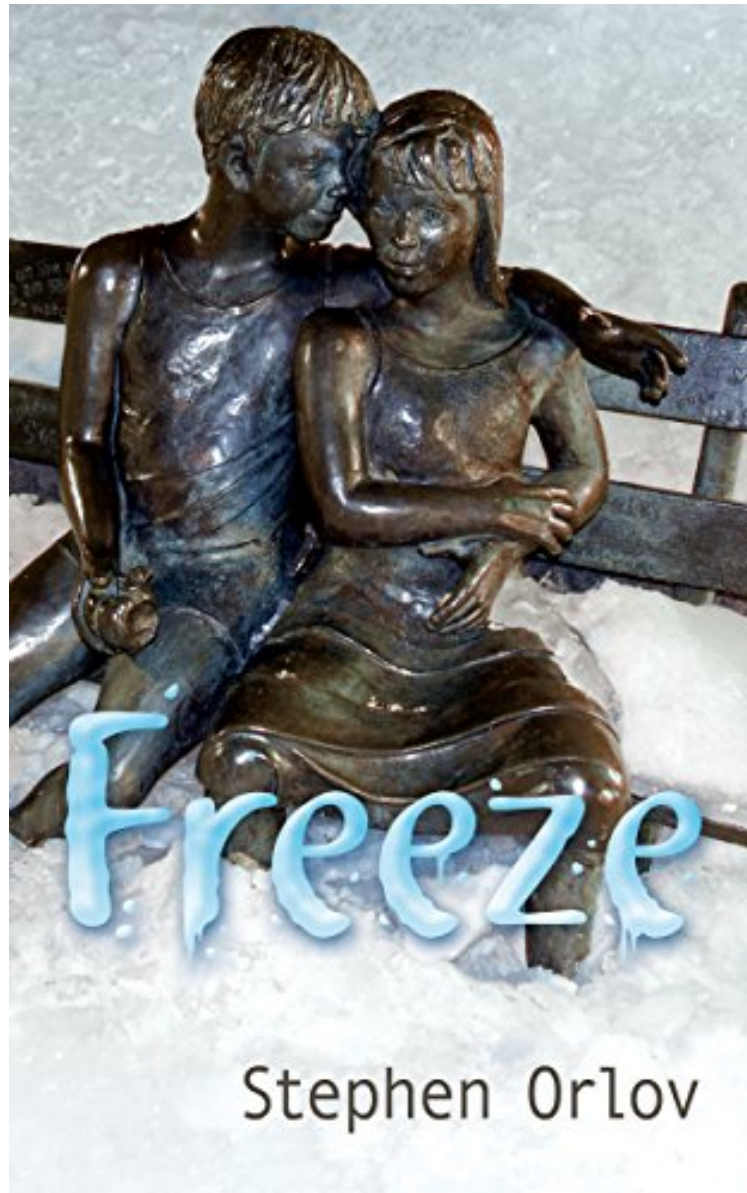


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Freeze (Essential Drama)

Stephen Orlov

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Stephen Orlov : Freeze (Essential Drama) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Freeze (Essential Drama):

Freeze is an allegorical comedy play that dramatizes the Great Ice Storm of '98 as a metaphor presaging "cooler" more inclusive times in Quebec compared to the separatist firestorms of earlier decades. Five

quirky Montrealers, trapped in a power-outed duplex, butt heads in candlelight over love, language and politics, provoking us to ponder with laughter whether Montreal's "two solitudes" of the past has become a stereotype in this new century?

For those of us who lived through the Montreal Ice Storm of '98, we ... shared an unexpected rite of passage and nothing after would be as it was before. With *Freeze*, Stephen Orlov has captured that time and place with remarkable insight and great humour in a play that will tickle your funny bone on the way to your heart. Everything in the given circumstances of this play is accurate and insightful. And, as with all good plays, the specific speaks to the universal and therefore, to audiences everywhere.-- Gordon McCall, former Artistic/Executive Director of Centaur Theatre, Montreal.

From the Back Cover *Freeze* is an allegorical comedy that dramatizes the Great Ice Storm of '98 as a metaphor for "cooler", more tolerant times in Quebec compared to the separatist "heat" of earlier decades. Five Montrealers find themselves trapped inside the power-outed duplex of Nicole, a pur-laine pro-sovereignty journalist. Her boyfriend Curtis, a Black Anglo jazz musician, arrives with a shocking marriage proposal. Mickey, an Irish gambling-addicted handyman, exploits the storm by selling firewood at exorbitant prices. And Hydro Quebec lineman Jean tries to do his job, while Claire, the horny elderly neighbor, struggles to mediate. This dysfunctional quintet butt heads over politics and love, provoking us to ponder whether Montreal's "two solitudes" has become a stereotype in this new Century.

About the Author Stephen Orlov is an award-winning Montreal playwright, whose plays have been showcased in such major theatre centres as Montreal, Chicago and London. He is co-editor of *Double Exposure: Plays of the Jewish and Palestinian Diasporas* and has recently served on the Executive Board of Playwrights Guild of Canada and Playwrights Canada Press.