

Shelley Chester

Dramatists Guild

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Shelley has spent her entire life in theatre. Backstage, on stage, in front of the stage, over the stage, and all points in between. She is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas with majors in playwriting and acting. Upon graduation, she became a member of Denver's Comedy Connection, an Improv troupe where she performed and wrote sketch comedies over a three-year period. She taught acting at A.C.T. Studio and owned an acting workshop - Actors for Actors. She is a multiple award winning playwright and a proud member of the Dramatists Guild. Writing for women, especially those over 60, is her passion!

Playwriting credits include:

THE MARRIAGE PICKLE: UNTYING THE NOT – Comedy –

2022 WINNER - The Robert J. Pickering / J.R. Colbeck Award for Playwriting Excellence.

Produced May 2022 at the historic Tibbits Opera House, MI

2020 SEMI-FINALIST – WOMEN ARE FUNNY.

Who wouldn't want to retire and live a life of leisure? Strong-willed, Managing Editor Liv Torgensen, that's who! Husband John issues the ultimatum - retire or divorce. Liv will do anything to win John back. Anything - except retire... Who will win the divorce wars?

I LEFT MY DIGNITY IN MY OTHER PURSE – Farce –

Produced at Heritage Theatre, Utah featuring Clarence Gilyard as Roy. 2019

Produced at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, NJ Starring Joyce DeWitt 2022

Produced at Maverick Players, Midland, Texas 2022

Produced at Mirrorbox Theatre in Cedar Rapids, Iowa Feb. 2023

Upcoming- April 2025 at Grand Island Little Theatre, Grand Island Nebraska

2018 WINNER – THE NEIL SIMON FESTIVAL NEW PLAY AWARD

2018 FINALIST – THEATRE VICTORIA (withdrawn due to winning The Neil Simon Award.)

2018 FINALIST – VINTAGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

2018 FINALIST – MCLAREN MEMORIAL COMEDY PLAYWRIGHT COMPETITION

2018 SEMI-FINALIST – AACT NEWPLAYFEST (withdrawn due to winning The Neil Simon Award.)

2018 RUNNER-UP – ROBERT J. PICKERING AWARD.

Successful career woman Ruth Baker's plans for retirement and a Tahiti wedding go terribly awry when her fiancé has to fly to China that very night. The antics ensue when the teetotaler Ruth, decides to imbibe at her retirement party. One little drink led to another building up to a four-day bender and alcoholic blackout. A hysterical and humiliating journey to remember her misdeeds, and a frantic hope that she hasn't lost her fiancé, fuel the laughs and the tears.

LIFE AIN'T FAIR – Drama –

2018 FINALIST – NEW WORKS OF MERIT

A journey of pain, discovery, and love in the mountains of Tennessee.

SAVING THE PAST: THE MUSICAL – Musical Comedy –

**2023 FINALIST – THE PHOENIX THEATRE 25th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN THEATRE
COMPOSER AND LYRICIST CABARET**

A race against time to save a historic theater from Abbott Construction's wrecking ball. Gunshots, protests, fervid prayer, and song collide with the media circus and the police in a thrilling race to determine the redemption or destruction of the iconic Harvey Lawrence Theatre. All played out on the bare stage of the storied theater.

See Shelley Chester Resume PG 2

TRIAL OF THE YEAR: CHILD vs TEACHER – Drama –

Mitch Robbins, a four-time Teacher of the Year award winner, and his successful wife, Gwen, are celebrating their anniversary when their happy lives are shattered by sordid allegations of sexual misconduct against a female student. Trial of the Year: Child vs Teacher takes you on a pain-filled journey of truth, lies, and loss.

MISSING BUTTERFLIES – Drama –

Four people burning with desire like a fire tornado seeking happiness. Can white-hot passion be quenched and if so, at what cost?

CRAVING BUTTERFLIES – Musical Drama –

The musical version of Missing Butterflies explores a new solo life while desperately holding onto wedding vows. Burning desire, love, and a twisty triangle told in song and dance.

IN THE REARVIEW – Drama –

Estranged great-grandmother Kate returns to Denver from a ten-year absence. Trapped by a blizzard, deep secrets and traumas are finally exposed uniting and healing three generations of the family.

LIFE, LOVE, AND THE PURSUIT – Drama (First in a trilogy)

2023 WINNER - Script2stage2Screen BEST PLAY

LIFE AND LOVE AFTER THE PURSUIT – Drama/Tragedy

LIFE, LOVE, AND OBSESSION – Drama/Mystery

This trilogy is a three-year journey that explores the lives of Maxine and her much younger blind love, Ryan Allen Squire. The plays follow Maxine and Ryan from their first meeting in Life, Love, and the Pursuit to the following year when they encounter Maxine's Grandson seriously troubled by drugs in Life and Love After the Pursuit. Life, Love, and Obsession, the third play, takes place the following year as Ryan is being stalked by an obsessed fan threatening Maxine and Ryan's marriage.

HOMELESS NOT HELPLESS – Drama –

Newly homeless, the wondering wide-eyed 15-year-old Cherry is heroically saved by Maddy and her family of homeless women who come together to school the naïve Cherry about the terrors and pitfalls of homelessness and how to survive them.

HONEY, I'M HOME FOREVER! – One-Act Comedy –

Follows newly retired Elmer, the five-thumbed handyman wannabe, who is systematically destroying the home his wife Dot has so meticulously cultivated.

A MIRACLE FOR CHRISTMAS – Dramatic film –

FINALIST 2024 Best script Toronto Reel to Reel

FINALIST 2023 Best script New York International Film Awards™ - NYIFA.

SEMI-FINALIST 2023 Best script Sunlight International Film Festival

The Brennan family; Bob, Kasey, their disabled son Anthony, and twelve-year-old Chris, are facing homelessness and about to lose their farm. Thomas and Amara are a week away from losing their restaurant and their life's savings. Hope is in her sixties, alone, homeless, and about to lose the abandoned barn she has called home for the past three years. Three families are praying for a miracle. Will God deliver by Christmas?

SECRET IN THE TRIANGLE – Action Adventure film –

QUARTER-FINALIST 2024 Best script Los Angeles International Screenplay Award

A century of mystifying disappearances surrounds the Bermuda Triangle. Over fifty ships and twenty planes have vanished - without a trace. In 1965, one such plane, a C119 Flying Boxcar, joined the roster of the missing. Decades later, a driven Marine Archeologist, Mickey Jameson, her granddaughter, Caddy, and her crew explore perilous waters and encounter supernatural challenges and government intrigue while uncovering ancestral mysteries and aligning with inexplicable entities.