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"Fact: Greenland's coat of arms looks like a kung-fu fighting polar bear."
 — from *Greenland*

STAGE

SummerWorks standouts

THEATRE AND MUSIC FEST HANDED OUT PRIZES LAST NIGHT
 BY GLENN SUMI

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The play that smoked up the [comments section](#) in [NOW's SummerWorks coverage](#) has won two of the top prizes at the annual theatre, music and performance festival, which wrapped up yesterday.

Nicolas Billon's [Greenland](#), an exquisite series of three monologues about a family's alienation, won both the SummerWorks Prize for outstanding production and the NOW Audience Choice Award.

[The Middle Place](#), Andrew Kushnir's powerful look at more than a dozen residents and workers in a Rexdale shelter for homeless youth, drawn from real-life interviews, won two other big awards. Alan Dilworth won the Director Award and ensemble member Akosua Amo-Adem won the Emerging Artist award.

Rosa Laborde got a Director honourable mention for her superb work on Sarah Ruhl's [Melancholy Play](#).

There was a tie for the Spotlight Award, given to a featured artist in a festival show. The strong ensemble from [The Art Of Catching Pigeons By Torchlight](#), created by Jordan Tannahill and drawn from actual interviews with people working the nightshift, shared the award with director Andrea Donaldson's work on [Montparnasse](#).

The Contra Guys Award for outstanding new play went to Joel Thomas Hynes's [Say Nothing Saw Wood](#).

And a new prize this year called the Arts Professional Award, went to those creative improvisors at [Impromptu Splendor](#).

Look for NOW's Wrap-up in Thursday's issue.

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