

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Germaine Shames, a Dramatists Guild Foundation Nat'l Fellow, AZ Literary Fellow in Fiction, and Kilroys List playwright, is author of the award-winning novels, *Between Two Deserts* and *You, Fascinating You*. Writing under the pen name Casper Silk (*Hotel Noir*, *Echo Year*), she has been compared to F. Scott Fitzgerald, Graham Greene, and P.D. James "on steroids".

After covering world conflicts as a correspondent and witnessing firsthand the gamut of senseless tragedies behind the headlines, she realized that hard news could never convey an iota of the deeper story she was gleaning. She turned to fiction writing, learning that she can find light in the most horrific situations and leave readers, and now an audience, with hope.

As a playwright, Shames has celebrated premieres across the U.S. as well as abroad and been recognized in a number of festivals, including MAC Plays in Development 2026, LTA Playwriting 2025 (First Place), Scripts in Play 2025, Scotopia Festival 2025, Women's Voices 2024, Fulton Theatre's Stories of Diversity 2023, Pegasus Theatre's Fresh Reads 2023 (First Place), Page to Stage 2023, ThinkTank TYA's inaugural Playwrights Festival 2021, Cimientos 2019, and Festival of New American Theatre 2018.

As a librettist-lyricist, Shames collaborates with world-class composers in musical theatre, opera, choral and popular music. She is proud to be a 2024 Puffin Foundation grantee. Her eco-opera *The Bird Lady* (with Timothy Miller) previewed in 2021 at the National Opera Center. Her immigration musical, *Capri* (w' Paul Scherer), won Skyline Theatre's new musical search and was their singular offering at the 2022 NJ Theatre Alliance Stages Festival. In 2019 and 2020 respectively, Theatre Elision produced her musicals *If the Spirit Moves* (w' Erin Murray Quinlan) and *The Manifesto* (w' Nadav Amir-Himmel). Her operatic Edith Wharton adaptation, *In Venice* (w' Paul Scherer), had its concert premiere in NYC in 2024, and *Unbroken* (w' Jane K), an American Prize winner, the same year.

In addition to her original works, Shames has made a mission of adapting and re-imagining classic 19th and early 20th-century novels for the stage with an emphasis on works either by women or with strong women's roles and relationships. Her D.H. Lawrence adaptation, *The Virgin and the Gypsy*, formed part of the 2018 Festival of New American Theatre. A second Lawrence adaptation, *The Lost Girl*, won Starlight Theater's 2019 Playwriting Contest and was subsequently produced by the S. Devon Players. Her Emile Zola re-imagining of *The Masterpiece* was a finalist for the Trustus Playwright Award, and her radical Nathaniel Hawthorne adaptation, *The Scarlet Letter* (Bible Belt, 1965), for LOCAL Lab. To date, the playwright has also adapted works by Edith Wharton, Aldous Huxley, and William Faulkner.

Claire Beckman, Artistic Director of Brave New World Rep, has written of Shames, "Germaine advocates for social justice with refreshing maturity, structural elegance, and gut punching dichotomies."

Shames holds a Master's degree in Intercultural Studies. Her writing reflects the breadth of her worldview and fascination with the interplay of cultures, often drawing on events and settings from her sojourns abroad. She writes from a global perspective with the conscious aim of fostering interethnic, intergenerational and cross-gender understanding. It's all about love.

Website: <https://germainewrites.wixsite.com/buzz>

New Play Exchange: <https://newplayexchange.org/users/2551/germaine-shames>

Reviews of Note: https://youtu.be/qJ19KgDOIdA?si=FaKqdiR5PIB_0RjV