

# A Certain Place:

The Bernie Martin Festival  
in partnership with Public Energy

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**WELCOME TO WEEK TWO OF  
A CERTAIN PLACE: THE BERNIE MARTIN FESTIVAL**  
<http://ttok.ca/a-certain-place/>

**THIS WEEK THE FESTIVAL FEATURES ONE ACT PLAYS II**  
**Thurs Nov 10 - Sat Nov 12 at 8pm**  
**at The Theatre on King, 159 King St. | \$15, or pay-what-you-can, at the door**

**Two fascinating plays share the bill in Week Two of A Certain Place: The Bernie Martin Festival.** The festival celebrates the work of local multidisciplinary artist Bernie Martin, who passed away in 1995 but left a lasting legacy of music, painting, writing, film, and theatre that continues to influence artists today. Like much of the festival's offerings, One Act Plays II takes place at the Theatre On King, 159 King Street. It runs three nights: November 10 to 12 at 8pm. Tickets are available at the door.

**The two plays in One Act Plays II show the breadth of the festival's programming. *Meat and Potatoes* features young artists being mentored through the festival; *Life Comes To Resemble Unimaginative Literature: Or, The Moment Of My Death*, features some of Peterborough's most veteran theatre artists, one of whom is taking puppetry to places we have never seen. Both plays feature Bernie Martin's signature approach to his art: they are disturbing yet funny. While Martin's work usually addresses uncomfortable themes, he finds a way to leaven the work with humour. His great achievement is that the humour – and a sense of playfulness he imparts to his work - nevertheless does not diminish its impressive emotional impact.**

The first piece in One Act Plays II, *Meat and Potatoes*, features two young artists: director **Skylar Ough** and actor **Melissa Post**. They are joined by veteran actor **Kelsey Powell** in this two-hander. Youth theatre technician **Quinn Ferentzy** is being mentored through the project by the festival's co-artistic director **Ryan Kerr**. Mentoring young artists is one of the chief aims of A

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Certain Place: The Bernie Martin Festival. The result of this project, a first of its kind in Peterborough, is that when the month-long festival is over more than a dozen young and/or emerging artists will have created their own work in the process of being mentored by senior artists working in spoken word, music, theatre, and film.

When he was diagnosed with cancer, Bernie Martin destroyed a lot of work he didn't feel was good enough to last, but he put together, in one hand-typed volume, the stories he thought deserved to be read. The second piece in *One Act Plays II* is one of them. Interestingly, while it was written many years before Martin knew he was going to die an early death, it deals with that very subject. **Kate Story** has adapted it to the stage and used all the tricks in her adaptation bag to bring it to life. She has even changed the name – it is called *Life Comes To Resemble Unimaginative Literature: Or, The Moment Of My Death* - and turned it into a play performed by, and featuring the puppetry of, **Brad Brackenridge**. The choice of using puppetry to tell the story came about because the story plays with scale: one character is very big, the other very small. Story, who directs the work, also invited two of her favourite music collaborators to give it a live musical score: **Susan Newman** and **Rob Fortin** have written original music and sourced traditional Scottish music for the story set in Glasgow.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of *Life Comes To Resemble Unimaginative Literature: Or, The Moment Of My Death* will be seeing what Brackenridge has created from his puppetry workshop. For this play he has created three different versions of the two characters. As Story says, “He is constantly re-thinking puppetry, never doing the same thing twice. He enters uncharted territory on every play he works on, never following a formula. The results will be fascinating.”

### **One Act Plays II**

**Thurs Nov 10-Sat Nov 12 at 8pm**

**The Theatre on King, 159 King St. | \$15, or pay-what-you-can, at the door.**

A Bernie Martin play directed by emerging artist (and Drool collective member) Skylar Ough: “Meat and Potatoes,” and an adaptation by The Nervous System (Brad Brackenridge and Kate Story) of a Bernie short story: “Life Comes To Resemble Unimaginative Literature: Or, The Moment Of My Death”.

*A Certain Place* is presented by Fleshy Thud in partnership with Public Energy, with the support of Peterborough Theatre Users Group, the City of Peterborough, The Ontario Arts Council, and Theatre Trent.

Check the festival website for more details: [www.ttok.ca](http://www.ttok.ca)

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