

LITERARY CURRICULUM VITAE

GISÈLE VILLENEUVE

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Bilingual novelist, short story writer, playwright, poet and translator; also, scriptwriter, writer-editor, radio journalist and narrator. Languages: French and English. Born and educated in Montréal. Resided in London, England; Ottawa; Mountain View, California. Residing in Calgary since 1978.

BOOKS

Et tu seras happé par l'horizon, creative nonfiction, Montréal, Lévesque éditeur, coll. Vacarmeurs, 2021, 360 p.

nue et crue lettre au poète disparu, writer's notebook, Montréal, Lévesque éditeur, coll. Carnets d'écrivains, 2016, 223 p.

Rising Abruptly, stories, Edmonton, The University of Alberta Press, 2016, 216 p.

Outsiders, stories in French, Montréal, Lévesque éditeur, 2013, 144 p.

Visiting Elizabeth, bilingual novel, Montréal, XYZ Publishing, 2004; Toronto, Dundurn Press, 2008, 374 p.

Rumeurs de la Haute Maison, novel based on Asian travels, Montréal, Québec Amérique, 1987, 320 pages.

Images de notre passé, essays & archival photos, Edmonton, Access Alberta, 1984, 44 p.

CREATIVE WRITING SHORT TEXTS

"Bone loss", story in French, *Ancrages* (Maritimes), No 28 and *À ciel ouvert* (Prairies), No 6; a collaboration between the two online literary magazines entitled "Entre ciel et mer: Rencontre Est-Ouest", February 2021.

"dear heart it has never been about", prose poetry in *YCC-POP, Poetic Portraits of People*, A laureate project from Sheri-D Wilson, Calgary, Frontenac House, 2020, 152 p. (The poem is on pages 62-63.)

"Child's play et le baiser aux statues", short story, Montréal, *XYZ. La revue de la nouvelle*, No. 137, Spring 2019, p. 60.

"Fragment nocturne", poetry, Saskatchewan, *L'eau vive*, chronique littéraire Horizons, online magazine, December 3rd, 2018.

"Transit à YUL", short story, Montréal, *XYZ. La revue de la nouvelle*, No. 100, Winter 2009, p. 73-79.

"Magnifique", excerpt from *Visiting Elizabeth*, Vancouver, *Geist*, No. 53, Summer 2004, p. 29-30.

"Café de l'horloge", story, Calgary, *dANDelion*, vol. 27, No. 2, 2001, p. 3-8.

- “Reflet d’eau: Leçon d’amour première série”, prose poetry, translation, Calgary, *TransLit*, vol. 4, 1999, p. 163-164.
- “Reflection in a Washbasin: Love Lesson Number One O One”, prose poetry, Calgary, *TransLit*, vol. 4, 1999, p. 165-166.
- “La précipitation”, short story, Montréal, *Les Écrits*, No. 96, 45th anniversary issue, August 1999, p. 67-79.
- “La conquête des sommets”, short story, *les Écrits*, Montréal, No. 89, Spring 1997, p. 61-75.
- “Splendide laideur”, short story, Montréal, *les Écrits*, No. 84, Fall 1995, p. 103-118.
- “Le Prix du Nobel”, short story, Montréal, *écrits du Canada français*, No. 81, Fall 1994, p. 105-122.
- “The Man Who Swallowed the Universe”, poetry, Santa Cruz, *American Poetry Anthology*, vol. IV, No. 3, 1985, p. 133.
- “L’inauguration”, short story, Montréal, *Humanitas*, No. 13, December 1985/January 1986, p. 33-35.
- “La voix d’Esther”, short story, Calgary, *La revue littéraire de l’Alberta*, vol. 1, No. 1, 1982, p. 10-13.
- “Une très vieille femme”, short story, Montréal, *Châtelaine*, October 1981, p. 121, 126, 128-129.

CREATIVE NONFICTION

- “Into the Woods” / “Au cœur du bois”, prose poetry based on Patricia Lortie’s art installation “The Keepers” / “Les gardiens” created during an art residency at the Kiyooka Ohe Arts Centre, 2021.
- “Pauvre p’tit pou: Éloge du sot”, Moncton, *Ancrages*, No. 29, December 2021.
- “La famine en hiver”, Saskatchewan, L’eau vive, chronique littéraire Horizons, online magazine, May 13th, 2021.
- “Homo procrastinus au carnaval. Pour mieux construire notre destruction”, in anthology *En cas d’incendie, prière de ne pas sauver ce livre*, Sudbury, Prise de parole, 2021, 98 p. (The text is on pages 75-82.)
- “Les oncles en carmin buriné”, poetic essay, Saskatchewan, *À ciel ouvert*, online magazine, No. 5, December 2018.
- “Speaking with Both Hands: The Ambidextrous Language in *Visiting Elizabeth*”, talk on writing “bi-langue”, Faculty Women’s Club, University of Calgary, September 2005. (Unpublished)
- “Places Imagined/Place à l’imagination”, memoir in anthology *Golden Threads: Women Creating Community*, Calgary, Detselig, 2009, 293 pages. (The essay is on pages 22-33).
- “Et il ne pleuvait même pas!”, adventure story, Montréal, *les écrits*, No. 86, Spring 1996, p. 99-112.
- “Les avatars de l’écriture”, talk on literary writing with a twist, ACFA, Edmonton, February 1988; Calgary, April 1988. (Unpublished)
- “De mot à image”, essay on writing, Ottawa, *Femmes d’Action*, vol. 16, No. 5, 1987, p. 12, 13 et 16.

LITERARY TRANSLATIONS

La ferme des animaux revisitée, stage play by Alice Nelson based on George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, Calgary, Underdog Theatre, 2016.

Petits cochons dans un canot et autres histoires d'eau, stage play by Wendy Passmore-Godfrey, *Pigs in a Canoe and Other Watery Stories*, Calgary, WP Puppet Theatre, 2014.

De plein fouet dans la tempête, stage play by Jeffrey Hatcher, *Mercy of a Storm*, Edmonton, L'UniThéâtre and Northern Light Theatre, 2014.

Courtepointe, novel by Marie Moser, *Counterpoint*, Montréal, Québec Amérique, 1991, 288 p.

« *Demeure des esprits* », narration and translation of "Vessels of the Spirits", a 30-min video for Dr. Nicholas David, Department of Archeology, University of Calgary, 1991.

« The Ghost Pipe », French adaptation for a video in series *Indian Myths and Legends*, Edmonton, Access Alberta, 1981.

« Why the Moose's Skin is Loose? », French adaptation for a video in series *Indian Myths and Legends*, Edmonton, Access Alberta, 1981.

STAGE PLAYS

Ma nuit avec le gendarme, monologue, Edmonton, L'UniThéâtre, December 1999; May and June 2000. Direction: Daniel Cournoyer.

Oldest Woman in the World, two-act play, Calgary, Maenad Theatre, October 13-29, 1994. Direction: Gail Hanrahan.

La génération velcro, two-act play, Edmonton Fringe, August 20-24, 1990. New version: Calgary, Société de théâtre de Calgary, October 16-19, 1991; Edmonton, L'UniThéâtre, November 3-5, 1995. Direction: Guylaine Normandin.

RADIO DRAMAS

Les saisons de Gisèle: I. *Solstice d'hiver*; II. *Le prix du silence ou sept nuits d'insomnie dans un champ d'agaves avec quetzal*; III. *Corinne et la saison de la chasse*; IV. *Les Invités*, experimental texts, Calgary/Edmonton, CHFA/Radio-Canada, April 1997; rebroadcast in Manitoba, April 1998. Original music: Paul Lamoureux. Directed by Ronald Tremblay et Dominique Roy.

Et il ne pleuvait même pas!, adventure story (West Coast Trail), Edmonton, CHFA/Radio-Canada, August 28 to September 1, 1995. Directed by Denise Lavallée.

Le Noël des réfugiés, story read by the author, Edmonton, CHFA/Radio-Canada, December 16, 1993. Directed by Mireille Vézeau.

Les arts du langage ou le français en fictions radiophoniques, over 150 short radio dramas created for Francophone and French immersion schools, Edmonton, CKUA, 1985-1988. Directed by Nancy Sherbaniuk.

Tout ce que je peux être, 8 radio dramas, Edmonton, CKUA, 1988. Directed by Nancy Sherbaniuk.

Le voisin du Canada: Les États-Unis, 11 radio dramas, Edmonton, CKUA, 1984-1985. Directed by Nancy Sherbaniuk.

In Search of a King, 15 radio dramas, London, England, BBC, 1976 and 1977.

Broadcasted in Europe, Asia and Africa. Scripts and direction by Gisèle Villeneuve.

RADIO DOCUMENTARIES

Heritage for Health, a series of short documentaries on medical research at Foothills Hospital in Calgary, financed by Alberta Research Trust Fund, Edmonton, CKUA Radio, 1985. Directed by Nancy Sherbaniuk.

Coping in the Eighties, two documentaries in a 13-episode series, Edmonton, CKUA Radio, 1986. Directed by Nancy Sherbaniuk.

VIDEOS & FILMS

La grande caravane, script/video; story adapted from Franco-Albertan history, Edmonton, Access Alberta, 1983. Directed by David Ritchie.

La vie quotidienne, script/video; story adapted from Franco-Albertan history, Edmonton, Access Alberta, 1983. Directed by David Ritchie.

Émile l'Éclusier/The History of the Lachine Canal, animation, original script and translation, Ottawa, Atkinson Film-Arts Ltd., 1978. Directed by John Danylkiw.

VARIOUS WORKS

“Montréal, mon amour” literary review, Toronto, *The Globe & Mail*, May 22, 2004, p. D14.

Nine articles, *New Canadian Encyclopedia*, Second Edition, 4 vol., Edmonton, Hurtig Publishers, 1988, p. 581-582; 638; 845; 965; 1464; 1559; 1585; 1764; 1807.

Calgary-based reporter for weekly *Le Franco*, March 1982-April 1983.

“Mary Had a Little Lamb”, feature article, Calgary, *Calgary Magazine*, April 1980, p. 67-69, 71-72.

“The Rich and Ancient Craft”, feature article, Calgary, *Calgary Magazine*, December 1979, p. 31-39.

“French-Language Company Finds Target in Offering”, theatre review, Calgary, *Calgary Herald*, October 2, 1978, p. A17.

“Le Cachemire”, travel feature, Montréal, *en voyage*, December 1977, p. 4-6.

AWARDS & GRANTS

2017 Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction; Alberta Book Publishing Awards – Trade Fiction; Banff Mountain Book Competition – Mountain Fiction & Poetry Award. Also, Alberta Readers’ Choice Award, long-listed; Howard O’Hagan Award for Short Story (“Nuit Blanche with Gendarme”), short-listed. All for *Rising Abruptly*.

2014 Sylvie Van Brabant Award for artistic excellence

2014 Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Cultural Relations grant

2013 Canada Council for the Arts, Translation grant (theatre)

2013 Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Prof. dev. grant (entr’ARTS seminar)

2007 Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Writing grant (novel)

1997 Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Writing grant (théâtre)

1995 Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Writing grant (radio)

1995 Banff Centre for the Arts, Writing grant (radio)

1994 Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Writing grant (théâtre)

1992 Bill Birge Award in English, University of Athabasca

1992 Individual Course Award, University of Athabasca

- 1990 Canada Council for the Arts, Translation grant (novel)
- 1989 Alberta Foundation for the Literary Arts, Writing grant (novel)
- 1981 McClelland and Stewart Award for Fiction, Canadian Magazine Awards (for short story “Une très vieille femme”)
- 1980 Alberta Government Cultural Assistance Award
- 1980 Alva Kettys Memorial Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- 2015 Camp littéraire Félix, Québec, with Robert Lalonde.
- 2015 Entr’ARTS multidisciplinary seminar, RAFA/Banff Centre, with Jacques Lessard and Ghyslain Filion.
- 2013 Entr’ARTS multidisciplinary seminar, RAFA/Banff Centre, with Jacques Lessard, Marie Gignac and Rose Després.
- 2009 Entr’ARTS literary seminar, RAFA/Banff Centre, with Robert Lalonde.
- 1999-2001 Creative writing courses, University of Calgary. Prof. Aritha van Herk.
- 1996-1997 Two 10-week playwriting workshops, Calgary. Instructor: Gordon Pengilly.
- 1995 Radio drama workshop, Banff Centre for the Arts. Instructor: Ann Jansen.
- 1991-1992 English writing courses, Athabasca University. Instructors: Jo-Ann Foote and Kelly Hewson.
- 1980 W.O. Mitchell's creative writing workshop, Banff Centre for the Arts. Instructors: Sandra Jones, Ruth Fraser, Richard Lemm and W.O. Mitchell.
- 1980 Creative writing workshop, University of Calgary. Instructor. Marie Jacober.
- 1979 Creative writing workshop, University of Calgary. Instructor: Gloria Sawai.
- 1972 Baccalauréat en communication (B.A. in communications), Université du Québec à Montréal.

JURIES

- 2019 WGA Literary Awards, Howard O’Hagan Award for short story
- 2019 *À ciel ouvert*, reading committee for issue 5
- 2018 W. O. Mitchell Book Prize, Calgary
- 2017 Prix Champlain
- 2015 Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- 2015 Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- 2014 Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- 2014 Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- 2011 Canada Council for the Arts
- 2010 W. O. Mitchell Book Prize, Calgary
- 1999 playRites Colony, Banff Centre for the Arts
- 1998 playRites Colony, Banff Centre for the Arts
- 1997 Playwrights’ Colony, Banff Centre for the Arts
- 1995 L’UniThéâtre (Festival Théâtre Jeunesse)
- 1994 Alberta Foundation for the Arts

BOARD DUTY

- 2006-2011 RAFA (Regroupement artistique francophone de l’Alberta)
director Literary Arts; Executive Board as Treasurer, then Vice-President

1994-1996 Alberta Playwrights' Network
Also, Chair of the 28th and 29th Alberta Playwriting Competitions

READINGS

- 2021 Calgary, North and Western Canada, Internet via Zoom, reading series
"Dialogues d'écrivain.e.s". March 23, soirée albertaine.
(excerpts from *nue et crue lettre au poète disparu*)
- 2020 Calgary, Launch on Zoom *YYC-POP* by Sheri-D Wilson
("dear heart it has never been about")
- 2018 Edmonton Poetry Festival, "French Twist"
("Child's play et le baiser aux statues")
- 2017 Shelf Life Books, Calgary, WGA/Award shortlist nominees
(excerpt from *Rising Abruptly*)
- 2017 Edmonton Poetry Festival, Literary Cocktails, University of Alberta Press
(excerpts from *Rising Abruptly*)
- 2016 Edmonton Poetry Festival, "French Twist"
(excerpts from *nue et crue lettre au poète disparu*)
- 2015 L'UniThéâtre, Edmonton, series À voix haute: "Histoire d'A"
(an actress read "1954 Cuba Time Capsule")
- 2015 Edmonton Poetry Festival, "French Twist"
("Story, l'histoire de Po")
- 2015 Les rendez-vous de la francophonie, City Hall, Calgary
(an excerpt from *Outsiders*)
- 2014 Festival Frye, Moncton
("Écrire le risque")
- 2014 Calgary Spoken Word Festival
(presenter for event "Montreal Night in Canada")
- 2013 Edmonton Poetry Festival, "French Twist"
("Sept nuits d'insomnie dans un champ d'agaves avec Quetzal")
- 2013 Canadian Literature Centre, Edmonton
("Écrire le risque" and excerpts from novel-in-progress *Erratics*)
- 2012 Edmonton Poetry Festival, "French Twist"
("Écrire le risque")
- 2011 Fédération culturelle canadienne-française, Ottawa
("Écrire le risque")
- 2010 RAFA (Regroupement artistique francophone de l'Alberta), Edmonton
("Bones and Stones")
- 2010 Canadian Literature Centre, Edmonton
("Bouillabaisse")
- 2010 L'Alliance française, Calgary
(excerpts from *Visiting Elizabeth* on stage)
- 2009 Canadian Literature Centre, Edmonton
(excerpts from *Visiting Elizabeth*)
- 2008 Francoforce Festival, Québec City
(a medley of short texts)

- 2008 Francoforce Festival, Calgary
(a medley of short texts, also Théâtre petite forme performed “Le Noël des réfugiés”)
- 2008 L’Alliance française, Calgary
(a medley of short texts in French and in English)
- 2007 RAFA (Regroupement artistique francophone de l’Alberta), Edmonton
(“Agra. Reflection in a Washbasin ou Reflet du désir amoureux”)
- 2007 Calgary International Spoken Word Festival
(adaptation of last chapter from *Visiting Elizabeth*)
- 2006 Le Centre français, Calgary
(excerpts from *Visiting Elizabeth*)
- 2005 Wild Words Conference, University of Calgary
(excerpts from *Visiting Elizabeth*)
- 2005 Red Deer College, Red Deer
(excerpts from *Visiting Elizabeth*)
- 2002 Dandelion Magazine, Calgary
(“Café de l’horloge”)
- 2001 Dandelion Magazine, Calgary
(poetry in French from Germaine Beaulieu & Nicole Brossard)
- 2001 University of Calgary
(“Summer Dig”)
- 2000 University of Calgary
(an excerpt from *Visiting Elizabeth*, a novel-in-progress)
- 2000 Memorial Park Library, Calgary
(“Of Onions and Rats”)
- 1999 Word on the Street, Calgary
(“Jagged Little Peak”)
- 1998 Alberta Playwrights’ Network, Calgary
(“Flash Flood”)
- 1997 Alberta Playwrights’ Network, Calgary
(from a play-in-progress, *Inquiry Into the Delicate Matter of the Fly*)
- 1991 Alberta Playwrights’ Network, Calgary
(from play *La génération velcro*)
- 1989, 1990 Sir Winston Churchill High School, Calgary
(excerpts from the novel *Rumeurs de la Haute Maison*)

WRITING WORKSHOPS/COACHING/EDITING/DRAMATURGY

- ongoing Individual coaching in writing for artists and writers
- 2022 Mentor in literary arts at multidisciplinary creative residency Entr’Arts
- 2014/2015 voice coaching in French for WP Puppet Theatre, Calgary
- 2016 voice coaching in French for Underdog Theatre, Calgary
- 2010 3-day workshop, *Visiting Elizabeth* on stage, L’UniThéâtre, Edmonton
- 2009 Class visit, Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta, Edmonton
- 2008 One-day writing workshop, RAFA, Edmonton
- 2005 3-month writing workshop, Calgary Opera in schools, Calgary
- 2001 3-month dramaturge, L’UniThéâtre, Edmonton

- 1999 Contributing editor, *TransLit*, vol. 4, Calgary
 1995 Coaching/text, L'UniThéâtre, Edmonton
 1989 3-month writing workshop, Sir Winston Churchill High School, Calgary

CONFERENCES/TALKS (INVITED)

- 2019 WGA “Myriad Translations” panel on translation, Calgary
 2017 When Words Collide conference, various panels, Calgary
 2015 Intercultural Centre, Bow Valley College, Calgary, talk on *Visiting Elizabeth*
 2014 Festival Frye, Moncton, readings and school visits
 2012 “Out of the Shadows” on the art of translation, Shelf Life Books, Calgary
 2011 Fédération culturelle canadienne-française, Ottawa
 2005 Faculty Women’s Club, University of Calgary, talk on writing “bi-langue”
 2004 Métropolis bleu/Blue Metropolis Festival, Montréal
 2004 Book Expo Canada, Toronto
 1988 Association canadienne-française de l’Alberta, Edmonton and Calgary, talk on creative writing in French in Alberta
 1988 Seizième Rencontre québécoise internationale des écrivains, Montréal

STUDIES ABOUT MY WORK

nue et crue lettre au poète disparu

“Rencontre au sommet”, feature interview with Annie Rioux, published 24 May 2017 on French website d-fiction. This text is no longer available online. To request a copy in PDF format, please contact the author.

Visiting Elizabeth

Pamela V. Sing, “Dire “je” en Alberta. Pratiques récentes de l’écriture bi-langue” in *Écritures de l’intime dans la littérature francophone*, Montréal, Éditions Nota bene, 2011. (The text is on pages 19-41.)

Pamela V. Sing, “Stratégies relationnelles du *Far Ouest*: écriture “bi-langue”, intégration et différenciation chez Paulette Dubé et chez Gisèle Villeneuve” in *Habiter la distance. Études en marge de La distance habitée*, editors: Lucie Hotte and Guy Poirier, Sudbury, Prise de parole, Agora, 2009, 191 p. (The text is on pages 59-80.)

Winter 2009, *Visiting Elizabeth* included in an undergraduate course on Canadian Literature, specifically on the French-Canadian novel, Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta. Prof.: Pamela V. Sing.

Fall 2009, *Visiting Elizabeth* included in a course at University of Alberta. Prof.: Nathalie Courcy.

Fall 2008, *Visiting Elizabeth* included in a Master course on Canadian Literature, Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta. Prof.: Pamela V. Sing.

Summer 2007, *Visiting Elizabeth* included in a course on Landscapes in Canadian Literature, Trent University. Prof.: Adrian Michael Kelly.

April 26-27, 2007, Conference Écriture de l'intime dans la littérature francophone du Canada (1980-2005), University of Groningen, Netherland.

Pamela V. Sing, "Le « je » chez ces romancières habitées par l'Alberta anglophone: Paulette Dubé, Gisèle Villeneuve et Nancy Huston".

"Une très vieille femme"

Estelle Dansereau, "Écrire la vieillesse: personnages et narrateurs en vieilles personnes" in *(Se) raconter des histoires. Histoire et histoires dans les littératures francophones du Canada*, editor: Lucie Hotte, Sudbury, Prise de Parole (Agora), 2010, 688 p. (The text is on pages 443-456).

FREELANCE WORK: RESEARCH/INTERVIEW/WRITER/REPORTER/VOICE WORK/GENERAL TRANSLATION

Canadian Government Exposition Center, Ottawa

Proulx Brothers (Photographers), Ottawa

Department of Foreign Affairs, Ottawa

Com/Media, University of Calgary

University of Calgary

Access Alberta, Edmonton

Alberta Education, Edmonton

Department of Manpower and Immigration, Ottawa/Calgary

CHFA Radio, Radio-Canada, Calgary

McCloskey Productions Inc., Calgary

Parks Canada, Calgary

Vicom Ltd., Calgary

Say Cheese Productions, Calgary

Société de théâtre de Calgary

Schell Canada, Calgary

Lovink Productions, Calgary

New Concert Theatre Society, Canmore

Les Éditions 3D, Calgary

ACFA provinciale, Edmonton

WP Puppet Theatre, Calgary

Underdog Theatre, Calgary