Charlie Petch
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Artistic CV for Workshops & Performance

CHARLIE PETCH (they/he) is a disabled & transmasculine multidisciplinary artist. Their debut poetry collection, Why I Was Late (Brick Books), won the 2022 ReLit Award, and was named "Best of 2021" by The Walrus. Petch received a Golden Beret Spoken Word Prize from the League of Canadian Poets. Their play “No one’s special at the hot dog cart” debuted in 2024 with sold out shows at Theatre Passe Muraille and Public Energy. Petch's latest poetry book, "Infinite Audition" by Brick Books, was launched in 2025, and is being used both as a poetry book, and theatre resource for trans and non-binary actors. It also contains a full album of music created by Charlie. They founded "Hot Damn it's a Queer Slam" and have worked in spoken word organizing and curation since 2011. They do workshops and write plays, librettos, poems, and music and perform their work for audiences all over Turtle Island.

Residencies & Notables

Host for the Writer’s Trust Awards - Livestream Glen Gould Studios 2024
Berton House Residency, 2023, Dawson City, Yukon (Writer’s Trust)
Commissioned Librettist for Opera QTO, a Queer & Trans inclusive theatre company, “Medusa’s Children” Opera film launched in 2022.
Artist in Residence - Camp Fyrefly - Peterborough On, 2022
Keynote speaker for 2020’s Toronto Creative Conference (Convergence), University of Toronto,
CBC Q - 2021 Performance & interview for poetry
Opener for Shane Koczyan, Danforth Music Hall, (2019), The Kennedy Commons (2022) and The Broom Factory (2022)
Canadian Mint, The 519, Poet feature, Coin Launch, 2019
Poet of Honour, Canadian Festival of Spoken Word 2017, Feature set, Market Hall, Peterborough
Poetry Feature & Curator, Royal Ontario Museum, 2016, Toronto
Voices of Today, Toronto, Poet of Honour Feature 2016, (Spoken Word Youth), Toronto
Banff Centre for Performing arts, Banff, Alberta, 2013, Multiple shows during spoken word and music residency.
Victoria Spoken Word Festival, Victoria BC, 2012, Multiple shows as a part of an ensemble cast as well as individual sets of poetry and collaboration.

Awards

ReLit Award, 2022 for “Why I Was Late” poetry category, Brick Books

Sheri D Wilson’s Golden Beret Award for Spoken Word, 2020, from the League of Canadian Poets.

Spirit of The Fringe, Vancouver Fringe Festival, for my involvement in the Fringe as well as for “Mel Malarkey Gets The Bum’s Rush” a spoken word theatre play, 2018

Best Characters of the Fringe, Mel Malarkey, Nanaimo Fringe, 2019

Poet of Honour for Voices of Today, Youth Poetry Festival, August, 2017 - Awarded for innovation of work and community work in the arts, specifically in Spoken Word.

Poet of Honour for the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word, October 2017 - Awarded for contributions to Spoken word and for work as a community leader.

Proud To Shine series - CBC Canada - Pride month spotlights on community leaders, recognized for my work as a poet and arts organizer

“Best of 2017” mention from Electric City Magazine, for my spoken word theatre album of my original work, Mel Malarkey Odes & Acts. I also wrote the music for the show.

Champion of Champion’s cup, 2014 - Every poetry slam champion in southern Ontario competed to see who was the ultimate champion. Never repeated, still undisputed.

Playpen Award for New Script Development, Mysterious Entity Theatre, An OAC grant project grant awarded by a production company for an open call for new scripts. April 2008

Union Theatre’s New Playwright Award, for my first script “Napalm Queen”, included a full production of my script, February 1996

Workshop Instructor/Panel Highlights

Thin Air Festival - Winnipeg - Love your embarrassment, 2025
New Sonic Poetries - Toronto, 2024, Loop Pedal Workshop
De-escalation Technique from a former hot dog vendor, Toronto, Theatre Passe Muraille, 2024
De-escalation Technique… , Theatre On King, Peterborough, 2024
Be Brave Onstage - Massey College - University of Toronto, 2022
TDSB Creates, Rostered artist for Spoken Word 2018 - 2022
Instructor with Citadel Creative Writing School, 2019 - 2020
Louder than a Bomb Canada - City wide youth poetry initiative 2020/21
Verses Festival - Spoken Word Theatre Masterclass 2019
Artists Health Alliance - Artists Health Panel
Folk Music Ontario - Accessibility Panel
Saskatoon Poetic Arts Festival - Spoken Word Theatre workshop
Verses Festival - Spoken Word Theatre workshop
East End Arts - Be Brave Onstage
Sony Centre For The Performing Arts - Love your Embarrassment
Spoken Word Workshop Facilitator for the TDSB/community centres
Private poetry coach for performers new and seasoned 2015 - present

One Mic Educators, working with TDSB and private schools 2016/7
Slam Poetry Coach for the 2015 Toronto Poetry Slam Team
Building Bridges, Child and Adolescent Mental Health at Michael Garron Hospital **Learning the Language of Tech for Performers -** Atlantic Fringe, Buddies, CFSW
Canadian Festival of Spoken Word - Workshop each year since 2013
Ontario College of Art and Design – Guest Workshop for Andrea Thompson & Lillian Allen's classes - 2015 to present

Curation & Leadership

Performer/Coordinator for the City of Toronto with Toronto's Poet Laureate project, TO Poet's Department, engaging Taylor Switft's takeover of downtown Toronto -2024
Buzz Workshop, "No one's special at the hot dog cart" Theatre Passe Muraille, 2022 - 2024
Founder of Hot Damn It's A Queer Slam – the traveling queer slam mini circuit that promotes LGBTQ+ poets, all ages www.queerslam.com 2014- 2021
SPOCAN (National Spoken Word Board) – Chair of the Anti Oppression Committee
Toronto Poetry Project - collective member, 2013 to 2020
Member of the League of Canadian Poets & The Writer's Union of Canada
Hosting of Plasticine Poetry for 7 years, also Poetry Slams, fundraisers, rock shows, book launches and Cabarets (PARN cabaret, Peterborough Aids Resource Network)
Theatre credits include, Erring, Next and Fringe festivals as well as 10 produced plays
6 years of Theatre Acting
30 years of film and theatre lighting design

Festivals

Whistler Writer's Festival, 2025
Thin Air Festival - Winnipeg, 2025
New Sonic Poetries - Ocad U Toronto, 2024
Paper & Publishing Festival - Dawson City, Yukon 2023
Verses Festival of Spoken Word (Vancouver) 2023
Stratford Springworks - Faerie Garden, Stratford Ontario. 2023
Acapoetry - The Sing Festival - Producer & performer - The Concert Hall
Vancouver Writer's Festival - 2022
Toronto International Festival of Authors - 2021
Antler River Poetry Festival - 2021
Naked Heart, Toronto, 2SLGBTQPIA+ fest, 2016 & 2019 & 2021
Words Aloud Festival, Durham County, 2019
Canadian Festival of Spoken Word - Feature/workshop 2013 – 2019, Montreal, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Peterborough, Victoria, Guelph
Emergency Dance Festival, 2018, Peterborough On (spoken word theatre)
Capturing Fire, 2015-2018, Features and workshop, Washington DC. International Queer Summit & Slam
Louder Than a Bomb, 2016-2018 Hamilton & Toronto (Spoken word youth)
Voices of Today, Toronto, 2016, 2017 (Spoken Word Youth)
Canadian Writer's Summit, (with the league Feminist Caucus) 2016-18, Toronto

Hillside Festival, 2017, Guelph On
Saskatoon Poetic Arts Festival, for “Mel Malarkey” 2016
Festival of Friends, 2016, Hamilton On.
Toronto Pride, 2014, 2016, 2018
Ontario College of Arts & Design (OCAD) Feminist Art Conference, 2015 & 2017
Hullabaloo Festival, Vancouver 2015 (Spoken Word Youth)
Word on the Street, (with Toronto Poetry Slam) 2013,
Many Theatre Fringes, for spoken word theatre, 2016-2019