

*Community Member and Educator Testimonials
for Dan Bray*

On *Zomblet*:

“Dan Bray’s plays are delightfully silly and a true joy for any young actor to be a part of. But underneath the zaniness is a deep understanding of the craft of playwriting, and enough references to pop culture, history, and deep cut Shakespeare to warm the hearts of audiences, directors, and theatre nerds everywhere.”

“I am writing to personally recommend Dan Bray as one of your first go-to suggestions when it comes to show inquiries. I had the pleasure of working with Dan on his production of a zombie *Hamlet*, which was a unique, poignant, and clever take on a classic. Dan’s writing appeals to a broad spectrum of generations. I saw this reflected in the varied audiences for each of our performances, as well as in the cast itself. Community theatre and schools should produce his work because of how funny and relatable the content is. It’s goofy AND it’s smart!

During one of our marketing campaigns, as renaissance zombies roaming the local farmers market handing out flyers, I found myself reflecting on two things:

1. We wouldn’t be having as much fun as we were advertising his show were it not for the subject material.
2. Watching the double take on people’s faces as they read “Zombie” and then “Hamlet” on the flyers was an absolute delight.

So thank you for taking the time to read this review of Dan Bray, and I hope it may positively influence your decision to recommend him to future productions.”

“I was familiar with Bray’s prose but had not yet read any of his plays. Imagine a playwright with nerve enough to rewrite Shakespeare! Then imagine further the brilliant, witty, humorous adaptation of one of Shakespeare’s great tragedies! Bray layered and nuanced as he interwove his words with the Bard’s! Bray served up *Zomblet* and our cast and crew of high school and university students, community members and a re-enguened me, recognised and strengthened the fabric of our community! And our community reciprocated!”

“I am a community member and had the pleasure of taking part in Theatre Antigonish's production of *Zomblet* by Dan Bray. *Zomblet* is a very fun and approachable “what if?” retelling of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*. This is a script that really allows actors with a range of experience (new to seasoned) to have fun and to play together. It provides wonderful opportunities to explore character development and to explore physicality in acting. I would highly recommend this

script to anyone looking to produce a show that will be familiar to people but will be fresh, new and extremely fun.”

“*Zomblet* is so much more than just a Halloween play, it’s thoroughly researched. I appreciated its ability to maintain the Shakespearean essence while also incorporating several references to popular zombie films and tv shows including *The Last of Us* and *Zombieland*. As someone new to theatre, it felt like the perfect script to begin my journey, and it could be for so many others too!”

“As an actor, it was an honour to read and perform Dan’s retelling of *Hamlet*. It poked fun at a play that’s been performed countless times and is highly regarded. Dan leaned into each character’s traits and exaggerated them in a wonderfully witty way. Another element I enjoyed thoroughly was Dan’s rewriting of Ophelia. No longer is she a female character that’s underdeveloped. Ophelia is the most bad ass character in Dan’s version. It was beautiful for the young females in the audience to see that and be inspired. The Antigoneish community loved his production of *Zomblet*. People keep coming up to me and saying how awesome *Zomblet* is!”

On *A Christmas Carol: the Revenge of Tiny Tim*:

“This script was perfectly suited to our University Theatre Program. It provided a flexible framework for diverse casting while offering acting students a rich opportunity to hone skills in dialect, singing, choreography, physical theatre, and multi-character representation. The relevant humour appealed to a wide demographic, and its adaptable tone allowed us to tailor the 'cheekiness' of the performance to perfectly suit our audience. This was one of the best received shows we have produced in recent years, with audiences comparing it to our regional theatre in terms of programming and quality, as well as referring to it as ‘the perfect way to kick off the holiday season.’ Similarly, the design and technical teams gained valuable professional-quality experience through a unique array of show-related tasks. They were offered practical opportunities to grow their skill sets in all aspects of theatre production, gaining the confidence and experience to transition successfully into the labour market.”