

# Central Works

THE NEW PLAY THEATER

CONTACT: David Hyry (415) 441-1992 [daldenh@aol.com](mailto:daldenh@aol.com)

For press materials and hi-res color press photos visit

<http://centralworks.org>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/Central-Works-Theater>

## CENTRAL WORKS 2022 SEASON

### *A Season Of Laughter And Diverse Cultural Viewpoints*

March - November 2022

**Escape From the Asylum**

by Patricia Milton

Mar 19–Apr 17

**Berkeley City Club**

2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley

CENTRAL WORKS begins its 32nd season on Mar 19 with the world premiere of a madcap mystery “Escape From the Asylum” written by Patricia Milton from the Central Works Writers Workshop. Patricia Milton’s “Escape From the Asylum” is directed by Gary Graves running Mar 19–Apr 17 at the historic Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley. Central Works is committed to premiering new works inspired by social issues, contemporary texts, and history. This 32nd season continues in the summer with “Dreaming in Cuban” a new adaptation by Cristina García of her celebrated novel, directed by Gary Graves, Jun 25–Jul 24. And fall brings a new comedy from the Central Works Writers Workshop “The Women’s Annex” written by Mildred Inez Lewis, Oct 15–Nov 13. (Performances Thur & Fri 8pm, Sat 7pm, Sun 5pm)

**Escape From the Asylum by Patricia Milton, directed by Gary Graves**

**World Premiere #67**

*“Physicians in Victorian times insisted that about twenty-five percent of all women suffered from hysteria. In England and the U.S., families used ‘madness’ as an excuse to lock up women who were not mentally ill, but fed up, unconventional, openly liked sex, or wanted political power. Women today who have similar traits are often marginalized as ‘crazy’ or ‘trainwrecks.’”* Patricia Milton

In 2019, Central Works premiered an award winning play by Patricia Milton, *The Victorian Ladies Detective Collective*—three determined “lady” sleuths fight crime and prejudice in Victorian London. Now they’re back at it! A famous female explorer has been committed to Belfry, a notorious asylum for the mentally ill. Has her unscrupulous husband had her falsely committed just to gain her fortune? The intrepid lady detectives are on the case! ***Escape From the Asylum* features Chelsea Bearce, Alan Coyne, Danielle O’Hare and Jan Zvaifler.** The production has stage management by Natalia Ramos, costume design by Tammy Berlin, prop design by Debbie Shelley and sound design by Gregory Scharpen.

**Patricia Milton (playwright)** is a Resident Playwright for Central Works and a long-term member of the Central Works Writers Workshop. Plays written for Central Works include: Bystanders (audio play produced in 2020), The Victorian Ladies’ Detective Collective (2019), Bamboozled (2018 Outstanding Production; Ensemble; Finalist, Outstanding World Premiere Play, TBA Awards), Hearts of Palm

(2016), *Enemies: Foreign and Domestic* (2015), and *Reduction in Force* (2011). She is a recipient of the 2015 Outstanding World Premiere Play by Theatre Bay Area for *Enemies: Foreign and Domestic*. The Victorian Ladies' Detective Collective was presented by the International House of Theatre outdoors in Copenhagen in July 2020. Her comedy *Believers* has enjoyed productions in Monterey and San Francisco, and played for three years in Istanbul, Turkey. Her drama about the death penalty, *Without Mercy*, was presented at the Newfoundland Women's Work Festival and was produced in 2017 by Off Broadway West Theatre Company in San Francisco. Upcoming at New Conservatory Theatre is an audio version of her comedy *The Law of Attraction*, commissioned by NCTC. Ms. Milton has had more than one hundred productions and readings of her plays both locally and internationally, including at 3Girls Theatre, San Francisco Exploratorium, PlayGround SF, Woman's Will, Women's Theatre Project, Bay Area One Acts, and City Lights Theatre. She is Northern California Regional Rep for The Dramatists Guild, and produces a monthly podcast for the Central Works Script Club.

## **Central Works: The Company**

For over three decades Central Works has filled a special niche for theater artists in the San Francisco Bay Area, producing more new plays by local playwrights than any other company in the region. "The New Play Theater" utilizes three basic strategies: some are products of the Central Works Method, some are developed in the Central Works Writers Workshop, and some come to the company fully developed.

**Central Works Method** plays bring together writer, actors and director at the very outset of the playwriting process. In a supportive workshop environment, group research and collective brainstorming contribute to the entire development of the script.

**The Central Works Writers Workshop** is an ongoing commissioning program established in 2012. Twice a year, in 12-week sessions, 8 local playwrights are selected to develop projects through informal readings and carefully directed discussions. Last season, both Cristina García's *King of Cuba* and Patricia Milton's *Bamboozled* emerged from this program, followed by two more this season. For more information, visit our website: [www.centralworks.org](http://www.centralworks.org)

**Company co-directors Jan Zvaifler and Gary Graves remain steadfast in their mission to develop and produce new works.** "New plays are the lifeblood of the theater," says Ms. Zvaifler. "We look at current events, politics, classic literature and traditional storytelling to bring our audience face to face with the challenges of our lives everyday, juxtaposed against the reflections of history, both recent and far-reaching. Given our current harrowing times, we all need an opportunity to pause, feel, think and act." The special intimacy of the Central Works theater offers this in a truly unique package.

## **Central Works 2022 Season**

### ***3 Plays - 3 Premieres***

### ***Central Works Opens Back Up With A Season Of Laughter And Diverse Cultural Viewpoints*** **March - November 2022**

#### ***Escape From the Asylum***

**World premiere #67: A madcap mystery from the Central Works Writers Workshop by Patricia Milton (Mar 19–Apr 17)**

## **CENTRAL WORKS 32nd Season Continues**

### ***Dreaming in Cuban***

**World premiere #68: A new adaptation by Cristina García of her celebrated novel by Cristina García (Jun 25–Jul 24)**

### ***The Museum Annex***

**World premiere #69: A wildly imaginative whirlwind tour from the Central Works Writers Workshop by Mildred Inez Lewis (Oct 15–Nov 13)**

**Performing at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley**

**Times: Thur & Fri 8pm, Sat 7pm, Sun 5pm**

**Tickets: \$30 - \$40 depending on performance Service Fee: \$2.75 online at [centralworks.org](http://centralworks.org).  
All remaining tickets are available on a sliding scale at noon on the day of the show: \$40-\$15  
(Fri-Sat), pay-what-you-can (Thur & previews)!**

**We reserve seats only for subscribers, it is general seating for all other ticket holders.**

**For more information call 510.558.1381 or visit [centralworks.org](http://centralworks.org)**

### **Covid-19**

**Central Works complies with all City of Berkeley, County, State, and Federal Covid-19 health orders and guidelines. We are enhancing safety with the following measures:**

- **All audience members and Central Works company and staff must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Cast members test weekly for Covid-19.**
- **Patrons must show proof of vaccination (vaccination card or digital record), along with matching photo ID, at the door. Please arrive early to allow extra time for this prerequisite.**
- **A strict mask mandate is in place both for audience members and staff, other than the actors while they are performing. Masks must fully cover the nose and mouth during the performance. We are happy to provide a mask if you do not have one. We recommend N-95 or KN-95 masks for optimum safety.**

**(30)**