the workshop will feed their creativity long after the world opens up again.”

Established in 2009 to take the place of a previous youth awards program dating back to 1982, the Guelph Arts Council Youth Opportunities Award is intended to encourage programs that will initiate, enhance or expand opportunities for children and youth in Guelph and Wellington County to experience or become engaged in the arts. Funds for the award come from the Guelph Arts Council Youth Opportunities Fund managed by the Guelph Community Foundation.

For more information about the Youth Opportunities Award program and Guelph Arts Council, please visit guelpharts.ca, phone 519-836-3280, or email administration@guelpharts.ca.

About Guelph Arts Council:

For over forty years, Guelph Arts Council has been dedicated to supporting, stimulating and promoting arts and culture in Guelph. Guelph Arts Council is funded in part by **The Guelph Community Foundation** and the **City of Guelph**. We also acknowledge the support of the **Ontario Arts Council**, an agency of the Government of Ontario.

-30-

For images or more information, please contact:

Patti Broughton, Executive Director
Guelph Arts Council
519-836-3280
executivedirector@guelpharts.ca